

Activity: Questioning the Text

Purpose: To teach students how to question the text to bring meaning to the text.



- 1. Begin by selecting a text that will encourage lots of questions. Weekly Reader is a great choice!
- 2. Gather students in front of you and explain how careful readers ask questions when they read because it helps them understand what they're reading. Explain that when readers ask questions, it keeps them thinking about the ideas presented in the book.
- 3. Begin to read part of the selected text aloud. Think aloud about the questions that you are wondering. Then write the questions on a sticky note and place it in the text.
- 4. Continue to read on and record questions on sticky notes. Encourage the students to raise their hands when they think of question. Record their questions on sticky notes, too. When one of your questions is answered, mark the sticky note with an 'A' for 'Answered' and move the sticky note to the place where the answer is found. Describe how the process of questioning helps support your understanding of the text.
- 5. It is also important to explain that some answers will not be found and that you will have to continue with your inquiries.
- 6. Allow time for guided practice. Students work with partners reading and noting questions on sticky notes. At this time, the teacher walks around the classroom and confers with the students about their questions and how the questions improve their understanding.

