

## **Contextual Understanding**

Contextual Understanding questions measure how well the student understands the surface meaning of what he or she reads. The questions measure the process of reading rather than products of reading.

In order to help a student practice Contextual Understanding questions, choose a two paragraph passage from a book. The book should be on the student's reading level. Copy the passage, leaving out one word in each of the paragraphs. Choose a word that is most likely to be understood by the student. The goal is not to trick the student with vocabulary, but to check his or her reading comprehension. The word should be able to be guessed only if the student read the passage. Have the student read the passage. Then have the student choose the correct word from a choice of four words. One word will be the correct word. The other three words should be words that may make sense to the student if he or she did not read the passage carefully.

Practicing Contextual Understanding questions will help the student become a more thoughtful reader.