

Question Answer Relationship

What is QAR and why is it important?

QAR (Raphael, 1982) helps students clarify information and infer ideas from a text. This is an important strategy that provides students with practice in constructing answers.

How can I use QAR with my students?

You can provide students with practice in this strategy by developing three types of questions to guide them during reading. The labels for the questions help students think about how to assemble information to answer different types of questions. The three types of questions are as follows:

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| 1. Literal Questions | answered with “right there” information—the information needed to answer these questions is stated directly in the text |
| 2. Inferential Questions | answered with “think and search” information—the answer is put together by assembling information from different parts of the text and from students’ prior knowledge about the topic |
| 3. Scriptal Questions | answered from “on my own” information—the information is gathered from the reader’s own knowledge that relates to the topic |

The following is an example of a question guide that contains the three types of QAR questions. The questions refer to “Cinderella.”

1. Who helped Cinderella get ready for the ball? (Literal—Right There)
-Answer: The Fairy Godmother (The information is stated clearly in the text.)
2. How did the Fairy Godmother help Cinderella? (Inferential—Think and Search)
-Answer: The Fairy Godmother helped Cinderella by providing a dress, transportation, and an opportunity to attend the ball and meet the Prince. (The information is found in various parts of the story and gathered and linked together.)
3. What could Cinderella do to get to the ball if the Fairy Godmother wasn’t available? (Scriptal—On Your Own)
-Answer: Cinderella could have borrowed a step-sister’s dress and used a work horse to take her near the castle. Then, she could have walked in the castle as another party arrived. (The information comes primarily from the student rather than the text.)

After students are able to answer the three types of questions, encourage them to develop their own questions based on the QAR categories.

