Common Types of Multiple Choice Questions

Name: _____

Important Note: The names/titles given to question types may appear differently on other lists.

The "Big Picture":	Answering these questions correctly will require you to understand the **whole** text.
Main Idea	**What to look for:** You'll need to pick the statement that **"BEST"** explains the information found in the text. **Warning:** Watch out for trick answers that look good at first glance but contain incorrect/misleading details.
Summary	**What to look for: 1.)** The correct answer will likely include a detail from the **beginning**, the **middle**, and the **end** of a story/text. **2.)** You will need to pick the summary that offers the "best" overall description of the text. **Warning:** Watch out for trick answers that look good at first glance but contain incorrect/misleading details.
Theme	You will need to be able to understand the meaning/message behind a work of literature. **Example:** The fable about the race between the tortoise and the hare has the following themes: *Persistence, Determination, Pride & Arrogance* (There are more.) **Reminder:** A story's theme isn't the same as its moral, but it can reinforce the same message.
Specific Details:	These questions will require you to **"prove"** your answers with direct evidence from the text. **Sample Question #1:** According the passage, we know that- **Sample Question #2:** Based on text evidence in the passage, which of the following statements in **NOT** true? (You can be confident of answering these question correctly if you're willing to spend the time required to find the needed information in the text.)
Inference:	These questions will require you to become a **"detective"** in order to **"solve"** the questions by drawing conclusions based on clues in the text. **What to look for:** Multiple choice test writers usually make the clues pretty obvious in order to avoid the risk of having their questions declared invalid.

Vocabulary in Context:	These questions will require you to match a specific definition of a word to the word's meaning as it was used in the **context** of a passage. **Sample Question:** What does the word *strike* mean in Paragraph 3? **Warning:** Be sure to go back and check the passage. (These questions are usually easy if you're willing to do the work.)
Author's Purpose:	These questions will require you to determine **WHY** the author made certain choices when writing a text. The simplest multiple choice questions often offer the following types of purpose: **1.) *To Entertain* 2.) *To Inform* 3.) *To Persuade*** (Of course, authors may have other motivations.)
Tone & Mood:	These questions can be challenging. You'll need to know the difference between the two terms. **Tone:** The author's **attitude** toward a subject or audience. **Mood:** The **atmosphere** or **feeling** that a text creates
Text Structure:	These questions are concerned with how a text is **organized**. **Sample Question #1:** The purpose of Paragraph 5 is to - **Sample Question #2:** Which event in the story occurred first? **Helpful Hint:** You'll need to try to "get inside the author's head" to answer these questions. (Imagine that you are the author.)
Application:	These questions will require you to **transfer** what you learn from a text to another situation. You will **apply** your knowledge to the new situation. **Sample Question:** The author of this article would likely agree with which of the following statements? This type of question will likely require you to **infer** a conclusion.
Additional Literary Elements:	Multiple choice reading questions will focus on a variety of common literary elements. The test writers will expect you to already be familiar with the terms that name/describe the literary elements. **Example #1:** You may be asked to identify what type of figurative language is found in a line of poetry. In this case, you might be expected to know the difference between a *simile* and a *metaphor*. **Example #2:** You might be asked to select the **"BEST"** description of a *protagonist*. This question could be challenging if you don't know what the word means.

Suggested Use: Print this resource as a double-sided reference guide for students to use as "training wheels" while they build confidence in their growing ability to master multiple choice reading tests.