

In Classroom Close-Up 7.7, high school teachers Christine Cziko and Lori Hurwitz describe how QAR works in their classrooms; they include a simple text and sample questions they wrote to introduce QAR.

CLASSROOM CLOSE-UP 7.7

Introducing QAR

Academic literacy teachers Christine Cziko and Lori Hurwitz were eager to have their students learn how engaging (and empowering) it could be to create their own text-based questions. To introduce students to Question-Answer Relationships (QAR), they modeled and used a variety of simple texts for students to practice with. Each student practiced writing text-based questions of each of the QAR types (which require that students know the answer and/or how to find it).

The point of students' work with QAR was not to master QAR categorization but to better understand what the reader needs to do to answer the question types, which require different interactions between text and schema. Christine and Lori considered it a bonus that QAR practice also prepares students for finding the answers to the most traditional kinds of assessment questions.

"We found that our students typically understood the Right There! and Pulling It Together questions easily, but they often had trouble with the Text + Me and On My Own questions, so we talked with them about why some question types are harder to create than others, and we provided practice with a variety of simple texts, like the one we call 'David Woke Up Late.'"



David Woke Up Late

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 Shelley to put my stuff in the dryer! Thanks, Sis. Now what am I gonna wear?"

After settling for baggy shorts and a polo shirt, he grabbed a bag of chips and a soda from the kitchen and searched frantically for his history book. When he found it, David stuffed it in his backpack, along with his "lunch," hat, and lucky deck of cards.

As he ran to the bus stop, he told himself firmly, "I will not stay up late watching wrestling!"

Right There!

- What did David do as soon as he saw the clock?
- What did David tell himself as he ran to the bus stop?

Pulling It Together

- Who is Shelley?
- What did David look for before he left the house?

Text + Me

- Where was David heading?
- What time of day was it?
- How nutritious is David's lunch?

On My Own

- Should teenagers watch television on school nights?
- Should parents be responsible for waking their kids up in the morning?
- Why is David taking cards to school!?