

# QUESTIONING

## COMPREHENSION STRATEGY



Questioning is a strategy that readers use to engage with the text. Questioning techniques help the reader to clarify and comprehend what he is reading.

Even children who are strong readers don't know instinctively that good readers ask questions as they read. Teaching questioning techniques can make strong readers even more advanced. When readers ask questions as they read, they are not only interacting with the text to make meaning of it, but they are also monitoring their own comprehension of what they are reading.

Proficient readers question a text as they read. They wonder about outcomes, characters, new information, and concepts. Questioning is the strategy that propels readers on. Who, after all, would continue reading something if they had no questions about it?

Effective questioning should be practiced before, during, and after reading. When readers ask questions before they read a text, they are activating prior knowledge and making predictions. Both of these activities engage the child's interest and increase the likelihood that he will connect with the text and comprehend it. Questioning during reading can take the form of self-questioning, questioning the text, or questioning the author. It creates a dialogue in the child's mind as he reads. Asking questions after reading the text can stimulate critical analysis and further research on the topic.

**Thick and thin questions** can help children remain engaged with text that may be unfamiliar or difficult to understand. Effective teachers show readers how to consider what they are reading and how to turn the information into questions. This activity encourages children to reflect on what they have read and helps them better comprehend it.

***Thin questions*** are answered with factual information that can be found in the text and answered with a few words or brief sentences.

**Thick questions** require inferential responses that require the reader to think and offer his opinion and ideas. Answers to thick questions can be subject to argument and interpretation. Strong answers rely on evidence from the text, but they are not simplistic statements of fact

# Thick & Thin Questions



## When to ask questions:

When you don't understand  
You want to know more  
Something doesn't make sense

### Thick Questions

What if?  
How would you feel if...?  
I wonder...  
How did?  
I wonder why?  
Why did?  
What would happen if?  
What do you think?  
What could happen next?  
Why did the character do/say that?

### Thin Questions

When?  
Where?  
What?  
Who?  
How many?



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