I found that Curriculet – the wonderful reading platform that my students love – was the perfect place for my students to assess their own learning. I do this by adding open-ended response questions to a text and ask students to reflect on what they have learned as they read. This has worked brilliantly!

Now, students can explain what they understand and verbalize any points of confusion. The other bonus is that they can write these responses from home so that students don’t need to worry about other classmates seeing their responses. The benefit for me is that I have their written reflections in an electronic report, and can read them straight from my computer instead of sifting through notebooks or separating piles of grungy sticky-notes.

Here are ten prompts to guide your students to reflect on their learning (create your own using our Bloom’s Taxonomy or DOK tools):

* Is there anything in the novel that is still unclear to you at this point Explain.
* Assess your understanding of the overall theme of this novel. Explain.
* List three words from this text that have been confusing to you. Explain what you think each word means.
* Do you relate to the main character? Why or why not?
* What aspects of the author’s writing have you enjoyed the most?
* How has your understanding of foreshadowing changed as you read this book? Explain.
* In your opinion, what lessons from this novel will you apply to your own life? Explain.
* Summarize what you have learned about figurative language from reading this text.
* Which of the following literary terms are you most familiar with? Which one are you least familiar with?
* Compare your understanding of irony (or suspense, point of view, allegory, etc) now to before the beginning this unit.

I have been amazed with the insightful responses my students have provided on these “learning check” questions and prompts. These questions have given me qualitative data on students’ learning to complement the quantitative student data reports on Curriculet. Students enjoy having an opportunity to express their opinions about the novel and they like getting the chance to ask for help if they need it.