

Lesson Skill: Locating information to answer questions—small group reading

Strand Reading — fiction or nonfiction

SOL 1.9, 1.10
2.8, 2.9

Materials

- Fiction or nonfiction book
- Pointers used for locating answers (see below for ideas)

Lesson

Before Reading

1. In a small group setting, preview the book with students, and focus on key concepts or difficult vocabulary students may encounter. Explain to students that they will be partner reading today, with one student being the reader and the other student being the detective. The reader reads a page aloud, using reading strategies to figure out new words and to understand the text. The detective pays close attention and thinks of a question to ask the reader to check the reader for his/her comprehension. When the detective asks the question, the reader must locate the answer and point to it with a pointer (see below for ideas). Students switch jobs after reading a page.

Before the partner reading begins, select a student to read aloud a page as the teacher models how to be a good detective. The teacher models by thinking aloud a question to ask. The reader locates the answer and uses a pointer to show where the information was found. Divide students into pairs to take turns being the reader and the detective.

During Reading

2. Divide time among the pairs of students. Observe each student's ability to ask questions and locate answers. Point out to students the good things they are doing by saying, "I noticed that you _____, and that's what good readers do." Provide additional support if students are having difficulty asking or answering questions.

After Reading

3. Ask students why it is important to go back over the text to find answers.

Note: This lesson focuses on students asking questions about information within the text. As students progress and are able to ask and answer questions easily, challenge them to ask higher-level thinking questions that require them to analyze and synthesize information.

Assessment

- Assess students' abilities to ask questions and locate information while students are working with partners in small groups.

Ideas for Reading Pointers

- Dip the ends of popsicle sticks in glue, and then dip them in glitter to make glitter wands.
- Glue stickers or other small objects onto the ends of popsicle sticks. Personalize them by writing students' names on them.
- Cut wax-coated yarn sticks to the desired length.
- Look for small fairy wands or monster fingers often found at novelty stores.
- Glue fun-shaped erasers to the ends of pencils.

Strategies for Differentiation

- Teach students to start their questions with the following words: who, what, when, where, and why.
- Limit the number of sentences to be read by the reader.
- Provide samples and practice for students to write questions by giving them shorter text.
- If multiple sentences are too difficult, start with one.