thinking ALOUD
Making Sense of Literacy

WHAT THE EXPERTS SAY
SPOT: Q'Lock Holmes
Question-Answer Relationships
(in my head: author and me)

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 fourth grade, students can comfortably learn the difference between Author & Me and On My Own questions. With appropriate instruction, younger students are able to talk about all four question types.

Author & Me Questions

Approximately 70% to 80% of the questions that readers face on a national standardized test (National Assessment of Educational Progress) require them to integrate and interpret texts. These questions are called "Author & Me" questions because the answer is not stated in the text. Instead, they require to readers to think about what they already know combined with clues from the author to form the answer. These questions ask students to predict, infer, and draw conclusions. Questions such as "What if? "Suppose that?" "What predictions can you make?" or "What leads you to believe?" are common. Once students are confident in answering "Author & Me" questions, they can begin to generate their own "Author & Me" 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 "Author & Me" questions. Students will see similar demands when:

- Predicting
- Visualizing
- Making simple and complex inferences
- Distinguishing fact and opinion
- Making text-to-self connections

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Questioning within the Reading Cycle

"Author & Me" questions occur before, during, and after reading. Questions such as "From the topic, title, illustrations or book cover, what might this story or text be about?" (before reading), "What do I think will happen next?" "How would I describe the mood of the story and why is this important?" (during reading), or "What is the author's message?" "What is the theme and how is it connected to the world beyond the story?" "How can I synthesize the information with what I know from other sources?" "How well does the author make his or her argument?" "How is the author using particular language to influence our beliefs?" (after reading) are common.

References:

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