

Helping your child understand their book



Book Talk

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'Book talk'

Helping children to decode (sound out) words is only part of what a child needs to know to become a proficient 'reader'.

They also have to comprehend (understand) the book they are reading, whether it is a story, picture or an information book.

Asking your child questions will help them think about their book in detail and therefore become a more competent reader. It will encourage them to be able to talk confidently about books and think more deeply about what they have read. We call this '**book talk**'.

Questions can be asked before, during and after your child has read their book. We have included some examples of the questions that could be used on the following pages. Please choose a few of these questions to ask your child whenever your child reads.

It is vital that the children use evidence from the text in their responses.

We would appreciate it if you include a **brief** example of your child's responses in their reading record. This will help us to identify your child's understanding of the books they read at home.

With your support we can help our children become well-rounded readers.

Thank you!

Comprehension

- ❖ According to the text, what would happen if _____
- ❖ Why do/did/were _____
- ❖ What do/did/were _____
- ❖ In what year did _____
- ❖ According to the text, which of the following statements is not true?
- ❖ Write down three things you are told about _____
- ❖ Where does the story take place?
- ❖ When did the story take place?
- ❖ What did he / she look like?
- ❖ Where did he / she live?
- ❖ Who are the key characters in the book?
- ❖ What happened in the story?
- ❖ What kinds of people are in the story?
- ❖ What does it make you think of?
- ❖ Do you know any more stories like this?
- ❖ What kind of a book is this? How do you know? What will it be like? What can I expect of a book of this type?
- ❖ Many traditional tales have messages. What do you think this story is trying to tell us?
- ❖ What is happening at this point in the story?
- ❖ Read the part that tells me
- ❖ Where did you find the information about.....?

Language

- ❖ (Quote). What does the word '____' suggest about _____.
- ❖ (Term). What does '_____' mean here?
- ❖ The text describes A as _____. What does this tell us about him?
- ❖ What does the word _____ suggest about _____
- ❖ I wonder what the writer intended by using these words?
- ❖ What do these words mean and why do you think the writer chose them?
- ❖ How has the author used adjectives to make this character funny?
- ❖ What do the physical descriptions of characters tell us about how they are feeling?
- ❖ Look at the verbs/adjectives/adverbs, what do these words tell us about
- ❖ By writing the line in this way, what effect has the author created?
- ❖ What do these words tell you about
- ❖ Why do you think the author has mentioned a lot in the story?
- ❖ Explain what you think this phrase adds to the story.
- ❖ Why did the author choose this title?
- ❖ What is the effect of writing in the past/present tense?
- ❖ Why do you think the writer has chosen to use words
- ❖ Why do you think the author has written this sentence in this way?
- ❖ Which author's style did you enjoy the most? Why?
- ❖ Do you want to read the rest of the book? How does the writer encourage you to read the rest of the book?
- ❖ How do these phrases help to make the description effective?
- ❖ How does the author make the appear frightening?
- ❖ Which part of the story best describes the setting?
- ❖ Which words and / or phrases do this?

Inference

- ❖ Look at _____. Is this a fact or opinion.
- ❖ (statement). Give one piece of evidence from the text which shows this.

- ❖ Look at the last paragraph. Why might a reader feel sorry for _____? Give two reasons.
- ❖ A was _____ and _____. How can you tell he was _____. Give two ways.
- ❖ How do you think _____ would have felt at _____? Refer to all the text in your answer.
- ❖ How can you tell _____
- ❖ How do you know _____
- ❖ Why were _____
- ❖ What impressions of _____ do you get from _____
- ❖ Does this story remind you of any personal experience/something that has happened to you? Describe it.
- ❖ Have you ever been in that situation? What happened?
- ❖ How would you have felt in the same situation?
- ❖ What might you have done instead?
- ❖ How would you feel if you were treated like? What would you do?
- ❖ What do you think would have happened if?

Meaning

- ❖ What was revealed at the end?
- ❖ I wonder why the writer has decided to ?
- ❖ What was in the author's mind?
- ❖ Why did the author choose this setting?
- ❖ How would the views put across in these books affect your views on ...?
- ❖ What makes this a successful story? What evidence do you have to justify your opinion?
- ❖ Could it be better? Is it as good as?
- ❖ What effect does it have on you as a reader?
- ❖ Why do you think the writer wrote that description?
- ❖ What is the author trying to tell you about by writing this section in? (eg. short lines)
- ❖ What was the most exciting part of the story? Explain your answer as fully as you can.
- ❖ Which illustrations did you find most useful?
- ❖ What impression of does the first paragraph give you? In what ways is the second paragraph different?
- ❖ What is opinion about ?
- ❖ What do you think makes this a good story? Use evidence from the book for your answer.

Bigger Picture

- ❖ What two feelings does _____ have after _____?
- ❖ What impressions do you get of _____? Give two, using evidence of the text to support your answer.
- ❖ In what way would this character/story appeal to many readers? Refer to the text.
- ❖ Do you think _____ would change their behaviour in the future? Yes/No/Maybe. Explain your choice fully, using evidence from the text.
- ❖ Summarise the story from the other characters' perspective.
- ❖ Do you know any more stories like this?
- ❖ Have you ever read a book with a similar theme to this one?
- ❖ What does this remind you of?