Professional Development Toolkit #2

**Strategy for Helping Students Comprehend Expository (Informational) Text:**

**P-Q-R-S-T**

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| **What is it?**   * A step-wise process that engages students in sound reading comprehension practices.   **See steps below.**   * P – ***Preview*** to identify the main parts (text features)   Q – Develop ***questions*** to which you want to find answers, based on initial preview  R – ***Read*** the material, twice if possible.  S – ***State*** the central idea or theme.  T – ***Test*** yourself by answering questions (or teach the material to someone else). |

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| **Why is it used?**   * To help students prime the brain for what’s to come * To practice identifying the central themes for each section of text and as well as a global theme for the chapter * To help students practice asking rich, relevant questions that help establish a purpose for reading * To provide another way for students to process information beyond whole-class discussions or traditional worksheets; to practice summarization |

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| **What are teachers doing?**   * Helping choose appropriate texts * Purposefully using the questions to help meet the lesson’s goals * Possibly revising the students’ questions prior to reading the text to help suit the lesson’s goals and objectives more clearly * Once in a while, asking students if they would revise their questions after having read the text |

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| **What are students doing?**   * Practicing this skill using short passages, at first * Setting up their own purposes for reading * Responding to their questions orally or in written form * If more than one student focuses on the same subsection, members of the class could critique one another’s questions and responses to those questions. |

*Adapted from* Wormeli, Rick. Summarization in Any Subject. Alexandria: ASCD, 2005.

**Book Censorship and *Huckleberry Finn***

P – ***Preview*** to identify the main parts (text features)

Q – Develop ***questions*** to which you want to find answers, based on initial preview

R – ***Read*** the material, twice if possible.

S – ***State*** the central idea or theme.

T – ***Test*** yourself by answering questions (or teach the material to someone else).

* **P** - Take two minutes to **preview** the text below.
* **Q** - Next, list 3-5 **questions** you have about the text:

Q -

A -

Q -

A -

Q -

A -

* **R** - **Read** the text – and reread it, and reread it, if necessary.
* **S - State** the central theme or “big idea” of the paragraphs above:
* **T** – Test your reading comprehension by answering your own questions above..