



WHAT THE EXPERTS SAY

SPOT: Q'Law
Question-Answer Relationships
(in the book: right there)



Using the Question-Answer Relationship (QAR) Strategy

The Question-Answer Relationship strategy provides a framework for organizing questioning activities and comprehension instruction within and across grades and school subjects. Students as young as Kindergarten can distinguish between In the Book and In My Head question types. Research has shown that by second grade, students can comfortably learn the difference between Right There and Think & Search questions. With appropriate instruction, young students are able to talk about all four question types.

Right There Questions

Approximately a fourth to a third of the questions that readers face on a national standardized test (National Assessment of Educational Progress) require them to locate and recall information. These questions appear more often in many textbooks and are asked frequently by many teachers. They are called "Right There" questions because the answer to the question is stated explicitly or "right there" in the text within a single sentence. These questions ask students to name, recall, list, show, identify, or define. They often begin with the letters wh-, such as "Who?" "What?" "Where?" and "When?" Once students are confident in answering "Right There" questions, they can begin to generate their own "Right There" questions for peers and for themselves as a self-questioning study strategy.

Linking Other Comprehension Strategies

Question-Answer Relationship strategy can be used to help students see the relationships among other strategies they are learning and the task demands represented by "Right There" questions. Students will see similar demands when:

- Scanning to locate information
- Note-taking to support easier recall of key information
- Using context clues for creating definitions

Questioning within the Reading Cycle

"Right There" questions often occur during reading. Questions such as "Who is the main character?" "What are some words that describe the setting?" (while reading stories) or "Identify the topic sentence in this paragraph?" (while reading informational text) are common.



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