

Questions to ask when reading with your child

These are some ideas—choose ones that you think suit the book your child is reading. Encourage your child to give reasons for the answer, showing where it is in the text. See if they can explain their answer in their own words, not just reading back from the book.

Fiction

- Who are the main characters? What are they like?
- Where is the story set?
- What is the theme of this story?
- What other books have you read that have the same setting?
- What happened at the beginning?
- What are the main incidents in this story?
- What is the problem/resolution in this story?
- How did the author introduce the plot and characters?
- Tell me another way of finding out about ...
- How did the author develop the ideas/build up the tension?
- What was the climax?
- What happened in the beginning/next and end?
- How has the story developed?
- Think of a place. How did the author describe it?
- Tell me something more about the place where the story is set.
- Think of a character. How did the author describe him/her?
- Who was your favourite character? Why?
- What is...and...like and how are they different?
- Has your views of any of the characters changed? If so, why?
- What was the most important thing that happened?
- Do we think it was a good story?
- What new interesting words have you read today? What do they mean?

Non-Fiction

- Can you explain how...?
- How did you find out?
- What can you use to find information in this book?
- Why would you use this book/what is its purpose?
- How is the information presented (text, pictures, photographs, diagrams etc)?
- Turn to page...and find the paragraph about...
- Is it easy to find the information you require? Why?
- Give me a fact about...Now turn it into an opinion.
- What information are we given in this recount?
- Who is about?
- When did it happen?
- Tell me an important fact about...
- Who had difficulty with a word? How did you solve it?
- Listen to me read this part, what do you notice?
- What more have you found out?
- What can you tell me about recounts?
- What important and interesting words have you learned from this text?
- Can you tell me something about this kind of text?