

Hamilton Primary School

A Guide for Reading Helpers

Thank you for volunteering to hear children read at Hamilton, your support is greatly appreciated. Below are some suggestions as to how to structure your reading sessions. The questions on the reverse aim to extend and challenge the children. Please choose a few suitable ones to work through in each reading session - where possible choose one question from each key skill. Before you start please speak to the class teacher to arrange the best way for you to feed back to them.

Before Reading

- Ask appropriate questions (see reverse for suggestions).
- Talk about strategies they can use if they come across an unfamiliar word.
- Discuss what they can remember about what they read last time.
- Focus on what they do well, encouraging them to build on their strengths as readers.

During Reading

- Ask appropriate questions (see reverse for suggestions).
- Encourage the reader to try a range of strategies when reading unfamiliar words. For example:
 - sound out words
 - use the rest of the sentence to help with a difficult word
 - use other clues on the page to help read accurately
 - reread the preceding words when stuck
 - break down longer words to read them.
- Draw attention to the punctuation in the text and think about how it helps them to read, for example 'it makes us stop because we've reached the end of the sentence' or 'the reader's voice goes up at the end because a question is being asked'.

After Reading

- Ask appropriate questions (see reverse for suggestions).
- Choose one or two words that they found difficult to read and practice different strategies for reading the word.
- Pick out an interesting word the writer used and make a note of the word and its meaning.
- Talk about what they liked and disliked in the text.

If you are concerned by anything that you see or hear whilst you are with the children please speak to a member of staff about it immediately.

Key Skill	Fiction	Non-Fiction
Retrieval	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Where does the story take place? -When did the story take place? -What did the character look like? -Where did the character live? -Who are the key characters in the book? -What happened in the story? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -What is the text about? What is the title of the text? Who is the author of the text? -What kind of things would you expect to see in this book? -Can you find examples of different features of this text type? -Find something that interests you from the text. Explain why you chose that particular part. -Where would you look to find out what a technical word means? -What is on the cover of the book? What does this tell you about the content inside?
Deduction and Inference	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -If you were going to interview this character/author, which questions would you ask? -Which is your favourite part? Why? -Who would you like to meet most in the story? Why? -What do you think would happen next if the story carried on past the ending of the book? -Who was the storyteller? How do you know? -Predict what you think is going to happen next. Why do you think this? -How is the main character feeling at the start/middle/end of the story? Why do they feel that way? Does this surprise you? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Which parts of the book could help you find the information you need? -When would you use the contents page in the book? -When would you use the index page in the book? -What sort of person do you think would use this book? -When might someone use this book? Why? -Can you suggest ideas for other sections or chapters to go into the book? -Do you think the author of the book is an 'expert' about the topic of the book? Why/why not?
Comment on Structure and	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Were you surprised by the ending? Is it what you expected? Why/why not? -What is the main event in the story? Why do you think this? -How has the text been organised? -Why do you think authors use short sentences? -How did you think it would end/should end? -Has the author used an unusual layout in the text? If so, describe it and say why you think they did this? -Has the author used a variety of sentence structures? -Has the author put certain words in bold or <i>italic</i>? Why have they done this? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Can you find an example of a page you think has an interesting layout? Why did you choose it? -Why have some of the words been written in <i>italics</i>? -What are the subheadings for? -Why have some of the words been written in bold? -How does the layout help the reader? -What is the purpose of the pictures? -Can you find examples of words which tell you the order of something? -What kind of a text is this? How do you know?
Comment on Writers' use of Language	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Why did the author choose this title? -Can you find some examples of effective description? What makes them effective? -Which part of the story best describes the setting? -Can you find examples of powerful adjectives? What do they tell you about a character or setting? -Can you find examples of powerful adverbs? What do they tell you about a character, their actions or the setting? -Can you find examples of powerful verbs? What do they tell you about a character, their actions or the setting? -Find an example of a word you don't know the meaning of. Using the text around it, what do you think it means? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Why does this book contain technical vocabulary? -Find an example of a technical word. Read the sentence it's in. What do you think it means based on how it's used in the sentence? -Are there any examples of persuasive language? -Why do we need a glossary in a text?
Comment on Writers' Purposes and Viewpoints	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Can you think of another story that has a similar theme e.g. good over evil, weak over strong, wise over foolish? -Why did the author choose this setting? -What makes this a successful story? What evidence do you have to justify your opinion? -How could the story be improved or changed for the better? -What was the most exciting part of the story? Explain your answer as fully as you can. -What genre is this story? How do you know? -What was the least exciting part of the story? Explain your answer as fully as you can. -When the author writes in short sentences, what does this tell you? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Why has the writer written this text? -Have you found any of the illustrations, diagrams or pictures useful? Why/why not? Try to explain fully -Why did the writer choose to present the information in the way they did? -How could the information be presented better? -What makes this text successful? -Are there any features that it hasn't got? Why do you think it doesn't have them? -Can you think of another text that is similar to this one? What are the similarities and differences between them?
Comment on the Social, Cultural and Historical Context	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Do you know another story, which deals with the same issues e.g. social, cultural, moral issues? -Have you ever been in a similar situation to a character in the book? What happened? -How would you have felt in the same situation? -What would you have done differently to the character in a particular situation from the book? -How would you feel if you were treated in the same way as the main character? -What did the story make you think of? -Have you read any other stories that have similar characters to this one? If so, which story was it and what happened? -Do you think this book is trying to give the reader a message? If so, what is it? 	