

# Stump the Teacher

(To get students questioning passages and setting purpose for reading.)

Select a passage

Indicate that we'll read early parts of it together to establish a purpose for reading.

Teacher will read. Students can ask questions about what's read.

Questions could be rated by a Stump Factor

Big Stump	teacher can't answer
Little Stump	answers, but not succinct or complete
No Stump	answers clearly and directly

(Encourage students to ask searching questions.)

Teacher continues reading small portions of text, stopping to take questions.

Teacher permitted to ask one question per 100 words or so (to help focus where the passage is going.)

At a reasonable distance into the selection (say, no more than 20% of its length), stop to establish three searching questions the passage might just answer. This marks the setting of purpose. Students continue to read for answers to those questions.

At the end, re-consider whether the three questions were really the best ones. Revise them if needed. Get students to write answers to the three best questions for the passage.

Consolidate the learning: that questions help establish interest and intention in readers.