

# Normal Department

## ANALYSIS OF THE TEXT-BOOK.

THE SABBATH SCHOOL TEACHER'S HAND-BOOK; or, The Principles and Practice of Teaching, with special reference to the Sabbath School, by **Thomas Morrison, M. A., L.L. D.**, Principal Free Church Training College, Glasgow.

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## TELLING AND QUESTIONING. (CHAPTER VII).

In teaching avoid the too common practice of "telling." Telling is not teaching. Teaching is causing another to know, and this is best done, by "never telling anything which pupils may reasonably be expected to know," or which they may be led to know by judicious questioning. "The Art of putting a question is one of the first and most necessary arts to be acquired by the teacher. To know how to put a good question is to have gone a long way towards becoming a skillful and efficient teacher.

### THE ART OF QUESTIONING.

#### I. The Object of Questioning.

1. To find out what the scholar knows and how he knows it.
2. To excite an interest in the subject.
3. To discover misconceptions and difficulties.
4. To secure activity of mind and co-operation while teaching.
5. To arouse, cultivate and direct attention.
6. To test the result and outcome of what has been taught.

#### II. Qualifications of the Questioner.

1. A thorough knowledge of the subject.
2. Power to think logically and clearly.
3. A knowledge of good models of the art of questioning.
4. Practice in the actual effort of questioning.

#### III. Tests of a Good Question.

1. The language of the question should be simple and familiar to the scholar.
2. The question should be definite and free from all ambiguity.
3. " " " " suited to the capacity of the scholar.
4. " " " " asked in the fewest possible words.
5. " " " " easy at first and gradually increase in difficulty.
6. " " " " in proportion to the importance of the subject.
7. " " " " admit of a definite answer.
8. " " " " should be given in such an order as to form a systematic and progressive development of the subject.
9. A good question must have the element of the unexpected in it. It should surprise the mind with some fresh and novel view of the subject.
10. Questions should be (1) On the words of the lesson; (2) To exercise the understanding; (3) To develop spiritual truths.

#### IV. Manner of Putting a Question.

1. State the question to the whole class, and ask *one* to answer.
2. Simultaneous questions may be used with young pupils.
3. Important questions should be asked in a variety of ways.

#### V. Tests of a Good Answer.

1. It should be full and complete.
2. It should be given in the form of a sentence.