

Parents,

Here is a strategy we use to help readers learn how to think about what they read and how to answer questions about what they read.

Mrs. Endicott

QARs

From Classrooms That Work, They Can All Read and Write,
by P. Cunningham and R.L. Allington, 1994

QARs (Raphael, 1982) stand for *Question-Answer Relationships*. QARs help children learn that much of the information they gain from reading is not "right there" on the page.

In QARs, the children learn that there are three types of questions:

- Right There
These questions are literal. The answer is "right there" in the text where readers can point to the words to answer the question.
- Think and Search
These questions are harder. The reader needs to think about what makes sense and search for clues in the text.
- On My Own
There are many answers to these questions. The answers come from their own experiences and their own thinking. They must put what they know together with information from the text that is not "right there" on the page. Some answers don't necessarily have a right answer (ex. questions asking for predictions and opinions).

The value of QARs is that it helps children understand that reading is not just saying the words and looking for answers that are right there. Reading is also searching for clues and thinking about what those clues mean; reading is also using one's own ideas and experiences to make predictions, conclusions and evaluations (p.70).