



WHAT THE EXPERTS SAY

Video: Literacy Olympics

Question-Answer Relationships

(in the book)



Answering and Asking Questions

The value of Question-Answer Relationship (QAR) instruction is that it clarifies for readers how they can approach the task of answering questions over what they've read. It helps them realize they need to consider both the information in the text and the information from their own background knowledge. Researchers have found that readers without QAR instruction lack strategic behavior when attempting to answer questions about their reading. Instead, they often over rely on background knowledge, not considering the text they just read, or they over rely on the text, without considering the wealth of information gained from their many experiences.

Another valuable benefit of QAR instruction is that readers have a framework to generate their own questions. When they are able to develop their own questions, their overall comprehension improves. They are also better at explaining the processes they use when answering questions.

A Balance of Question Types Promotes Better Comprehension

In the Book questions require readers to focus on literal, or factual, details. Researchers have found that when readers receive a steady diet of factual questions, they tend to focus their attention on details during future reading. When there is an emphasis on inferential questions, readers tend to focus their attention of inferential type thinking. The same holds true when they are asked experiential questions. Therefore, it is important to balance the types of questions that readers are asked, so that they develop broad thinking. The QAR strategy provides a framework to categorize questions, so that readers experience a variety of questions that probe their thinking.

References:

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