

How to help your child improve their reading.

Now your child can read unfamiliar texts on sight, they need to develop their higher level reading skills such as comprehension, inference and deduction. Below are some examples of the type of questions you could ask your child to help them develop these skills.

When we assess reading we look at seven different areas;

AF1: I can blend sounds to read and understand words. I know my high frequency words. I know how to help myself when I get stuck.

AF2: I can find information and ideas in the text and quote them in my answer.

AF3: I can find author's clues about what is happening or how characters are feeling.

AF4: I can explain why the writer has organised the text in the way he or she has.

AF5: I can explain the meaning of words and phrases and the intended effect of the language chosen by the author.

AF6: I can explain how the author feels about the text and how he wants the reader to feel or think.

AF7: I can explain how this text relates to others I have read or to the place or time in which it was written.

Types of questions you could ask for each AF:

AF1: How can you work out a word if you get stuck?	AF2: What does _____ mean? What happened after _____?
AF3: How is _____ feeling, what word give you clues? What does _____ think about _____?	AF4: Why are subheadings / bullet points / labels used on this page? Why is this word in bold / italics? Why is this word is capitals?
AF5: Why did the author compare these two thing? What effect does saying that _____ was like a _____ have?	AF6: Does the author like _____? How can you tell? How is the author trying to make you feel about _____? What words or phrases make you think this?
AF7: Is the main character like you? If so how? What kind of story is this? How can you tell?	

If your child comes up with a really good answer to these types of questions, please write it down in their reading record. Remember to ask questions from each of the different sections.

Thank you very much for your support.

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QUESTIONS FOR USE DURING READING

AF2: I can find information and ideas in the text and quote them in my answer.

Key ideas in a paragraph

Write two things that this text tells you about...?

What information are we told in the first paragraph?

What is this passage describing?

Write two things that this non-fiction text tells you about...?

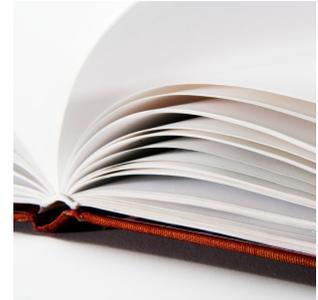
Can you distinguish between fact, opinion and fiction?

Can you tell me the key points?

Can you find the part of the text which shows/tells us that..?

On what page could I find information about..?

What does this word mean? Can you think of a similar word?



Title

What is the title of this story? Can you suggest an alternative title?

Why do you think the author used this title for the text?

Can you predict the genre of this book from the title?

Can you predict what the book will be about from the title? Or from the cover illustration?

Setting

Where did they go on holiday?

Which word is used to describe the...?

Can you identify any adjective phrases, which have been used to describe the setting?

Character

What are the names of the characters in the story?

Which words are used to describe the main character?

What sort of a person is...? What makes you think that?

There are two main characters in this text. Can you explain how they have been presented in different ways?

Do you agree with the actions of... what would you have done?

Plot

What is this story about? (Give lists of choices)

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Can you describe in your own words, what has happened so far in the story?

When did...happen? What do you think will happen next?

Can you explain what is happening when...?

What is the main event in this text?

Can you retell this episode from the viewpoint of another character?

AF3: I can find author's clues about what is happening or how characters are feeling.

What sort of person is...? What makes you think that?

What is your opinion of this character?

How do you know (character) was feeling: happy, sad, scared, excited?

Why do you think (character) did (state action)?

What choice would you have made?

What do you think...meant when he/she said "..."?

What does this tell you about the way he/she was thinking / feeling?

What does this description reveal about the main character?

How do you know...and...were enemies? Best friends? Find two pieces of evidence.

Can you put the following events in the order that they happen in the story?

Why do you think the author describes the setting as "..."?

Can you find evidence in the text to prove this /that?

How do you know that..?

Which three facts tell you that..?

Both of these texts are about...In which ways are they similar? How are they different? Use the text to explain your answer.

AF 4: I can explain why the writer has organised the text in the way he or she has.

What is the information on the back of a story book called?

What is the title of this non-fiction report?

Where will you find an index? In which order will you find these words?

Can you explain what information you will find in a glossary?

Where will you find the contents in a non-fiction book?

What are the differences between fiction and non-fiction?



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Why do you think that the writer/editor has set the page out like this?

What information does this diagram tell you?

Why do you think the author chose to use arrows/lines in this diagram?

Which organisational devices help you find information quickly?

Which part of the text provides specific details about...?

How are these two texts similar? How are they different?

How does the way the title has been written encourage you to read this report?

Is this advertisement a good example of a persuasive text? If so, why? Why not?



AF5: I can explain the meaning of words and phrases and the intended effect of the language chosen by the author.

Which words rhyme in this poem?

Why do you think the author chose to use a question in the opening of this report?

Which adjectives have been used to describe...?

What do the following words tell you about...? (State place)?

Why do you think the author chose the word "..."

Why do you think this is an effective way to describe...?

Which words tell you in which way the character spoke?

What does the sentence "... " tell you about the way the character was speaking/feeling?

Why do you think the author chose to write the sentence in this way?

Why do you think the author chose to begin a new paragraph?

Why does the author describe the.... as a... (Simile/ metaphor)?

Why do you think that the writer opened the sentence/paragraph with that word?

What is the effect of the alliteration / onomatopoeia here?

AF6: I can explain how the author feels about the text and how he wants the reader to feel or think.

Who is your favourite character? Why?

Look at the author's description of... Why do you think the author wrote the description in this way?

Why do you think the author chose to use a short sentence in this part of the story?

Did you enjoy the story? Why?



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What, in your opinion, was the most exciting part of the story? Explain your answer

How does that sentence / paragraph / chapter make you feel?

Why do you think the author used these similes?

What is your opinion of the ending the author chose?

Can you think of an alternative ending?

Does the story have a moral/message?

What can we learn about...from reading this non-fiction report?

How do these books differ in the information they have to offer?

How does the author try and persuade the reader to...? Use the text to explain your answer.

Do you think these are accurate instructions? Were they easy to follow?



AF7: I can explain how this text relates to others I have read or to the place or time in which it was written.

What other texts does this remind you of? (Book, Film, etc)

In what period in history was this book set? How do you know?

How does the fact that this was set during the period of... effect the way that the writer chose to..?

Why do you think that the writer chose... (place) as the setting for this book? (Related to theme)

How does this text compare to other books that you have read by the same author?

Which genre best describes this story? Explain using evidence form the text.

What type of text is this? How do you know this?

Which other authors have used similar themes? Styles of writing?

When you think about '...' (character) which other characters does it remind you of? Why?

What story does that remind you of?

