

Reading At Home



Sometimes parents ask how to discuss books at home or what sort of questions to ask when they are reading with their child. We have come up with some ideas that may help when reading at home.

You **DO NOT** need to ask all these questions every time you read. Perhaps **pick one or two** that suit the text you are reading to discuss in depth. You can then write it in your child's diary with a brief description of their answer as your weekly comment. This will help to inform us when we are deciding whether to change books or move children to a new book band.



Fiction texts:

☺ What is the main character like?
☺ Is this a fiction (story/poem/play) or non-fiction (factual/information) book? How do you know?
☺ Where is the story set? Where does the story take place?
☺ What happens in the story?
☺ Sequence the events in the story (you could draw a cartoon strip for it).
☺ What does the word _____ mean?
☺ How do you know that the character is feeling _____? (Find the evidence in the text).
☺ What do you think will happen next? (before reading on)
☺ What does he/she say that tells us he/she is angry/happy/worried etc?
☺ Do you know any other stories that are like this one? How?
☺ Give me another word for _____.
☺ Does this character remind you of anyone/any other characters you know? Why?
☺ Find a word that means_____.

☺ What do you think _____ (character) should do now?
☺ How will the story end?
☺ How would you end the story if you were writing it?
☺ How would you describe the story/character to a friend?

Non-Fiction texts:

☺ Is this a fiction (story/poem/play) or non-fiction (factual/information) book? How do you know?
☺ Tell me some facts you have learned in section _____.
☺ What does the word _____ mean?
☺ Give me another word for _____.
☺ Discuss the words in the glossary so you know what they mean.
☺ Where would you look to find out about_____? (Use the contents page or index).
☺ What other sections could there be in this book?
☺ (Cover the heading/title) What do you think this section/book is called?
☺ Which is your favourite part and why?



Helpful Advice:

☺ If your child is struggling to read a word, encourage them to break it down (segment) using the sounds. This applies to ALL AGES – not just younger children! Try it with 'The BFG' for example!

☺ Blend the sounds together to encourage fluency and repeat the word a few times.

☺ Discuss any words that we don't know the meaning of.

☺ Reading the book more than once or spending time discussing texts will allow your child to develop a more secure understanding.