

**Creating Active Readers**  
**Helga Purnell**  
**Thompson Middle School**  
**Stafford County**  
**Sixth grade**

Mrs. Purnell's sixth graders have been successful with the **Magic Tree House Series** and are about to begin another book, *Buffalo Before Breakfast* by Mary Pope Osborne. Mrs. Purnell anticipates that it is on the instructional level for most of her students, so she plans to scaffold with teacher-prepared questions and partner reading. Her goal is that her students will assume the responsibility for **formulating and answering questions** independently by the time they finish the book.

**Reviewing Prediction**

Mrs. Purnell begins by collecting vocabulary homework and reminding students about predicting prior to reading. The students discuss with partners what they predict the first chapter will reveal.

**Sharing and Recording Predictions**

As the students share predictions, Mrs. Purnell records their ideas on a chart. Notice the student who uses his knowledge of the other books in the series to help him make a prediction and how Mrs. Purnell praises him.

**Reviewing Types of Questions**

The students reveal that they already know three times to ask themselves questions, and they give examples of some types of questions to ask.

**Restating Questions**

Before they read, the students restate each teacher-prepared question in the form of an answer and number the sticky notes. Mrs. Purnell helps students who are unsure of what to write. Students collaborate to formulate a pre-reading question of their own.

**Providing help with Questioning**

Mrs. Purnell helps students formulate a question.

**Reading and Finding Answers**

The students read with partners and help each other find answers to questions. They mark their answers with numbered sticky notes. Mrs. Purnell praises a student for finding an answer independently.

**Assigning Homework**

Mrs. Purnell asks students to finish answering questions.

**Formulating Reflective and Predictive Questions**

Mrs. Purnell helps the students organize two-column notes before they formulate questions to reflect on chapter one and questions to help them predict before reading chapter two. She praises a student for using the title to predict.

**Student Work****Assigning Homework**

Mrs. Purnell asks students to organize a chart to record their questions as they progress through the novel.