Please enjoy this complimentary excerpt from Visible Learning for Mathematics, Grades K-12. This excerpt provides example questions that teachers can use to check for understanding—a crucial aspect of visible learning.

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Some other useful focusing questions to have in your back pocket are the following:

- What are you trying to find?
- How did you get that?
- Why does that work?
- Is there another way you can represent that idea?
- How is this connected to (other idea, concept, finding, or learning intention)?

Questions that check for understanding are a crucial aspect of visible learning. The best teachers probe deeper for more specific information. They don’t just want to know whether or not a student understands something. If the student does, they want to see if the child can explain his or her thinking and apply what is understood. If the student doesn’t understand, these teachers probe deeper to find the point at which a misconception, overgeneralization, or partial understanding led them...