

Questions to Engage Children

Fiction

- Tell me what you know about that character from what they did in the story...
- Is that what you thought would happen? Why?
- How has the author used his/her words to tell us about the character's personality?
- How did one of the characters change their attitude/ideas during the story?
- Why do you think the author chose this particular setting for this story?

Non – Fiction

- Where can you find an important piece of information about...?
- How does this layout help the reader?
- How do the diagrams help us to understand the information?
- What is the purpose of this list/subheading/paragraph?

Your child's **reading journal homework** response tasks are an important tool in encouraging using texts to form opinions and furthering their inference skills. The response tasks have been designed by reading specialists to support developmental stages.



Reading Matters

Ways to support your child's
reading

Year 5 and Year 6

How will your child read in school?

Your child will have a variety of reading opportunities in school:

- They will listen to the teacher and teaching assistant read books aloud
- They will be heard to read individually from their reading scheme book
- They will read with the teacher and the teaching assistant in guided reading sessions
- They will read independently during dedicated time
- They will read in pairs with their peers
- They will read aloud to younger children
- They may be heard to read with a reading volunteer

Reading opens the door to learning. By the time children reach KS2 many read fluently. The task now is to further improve their reading skills by developing higher order reading skills, to increase the range of books our children are reading and to foster a love of reading. As a parent, you can play a vital role in helping your child learn to read. Research has shown that children who are helped at home make better progress in school.

Reading With Your Child

- Try to listen to your child read regularly. 15 – 20 minutes three to four times a week is far more effective than less often for longer periods
- Find a quiet place to share books where you can both be comfortable
- Set aside a regular timetabled slot
- Have a hot chocolate or warm milk whilst you read together!
- Ask questions which encourage your child to give their own opinions
- Encourage your child to read a range of texts: subscribe to science magazines, read the news online, explore poetry etc.
- Share a book with your child, this may involve you reading to them
- Encourage children to read a series of books by an author they have enjoyed

If your child makes a mistake

Don't immediately interrupt, wait 5 seconds and encourage your child to have a go first. Try asking them 'Which word might fit/make sense instead?' Encourage your child to use the rest of the sentence as a clue. If your child is still struggling tell them the word and then carry on with the story.

When reading unknown words allow your child to:

- Break up a word and sound it out
- Look for smaller words within a word
- Use the prefix or suffix to support understanding eg. **disorder placement**
- Make a guess and check the sentence makes sense by using that word
- Read the whole sentence to try and work out the unknown word

If the word is clearly unknown or new to your child, read it to them and encourage them to work out its meaning using the context of the sentence. This way they are more likely to remember it in future reading.

REMEMBER

Reading regularly for smaller amounts of time is more important and beneficial than reading occasionally for longer lengths. Try to listen to your child read **at least** three times a week.

Even though your child may now be able to read alone, it is still important to **listen to them read aloud** regularly. This helps check their understanding, explain the meaning of new words and of course value and celebrate reading.

Even though your child can read a text fluently, it does not mean that they have understood it. Try to choose books together that have an age appropriate subject. **Ask questions** about what your child has read to check their understanding.

Try to still make time to **read to your child**. You will find that they still really enjoy and often miss this. Sometimes revisiting younger favourites is a magical experience.