

Learning together

Asking Questions for Better Comprehension

ACTIVITY #10

SEQUENCE: READING STRATEGIES –
1ST CYCLE – PRIMARY

By Marie-Lou Laplante,
Educational Specialist, for Institut TA



Purpose of the activity

The goal of this activity is to learn to ask yourself questions during reading in order to check and adjust your understanding.



Relevance of the activity

Asking yourself questions during reading helps you:

- **think** about what you have just learned, make connections with your prior knowledge, and adjust it;
- **predict** what might happen next (like in a movie or a series);
- **be active** and **react** to the text.



Supplies

- Text *Flamie, the Pink Flamingo!* (see Appendix)

To carry out this activity, you can also use:

- texts from school that your child has to read;
- a book at your child's reading level.



LET'S GO!

What?



Today, we will learn how to ask questions when reading to help you check and adjust your knowledge.

Why?



Let's look together at what this strategy helps you do:

- Check your understanding
- Make connections between what you already know about the topic and new information
- Be active and engaged during your reading
- Respond to the text

When?



You can use this strategy before reading to predict what the text will be about and during reading to check your understanding.

How?



Let's go back to the text Flamie, the Pink Flamingo! (see Appendix) and read it together:

Ask the following questions related to the text and pause at the highlighted parts.

- **Do you know Flamie?**
→ No, but I think I'm going to learn more about her.
- ... who lives in **marshes**
→ I wonder what that means ... Will the author explain it? Hmm, the author doesn't say it directly, but I understand that Flamie lives near water.
- Flamie **likes to be with other pink flamingos.**
→ I wonder why and what they do together ... Oh, now I have my answer!
- **Do you know why Flamie is pink?**
→ I don't know! I think the author will tell us ... So, it's because of the food she eats! Wow, that's surprising!
- ... her **webbed feet**
→ I wonder what that means ... Will the author explain it? Hmm, no, but I understand that her webbed feet help her stand in the water!
- **When you see a pink flamingo like Flamie...**
→ I wonder where we can see one, besides at the zoo ... I would need to check that, since the author doesn't tell me.



You see, I asked myself many questions while reading to make connections between what I am reading, my knowledge, and my personal experiences. This helps me stay focused, satisfy my curiosity, and connect new information to what I already know.

You can now practise this strategy with a book that is appropriate for your child's reading level.



Don't forget!

During your reading, you can ask yourself questions about:

- what might happen next (predictions);
- what you think you will learn (reading intention);
- the meaning of a new word (understanding);
- a new fact (responding).



Flamie, the Pink Flamingo!

Do you know Flamie? She is a beautiful pink bird, who lives in **marshes** and lakes. Flamie is very elegant with her pretty feathers and long, thin legs.

Flamie **likes to be with other pink flamingos**. Sometimes, they band together in big groups to eat and rest.

Do you know why Flamie is pink? It's because of the food that she eats. She eats small shellfish that look like tiny shrimp.

Flamie moves around easily in the water thanks to her **webbed feet**. They stop her from sinking into the silt and help her to balance.

When you see a pink flamingo like Flamie, take a moment to admire their beauty. Pink flamingos are extraordinary animals!



Source: Chat GPT