Comprehension Instructional Routine: 
Asking and Answering Lower-Level Questions

Preparation/Materials: Pre-written sentence that contains the elements WHERE and WHEN in sequential order (e.g., Julie is riding her bike on the sidewalk in the afternoon.).

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**TEACHER EXPLAINS TASK**
We are going to ask and answer questions to understand what we read.

**TEACHER MODELS TASK**
When I read a sentence or a story, I ask myself questions and answer them to help me understand.

I ask: WHERE is the action taking place?  
This tells me the place where the action is happening.

I ask: WHEN is the action taking place?  
This tells me the time of day when the action is happening.

*Display Sentence.*
*Listen.*
"Julie is riding her bike on the sidewalk in the afternoon."

First, I ask, WHERE is Julie riding her bike?  
I answer, on the sidewalk. This tells me the place where Julie is riding her bike.

Next, I ask, WHEN is Julie riding her bike?  
I answer, in the afternoon. This tells me the time of day Julie is riding her bike.

**TEACHER & STUDENTS PRACTICE TASK TOGETHER**
When we read, we ask WHERE to find the place and WHEN to find the time.

*Listen.*
"Julie is riding her bike on the sidewalk in the afternoon."

First, what question do we ask using the word WHERE?  
- Where is Julie riding her bike?  
We answer:  
- on the sidewalk

Next, what question do we ask using the word WHEN?  
- When is Julie riding her bike?  
We answer:  
- in the afternoon

Yes, in the afternoon is the time...and on the sidewalk is the place.

We ask the same WHERE and WHEN questions when we have several sentences to help understand the story.

**STUDENTS PRACTICE TASK**
Your turn.  
Ask and answer questions to understand what you read.

*Listen.*
"Julie is riding her bike on the sidewalk in the afternoon."
STUDENTS PRACTICE TASK (continued)

What question do you ask using the word WHERE?
   Where is Julie riding her bike?
That's right.
Now tell me where is Julie riding her bike?
   on the sidewalk

Listen.
“Julie is riding her bike on the sidewalk in the afternoon.”
What question do you ask using the word WHEN?
   When is Julie riding her bike?
That’s right.
Now tell me when is Julie riding her bike?
   in the afternoon
Yes, in the afternoon is the time…..and on the sidewalk is the place.

Remember to ask WHERE and WHEN questions to help understand what you read.

INDEPENDENT PRACTICE
When students consistently ask and answer lower-level questions, provide individual turns utilizing other sentences.

SCAFFOLDING SUGGESTION FOR ERRORS
Verify that students understand asking and answering lower-level questions. If an error is made, repeat the steps by explaining, modeling, and providing another practice opportunity. If students are not able to ask and respond to the questions during TEACHER & STUDENTS PRACTICE TASK TOGETHER, provide the question/answer and have the students echo the response. If difficulties persist, simplify the sentence and ask WHERE or WHEN (e.g., Julie is riding her bike on the sidewalk). Investigate the potential need to reteach ask-and-answer lower-level questions of WHO and WHAT.

Adaptations using this instructional routine:
   • Increase the text to two sentences using a pronoun (e.g., Tom is swimming. He is in the pool before lunchtime.).
   • Use a graphic organizer to sort the words in a sentence into WHERE and WHEN columns (e.g., Julie is riding her bike on the sidewalk in the afternoon.).

For further independent student practice, refer to the following FCRR Kindergarten and First Grade Student Center Activities at http://www.fcrr.org/Curriculum/PDF/GK-1/C_Final.pdf
   • C.015
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WHEN</th>
<th>WHERE</th>
<th>WHO</th>
<th>WHAT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>in the afternoon.</td>
<td>on the sidewalk</td>
<td>Julie is riding her bike</td>
<td>Sally is walking her dog in the backyard at night.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Tom eats at the table at dinner time.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>The cat ran up the tree in the morning.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Additional sentences to sort: