

Reading Activities

Sometimes, it is fun to use the books we read to stimulate creativity. Here are some ideas for children to try at home...

- ♦ Design an alternative front cover.
- ♦ Draw or paint a picture of the main character.
- ♦ Draw or paint a picture of a scene from the book.
- ♦ Make a poster to advertise the book to other children. Make it fun and bright.
- ♦ Write a diary extract for an event in the story from the point of view of one of the main characters.
- ♦ Write a letter to the author to tell them what you thought of the book.
- ♦ Write an alternative ending for the story.

Five Finger Check

Here is a 'handy' way to find out if a book is at the right level for your child to read and enjoy.

Ask your child to read the first page. If you child makes 5 mistakes (misreads a word or gets stuck), the text is too difficult and they should choose another book.



Character

- ♦ Which character did you like / dislike / think was the most interesting and why?
- ♦ Do any words or phrases help to build a picture of this character?
- ♦ What do you learn about the character from their appearance, what they say or what they do?

Setting

- ♦ Where did the story take place?
- ♦ Do any words or phrases help you to imagine the place where and when the story is set?

Story Structure

- ♦ Can you tell from the first paragraph what kind of story we are reading? How?
- ♦ Did the events happen in the order we are told about them in the story?
- ♦ Can you identify the different complications/problems in this story?
- ♦ How is the story resolved?

Personal response

- ♦ Was there anything you particularly liked or disliked about the way in which the story was told?
- ♦ How did the author try to capture your interest in the first four lines of this story?
- ♦ How did this book make you feel?

Perspective

- ♦ Who is telling the story and how do you know? Is it told in the first or the third person?
- ♦ How do you think another character might view the events in the story?

Themes

Does this story have a message? Do you know of any other stories that have a similar message?



Questions to ask children when they read

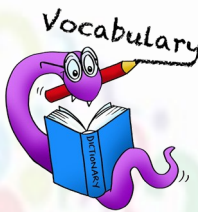


Vocabulary

Find and explain the meaning of words in context.

Example questions:

- What do the words and suggest about the character, setting and mood?
- Which word tells you that....?
- Which keyword tells you about the character/setting/mood?
- Find one word in the text which means.....
- Find and highlight the word that is closest in meaning to.....
- Find a word or phrase which shows/suggests that.....



Infer

Make and justify inferences using evidence from the text.

Example questions:

- Find and copy a group of words which show that...
- How do these words make the reader feel?
- How does this paragraph suggest this?
- How do the descriptions of show that they are
- How can you tell that.....
- What impression of do you get from these paragraphs?



Predict

Predict what might happen from the details given and implied.

Example questions:

- From the cover what do you think this text is going to be about?
- What is happening now?
- What happened before this? What will happen after?
- What does this paragraph suggest will happen next? What makes you think this?
- Do you think the choice of setting will influence how the plot develops?
- Do you think... will happen? Yes, no or maybe? Explain your answer using evidence from the text



Explain

Explain how meaning is enhanced through choice of language and how themes and patterns develop.

Example questions:

- Why is the text arranged in this way?
- What features has the author used and what is their affect?
- What is the purpose of this text feature?
- How does the atmosphere change throughout the text?
- What is the author's point of view?
- How does the author engage the reader here?
- Which section was the most interesting/exciting part?



Retrieve

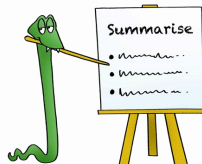
Retrieve and record information and identify key details from fiction and non-fiction. Example questions:



- How would you describe this story/text? What genre is it? How do you know?
- How did...? How often...?
- Who had...? Who is...? Who did....?
- What happened to...?
- What does.... do?
- How is?
- What can you learn from from this section?
- Give one example of.....
- The story is told from whose perspective?

Summarise

Summarise the main ideas from more than one paragraph Example questions:



- Can you number these events 1-5 in the order that they happened?
- What happened after
- What was the first thing that happened in the story?
- Can you summarise in a sentence the opening/middle/end of the story?
- In what order do these chapter headings come in the story?