



## WHAT THE EXPERTS SAY

**SPOT: Quoda**  
*Question-Answer Relationships*  
*(in my head: on my own)*



### Using the Question-Answer Relationship (QAR) Strategy

If students have had consistent instruction in Question-Answer Relationships by the time they are in the intermediate grades, they have developed sophisticated strategies to analyze questions and use appropriate strategies and language for determining good answers. For example, readers may notice that the word “you” may often signal that the question is either an “Author & Me” or “On My Own” question.

Students may even begin to debate individual differences in the way this classification system might apply as they read and respond to questions. For one student, a question represents an “On My Own” question, because she already knew the information to answer the question. For her peer, the same question was a “Right There” question because she didn’t already have the information and had to get it from the book. While determining the question type is not the ultimate goal of this instruction, such thinking about questions and related strategies supports readers in their day-to-day work with text, as well as when they must take a high-stakes test.

### On My Own Questions

High levels of literacy proficiency are important for learning content subjects such as science, social studies, and mathematics; reading independently for personal enjoyment; and for success in our information-based economy. This requires readers to be able to critique and evaluate texts. These questions are called “On My Own” questions because the answer is not stated in the text. Instead, they require to readers to use their own experience to form the answer. These questions ask students to evaluate, judge, choose, support, or give their opinion. Questions such as “What do you think?” “What is your opinion?” “How would you justify...?” or “Would it be better if...?” are common. Once students are confident in answering “On My Own” questions, they can begin to generate their own “On My Own” 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 “On My Own” questions. Students will see similar demands when:

- Activating prior knowledge (about text formats, experiences, authors)
- Connecting to the topic

### Questioning within the Reading Cycle

“On My Own” questions often occur before reading. Questions such as “From the title or the topic, what do I already know that can connect me to the story or text?” are common.



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