

Conference Openers (for early readers)

If student is just starting a book:

- *Tell me how you chose this book.*
- *Have you read any other _____ books before?*
- *Show me what you did when you first started reading this book (or what you will do in order to get started reading).*
- *How do you know this is a “just right” book for you?*
- *What kinds of books, topics do you like to read?*
- *Let’s take a look at what you’ve been reading for the last few weeks.*

What does the student know about herself as a reader?

If student is in the middle of a book:

- *Would you read a little bit of the story to me? (Do a quick running record and record strategy use, word attack.)*
- *What’s happening in the story so far? What are you noticing?*
- *Tell me about the characters... feelings... actions...*
- *What do you do when you get stuck on a word?*
- *Can you take me to a place...?*
- *Was there a part that was confusing? How did you handle that?*
- *What are you thinking about as you read?*

Is the student actively engaged in purposeful reading? Is the student monitoring for meaning and using a variety of strategies?

If student has just finished a book:

- *What do you think?*
- *Would you recommend this book to another reader?*
- *What did you learn about yourself as a reader?*
- *Can you retell or summarize what happened in the story?*
- *What strategies did you use that helped you?*
- *What do you plan to do next?*

Is the student thinking beyond the text?

While conferring, it is critical that teachers model and share from their own experience as readers.