
Supporting your child with reading at home – questions to ask



Developing Readers



If your child is just starting out and still developing their decoding and sounding out then you can ask questions from any of these lists below. The questions have been split up into sets to help you so you can pick one set each time. This way the children get used to a wide range of questions and keep interested. Also, within each group there are questions from each area of assessment that are used in schools to decide how well your child is reading.

You can ask these questions when your child is reading to you, when you are sharing a book together or even when you are reading a bedtime story. The questions are as important as the reading of the words because they help children to reflect, engage and enjoy their reading more. These questions can also be applied to picture books without words.

Group 1

How is the character feeling?

What does he / she look like?

What does the picture tell us?

What happened next?

Which is the best word on this page? Why?

How did this part of the story make you feel?

Has this ever happened to you?

Group 2

Can you retell me the story so far?

Where does he / she live?

Who would you most like to meet in the story? Why?

Why is this word different to the others on this page?

Why does the writer repeat this word? or Why did the author choose this word?

Which part of the story describes where the story is set?

What would you do if you were ...?

Group 3

What do you think is going to happen next?

Who are the main characters?

What do you think is thinking now?

What is the main event in the story?

How does this story make you feel?

How does the author make the story interesting / exciting?

If you were to jump into the book, what would you say?

Group 4

What happens at the beginning, middle and the end?

What kind of people are in the story?

Which is your favourite part of the story? Why?

Which words describe what the character is doing?

What does the writer think about? How do you know?

Do you want to read the rest of the story? Why?

Can you compare to a person in your life?



Fluent Readers

Once your child is reading fluently it is just as important that they continue to read regularly to foster a love for reading, extend their vocabulary and to prepare for their reading tests at the end of primary school. The types of questions they are asked in school develop their thinking skills, their reasoning, their ability to process and interpret information, and will support them in developing their skills as a writer.

Below are some groups of questions you can ask your child about their reading when they have read independently or read to you. Regular practise at home of their comprehension and text interpretation will significantly support their learning in school.

Group 1

How did you work out what that word says?

Can you find evidence for?

Who was the story teller or narrator? How do you know?

What are the similarities and differences between the two key characters?

Why has the author written this sentence like this?

Why did the author choose this setting?

Can you think of any other texts that have characters facing similar problems?

Group 2

Why have you used a different voice for that part of the text?

What would happen if the events / chapters in the book were in a different order?

If you were going to interview a character or the author what would you ask them?

How is the text organised? Why?

Which adjectives and verbs have been used? Why did the author choose these words?

What do you think about the illustrations? or Should there be illustrations? Why?

What would happen if?

Group 3

At the end of the story how was the main character feeling? How do you know?

Describe how the illustrator or designer has arranged the book. What strategies have they used and why?

How do you feel about? What evidence can you find to support this?

Do you like the title? Why?

Which adverbs have been used? What is their impact on the reader?

Can you think of a similar story / text? How were they similar?

What does this book tell you about the world we live in?

Group 4

What is your opinion about?

How would you have ended the book? Why?

How did the character change in the story? What evidence can you find to support your views?

What type of text is this? What evidence shows this?

What does the author intend by using these words?

What makes this a successful book in your opinion?

What does this make you think of?

