


A feeling way for children to re-visit a story and
learn about themselves



Wondering Questions



Wondering Questions are questions that:

- Do not ask for facts about the story
- Do not have answers that are right, that are wrong.
- Have meaning
 - to the child
 - to the story
- Ask us to wonder about a story
 - Use our imaginations and feelings

Wondering Questions allow children

- To Wonder About
 - Ideas
 - Pictures
 - Words
 - Characters
- *To wonder from the point of view of a child*
 - *at that time*
 - *in that child's life*

▶ The Answers to a Wondering Question

- Come from the heart
 - And are accepted and welcomed because they are from the heart
- Address feelings
- Are personal
 - May be unique and may be in common with others
- May require a new way of thinking and feeling

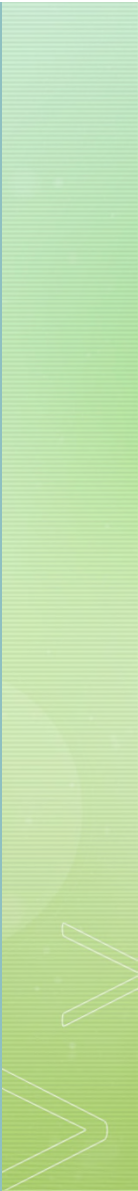


Wondering Questions Take Practice

- For the teacher and for the children
 - Children may not be used to being asked what they feel or think
- Children may need an explanation
 - “When we wonder about a story, we share feelings or ideas or things we know about the story.”
 - “When we wonder about a story, there isn’t one right or wrong answer.”
 - “When we wonder about a story, we listen with our hearts.”



Foundational Wondering Questions

- *I wonder what part of the story you liked a lot, today?*
 - *I wonder what part of the story felt important to you, today?*
 - *I wonder where you are in the story, or what part feels like it is about you?*
 - *I wonder if there is any part of the story we could take out, and still have all the story we need?*
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Teacher Tips #1

- Affirm a child's response by reflecting back what the child shared.
 - "You liked the way the girl smiled in that picture."
 - "You liked it when the teacher helped the child."
 - "the smiling girl"
 - "The teacher helped the child."
- Affirming the child without comment shows that the child was heard and that you, the teacher, were interested in that child and what was important to that child.



Teacher Tips #2

- Avoid comments such as “That’s right.”
- Use the book.
 - Show the pictures as the children wonder and reflect.
 - Return to a page a child is reflecting about.
- Respond to a child’s question that you can’t answer with “I wonder.”
- Ignore insincere responses from a child seeking attention.
 - Continue by moving to the next wondering question and without acknowledging a disruptive response from a child.



Children may learn to ask their own wondering questions.

- Children may want to state their own wonderings.
 - “I wonder if Gappu dances when she is at home.”
 - “ I wonder if the teacher dances when she is at home.
 - ”I wonder if dancing is scary for anyone.”
- Follow the children’s wonderings
 - If the teacher doesn’t have an answer for a wondering, say “I wonder.”
 - Share in the imagination and wonder.



Attributions

- Berryman, Jerome W., *The Complete Guide to Godly Play, Volume 1*, Morehouse Education Resources, 2002, 2006
 - Bradley, Melinda Wenner, “Wondering with Children. Making Space for Growing in the Light,” *Sparkling Still*, Philadelphia: QuakerPress of Friends General Conference, 2013.
 - Gibson, Michael, “On Wondering with Children in Godly Play® and Faith & Play™,” *Sparkling Still*, Philadelphia: QuakerPress of Friends General Conference, 2013.
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