

## Reading for a purpose

Students need to have an understanding of the purpose for reading and viewing particular texts before they commence. Teachers can assist students to clarify the purpose of reading by asking the questions:

*Why are you reading this text?*

*Are you reading for enjoyment, to retell, to answer questions, to gain information?*

Once a purpose for reading is established, students can be directed about which method of reading will best achieve that purpose. These methods for reading include:

skimming: reading to gain an overall understanding of the content of the text

scanning: reading to locate specific information

re-reading: reading to confirm meanings and understandings, and to clarify details.



*Having a purpose for reading will assist students to choose the most appropriate method of reading.*

**How I used this strategy with my class**

Before I introduced this activity the students had brainstormed and therefore identified what they already knew about the topic. I used this activity to promote enthusiasm for active reading.

Individually or in small groups the students:

- were assisted to formulate questions about their topic by using such words as *why, how, who, where* and *what*
- discussed and listed questions that needed answers
- read parts of the book to locate answers to their questions.

**My thoughts on the strategy**

I found that the questions raised during the strategy became the guide for further research by students. The questions were displayed prominently on a classroom chart for the students to refer and add to. It was interesting that some students offered information that they knew to help answer other students' questions and suggested resources that they had come across.

Questions I want to know about Whirlpools

1. How do whirlpools start?
2. Are all whirlpools the same?
3. Are ~~ett~~ whirlpools anything like cyclones?
4. Where and when do whirlpools <sup>occur</sup> acyre?
5. What does the word whirlpool mean?
6. Are whirlpools ~~devistational~~ <sup>sp</sup> ~~sp~~ <sup>devastational</sup>?
7. Do tidal waves follow whirlpools?
8. Do whirlpools cover a large area?
9. How long can a whirlpool last for?
10. <sup>Can</sup> Does a whirlpool do much damage to the life around it?