

# Focus Lesson

## Ask Questions Throughout the Reading Process

Text: *The Lotus Seed* by: Sherry Garland

<b>CAFE Goal</b>	Comprehension
<b>CAFE Strategy</b>	Ask questions throughout the reading process.
<b>Observe/Relate</b>	<p>How many of you like to play sports? When you play a sport, do you like to play in the game or sit on the bench and watch? Probably all of you like to be active. Did you know that readers can be active, too? In fact, the best readers are active. They don't just turn the pages of a book without asking themselves questions about the text and really thinking about what the author is saying.</p> <p>Whenever I read, I do my best to be an active reader. I ask myself questions before, during, and after I read a text. As I read fiction, I ask myself questions about the characters, the setting, and the events in the plot. When I read nonfiction or informational text, I ask myself questions about the information the writer is sharing.</p> <p>Sometimes my questions are answered as I read more of the text; other times, my questions are not answered, but that's okay, too. I can keep thinking about the question. That's what makes reading so much fun!</p>
<b>Teach and Reinforce</b>	<p><b>Establish purpose</b> – Today we are going to use the comprehension strategy <b>ask questions throughout the reading process</b> so that we are active readers who understand what the writer is telling us.</p> <p><b>Create urgency</b> – The time that we spend with books is <i>so</i> special and <i>so</i> short! We have to make the most of it! If we just stare at the pages of the book or pretend to read, we are not making the most of our reading time. But when we ask questions that help us to understand the text better, we are making the most of every reading minute!</p> <p><b>Explicit Teacher Modeling</b> – This book is titled <i>The Lotus Seed</i>, and it is written by Sherry Garland. As I read this story I am going to stop and ask myself questions about the text. Using this strategy will help me to be an active reader and increase my comprehension of the story.</p> <p>The story of <i>The Lotus Seed</i> is about a lady who brings a very special seed from her homeland. Listen as I read actively and ask questions throughout the reading process.</p> <p><i>Read to the end of page 6 where Grandmother takes a seed from the Imperial Garden. (Please note that the pages are unnumbered, so it might</i></p>

*be helpful for you to pencil in the page numbers. For easy reference, begin with the title page as page 1).*

I am going to stop here and practice the comprehension strategy **ask questions throughout the reading process**.

Wow! I have a few questions already—Why did the emperor lose his power? What will grandmother do with the seed from the lotus pod? My questions might be answered by the author as I continue reading. Or, I might have to use clues from the story to infer the answers to my questions.

I'll write my questions on a chart to help me remember to look for the answers as I read (*see below*). This gives me a purpose for my reading.

## Practice

I am going to continue reading and have you try the strategy of **ask questions throughout the reading process**.

### **My Questions About *The Lotus Seed***

- **Why did the emperor lose his power?**
- **What will grandmother do with the lotus seed?**
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*Continue reading through page 16.*

I'm sure that you have more questions about Grandmother and her life. Turn and talk to your elbow buddy about a question you have about the story so far.

When I signal, turn and look back at me.

*Call on volunteers to share the questions they have about the story. Add these questions to the chart.*

Remember that reading actively by asking questions throughout the text makes you a stronger reader.

*You can complete the story at a later time, or encourage your students to finish it later. To challenge students, ask if readers can find their answers directly in the book, or if they have to infer the answers by using clues from the text. If the answer is found directly in the book, ask students to name the scene or page where it can be found. If readers have to infer the answers, encourage students to tell where the clues are found that will help them to make these inferences.*

<b>Encourage and Plan</b>	We just practiced <b>asking questions throughout the reading process</b> . Whenever you read a story, think about what the author is telling readers. Do your best to be an active reader who asks important questions throughout the text. During your independent reading time today, you will use sticky notes to write 2-3 questions that you have about the text. Write one question on each sticky note, and put the sticky note on the page where you have a question. As you share today, you will talk with a partner about your questions.
<b>Common Core Alignment</b>	Ask questions throughout the reading process meets the <b>Common Core State Standard</b> for many grade levels. This lesson could be revised to match your grade-level expectations. Find the standard that aligns with your grade-level on our <b>CAFE Menu/ CCSS Grade Level Matrix</b> .