Metacognitive questionnaire
(Dewitz, Carr, & Patberg, 1987)

Metacognitive Interview Response Sheet

Name:__________________________________
Content question #:_______________________

Group A (Right or Wrong)

If the student gives a right or wrong answer to the question, ask the following:

1. Do you think that is the right answer?
   - Yes
   - No

2a. How do you know that it is the right answer?
   - It makes sense.
   - It says so in the story.
   - It’s part of my background knowledge.
   - I know from both the story and background knowledge.
   - I don’t know.
   - Another answer.

2b. Why do you think it’s the wrong answer?
   - It doesn’t make sense.
   - It doesn’t say so in the story.
   - I don’t know.
   - Another answer.

Group B (I don’t know)

If the student responds with “I don’t know” to the question, ask the following:

1. Why do you think you don’t know the answer to the question?
   - It isn’t in the story.
   - I don’t know anything about this subject.
   - I didn’t read well enough.
   - Another answer.
2. What do you think you could do to come up with the right answer?

☐ Look for clues in the text.
☐ Think about what I might already know about this subject.
☐ Try and answer and then ask myself if it makes sense.
☐ I don’t know.
☐ Another answer.

(Don’t forget to ask the student Question #4 at the end of the interview.)

3a. If the student says that the answer is in the story, ask:

Do you know where in the story the answer is?

☐ Yes (Have the student show you the clues and check ______ if s/he can do so.)
☐ No.

3b. If the student says that the answer is in his/her head (background knowledge), ask:

Do you usually ask yourself what you know about something when you need to answer a question about material you’ve read?

☐ Yes (Ask the student what s/he knows about the topic of the passage and check ______ if s/he can tell you.)
☐ No.

3c. If the student says that the answer came from both his/her background knowledge and the story, ask him/her the two optional questions given above.

4. (The student should be asked this question only once- at the end of the interview.)

When you need to think of an answer to a question during reading, what do you do?

☐ Think about what I already know about the subject.
☐ Think of an answer and then ask myself if it makes sense.
☐ I don’t know.
☐ Reread, go back, look it over again.
☐ Another answer.