

THINKING ABOUT OUR THINKING: QUESTIONS TO ASK OF READERS

Activating Prior Knowledge and Making Connections	<p>What did you know before you read this passage that helped you to understand the information in it?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ This question tells you whether a reader has used background knowledge or experiences to help him or her extract meaning from the text.
Determining Importance and Summarizing	<p>What new information did you get from this passage?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ This question asks readers to distinguish between what they already knew and what they have learned from the reading. It also requires the reader to summarize the ideas in the passage and compare those ideas against their own understanding. The ability to summarize effectively is a good indicator of comprehension.
Monitoring and Using Fix Up Strategies	<p>Were there any words or ideas in this passage which you had difficulty reading or understanding? Explain what you did to try and read or understand those words.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ This question provides information about a student’s word attack skills. Did they use their knowledge of language to decode the words? Did they try to find smaller words in the bigger words or think about the meaning of the prefixes and suffixes? Did they use the context (semantic cues) or structure (syntactic cues) to determine the meaning of the words?
Creating Sensory Images	<p>What parts of the passage created pictures in your mind? or What mind pictures were created as you read the text?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ This question helps to determine how involved the reader was with the sensory images the author created to convey information.
Questioning	<p>What questions did you have as you read the passage?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ This question helps to assess whether or not readers are “interrogating the text”. Students need to understand that they must engage in a dialogue with the text through asking questions. This encourages readers to develop a critical stance toward the texts they are reading.
Synthesizing	<p>What is the most important idea the writer wants you to learn from reading this text?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ This question asks readers to reflect on and to synthesize ideas and information from text. It encourages them to state the meaning they have made from the reading experience.
Inferring and Making Connections	<p>Can you show me a part of the text where you used the clues in the text and your own experiences to “make meaning”?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ This question asks students to use the evidence in the text to explain their inferences. This encourages them to reread the text and check the accuracy of their general impressions.