

3. Let's Get Started

Strategies for doing an EQAO Language Test

Students:

The EQAO Language tests that will be done in class later this year will ask you to read short stories and poems, and then answer questions about what you read.

Here are some steps that will help you to get the correct answers for the multiple-choice questions in the Reading section of EQAO. You may think it's unnecessary to do all the steps in Dr. Don's strategy, but it is important to slow down and be careful: rushing to get finished is a sure way to make serious mistakes.

Step One: Read the story (or poem) slowly and carefully.

Read it as a story; pretend it's not a test. Try to enjoy the story.

Step Two: Then read the story or poem *again*, slowly and carefully.

As you read it the second time, try to create a "video" of the story in your mind. If the story is about going to the zoo, imagine yourself at the zoo, watching the events that happen in the story.

If you need to read the story again, after you have done step two, do it! The EQAO test is not a race to see who finishes the fastest.

Step Three: Now that you have read and re-read the story, you are ready to answer the questions.

Of course, Step One and Step Two apply here also: read each *question*, slowly and carefully.

Then read it again. The second time you read the question, whisper the question to yourself. Move your lips and quietly say each word.

Step Four: Underline the key words in each question.

For example: "What is the capital city of Canada?"

What do you think are the key words? Dr. Don says they are capital, city and Canada.

If this question was on a test, he would underline those words in the question:

"What is the capital city of Canada?"

Step Five: If four possible answers to the question are given to you, underline the one that you think is correct.

