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Description automatically generated with medium confidenceEffective Questioning for Readers

**Tip Sheet**



**What to do:** Use the questions below when reading with — or reading aloud to — students.

**Why it matters:** These questions model self-questioning strategies for students, so over time they internalize these practices and use them as needed while reading. Teaching questioning techniques can help all students become more engaged, active readers.

# Before Reading

Strong readers are active readers. One thing they have in common is asking themselves questions while they’re reading. Questioning helps a reader self-monitor, clarify thoughts, and make connections. This kind of reflection increases comprehension.

* Is this fiction or nonfiction?
* What do you already know about this topic?
* Based on the title, what do you think this is going to be about?

# During Reading

* What is the author trying to say here?
* What does this word mean?
* Based on what you’ve read so far, what do you think will happen next?

# After Reading

* What was the author’s main point or reason for writing this?
* Did any of your prereading or during-reading predictions change as you read?
* Does this reading connect with anything else you’ve read?

# Extend Your Knowledge

See the 21st CCLC NTAC **Reading Comprehension Checklist** tool for more questions you can use.

See the **Before-During-After (BDA) Reading Activity Planner** for a sample plan and template you can use to intentionally incorporate the BDA framework into reading activities.

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