

# Along...a natural complement to mentoring.

The connection formed between a mentor and mentee is a foundation of their relationship and builds the trust required to have honest conversations about a student's progress and struggles. Nurturing these connections with numerous students takes time, effort, and diligence to build and maintain. That's where Along can help.

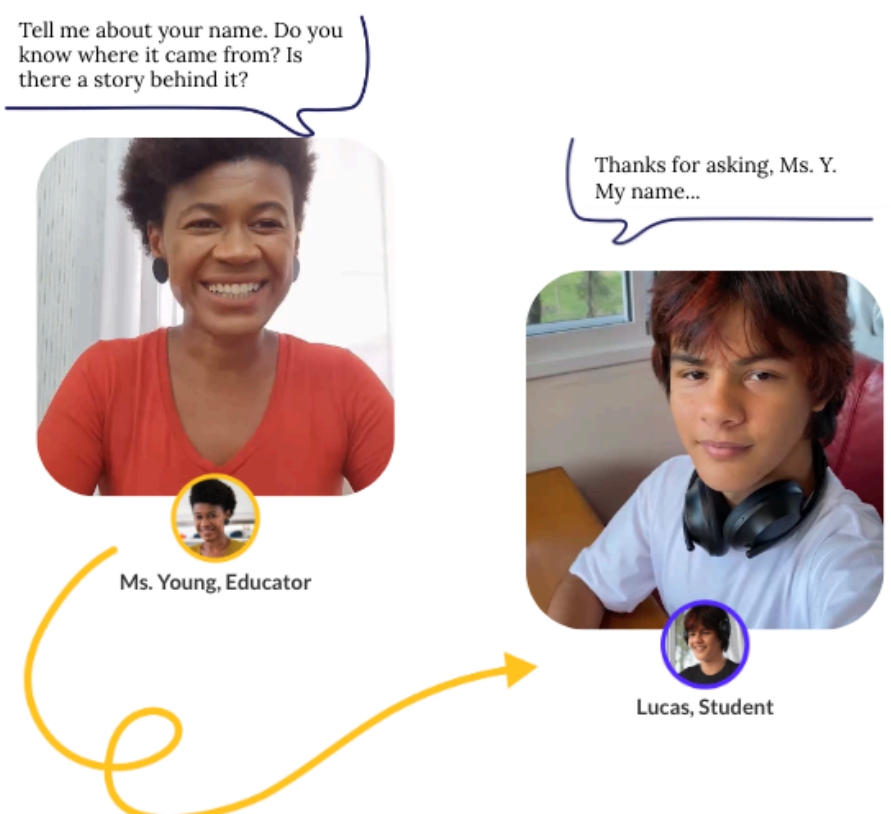
Along was designed to support educators in building meaningful connections with students so that every student feels seen and known.

## How does Along work?

Educators choose from a library of reflection questions—each one designed to spark conversation and unlock connections—or write one of their own. Each question is research-informed and supported with guidance for when and how to use it with students. Educators share their response with students, showing who they are as individuals and encouraging students to open up and share about themselves. Students then respond by recording a short video or audio message or sending a text. It's that simple.

Once students respond, the educator has several options—ways to [continue the connections](#) being built. They could reply back to one or more students with a follow-up message; browse through Along's resource library and choose a classroom activity to use with the whole class, a small group, or a specific student; or close out that reflection question and choose a new one.

With each new question, educators learn about students—as a group and as individuals—and their students learn about them.



## Using Along in combination with Gradient Learning Mentoring:

- **Supports a whole student approach** to teaching and learning. The research-informed questions encourage mentors and mentees to check in beyond academics. Research-backed classroom activities and educator practice resources—also included in Along's Content Library—offer additional materials to support growth and development.
- Gives educators an **additional opportunity to build foundational knowledge and trust** outside of the classroom or the formal 1:1 check-in.
- **Provides students time to reflect and think deeply** about their answers to questions, which may be more challenging during face-to-face sessions.
- Further **maximizes in-person time**. Mentors can use questions in Along as a way to prepare for live 1:1 check-ins.
- **Promotes the process of reflection** and provides a dedicated space for making reflection a regular practice and part of learning.

Learn how to [bring Along to your school](#).