

REQUEST Protocol

Students who can read accurately and fluently but do not understand what they have read generally do not question themselves as they read. This protocol provides guided practice in formulating and answering questions sentence by sentence as they read. Be patient with this strategy. Some students need many months of daily modeling and practice to internalize self-questioning strategies and improve their comprehension.

REQUEST for Narrative Texts

1. Read the first sentence aloud to the student.
2. Model self-questioning. "Now I'm going to ask myself questions about that sentence. You can help me answer them."
 - "Who/what is the sentence about?"
 - "What is happening? To whom/what?"
 - "Where is it happening?"
 - "What will probably happen next?"
 - "How does he/she feel about what's happening?"
3. Read the next sentence. Have your student ask you as many of the questions as he/she can remember. Model those that he/she does not spontaneously ask.
4. Continue this strategy sentence by sentence until your student can question you regarding all of the pertinent details of each sentence.
5. Ask your student to complete each of the steps:
 - Read a sentence.
 - Self-question.
 - Answer each question.
6. When your student completes each of these steps easily with individual sentences, begin to use this technique with each paragraph.
7. At this point, your student should be able to use this technique to preview a story, again with your guidance.

REQUEST for Expository Texts

Passages from Newsela.com are excellent for this version of REQUEST. Question variations for expository text include:

- "What is this sentence about? What's the topic?"
- "Are there words I need to look up?"
- "What information do you learn about this topic?"
- "What do I think about this information?"