



WHAT THE EXPERTS SAY

SPOT: Kris Q'Lumbus
Question-Answer Relationships
(in the book: *think and search*)



Think & Search Questions

Over half of the higher-level questions that readers face on a national standardized test (National Assessment of Educational Progress) require them to provide a written response rather than simply to select from multiple-choice options. To demonstrate high levels of literacy when reading nonfiction, students will need to draw on their knowledge of text organization such as description, causal relationships, and logical connections. They will also need to be able to identify important details in texts, graphs, photos, and other materials. These questions are called "Think & Search" questions because students need to put together different pieces of information in order to answer them. Words for the question and words for the answer are not found in the same sentence, but rather different parts of the text. These questions ask students to compare, describe, explain, or summarize. Often, "Think & Search" tasks appear as statements that do not contain question marks. Once students are confident in answering "Think & Search" questions, they can begin to generate their own "Think & Search" 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 "Think & Search" questions. Students will see similar demands when:

- Identifying important information
- Summarizing
- Using text organization (comparison/contrast, problem/solution, list, explanation) to identify relevant information
- Visualizing (setting, mood, procedures)
- Using context to describe symbols and figurative language
- Clarifying
- Making text-to-text connections
- Making simple inferences

Questioning within the Reading Cycle

"Think & Search" questions often occur during and after reading. Questions such as "What is the problem and how is it resolved?" "What role do [characters' names] play in the story?" "What are the important events?" (while reading) or "Find evidence in the text to support your argument" (after reading) are common.





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