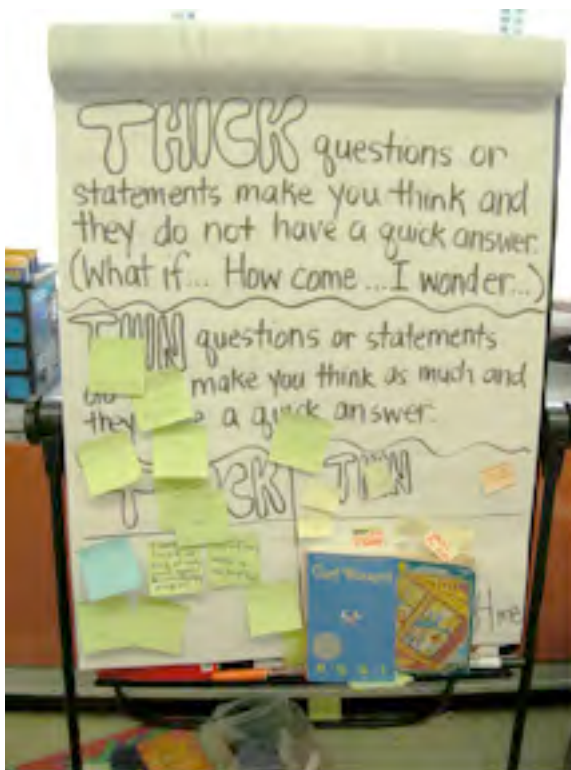


? Questioning

Activity: Thick and Thin Questions

Purpose: To teach students how to create questions pertaining to a text and to help students recognize the depth of the questions they ask and are asked.

To use questions to facilitate understanding of a text



1. Teach the students the difference between thick and thin questions. Thick questions deal with the big picture and large concepts. Answers to thick questions are involved, complex and open ended. Thin questions deal with specific content or words. Answers to thin questions are short and close ended.
2. Guide students to create Thick and Thin Questions. Read a portion of text and prompt students with stems, such as "Why..." or "What if..." for thick questions and "How far..." and "When..." for thin questions.
3. Have students create Thick and Thin Questions for the texts that are reading. They can write their questions on large sticky notes for thick questions and small sticky notes for thin questions.
4. Share questions and answers in large or small group discussions.

*Source: McLaughlin, M. & Allen, M.B. (2000). Guided comprehension: a teaching model for grades 3-8. Newark, Delaware: International Reading Association.