

8 Questions Game – Reading Comprehension

Students love games. This one is intended to engage their interest, create challenges for them, encourage them to think critically, and increase their *reading comprehension* while at the same time working on their ability to sort information using logical questions and answers.

The game can be played for a few minutes or longer as best fits your class. It works like this. After any kind of reading session – read aloud, silent reading, guided reading – students are asked to think of one important event or action from today’s reading, something that is a “picture in the student’s mind.” Allow 1 minute for students to get the picture in their minds.

The teacher asks for a volunteer who has an important picture in his or her mind. The volunteer stands up at his desk and takes charge of the questioning. Other students raise their hands to ask questions. The student in charge calls on the other students and counts the questions on her fingers for all to see as the questions proceed – 8 are allowed.

Questions must be of a variety that can be answered with a YES or a NO.

For example, the class has just read chapter 1 of *James and the Giant Peach*.

Possible questions that kids might ask:

Q1: Was it in the beginning of the chapter?

A: No.

Q2: Was it in the middle of the chapter?

A: No. (*This should signal to everyone that it was near the end of the chapter.*)

Q3: Was it when James could see the tiny dot far away on the horizon?

A: No.

Q4: Did it have anything to do with Aunt Spiker’s dogs?

A: No.

Q5: Did it have anything to do with the garden?

A: Yes! (*This should be a big clue – students are flipping through the pages searching.*)

Q6: Was it when James would be standing in the garden feeling sad looking out at the world?

A: **Yes!!!!**

If the event is not discovered – the student reveals the class what it was and tells why he or she chose this particular event or moment in the story.

At this point, the students who found the correct answer could have a turn with 8 Questions or the teacher could choose another student, or the game could end for now, to be done again during another chapter of the book.

Students will soon begin asking to play this game!