



QAR

*Question Answer
Response Strategy
for Jane Eyre by
Charlotte Brontë*

Purpose of the Strategy:

This strategy will be used after reading Chapter 35 of the novel, to promote critical thinking and active comprehension of Brontë's message, in preparation for writing a formal essay. By creating their own questions, the students extend their writing ability and explore possible theses.

Directions:

STEP 1

Introduce the strategy with the worksheet showing the relationship of the Questions to Answers. Post an enlarged chart of this somewhere in the classroom where students can refer to it.

STEP 2

Create QAR questions from small sections of text (not longer than about five sentences) for each of the four levels. Using these questions, model how each level of the QAR questions can be identified and answered. Discuss the differences between the questions:

Found in the text:

Right There: the answer is textually explicit (can be found in the text), usually as a phrase contained within one sentence.

Think and Search: while the answer is in the text, the answer is implicit and the student is required to combine separate sections or chunks of text to answer the question.

Found in your head:

On Your Own: requires students to think about what is already known from their reading and experience (schema and prior knowledge) to formulate an answer.

Author and You: as the answer is not directly stated in the text, the student draws on prior knowledge (schema) and what the author has written to answer the question.

STEP 3

Give students sample questions to answer in small groups and identify which QAR levels they used.

STEP 4

Have students work individually to create one question for each QAR level from Chapter 35 of *Jane Eyre*.

Assessment:

Growing awareness of how we read specific texts increases comprehension. As students study different sources of information they learn that there are relationships between questions that readers ask and the types of responses that can be given.

Example L.A.R. Questions

PASSAGE 1 (pg. 243)

“The rain rushed down. He hurried me up the walk, through the grounds, and into the house; but we were quite wet before we could pass the threshold. He was taking off my shawl in the hall, and shaking the water out of my loosened hair, when Mrs. Fairfax emerged from her room. I did not observe her at first, nor did Mr. Rochester. The lamp was lit. The clock was on the stroke of twelve.”

Question: Who does Jane not observe emerging from their room?

Rationale: This is a “right there” question. The answer is found directly in this passage of text.

PASSAGE 2 (pg. 138-9)

“...I withdrew the bolt and opened the door with a trembling hand. There was a candle burning just outside, and on the matting in the gallery. I was surprised at this circumstance: but still more was I amazed to perceive the air quite dim, as if filled with smoke: and, while looking to the right hand and left, to find whence these blue wreaths issued, I became further aware of a strong smell of burning.

Something creaked: it was a door ajar; and that door was Mr. Rochester’s, and the smoke rushed in a cloud from thence. I thought no more of Mrs. Fairfax; I thought no more of Grace Poole, or the laugh: in an instant, I was within the chamber. Tongues of flame darted round the bed: the curtains were on fire. In the midst of blaze and vapour, Mr. Rochester lay stretched motionless in deep sleep.”

Question: How did Mr. Rochester’s bed catch on fire?

Rationale: This is a “Think and Search” question. The passage never states that someone set his bed on fire with the candle Jane found outside her room, but the clues in the text help the reader figure it out.

PASSAGE 3 (pg. 166)

“ ‘My dearest, don’t mention governesses; the word makes me nervous. I have suffered a martyrdom from their incompetency and caprice. I thank Heaven I have now done with them!’

Mrs. Dent here bent over to the pious lady, and whispered something in her ear; I suppose, from the answer elicited, it was a reminder that one of the anathematized race was present.

‘Tant pis!’ said her ladyship. ‘I hope it may do her good!’ Then, in a lower tone, but still loud enough for her me to hear, ‘I noticed her; I am a judge of physiognomy, and in hers I see all the faults of her class.’”

Question: Is it acceptable to stereotype others based on their physical appearance and social standing? Why or why not?

Rationale: This is an “on your own” question. The students must use the text to start thinking about this issue, but the answer is their own reaction.

PASSAGE 4 (pg. 390)

“ ‘...Jane, you would not repent marrying me; be certain of that. We *must* be married—I repeat it: there is no other way; and undoubtedly enough of love would follow upon marriage to render the union right even in your eyes.’

‘I scorn your idea of love,’ I could not help saying, as I rose up and stood before him, leaning my back against the rock. ‘I scorn the counterfeit sentiment you offer: yes, St. John, and I scorn you when you offer it.’”

Question: What is Jane’s idea of love and how does she feel about St. John’s idea of love?

Rationale: This is an “author and you” question. The answer is not explicitly stated in the text, but the reader can use his/her opinion as well as sense the author’s opinion to come up with an answer.

Sample D.A.R. Questions

PASSAGE 1 (pg. 5)

“He ran headlong at me: I felt him grasp my hair and my shoulder: he had closed with a desperate thing. I really saw in him a tyrant: a murderer. I felt a drop or two of blood from my head trickle down my neck, and was sensible of somewhat pungent suffering: those sensations for the time predominated over fear, and I received him in frantic sort. I don’t very well know what I did with my hands, but he called me ‘Rat! rat!’ and bellowed out aloud.”

Question: What does Jane feel trickle down her neck?

Rationale: This is a “right there” question. The answer is found directly in this passage of text.

PASSAGE 2 (pg. 239)

“ ‘I grieve to leave Thornfield: I love Thornfield: I love it, because I have lived in it a full and delightful life—momentarily at least. I have not been trampled on. I have not been petrified. I have not been buried with inferior minds, and excluded from every glimpse of communion with what is bright and energetic and high. I have talked, face to face, with what I reverence, with what I delight in—with an original, a vigorous, an expanded mind. I have known you, Mr. Rochester; and it strikes me with terror and anguish to feel I absolutely must be torn from you for ever. I see the necessity of departure; and it is like looking on the necessity of death.’ ”

Question: Why is Jane so reluctant to leave Thornfield?

Rationale: This is a “think and search” question. The passage never states that she is in love with Mr. Rochester and was treated like an equal for the first time, but the clues in the text help the reader figure it out.

PASSAGE 3 (pg. 277-79)

“Mr. Rochester continued, heartily and recklessly, ‘Bigamy is an ugly word!—I meant, however, to be a bigamist; but fate has out-manoeuvred me, or Providence has checked me—perhaps the last. I am little better than a devil at this moment; and, as my pastor there would tell me, deserve no doubt the sternest judgments of God, even to the quenchless fire and deathless worm. Gentlemen, my plan is broken up!—what this lawyer and his client say is true: I have been married, and the woman to whom I was married lives!...Bertha Mason by name...Bertha Mason is mad; and she came of a mad family; idiots and maniacs through three generations! Her mother, the Creole, was both a madwoman and a drunkard!—as I found out after I had wed the daughter: for they were silent on family secrets before. Bertha, like a dutiful child, copied her parent in both points. I had a charming partner—pure, wise, modest: you can fancy I was a happy man. I went through rich scenes! Oh! my experience has been heavenly, if you only knew it! But I owe you no further explanation. Briggs, Wood, Mason, I invite you all to come up to the house and visit Mrs. Poole’s patient, and *my wife*! You shall see what sort of a being I was cheated into espousing, and judge whether or not I had a right to break the compact, and seek sympathy with something at least human. This girl,’ he continued, looking at me, ‘knew no more than you, Wood, of the disgusting secret: she thought all was fair and legal, and never dreamt she was going to be entrapped into a feigned union with a defrauded wretch, already bound to a bad, mad, and embruted partner! Come all of you—follow!’

... What it was, whether beast or human being, one could not, at first sight tell: it grovelled, seemingly, on all fours; it snatched and growled like some strange wild animal: but it was covered with clothing, and quantity of dark, grizzled hair, wild as a mane, hid its head and face.

... ‘That is *my wife*,’ said he... ‘and *this* is what I wished to have’ (laying his hand on my shoulder) ‘this young girl, who stands so grave and quiet at the mouth of hell, looking collectedly at the gambols of a demon. I wanted her just as a change after that fierce ragout. Wood and Briggs, look at the difference! Compare these clear eyes with the red balls yonder—this face with that mask—this form with that bulk; then judge me, priest of the gospel and man of the law, and remember with what judgment ye judge ye shall be judged! Off with you now. I must shut up my prize.’ ”

Question: What would you have done in Mr. Rochester’s position? About Bertha? And about Jane? Why?

Rationale: This is an “on your own” question. The students must use the text to start thinking about this issue, but the answer is their own reaction.

PASSAGE 4 (pg. 71)

“...She went into the house; I stayed behind a few minutes to plant in my garden a handful of roots I had dug up in the forest, and which I feared would wither if I left them till the morning. This done I lingered yet a little longer; the flowers smelt so sweet as the dew fell; it was such a pleasant evening, so serene, so warm; the still glowing west promised so fairly another fine day on the morrow; the moon rose with such majesty in the grave east. I was noting these things and enjoying them as a child might, when it entered my mind as it had never done before—

‘How sad to be lying now on a sick-bed, and to be in danger of dying! This world is pleasant—it would be dreary to be called from it, and to have to go, who knows where?’

And then my mind made its first earnest effort to comprehend what had been infused into it concerning heaven and hell: and for the first time it recoiled baffled; and for the first time glancing behind, on each side, and before it, it saw all round and unfathomed gulf: it felt the one point where it stood—the present; all the rest was formless cloud and vacant depth; and it shuddered at the thought of tottering, and plunging amid that chaos.”

Question: How does Jane feel about death? Heaven and hell?

Rationale: This is an “author and you” question. The answer is not explicitly stated in the text, but the reader can use his/her opinion as well as sense the author’s opinion to come up with an answer.