Arthur Costa's Levels

Arthur Costa's Model of Intellectual Functioning in Three Levels
from *Developing Minds: A Resource Book for Teaching Thinking*

Level 1: **defining**
describing
identifying
listing
naming
observing
reciting
scanning

Ex. What is the definition of "lunar eclipse"? (definition)

Ex. How can we express the equation $2x(4 - 5y) + 3y = 26$ in 3 ways? (list)

Ex. Which states seceded from the Union to form the Confederacy? (identification)

Ex. How does "The Road Not Taken" (Frost) begin? (reciting)

Level 2: **analyzing**
comparing
contrasting
grouping
inferring
sequencing
synthesizing

Ex. In "Native Son," how does Bigger Thomas' violence against his gang members reveal a deeply-rooted insecurity & fear of people? (analysis)

Ex. In "The Bet" (Chekov) how do the lawyer & the banker differ in their attitudes toward capital punishment? (contrast)

Ex. How does the term "manifest destiny" capture the essence of Western expansion in the United States? (synthesis)

Ex. If the moon is full August 17, July 18, and June 19, when will it be full in April? (inference)

Level 3: **applying**
a principle
evaluating
hypothesizing
imagining
judging
predicting
speculating

Ex. Using the principle of communicative property, how can we find out the number of apple trees in an orchard having 15 rows, 5 trees in each row? (application of a principle)

Ex. Which of the characters in "Great Expectations" suffered the most? (judgement)

Ex. In "The Catcher in the Rye," how might Phoebe, years later, describe Holden to her children? (speculation)

COSTA'S LEVELS OF QUESTIONING

LEVEL ONE:

Define
Describe
Identify
List
Name
Observe
Recite
Scan

LEVEL TWO:

Analyze
Compare
Contrast
Group
Infer
Sequence
Synthesize

LEVEL THREE:

Apply
Evaluate
Hypothesize
Imagine
Judge
Predict
Speculate