

Helping Your Child with Reading

Some Questions to ask about a book

Here are some questions that may help you to support your children's reading and enjoyment of the stories that they choose. It is not expected that you ask every question, every time they read a book to you! However, by choosing 2 or 3 of the questions to ask your child before, during and after the reading of their book, it will support their developing comprehension of what they read and ultimately, their enjoyment of the books that they choose.

Whilst the questions and ideas listed below will help to develop and support your child's reading in Key Stage 1, they can also be adapted to allow you to support your child as they continue to develop in their reading and enter Key Stage 2.

They can also be adapted to any text that your child is reading (E.g. comics, newspapers, leaflets, information on signs (e.g. At the zoo), etc.)

Choosing a book:

- Why did you choose this book?
- Did you like the picture on the front?
- Have you read other books by this author?
- Did you choose it because it is about ... (e.g. Trains, cats, etc?)
- What could this book be about?

Before reading the book:

- Can you point to the title? Or What is this? (Pointing to the title)
- What do you think this story will be about? What might happen in the story?
- What do we call the writing on the back of the book? (Blurb) or What does the blurb tell us?
- Talk about the different parts of the book (e.g. Front cover, back cover, title, author, illustrator, blurb, ISBN number, bar code, publisher marks)
- If it is an information book ask them where you will find out about something specific (i.e. can the child use the Contents page or Index to locate information?)

During the reading of the book:

- Tell me what is happening in the pictures?
- What has happened so far? Is it what you expected to happen?
- What might happen next? How do you think the story might end?
- What sort of character is....? Is he/she friendly/ mean/ nice...?
- Ask children about events in the story: How would you feel if you had been that character? Has anything like that happened to you? Would you like that to happen to you?

- If reading an information book: What facts have you read? Have you learnt anything new? What does this page tell you about? Is there anything that interests you on this page?
- Where would you go to find information about....?

At the end of the book:

- What was their favourite part? Why?
- What was the most interesting/ exciting part of the book? Can you find it?
- What sort of character is....?
- Why did that character do ... (give a situation/ event from the story)?
- Where/when does the story take place?
- Who was the character that...?
- What happened in the story?
- Are there any words or phrases that you enjoyed?
- Did the pictures help you to understand the story better?
- Would you still read this book if it did not have pictures? Why?
- What is happening at this point/in this part of the story?
- Find one/two things that the main character did in this part of the story.
- How has the author used words/phrases to make this character funny/sad/adventurous/clever/frightening/ excited/disappointed/ etc.?
- Why is ... a good title for this story/book/chapter/play?
- Did you enjoy reading the story/play/poem or not? Explain your answer by referring to the characters, events and how it made you feel.
- How did the story make you feel? Why did it make you feel like this?
- Do you know any more stories like this? Tell me why they are alike.
- Do you know another story with similar characters in? Tell me how they are similar.
- What do you think this story is trying to tell us?
- Are there any parts of the book that are repeated? Why do you think that the author did that?
- Tell me about what sort of character/person...was from the things they did/said in the ...
- Which is the most interesting/exciting/funniest/scariest/your favourite part of the story? Why?
- In this part of the story, what do you think the character feels about...? How can you tell?
- What do you think would have happened if...?
- Who are the main characters in the story? What character would you like to be?
- Why are some words written in capital letters? Italics? Bold print? Different colour?
- Do you think this book has helped you to understand... better?
- Would you like to read another story by this author or illustrator?

- Have you read any other books like this one? Is it happy/ sad/ scary/ exciting? Why do you think this?
- Does this book remind you of any other stories, or TV programmes/ DVDs?
- Does this story remind you of anything that has happened to you?
- Tell me about some other books that you have read recently.
- Did you like this book? Why? (Encourage children to develop their opinion about books by encouraging them to explain their reasons)
- How does (a diagram/picture/caption) help you to understand the Information on this/these pages?

Some key words to use when discussing books with your child:

Story	Book
Character	Setting
Plot	Author
Illustrator	Title
Contents	Index
Glossary	Headings
Sub-headings	Blurb
Beginning	Middle
End	Fiction
Non-fiction	Information
Page	Bold
Italic	Under-lining
Pictures/ illustrations	Predicting
Front cover	Back cover
Publisher	

What can I do if my child is reluctant to read?

- Read to your child as much as possible. Children can learn a lot from listening to a story or information book.
- Don't make an issue out of it
- Try introducing a range of texts to read e.g. comics and pictures books, story CD's with accompanying books,
- Talk to your child's class teacher, working together will help