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Have you ever had to answer a question after you read and had a hard time figuring out what to write? Today you are going to learn a strategy to help you identify different types of comprehension questions so that you can answer them correctly. The strategy is called *Question Answer Relationships* or QARs.



**RED LIGHT QUESTIONS**

Stop and think because the answer cannot be found only in the text.

**YELLOW LIGHT QUESTIONS**

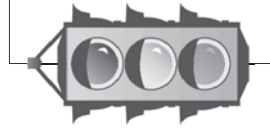
Slow down and search. You need to look in more than one place to put together your answer.

**GREEN LIGHT QUESTIONS**

Go and find the answer in one part of the text.

2

When you use the QARs strategy, the first thing you do is read. Then, you classify each question at the end of the selection. After you classify each question, you answer it. Let's look at our QARs Poster to help us classify questions.



**RED LIGHT QUESTIONS**

Stop and think because the answer cannot be found only in the text.

**YELLOW LIGHT QUESTIONS**

Slow down and search. You need to look in more than one place to put together your answer.

**GREEN LIGHT QUESTIONS**

Go and find the answer in one part of the text.

3

Green Light means GO. *Green Light Questions* have answers you can go and find in the text. Yellow Light means SLOW DOWN. For *Yellow Light Questions* you need to look in more than one place for the answer. Red Light means STOP. These questions don't have answers you can find in the text; you have to stop, think, and use your knowledge.



**RED LIGHT QUESTIONS**

Stop and think because the answer cannot be found only in the text.

**YELLOW LIGHT QUESTIONS**

Slow down and search. You need to look in more than one place in the text to put together your answer.

**GREEN LIGHT QUESTIONS**

Go and find the answer in one part of the text.

4

On the overhead is a passage about an intelligent animal, Siti, an orangutan. I'm going to read the text.

**Siti the Orangutan**

*Siti must have decided the man was stupid," says psychologist Anne Russon, who was watching. Siti picked up another stick and hacked at the coconut as one would with a long knife. She showed the worker do—something she'd seen him do many times. "Siti herself had never opened a coconut," says Russon. "Yet she had learned how it was done, just by watching."*

**QARs Cue Card**

**RED LIGHT QUESTIONS**  
Stop and think

**YELLOW LIGHT QUESTIONS**  
Slow down and search

**GREEN LIGHT QUESTIONS**  
Go and find the answer



5

Here are some questions about this passage. Let's decide if they are *Green Light*, *Yellow Light* or *Red Light Questions* together.

**Questions**

1. What was the sanctuary worker's reason for handling the coconut back to Siti?
2. Why did Siti think the sanctuary worker was stupid?
3. Why do you think being able to imitate is a sign of intelligence?

**QARs Classification**

1. This is a *Green Light Question*. With a partner underline where in the text you can find the answer.
2. Can the answer for this question be found in the text? Do you have to look in more than one place?
3. This is a *Red Light Question*. In your table groups, tell me why.

**QARs Cue Card**

**RED LIGHT QUESTIONS**  
Stop and think

**YELLOW LIGHT QUESTIONS**  
Slow down and search

**GREEN LIGHT QUESTIONS**  
Go and find the answer



6

Let's do another example together. This selection is about elephant intelligence. Let's read it together. This time you're going to decide if the questions are *Green*, *Yellow*, or *Red* before you answer them.

**Elephant Intelligence**

*A baby elephant stumbled into a dried-up mud hole in Amboseli National Park in Kenya, Africa. Luckily the calf didn't get hurt, but it was too little to scramble out. The elephant's mother ran into the hole after her baby. Then she bellowed.*

*Two relatives heard the commotion and rushed over to help. First, they sized up the situation. It wasn't a terribly deep hole, but the sides were steep. Then, they climbed into the pit. As the elephants dug out one side of the hole with their tusks and feet, a ramp was formed by the loosened dirt.*

*The minute they finished, the mother pushed her calf up the incline. The elephants seemed to plan ahead, imagining how a ramp would work to save the baby. Even Einstein would have been impressed.*

**QARs Cue Card**

**RED LIGHT QUESTIONS**  
Stop and think

**YELLOW LIGHT QUESTIONS**  
Slow down and search

**GREEN LIGHT QUESTIONS**  
Go and find the answer



7

Here are the questions. Decide at your tables if they are *Green*, *Yellow*, or *Red Light Questions*, and then answer them.

**Questions**

1. Give and defend two reasons why "even Einstein would have been impressed" by these elephant problem solvers.
2. What did the mother elephant do after her baby fell into the hole?
3. What made these elephants' problem solving behaviors human-like?

**QARs Classification**

1. IF YOU SAID YELLOW, LIGHT AND YOUR ANSWER WAS "EVEN EINSTEIN WOULD HAVE BEEN IMPRESSED" ARE RIGHT. IF YOU SAID RED, LIGHT AND YOUR ANSWER WAS "SHE PUSHED HER CALF INTO THE PIT" ARE RIGHT.
2. Look at your QARs Cue Card. Can the answer be found in the text in one place? THIS IS A GREEN LIGHT QUESTION.
3. THIS IS A RED LIGHT QUESTION. YOU NEED TO THINK ABOUT HUMAN PROBLEM SOLVING AND HOW THE ELEPHANTS ACTED IN HUMAN WAYS.

8

On your desk are passages about different intelligent animals. Each passage is followed by 2 to 4 questions. With a partner, read about the animal, then read the questions. Before you answer a question, classify it as *Green*, *Yellow*, or *Red*. After you classify each question, discuss the answer and write it in the space provided.

**QARs Poster**

**RED LIGHT QUESTIONS**  
Stop and think because the answer cannot be found only in the text.

**YELLOW LIGHT QUESTIONS**  
Slow down and search. You need to look in more than one place to put together your answer.

**GREEN LIGHT QUESTIONS**  
Go and find the answer in one part of the text.

