

Questioning and Problem Posing



What does it mean?

It is not just asking questions but seeing the value in asking the right questions. Wanting to understand the why, how, what, when and where of things. Contemplating what information you will need to find to answer the questions and developing strategies to find it. Looking for problems to solve. Being sceptical especially when facts are presented without evidence.

When should you use it?

Every time you need to know more about a topic. Whenever you face a problem and need to find a solution. When you are presented with new ideas and need to understand them. When you want to exercise your mind.

Strategies to help

- Use the six starters - Who? What? When? Where? Why? How?
- Think of questions and then search for ways of finding the answers.
- Keep a list of good questions you think of or encounter.
- Have a questioning attitude, enjoy questions, have fun with them, see them as steps on a journey to knowledge.

Questions to consider

1. What makes you ask that?
2. What is interesting about this question? Who is it interesting for?
3. What if . . . ?
4. Was finding the answer too easy? Did you ask the wrong question or did you not understand the question? Is there a bigger question you have missed?
5. What do you think the answer will look like, sound like, feel like? How will you know you have the answer?

Picture books that involve problem solving:

11 Experiments that Failed by Jenny Offill
 The Lion and the Mouse by Jerry Pinkney
 King Bidgood's in the Bathtub by Audrey Wood
 Who Is the Beast? by Keith Baker
 Anansi the Spider by Gerald McDermott
 Muncha! Muncha! Muncha! by Candace Fleming
 Those Darned Squirrels! by Adam Rubin
 My Friend Rabbit by Eric Rohmann
 Gray Rabbit's Odd One Out by Alan Baker
 Which Would You Rather Be? by William Steig
 Sylvester and the Magic Pebble by William Steig
 Crafty Chloe Dress-up Mess-up by Kelli DiPucchio
 The Little Mouse, the Red Ripe Strawberry and the Big Hungry Bear by Don and Audrey Wood