

Eastside Literacy Tutor Support
Handout for Students: **QAR Comprehension Strategy**

Example Text 1

In January, 1848, gold was found in California. The gold was found on land owned by John A. Sutter. He tried very hard to keep the good news hushed up, but by May miners were streaming in. A few men found between 300 and 500 dollars worth of gold dust a day. However, most of the miners panned one ounce of gold dust each day, which was worth about twenty dollars.

From Challenger 2 by Corea Murphy, New Readers Press 1985

QAR Question Category	
Right There	Who discovered gold in California?
Think and Search	What happened when gold was discovered in California?
On Your Own	Why do you think Sutter wanted to "keep the good news hushed up?"

Example Text 2

To appreciate the stars in their full glory, we need good conditions. Even the light of the full moon chases faint stars from view. Anyone who has contemplated the skies in clear desert air or on a frosty night deep in the countryside soon realizes the disadvantage faced by the town-dweller from the background glow of streetlights.

From The Starlore Handbook, by Geoffrey Cornelius, Chronicle 1997

QAR Question Category	
Right There	What effect does the full moon have on the visibility of faint stars?
Think and Search	Why can't you see as many stars from a city or town as you can from the country?
On Your Own	If you were a professional astronomer, where would you choose to build an observatory?

Example Text 3

Rome wasn't built in a day, they say. Even a small part of Rome, the Sistine Chapel, took eight years to construct, plus another eleven years to decorate. The artist Michelangelo sprawled atop his scaffolding from 1508 to 1512 painting scenes from the Old Testament on the ceiling.

From *Longitude* by Dava Sobel, Penguin 1995

QAR Question Category	
Right There	Who painted the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel?
Think and Search	How did Michelangelo reach the ceiling in order to paint it?
On Your Own	Why do modern buildings take less time to construct than the Sistine Chapel did?