Question Answer Relationships
The Great Gatsby

Purpose:
The following activity is designed to help students understand where they can look for answers to questions they have about the text; they will learn not just about what they are learning from the text, but how they learn the material from the text. The four levels of questioning are: Right There (the answer can be found explicitly in the text); Think and Search (students are required to put several ideas presented in the text together to come up with the answer); On your Own (the only answer is found from the reader’s own experience, making connections with the text); and Author and You (the answer can be found by thinking about the author’s viewpoint and perspective in conversation with the reader’s.)

Directions:
1. Introduce students to the strategy. Explain that questions they might have about the text can fall into different categories and can be answered using the mnemonics you will give them. Make a poster of the four different types of questions and post it in the classroom for quick reference.
2. Create questions from short passages of the text for each of the four QAR levels.
   a. Use these questions to model thinking to the students of how they can answer these types of questions.
   b. Discuss the differences in the types of questions, whether the answers are found primarily from the text (Right There, Think and Search) or from the student’s head (On your Own, Author and You).
3. Allow students to work together in small groups to master the different QAR’s with small passages from the text. (Perhaps a jigsaw style would work, where each group becomes an “expert” in one type of QAR and then teaches it to their peers in a different group.)
4. Using their texts, students can create their own QAR questions, or they can practice using longer passages from the text.

Assessment:
Although an explicit knowledge of the names of the QAR’s is not necessary, students should be able, given a question, to identify where they can go in order to find the answer to the question. On an assignment, a question might ask first where to go to answer the question, and then the specific answer to the question.
The Great Gatsby
Teacher Copy

Passage #1 (Chapter 4, pg 69)
Roaring noon. In a well-fanned Forty-second Street cellar I met Gatsby for lunch. Blinking away the brightness of the street outside, my eyes picked him out obscurely in the anteroom, talking to another man.

“Mr. Carraway, this is my friend Mr. Wolfsheim.”
A small, flat-nosed Jew raised his large head and regarded me with two fine growths of hair which luxuriated in either nostril.

Question: Who joins the narrator and Gatsby for lunch?
Rationale: The answer to this question is stated explicitly in the text. It’s “Right There.” The answer is Mr. Wolfsheim, a friend of Gatsby’s.

Passage #3 (Chapter 4, pg 71)
“I don’t like mysteries,” I answered, “and I don’t understand why you won’t come out frankly and tell me what you want. Why has it all got to come through Miss Baker?”

“Oh, it’s nothing underhand,” he assured me. “Miss Baker’s a great sportswoman, you know, and she’d never do anything that wasn’t all right.”

Question: What has the author told us about Jordan Baker and what does that say about her involvement with Gatsby’s plan?
Rationale: This is a question that requires the reader to think to what the author has already written about a character and connect it to current reading, a “Think and Search” type of question. Jordan Baker has cheated at golf, and is afraid of honest people, so it suggests that as she is neither afraid of Gatsby nor the narrator, they are not completely honest, nor is she.

Passage #3 (Chapter 4, pg 72)
“Have you known Gatsby for a long time?” I inquired.

“Several years,” he answered in a gratified way. “I made the pleasure of his acquaintance just after the war. But I knew I had discovered a man of fine breeding after I talked with him an hour. I said to myself: ‘There’s the kind of man you’d like to take home and introduce to your mother and sister.’”

Question: Is Gatsby the kind of man you would like “to take home and introduce to your mother” and your family? Why or why not?
Rationale: This questions draws only on the reader’s experience with and response to the text, an “Author and You” question which allows them to think about their own reaction to Jay Gatsby so far.

Passage #4 (Chapter 4, pg 74)
“This is Mr. Gatsby, Mr. Buchanan.”

Amanda Bishop, 2006
They shook hands briefly, and a strained, unfamiliar look of embarrassment came over Gatsby’s face.

“How’ve you been anyhow?” demanded Tom of me. “How’d you happen to come up this far to eat?”

“I’ve been having lunch with Mr. Gatsby.”

I turned toward Mr. Gatsby, but he was no longer there.

**Question:** Do you know anyone who runs away without giving a reason why, or who enjoys being mysterious with you? Do you like them? Can you trust them?

**Rationale:** This is an “On Your Own” question. The answer can be found nowhere in the text, but only in the reader’s prior experience.
The Great Gatsby

Directions: Read each of the following passages below. Then, using the hints and what you already know about how to find answers to questions in the text, answer the questions as best as you can. Once you have finished, turn to your neighbor (if they are also finished) and quietly discuss your answers.

Passage #1 (Chapter 4, pg 69)
Roaring noon. In a well-fanned Forty-second Street cellar I met Gatsby for lunch. Blinking away the brightness of the street outside, my eyes picked him out obscurely in the anteroom, talking to another man.
“Mr. Carraway, this is my friend Mr. Wolfsheim.”
A small, flat-nosed Jew raised his large head and regarded me with two fine growths of hair which luxuriated in either nostril.

Question: Who joins the narrator and Gatsby for lunch?
The answer is “Right There.”

Passage #2 (Chapter 4, pg.70)
“I don’t like mysteries,” I answered, “and I don’t understand why you won’t come out frankly and tell me what you want. Why has it all got to come through Miss Baker?”
“Oh, it’s nothing underhand,” he assured me. “Miss Baker’s a great sportswoman, you know, and she’d never do anything that wasn’t all right.”

Question: What has the author told us about Jordan Baker and what does that say about her involvement with Gatsby’s plan?
A “Think and Search” question.

Passage #3 (Chapter 4, pg 71)
“Have you known Gatsby for a long time?” I inquired.
“Several years,” he answered in a gratified way. “I made the pleasure of his acquaintance just after the war. But I knew I had discovered a man of fine breeding after I talked with him an hour. I said to myself: ‘There’s the kind of man you’d like to take home and introduce to your mother and sister.’”
Question: Is Gatsby the kind of man you would like “to take home and introduce to your mother” and your family? Why or why not?
   An “Author and You” type of question.

Passage #4 (Chapter 4, pg 72)
“This is Mr. Gatsby, Mr. Buchanan.”
They shook hands briefly, and a strained, unfamiliar look of embarrassment came over Gatsby’s face.
“How’ve you been anyhow?” demanded Tom of me. “How’d you happen to come up this far to eat?”
“I’ve been having lunch with Mr. Gatsby.”
I turned toward Mr. Gatsby, but he was no longer there.

Question: Do you know anyone who runs away without giving a reason why, or who enjoys being mysterious with you? Do you like them? Can you trust them?
   An “On Your Own” question.