

## Thought provoking questions that prompt interesting conversations



Work on crafting a personal response to the following questions. Answering them may open up a new space in your mind. They can also provoke interesting conversation; the next time you're having dinner with friends, pose a question and ask everyone to respond. My response to each issue is in brackets.

- Suppose that every night you tuck a child in bed and speak some phrases before he or she goes to sleep. Compose a phrase or series of phrases that you would want to say to the child every night. [You are safe; you are loved; I will take care of you.]
- What are some things you want to do every year for the rest of your life? [Be on the Queen Mary 2 on its mid-December seven-day transatlantic cruise from London to New York.]
- What is your favorite emotion? [Accomplishment.]
- What have you changed your mind about lately? [I want to live in a small house, not a large one.]
- What harsh truth do you prefer to ignore? [A family member struggles with addiction.]
- To be happy in life we need at least three things: someone to love, something to look forward to, and something meaningful to do. What is your response to these three areas? [I love my family; I look forward to planting a vineyard and building a small house; my work is very meaningful to me.]
- Is it better for a person to have a broad knowledge base or a deep knowledge base? [I like Thomas Huxley's statement: "Try to learn something about everything and everything about something."]
- Why are humans so confident in beliefs that can't be proven? [We desperately long for answers to difficult questions.]
- What do you think about the organic food movement? [It's often misrepresented and overvalued.]
- What word do you usually misspell? [awkward]

- What is the proudest moment of your life? [I can't narrow it down to one moment.]
- What four words would you hope that people would use to describe you? [rational, kind, capable, consistent]