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## Raising Readers Newsletter March, 2014

Check out this newsletter for some great reading tips and resources!

### Read Across America!

#### What is Read Across America?

Read Across America is an annual reading motivation and awareness program that calls for every child in every community to celebrate reading on or around Dr. Seuss' birthday. Sometimes Dr. Seuss' birthday (March 2nd) falls on a weekend. When that happens, most people celebrate the Friday before or Monday after. Read Across America is also a year round reading resource for teachers, parents and other caregivers. Visit [www.nea.org/readacross](http://www.nea.org/readacross) for reading ideas and resources for every month of the year.

#### How and when did Read Across America begin?

In May 1997, a small reading task force at NEA came up with a big idea. "Let's create a day to celebrate reading," the group decided. "We hold pep rallies to get kids excited about football. We assemble to remember that 'Character Counts.' Why don't we do something to get kids excited about reading? We'll call it 'NEA's Read Across America,' and we'll celebrate it on Dr. Seuss' birthday." And so was born on March 2, 1998, the largest celebration of reading this country has ever seen.

#### Resources

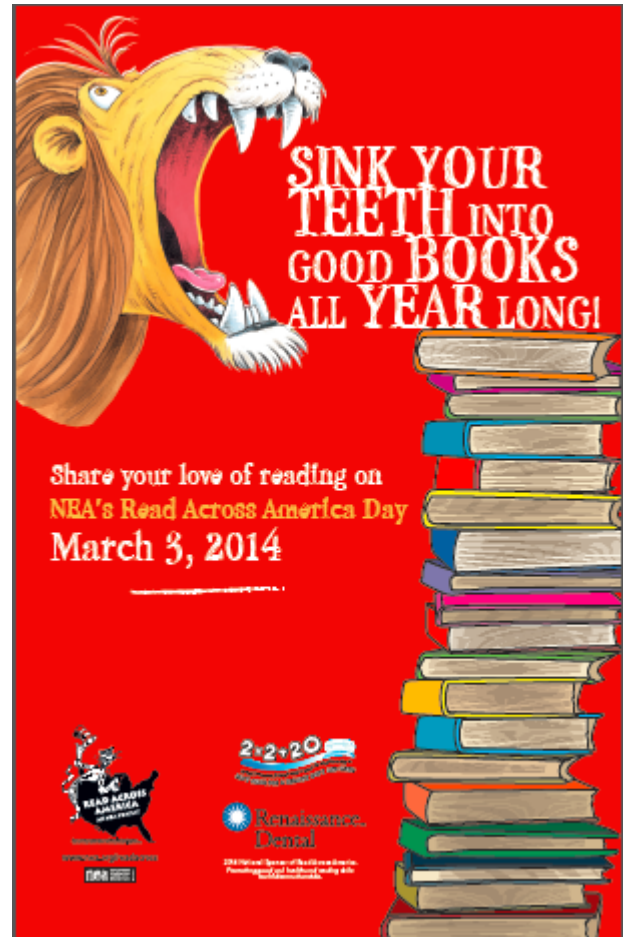
Check out the Reading Rockets website for many outstanding Reading Across America Day resources!

<http://www.readingrockets.org/calendar/readacross>

There are many events going on across the state of Indiana the weekend before Read Across America Day (March 1st and March 2nd,) as well as on Monday, March 3rd.

Check out your local Barnes and Noble! Most locations are holding special programs/activities for Read Across America Day!

Check out your local Half Price Books! Many locations are holding special programs/activities for Read Across America Day!



## Focus on the Super 7: Questioning

A different comprehension strategy will be focused upon each month. This month the focus will be on Questioning Here is a link to an overview of all of the Super 7 Comprehension Strategies that will be focused upon in the upcoming months.

[https://docs.google.com/file/d/0B5fzT\\_9S7dvZWDhD VWIGY0YyWEU/edit](https://docs.google.com/file/d/0B5fzT_9S7dvZWDhD VWIGY0YyWEU/edit)

### Questioning

Even children who are strong readers don't know instinctively that good readers ask questions as they read. Teaching questioning techniques can make strong readers even more advanced. When readers ask questions as they read, they are not only interacting with the text to make meaning of it, but they are also monitoring their own comprehension of what they are reading.

The simple fact that a reader is asking questions as he reads is evidence that the child has a purpose in reading. Reading with a purpose increases reading comprehension because the reader is making a personal connection with the text. Questioning facilitates this personal connection.

Effective questioning should be practiced before, during, and after reading. When readers ask questions before they read a text, they are activating prior knowledge and making predictions. Both of these activities engage the child's interest and increase the likelihood that he will connect with the text and comprehend it. Questioning during reading can take the form of self-questioning, questioning the text, or questioning the author. It creates a dialogue in the child's mind as he reads. Asking questions after reading the text can stimulate critical analysis and further research on the topic.

- www.k12reader.com

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- Literacy Lingo
- The "Super 7"
- Comprehension Strategies
1. Monitoring for Meaning
  2. Schema
  3. Questioning
  4. Evoking Mental Images
  5. Inferring
  6. Determining Importance in Text
  7. Synthesizing
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## Tips for Encouraging Questioning

Questions help a reader clarify ideas and deepen understanding.

- \* If you ask questions as you read, you are awake, you are thinking.
- \* Diving in with questions—even those that are unanswerable—enriches the reading experience.
- \* In their quest to make sense of their world, they bombard those around them—young children are master questioners. Why are there clouds? Do fish sleep? Why is the sky blue? Frequently, parents have no idea how to answer these endless questions. In desperation they might change the subject or come up with a feeble dodge to get off the hook. In fact, those questions show a child's brilliance. As a parent, you want to encourage them to ask the real questions, those questions that really puzzle them, even if you can't answer them.
- \* Wonder keeps the imagination alive and curiosity well-tuned.
- \* Asking questions is how you make sense of the world.
- \* Questions lead you to new ideas, new perspectives, and additional questions.
- \* Some questions don't have easy answers. But all questions inspire thinking, generate discussion, or lead you to other sources.
- \* Share *your* questions with your child, showing him/her that even *you* have questions when you read.
- \* Encourage your child to ask questions as he read is part of a larger task: inspiring wonder. There are so many things to wonder about: I wonder what a black hole is. I wonder why people risk their lives to climb Mt. Everest. I wonder how life began...Before you start reading a book with your child, play the "I Wonder" game.
- \* Questions send readers on quests. They cause readers to seek, pursue and search for answers or deeper understanding.
- \* Help your child fall in love with the story—share the excitement. Questions keep you turning the pages to find out what happens next.
- \* There's no doubt about it: Kids love to generate their own questions! Questioning makes reading fun. But to know how to question, your child needs to hear *your* questions first. This is not about asking your child questions. Instead, it's about modeling what it means to be curious by sharing the questions *you* have while you read. Don't rush the answers right away. Pose several questions and then let your child take a turn asking questions that come to his/her mind. You're showing your child how to be an active player in the world of reading.



- [www.readinglady.com](http://www.readinglady.com)



# ISTEP Tips

## Vocabulary

Make sure your child understands the following ISTEP vocabulary words :

<http://www.doe.in.gov/assessment/istep-standards-and-assessment-vocabulary>

Create flaschards using the following website: <http://www.scholastic.com/parents/resources/game/tools/flash-card-maker>

After typing in the words and definitions, the flashcards can be printed! Your child can also try the "Test Mode" to get practice with these words!

## TQSAC

A great strategy to work on with your child! On the ISTEP test, students will be reading passages and then responding to various questions. This is a great strategy for students to think about as they work through answering questions about a text they've read!

T...Title (includes directions, any graphics, etc.)

Q...Questions- read any questions

S...Selection - read the passage, story, paragraph, etc.

A...Answer the questions

C...Check 3X, check 3X, check 3X!!!!

## RAPS

A great strategy for writing to a given prompt!

Restate the topic

Answer the question

Provide specific details

Sum it Up

# ISTEP Tips for Parents and Students

## Test Taking Tips for Students:

- Read the question before you look at the answers.
- Eliminate answers you know aren't right.
- If you do not know the answer, make a smart guess and select an answer.
- Mark your answers carefully.
- Make sure you work at a pace that will give you enough time to finish the test.
- If you have time left, go back and check your answers.

## Test Taking Tips for Parents/Guardians:

- Praise your child for the things he or she does well, and be supportive of his or her efforts, especially in areas or activities that are challenging. Kids who feel good about themselves and their abilities - and who aren't fearful about making mistakes - will feel more confident and less anxious when taking the test.
- Talk with your child about what they're doing in class and ask what he or she is reading. Studies show that kids who talk with their families on a weekly basis about school and what they read score higher on the national standardized reading test than kids who talk about these things with their families less often.
- Limit your child's TV time. Studies show that kids who watch fewer than three hours of television a day scored higher on the national reading test than those who watch more.
- Express a positive attitude about the test and confidence in your child's ability to do well on it. Research shows that parents' and teachers' attitudes influence children's attitudes. So if you're upbeat and encouraging about the test, your child is likely to feel good about it.
- Encourage your child to read-newspapers, magazines, food labels, recipes, letters, and instructions, in addition to fiction and non-fiction books. Test makers draw on a wide variety of formats when choosing items to evaluate reading comprehension skills.
- Reassure your child that test scores are only one measure of his or her abilities, not the whole picture. Don't judge your child on the basis of his or her test score.
- Ensure that your child gets a good night's sleep the night before the test and eats a nutritious breakfast the day of the test. 8-10 hours of sleep is recommended.

- <https://ista-in.org/istep>

# Reading Tips Sent to Your Phone or E-mail!

## WHAT IS REMIND101 AND WHY IS IT SAFE?

Remind101 is a one-way text messaging and email system. With Remind101, all personal information remains completely confidential. Teachers will never see your phone number, nor will you ever see theirs.

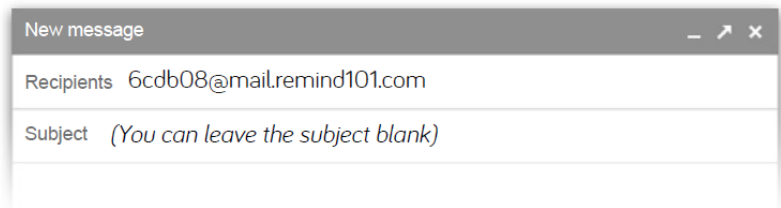
Visit [www.remind101.com](http://www.remind101.com) to learn more.

To receive messages via text, text @6cdb08 to (317) 456-7266. You can opt-out of messages at anytime by replying, 'unsubscribe @6cdb08'.



\*Standard text message rates apply.

Or to receive messages via email, send an email to [6cdb08@mail.remind101.com](mailto:6cdb08@mail.remind101.com). To unsubscribe, reply with 'unsubscribe' in the subject line.



**Notes:** 2-3 reading tips will be sent out each week. If you ever want to unsubscribe, follow the instructions listed in the pictures above. **Standard text message rates apply!**

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