


 TEXAS LITERACY INITIATIVE




How Should We Teach
ANSWERING QUESTIONS?




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History of Questions in Education



4th Century B.C. 6th Century 1912 1978 Today



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And they lived happily ever after. The end. *Sigh*. Wasn't that a wonderful story?

Yea, but now you probably want to ask me ten multiple choice questions...

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It straggled! The treeb
grunchle scallared frinchily
banda the zwack.

(Author Unknown)

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Answering Questions

CPQ: What are the two purposes for asking students to answer questions?

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"Questioning is an essential feature of assessing reading comprehension and a tool for extending and understanding what was read. On the other hand, many questions teachers ask can limit responses and critical thinking. Asking good questions that engage and involve students to promote understanding is a skill."

(Wenger, Hughes, & Boardman, 2007, pp. 108-109)

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Purposes

Deepen Understanding

Literal questions require shallow reading and understanding. "Unless we ask... questions that encourage in-depth reading our students will remain superficial readers."

(Routman, 2003, p. 128)

Assess Understanding

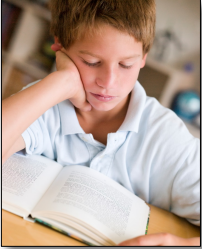
"Questions help us understand students' ongoing and summary understanding of text.... The form and content of our questions should be informed by our knowledge of students, the curriculum, and our goals for instruction."

(Afflerbach, 2007, p. 51)

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Answering Questions to Deepen Understanding



“Readers must engage in active construction of meaning, in which they grapple with the text ... as they analyze and probe.”
(Wolf and Barzillai, 2009, p. 34)


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Questions in the Teacher's Edition

Which questions

- would be effective Comprehension Purpose Questions (CPQs)?
- would be effective for modeling a strategy?
- would be effective for Think-Turn-Talk?
- would be effective for assessment?
- will I not ask at this time?



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Questions and the Core Program

Think Aloud



What are you wondering?

Think-Turn-Talk

Modeling
2 Asking Questions I have another question. Why are the other students in Ut's class laughing at her? I know that she is a new student. Maybe the other children haven't had a chance to get to know her yet. But I don't think they're being nice to Ut. Why do you think that the other students are treating Ut this way? What do you think of the way they're acting? I would be very sad if anyone treated me like that. How would you feel in Ut's place?

Encourage students to ask and answer lots of questions as they read. Remind students that, if they are unable to answer a question, reading further in the story might reveal the answer.

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Elaborating on Responses


Guide students to elaborate on responses by

- repeating and rephrasing the question,
- providing think-time, and
- using generic probes.



(Beck & McKeown, 2001, p. 16-17)



What does that mean?
What makes you think that?





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Questions that Deepen Understanding

What did you learn about questions that deepen understanding?
Share your thinking with a partner.


Think


Turn


Talk



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