

How can I help my child to develop their reading comprehension?

Following discussions at recent parent consultation meetings, we know that parents and carers are very keen to support their children with reading at home but are sometimes unsure of the best ways to do this. Next time you read with your child, help develop their comprehension by asking some of the following questions:

Key Stage 1

Questions about vocabulary

What does this word / phrase / sentence tell you about the character / setting?

In this story, 'X' is mentioned a lot. Why do you think that is? The writer uses ... What does that tell you about the character? Which words or phrases make you feel ...?

Questions about key aspects

When / where does this story take place? How do you know?
Who was he / she / it?
Who are the characters in the book?
What happened in the story?
Find it, prove it.
Where in the book would I find ...?

Questions about sequence

What happens first in the story? Explain what happened in the story.

Questions about inference

Which words give you the impression that ...?

How do you feel about ...? Why?

Can you explain why ...?
I wonder what the writer wanted to do when ...?
I wonder why the writer decided to ...?

Questions about prediction

Look at the cover / title / heading etc. What do you think will happen?

What do you think will happen to ...? Why?
Which stories have openings / endings like this?

Key Stage 2Questions about vocabulary

The writer uses words like ... and ... What does this suggest about the character / setting?

Can you think of another word for 'X'?

Give the meaning of the word ... in this sentence.

The author uses this word / phrase. What does it mean?

Questions about retrieving information

When / where does this story take place?
What does he / she / it look like?
What happened in the story?
Which part of the story did you like best? Why?
What was revealed at the beginning / middle / end?

Questions about summarising

What is the main point of this paragraph?
Can you summarise the story in X words / sentences?
What were the five most important parts of the story so far?

Questions about inference

What makes you think that?
Which words give you that impression?
How can you tell that ...?
Can you explain why ...?
What does this word / phrase / sentence imply about ...?

Questions about prediction

What do you think will happen? Use evidence from the text.

Questions about meaning

Explain why the character ... What is similar / different about the two characters?



We are delighted that some of our lovely mums in the EYFS have come in to share stories with the children. It has been a very positive experience for everybody involved - please keep coming!

