

Questioning That Leads to Inferential Thinking

Purpose: Making meaning through asking questions

Recommended Book: Langston Hughes's poem "Dreams"

Response: Chart poem with questions written on it.

In this case, your child should know how to use the strategy. In this example, comprehension was not modeled. You can model by allowing your child to see that you also struggle to understand the context you are reading. The sample below is based on the poem. The questions are derived from the poem as well.

- What does "Hold fast to dreams" mean?
- Could "Life is a broken-winged bird" mean that life is sad and miserable?
- When dreams go, do you die?
- The poet seems to want to hold on to his dreams. Is he hopeful or sad?
- Is this about a dream, like a sleeping dream?
- What's a barren field?
- Why is nothing growing?
- Could the author or poet be thinking of dying?
- Did his wish come true?
- Was this a broken dream of the author?
- Did he have a hope that didn't come true?
- When did he write this?
- Does he mean that if we don't have dreams, we don't have hope?

Recommended Resources

Amelia's Road By, Linda Altman

Charlie Anderson, By Barbara Abercrombie

The Day of Ahmeds Secret By Florence parry Heide & J.D. Gilliland

Elizabeth, By Claire Nivola

How Come? By Kathy Wollard

The Librarian Who Measured the Earth, by Kathryn Lasky

Pink and Day, By Patricia Polacco

The Potato Man, By Megan McDonald

Something Permanent, By Cynthia Rylant

Storm Boy, By Paul Owen Lewis

UFO Diary, By Satoshi Kitamura

The Van Gogh, Café By Cynthia Rylant

Why Is the Sky Blue? By Sally Grindley

Books by Eve Bunting

A Day's Work

Fly Away Home

How Many Days to America?

The Wall

The Wednesday Surprise

Books by William Steig

The Amazing Bone

Brave Irene

Dr. Soto

Gorky Rises

Salomon and the Rusty Nail

Sylvester and the Magic Pebble

Parent Involvement in Education

Reading Comprehension Strategy

Questioning:

This strategy propels readers forward. Questions are the master key to understanding.

Questioning helps:

- Clarify confusion
- Stimulate Research efforts
- Take us deeper into reading

Why must Questioning be applied:

Kids are not aware that good readers ask questions. In fact, many adults tend to believe that it is only important to answer the questions than to ask them. Asking questions engages us & keeps us reading. When our children ask questions, they seek for answers. At that point, we know that they are interacting with the text to find meaning.

Information comes from the Book:

Strategies that Work, by Stephanie Harvey & Ann Goudis

Share Your Questions About Your Own Reading

Purpose: Using notes or annotations to show the questions we have when we read

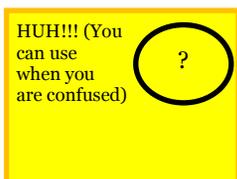
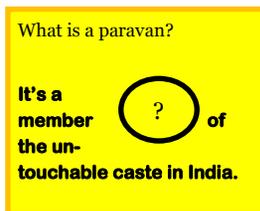
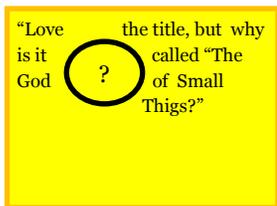
Recommended Book: the novel *The God of Small Things*, by Arundhati Roy

Response: Use sticky notes coded with ?; parent and child follow-up with discussion

All readers and even adults have questions. Write questions on the sticky notes and place them by the passages.

Some questions may be answered in the text...quickly...much later...while others may not be answered.

Below is an example of how to use sticky notes coded with ?



Some Questions Are Answered, Others Are Not

Purpose: Beginning questioning; listing and categorizing questions to promote understanding.

Recommended Book: The picture book *Charlie Anderson*, by Barbara Abercrombie

Response: Make a chart with lists of kids' questions. Use codes for categories of questions, including: A for answered; BK for background knowledge; I for inferred; D for discussion; RS for research; C or Huh? For confused

The following questions come from *Charlie Anderson*. These questions emerged from the cover illustration and the pre-reading discussion. Once you read to your child, use the appropriate code response (ie: A for answered).

- Why is the book called *Charlie Anderson*?
- Who is that cat in the yard?
- Why was the door open just a crack?
- Do cats really like French fries?
- Where does the cat go every morning?
- Why did he get fatter and fatter every day?
- Did they miss Charlie when they went to their dad's on the weekends?
- Why didn't Charlie come home at night?
- Is he going to be all right?
- How come Anderson looks just like Charlie?
- Which family does Charlie like better?

Gaining Information Through Questioning

Purpose: Writing in Wonder Books (nonfiction notebooks that support inquiry) to explore thinking and wondering

Recommended Books: Wonder Books and assorted nonfiction readers.

Response: Write questions listed in two-columns; make two headings that read "Questions" & "Facts"

Choose a topic of something you have done: Examples are vacation, work, and visiting family out of state/county. Come up with questions of things you wonder about. Discuss them with your child, especially if he/she is having difficulty.

Keep a notebook to record questions of wonder topics of your child's interest, questions of their reading, and questions for research.

Below is an example of a Notebook of Wonder:

- Anacondas: How can an anaconda squeeze so tight when it looks all fat and lazy isn't all bulked up like Arnold Schwarzenegger?
- Hurricanes: How do they form? What season? Where?
- Spinal cord: How can breaking your spinal cord paralyze or kill you?
- Allergic reactions: How can a bee sting kill a person? How can nuts make you puffed up? How come hair & fur make you sneeze a lot?
- Monkeys & gibbons: How do they have such good balance? How can they stand on a branch that is so thin or swing on