

REQUEST - Reading for Understanding

In Request, students will use four types of questions while reading an assigned text: *right there, pulling it together, author and me, and on my own*. Each of these types of questions require different types of interaction with the text. Students must know the answers to the questions that they create.

David woke up fifteen minutes late. As soon as he saw the clock, he jumped out of bed and headed for the shower, afraid he'd miss the bus again. He looked in the dryer for his favorite jeans, but they were actually still in the washing machine. "Dang! I told my sister to put my stuff in the dryer! Now what am I gonna wear today?" After settling for a pair of baggy shorts and a Hilfiger rugby shirt, he grabbed a bag of chips and a soda from the kitchen, and searched frantically for his history book. When he found it, he put it in his backpack, along with his breakfast, his hat, and his lucky deck of cards. As he ran to the bus stop, he told himself, "I will not stay up late watching wrestling anymore!"

1. A **Right There** question is a question whose answer is right in the text - all the reader has to do is copy it down or repeat it. A **Right There** question about the paragraph in the example might be, "What did David do as soon as he saw the clock?" or "What did he tell himself as he ran to the bus stop?"
2. A **Pulling it Together** question is a question whose answer is in the text, but the reader has to pull it together from different parts of the text - he or she cannot simply copy from one place. A **Pulling it Together** question about the example might be, "How did David get ready to leave the house?" or, "What did David look for before he left the house?"
3. An **Author and Me** question is a question whose answer is not in the text. The reader has to use the information provided in the text **AND** his or her own schema to figure out the answer. In other words, the author provides information that can help answer the question but does not provide the answer itself. An **Author and Me** question about the example might be "Where was David heading that morning?" or, "What time of day was David getting ready to go?"
4. An **On my Own** question is a question whose answer is not in the text. The reader does not have to have read the text to answer the question, but reading the text will inform his or her answer. An **On my Own** question about the example might be, "Should teenagers be able to watch television on school nights?" or "Should parents always wake their kids up in the morning?"

Right There and *Pulling it Together* questions are characterized as **IN THE TEXT** questions - questions whose answers can be found somewhere in the text and thus are relatively easy to answer. There is usually only one correct answer.

Author and Me and *On my Own* questions are characterized as **IN MY MIND** questions, because their answers cannot be found in the text and because they may have more than one right answer. These questions are more difficult.

After you have completed this portion of the assignment:

1. Write a summary of what you have read
2. Take the information from your summary and create a thesis statement