

Ask Questions

P.B.P.2 P.B.P.4 P.C.P.6 P.D.P.8

2

Active readers *ask* questions instead of only answering them. Good questions lead to important answers. Think about detective stories and television shows. The heroes solve crimes by asking questions. Asking and answering the right questions eventually leads them to the suspect.

Ask Practice asking your own questions. Some questions may be necessary to understanding the story (“*Why is the wolf disguised as Grandma?*”). Less critical questions may still be interesting and worth asking (“*Hmm... Why did Little Red Riding Hood not see through such a silly disguise?*”).

You know a lot about how the world works. Connecting what you read to your own experience helps you ask good questions. You might make connections to—

- **Facts:** “*This passage is about money. I know that money can come as coins or paper. Which kind is usually worth more?*”
- **Hints and feelings:** “*Maria is acting oddly in this story. That’s not what I would do if I was her. Is there something she’s not saying?*”
- **Judgments:** “*I don’t agree with what the author just said. His evidence seems weak. Is the author only telling one side of the story?*”
- **What might happen next:** “*When someone found my backpack, he turned it in to the lost and found. I wonder if that’s what will happen here?*”
- **Other stories:** “*This is sort of like that time on television when Dakota found out that Cheyenne was really her long-lost sister. Will Maria feel the same way Dakota did?*”



Connections Think about your favorite television show. What questions would you like to ask the writers or one of the characters from the show? Why do you want those questions answered? Write your answer on the lines below.

Example

Reread this section of “The Value of Money.” In the space provided, Neil asked questions about the passage.

Neil’s Questions

Ask Why don’t they make sense?

Ask Does this ever happen?

Ask What does this mean?

The Value of Money

They cost 6 cents each to make. However, one is worth \$100 while the other is worth only \$1. Why make the ones that are worth \$99 less? They are one-dollar bills. When it comes to money, cost and value don’t always make sense.

A License to Print Money

The government controls the making of money. It watches over how much is in circulation. It replaces what is lost or destroyed, but avoids making too much. It is tempting to pay debts by just printing more money. However, people quickly realize that this money is funny. Nobody knows what it will be worth tomorrow, or how much to charge for things today.

The Power of Gold

In the past, most money had an **intrinsic value**. It was made of valuable materials, like gold and silver. People liked that system because they knew their money would always have value. Governments didn’t like it because it cost more.

- D** Neil asks three questions. They help him make sense of the passage as he reads. They may also help him after he is done.
- I** *Neil’s first question* is why money’s cost and value don’t make sense. This is a strong question because it is directly related to what the passage is about. Keeping it in mind, he should be able to find an answer by the end of the passage.
- C** *Neil’s second question* is whether governments ever pay their debts by printing more money. The passage does not fully answer this question, but it is an important one. If he needs an answer, he might look in other reference sources, such as an encyclopedia.
- S** *Neil’s last question* is very specific. He wants to know what **intrinsic value** means. This is a reasonable question, as the author chose to emphasize it by putting it in **bold**. Now that Neil knows what he is looking for, he should be able to find an answer by checking what else the section says about it.