Prompting Discussion and Metacognition

Prompts to anticipate the read
What do you already know about this topic/idea/problem/issue?
What information do we still need as readers? How do we get it?
What strategies would you need to use?
What resources are available or could be developed?
What does this topic/phrase/concept/phrase/statement remind you of or mean to you?
Why might learning about this topic/problem be important?

Prompts to make interpretive connections between ideas
How does ___ relate to ___?
What ideas have we learned before that might be useful in addressing this problem/reading this text/understanding this situation?
How is this similar to another event/concept/story/learning you already knew about?
What relationship might this have to our class/school/life/community?
Give examples of how ___ comes up in other situations?
How will we be able to use what we have learned?
Describe some ways in which this problem/topic may come up in life.

Sentence stems
That reminds me of…
An experience I’ve had like that was…
I remember another book with a similar theme, problem, etc.
I saw a connection to this in the newspaper, on the news.
A connection from social studies, math, history, etc…

Prompts to encourage Inference
What would happen if?
Do you see pattern or are you getting an idea of where the author is headed in this passage/text/ paragraphs?
What is this causing you to think about as readers?
What insights or wondering do you have up to this point in our reading?
Where in the text are you drawing your insight?
What does the author want us to know/believe/do?

Prompts to reflect on the Reading
What did you find most interesting/confusing or difficult?
What more do you want to know about the topic?
If you had questions/wondering, how did you confirm or disconfirm your response?
What if ____ happened instead? How could the passage have ended?
Describe any confusion you had and the strategies you used to help you get unconfused.

Prompts to summarize
What were the key points/big understandings/strategies to remember and use as readers?
How would you summarize what you’ve learned so that someone who might not have read this text would understand?
Why are the things you mentioned important?
Describe something you know/understand/learned as a result of the reading?

Adapted from Engaging Readers & Writers by Jeffrey Wilhelm