

Actively Generating Questions

Actively generating questions helps readers monitor their comprehension and keep a running record of the events of the story. A highly effective practice for increasing comprehension is to teach students to ask themselves “why” questions.



Effective questioning:
Before, During, and After Reading
Before Reading Questions: Activates prior knowledge and helps form predictions. **Purpose:** Engages the students' interest and increases the chances they will connect with the text and comprehend what they read.

During Reading Questions: self-monitoring, questioning about the text, or questioning the author. **Purpose:** It creates a dialogue in a student's mind as he/she reads.

After Reading Questions: stimulates further thinking and research on a topic from the text. **Purpose:** Deepens understanding of the text and builds background knowledge of the topic.

Actively Generating Questions

Model and Teaching Question Stems

1. Individually, explicitly teach the question stems used in the beginning, middle, and the end of the reading.
2. Tell students why the questions are beneficial to understanding the text when asked at the time during the reading task.
3. Explain to students that these are questions should be asked when reading independently to better understand their own texts.
4. Once all question stems are taught, ask students what questions should be asked at particular places within the text to practice using this strategy regularly.
5. A list of question stems for each place in the reading task. It is not comprehensive.

Sample Question Stems

Before Reading Stems

After reading the title, what do you think this book will be about?
What do you think you know about this topic? (TWL graphic organizer)

During Reading Stems

Who are the characters in the story?
Where is the story taking place?
What has happened so far?
What have I learned so far?
When did the happening/story take place?
What tools can I use to understand better?

After Reading Stems

What did I miss that I need to reread to help with my understanding of the text?
What was the most important thing to learn from the story?
What did I not learn that I want to know more about?