

# Top Tip: Reading for Meaning

**When it comes to reading in Y5 and Y6 it's all about reading comprehension: do children understand and care about what they are reading?**

When your child starts a new book help build their understanding of what they might read about. Look at the book cover and ask what the book might be about. Why do you think this? Look inside the book at any pictures. Can you make some predictions about what might happen? What clues can you spot?

As adults, we are constantly making links between ideas and experiences. Good readers connect the book they are reading with real life experiences, with other books they have read, television programmes or films they have seen. Talk about any personal experiences your child may have had that relate to the story.

When your child has finished reading, help them reflect on what they've read. Ask them to summarise the story or share their favourite part of their book with you.

**Try and use one of our Top Tips cards twice a week as part of your child's everyday reading at home.**

Sugar Hill asks parents and children to read little and often. If you can, try and read every day. We expect children to gain a signature for their reading and/or discussions at least 4 times a week.

You can find out more about reading at home and watch our video at [www.sugarhill.durham.sch.uk/parents/homework-and-reading-at-home](http://www.sugarhill.durham.sch.uk/parents/homework-and-reading-at-home)



**SUGAR HILL  
PRIMARY SCHOOL**



# Top Tip: Be a great role model

## Children love to copy adults

Families are a child's most influential teacher and have an important role in helping children develop their reading skills. If you sit down with a book or a magazine for ten minutes, it doesn't just give you a break; it sets a great example for your children too.

Talk about reading - make it part of your family's everyday activities. Chat informally about reading and swap ideas. Did you read something in a newspaper or magazine that your child would be interested in?

It's good to share! Share the variety of your reading with your child: books, magazines, websites and apps linked to their hobbies can help them get involved whether it's swimming, football dance or music.

**Try and use one of our Top Tips cards twice a week as part of your child's everyday reading at home.**

Sugar Hill asks parents and children to read little and often. If you can, try and read every day. We expect children to gain a signature for their reading and/or discussions at least 4 times a week.

You can find out more about reading at home and watch our video at [www.sugarhill.durham.sch.uk/parents/homework-and-reading-at-home](http://www.sugarhill.durham.sch.uk/parents/homework-and-reading-at-home)



**SUGAR HILL  
PRIMARY SCHOOL**



# Top Tip: Ways with Words

**In Y5 and Y6 children are expected to be able to understand the language choices made by writers. What are the reasons behind the choice and what effects do the choice have on the reader?**

For fiction books you could ask

- What words help the reader to imagine...?
- What makes you like or dislike the character?
- How has the choice of words created a feeling of...?
- Why did the author choose the verb? Can you spot a simile?  
(A verb is a doing word, it is the word that gives the action in a sentence, for example, she walked along the path. A simile is a figure of speech that compares two things by using the words 'like' or 'as' for example, as brave as a lion or as white as a ghost).

For fact books you could ask:

- Why is the style of formal or informal language used?
- How do you know the author is trying to persuade you? What words are the most powerful in persuading the reader?
- Why do you think the author chose to write this?

**Try and use one of our Top Tips cards twice a week as part of your child's everyday reading at home.**

Sugar Hill asks parents and children to read little and often. If you can, try and read every day. We expect children to gain a signature for their reading and/or discussions at least 4 times a week.

You can find out more about reading at home and watch our video at [www.sugarhill.durham.sch.uk/parents/homework-and-reading-at-home](http://www.sugarhill.durham.sch.uk/parents/homework-and-reading-at-home)



**SUGAR HILL  
PRIMARY SCHOOL**



# Top Tip: Structure and Organisation

**In Y5 and Y6 children are expected to be able to identify and comment on how the text has been put together and organised.**

For fiction books you could ask

- Can you work out the main events from the way the author has used paragraphs?
- How does the first sentence guide the reader?
- How does the writer build up to the conclusion of a chapter or the story itself?

For fact books you could ask:

- Why has the information been presented in this way?
- How does the layout help?
- What is the purpose of the list/diagram/sub-headings/captions in this text?

**Try and use one of our Top Tips cards twice a week as part of your child's everyday reading at home.**

Sugar Hill asks parents and children to read little and often. If you can, try and read every day. We expect children to gain a signature for their reading and/or discussions at least 4 times a week.

You can find out more about reading at home and watch our video at [www.sugarhill.durham.sch.uk/parents/homework-and-reading-at-home](http://www.sugarhill.durham.sch.uk/parents/homework-and-reading-at-home)



**SUGAR HILL  
PRIMARY SCHOOL**

