

## Suggestions for Using Questioning Techniques

Some ways to use questioning techniques are the following:

- Use different types and levels of questions to involve students and check their level of understanding.
  - Request clarification by asking why and how questions. Clarification questions help students make inferences and explain what they are feeling and thinking.
  - A graphic organizer, *Making it Clear*, designed to assist students with asking themselves clarification questions, is provided in the Comprehension Teacher Resources section. The questions may vary for narrative or expository text. However, the *Making it Clear* graphic organizer can be used with both types of text.
- Promote the use of questions and conversations among students to keep them actively engaged.
  - Allow students to converse with each other about what they read and encourage them to ask questions during discussions.
- Provide appropriate feedback.
  - Recognize students when they have contributed to a discussion by making comments like, "Briana noticed that the mother in the story was angry." If students understand that their ideas and responses are valued, they are more likely to participate.
  - Present questions that turn the thinking back to the students for further consideration like, "Austin thinks the girl is upset. Does anyone know why she is upset?"
- Give sufficient time for students to think and respond.
  - Give struggling readers and English language learners more wait time to process the questions and formulate their responses. Be patient.
  - Wait about 4 seconds after you ask a question to give students time to think about a response.

- If you do not get an answer to your original question, be prepared to ask a question that prompts a response. For example, "Did the boys leave to go to the movies?" or "Did the boys arrive late at the movies?"

*(1TRA, 2000; 2TRA, 2001; Mathes, Fuchs, & Fuchs, 1997; McKeown & Beck, 1999; Moats, 1999)*