**Leadership Questions**

**Communication**

When and in what ways are you willing to speak out in order for your opinion to be heard? Stuck: What issue do you feel strongly about one way or the other? Have you ever kept yourself quiet on an issue about which you feel strongly? Why? What prevented you from speaking up?

If you could spend the day with the leader of your country, what would you want to talk about?

Pretend you are telling a group of younger kids how to play your favorite game, one they’ve never heard of. Explain it.

How would communication be different for you if the cell phone and Internet had not been invented? Describe how it might be better. How might it be worse?

Are you good at getting others to see your side of things? Why do you think that is?

What makes someone a good listener? In what ways do you fit this description? In what other ways could you use some improvement? Be honest!

Describe a favorite snapshot taken of you. What are you doing? Where are you? What is the weather like? Are you with others or alone? Describe the photo in detail so those around you can see it as clearly as you do/

**Creative Thinking and Risk Taking**

Talk about a situation that was dramatically affected by groupthink (for better or worse). Is there a difference between groupthink and unity? Stuck: *Groupthink* is when group members conform to the same values (without weighing facts or opposing opinions). Individual thought is discouraged. It can lead to bullying, hazing, or worse- genocides or riots. When leaders inspire groups to act in positive ways, it’s often called *unity*. Do you agree with this distinction? Why are people swayed by groupthink (or unity)?

Name something you wish you were better at. Why did you name this particular thing, and how might you improve? Would others agree?

“Take chances- get messy- make mistakes.” This quote us from Miss Frizzle of the *Magic School Bus*. Apply this statement to your own life.

**Doing the Right Thing**

What do you do when you are confused about what is right or wrong? Stuck: How do you decide what’s right or wrong in a situation? Have you ever made a decision that was “right” for you, but “wrong” for someone else? Who do you count on to help you make difficult decisions?

**Leadership Through Time**

What leader- current or historical, famous or not- do you believe is most undervalued for her or his contributions? Why?

If you could rewrite history books, what leaders would you include or exclude, and why? Stuck: What do you think makes leaders important to history? Is it because they’ve accomplished great things? Is it because of mistakes they’ve made? Is it because they ruled with compassion, or instead were ruthless? Or maybe they are cultural or scientific leaders. What do your choices day about your values as a leader?

**Power Play**

As a leader, would you rather have power or influence? Stuck: *Power* is getting people to do what you want, whether they want to or not. Often, it’s tied to a person’s position. Your boss or your parent has power over you. *Influence* is more subtle. It’s the ability to get others to do things even if you *don’t* have power- perhaps people do things for you because they like you. Consider your own relationships with others and how you get things done.

When famous people speak out on behalf of an issue, how do you separate their personal right to voice an opinion from their celebrity status, which can give their voice greater influence? When you hear celebrities speak out, do you assume they are more informed on the issue than the average person? What if they are misinformed? Do you think their celebrity influence helps or hurts discussion?

Is it possible for powerful leaders to do good things without expecting something in return? What motivates you to do something sincere for others when there doesn’t appear to be anything obvious to gain?

**Qualities of Leadership**

In what ways can leaders encourage others to get the most from their lives? Stuck: Consider leaders who seem to inspire greatness in others. Share any examples. What do they do? Why are people inspired by them? When have *you* been inspired by a leader to do your best?

What is the most important quality in a leader? Why? Stuck: Think of the words that first come to mind when you hear the word “leader” or “leadership.” Among the words you thought of, which do you believe describe qualities that are absolutely necessary for someone to be an effective leader?

What does loyalty mean to you? What do you do to inspire loyalty? How important is it to you that someone be loyal or that you show loyalty?

Some say leaders are born. Others say leadership can be taught. What do you think- can anyone be a leader? Explain.

In what ways should leaders be held to a higher standard that the general public? Explain your position. Stuck: Consider different standards such as moral, ethical, and intellectual. How are leaders expected to fulfill these standards as compared to others in society? What *should* we expect? How do people react when leaders fail to live up to the standards? Are these reactions fair?

**Self-Awareness**

How does someone gain your respect? Stuck: Respect often is a mysterious leadership quality. You can do 10 great things, but people are more likely to remember the one mistake. Why is it that certain people earn respect easily while others struggle to gain it? What do you do to earn the respect of others? What happens if you don’t respect yourself?

Pick a theme song- real or made up- that represents you. Share the title and a few lines.

Is your reputation important to you? Why? Stuck: Consider this: Reputations can change quickly. One month, you’re on cloud nine and the star of the show, the next you feel totally uncool. Gossip can create false images of people. How do you stay true to who you are? If your reputation (or the reputation of a close friend) is being trashed, what can you do to make sure others don’t believe what they hear?

Consider this Japanese proverb: “When the character of a man is not clear to you, look at his friends.” What does your choice of friends reveal about you?

How would someone who has known you for a while describe your ability as a leader? Stuck: Think of three words your closest friends would use to describe you. Or, choose five words you believe describe you as a leader.

**Social Issues**

What do you think is most highly valued in today’s society? What do you think *should* be? Stuck: In your circle of friends, are individual values obvious? Consider what’s important to you, what’s important to friends, and how these difference may cause conflict. Can you see parallels in greater society? Within and between countries there are values conflicts, likewise with corporations or communities. How do values among different cultures or races come into conflict? What solutions are there for these differing values?

What global issues most concern you in today’s world? What worldwide issue do national and global leaders seem to overlook? Give your best advice to leaders about these issues.

If you were granted three wishes, what would you wish for?

**Working with Others**

What is your greatest accomplishment as part of a team or group of people (such as friends or family)? What made that accomplishment great?

How can you show appreciation for those who help you succeed? Share specific examples of ways you’ve appreciated others- or been appreciated *by* others- in a way that has stayed with you.

For a group or team to be successful or strong, what individual characteristics do team members need to have? Stuck: Consider the best and worst group and team experiences you’ve had. What made those experiences good or bad? Was it the leader or coach? The other team members? A certain attitude? Talk about what makes each of these experiences stand out. If you haven’t been part of a team, talk about what would draw you into joining a team or what you hope a team could accomplish with you as a member.

How do you know you can trust someone?