

YOUR NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

Picture yourself as the host of a talk show and the author of your book is your next guest. Watch a talk show interview if needed to note how interviewers ask probing questions that invite the guest to explain reasons for choices and beliefs.

1. What four or five key questions do you wish to ask the author of your book?
2. How do you think your author would respond to each of these questions?
3. Why do you think that these questions and answers are effective?
4. Below your questions and explanation, DISSECT at least 10 difficult words you encountered while reading. Next to each word, include the page number from the book where the word was found.

## YOU MUST TURN IN THIS SHEET WITH YOUR PROJECT.

RUBRIC	I'm not there yet (1 pt.)	I'm getting there (3 pts.)	I'm there now (5 pts.)
Information about the book	My questions should be more clearly worded and my answers do not reveal reasons for the author's choices.	I present clearly worded questions and answers that offer simple responses about the author's choices.	I present probing questions and insightful answers about the author's choices.
Reasoning	I am unable to explain why my questions and answers are effective.	I present okay reasons about why my questions and answers are effective.	I present detailed reasons why my questions and answers are effective.
Spelling, grammar and punctuation	I did not check my work and there are many spelling, grammar, and/or punctuation errors.	I checked my work but I missed a few spelling, grammar, and/or punctuation errors.	I completely checked my work and it is well written with no errors in spelling, grammar, or punctuation.
Neatness and effort	I did not put forth my best effort so my book study activity is not the best it can be.	My book study activity is fairly readable but the neatness and effort does not show my best work.	My book study activity is neat and it is easy to read.
Completeness of information	My book study activity includes few of the components in the directions.	My book study activity includes less than half of the components in the directions.	My book study activity includes all of the components in the directions.

Student example for reference only:

Book Title: *In Spite of Killer Bees*

Author: Julie Johnston

1. ***In the book Agatha is portrayed as a troubled girl who thinks that her entire life is a movie. Why did you choose to make her character like that?***

*When I was creating the plot I realized the many hardships that Agatha was going through. I thought it would make sense to have Aggie pretend she was in a movie to escape the hardships of her life. In the book Agatha's sisters are always telling her to wake up and come to the real world. I think it seemed appropriate to have Aggie pretend to be in a movie since her entire life was in chaos. This was also based on what I do in my life; sometimes I escape reality and live inside whatever story I'm writing.*

2. ***What does the title IN SPITE OF KILLER BEES mean to you?***

*To me, IN SPITE OF KILLER BEES means that even though life sometimes gives your hardships you just need to ignore it. It doesn't matter if life throws challenges like killer bees in your way. It means not giving up and not giving in. When I created the title I was thinking about all the difficulties that the main character, Agatha, went through. In the end she was still able to pull through and achieve a happy ending.*

3. ***The book ends with Agatha directing the story like a movie? If you could change this ending, would you?***

*I wouldn't change the ending of the book because I think that the ending really relates to the book as a whole. All the problems have been solved and Aggie's family is happy again. Her life finally has a happy ending and Agatha's "movie" comes to reality. She's not directing movies in her head anymore—she's directing her real life.*

**4. When you were first writing the story did you intend for the mom to come back to the three girls?**

*No, I did not. I didn't think of the idea until the middle of writing the book. At first, I didn't want their mom to come back to them. In the book Agatha sort of expected her mom to come home and become the amazing mother that she always imagined since she was living in her "movie" world. I wanted Aggie to come to reality when she realized that their mom was never returning. But I also wanted the mom to come home just for the money that the three girls inherited. This would create a good plot with the mom disappointing the girls. Eventually I chose the idea but I tweaked it a little so that the mom turns out to be an appealing character in the end.*

I chose these questions because I was thinking a lot about them while I was reading the book and I actually wanted Julie Johnson to answer them. I did a little research about Julie Johnston so that I could answer them as correctly as possible. I believe that the questions would really get her thinking and would receive good response. Since I didn't know exactly how Julie would reply to my questions I predicted what she said from reading some of her other interview answers. I also based some of the answers on what I thought. If I were actually interviewing Julie Johnston I would choose these questions because I find them very thought provoking.

For the first question, I wanted to know why Agatha acted the way she did. The book never really explained why Aggie liked to pretend she was in a movie.

For the second question, I decided to ask about the title of the book because when I was first reading the book I didn't understand the title. I had to think about the title for a long time before I finally understood what it meant. Even then, I wasn't sure if my meaning was the same as what Julie Johnston intended it to be.

For the third question, I asked about the end of the book. I didn't really like how the book ended so I wanted the author's thoughts on the subject.

For the last question, I wanted to know if the author had any changing ideas as she was writing the story. I asked specifically about the mom because she was a character that interested me in the book.