ReQuest Strategy for

Crime and Punishment Chapter 1

Purpose of the Strategy

The purpose of ReQuest is to allow students to learn how to create effective questions. This strategy models the questioning technique and involves the teacher in silent reading of a text and then alternately taking turns asking and answering questions about the reading passage.

The strategy is designed to help students:

1. Develop their own questions about the text.
3. Develop an inquiring attitude toward reading.
4. Develop independent comprehension techniques.

The Strategy

-Read the first two paragraphs of chapter 1 aloud with your students.

-Allow the students to first ask you questions about the passage (closing your book, so there’s no peeking).

-Then, have students close their books and you ask them questions. Students tend to ask simple, factual questions, so you need to model questions that require thought:
  -How does the young man feel each time he leaves his residence? (sick/frightened)
  -What does the young man consider a success? (avoiding the landlady)
  -Why is this avoidance a good thing? (he owes a great debt to her)
  -Why is he in such great debt? (accept possible/creative reasons)

-For fun, you may want to “keep score” between the teacher and students to see who answers the most questions correctly.

-Read the next three paragraphs.
  -What is a “thing like that” that he refers to? (killing the old pawnbroker)
  -What are men most afraid of? (taking a new step)
  -Why does he chatter? (because he does nothing, or is it that he does nothing because he chatters?)

-As students improve in their questioning ability, you may divide them up into groups/teams of three or four and play against each other.

Assessment

This is a way for students to learn to independently questions texts and each other as they read. Students develop a purpose for reading and expand their knowledge of concepts by discussing questions. You can discover students’ beliefs and knowledge about themes in this book from this strategy.