

Developing your child's skills.....

Reading for meaning!

Some of the following questions can be asked 'during' the reading, whilst some are more suitable to be used 'after' the text has been read through completely.

Try selecting 1 – 2 questions from each category below. Start with simple questions from each type, and over time, move on to the more complex questions.

Recall & Comprehension (*Recall of data and understand the meaning*)

- List all the characters in the text.
- What was the name of?
- Who was the character that?
- What happened at?
- Find the word that tells me about?
- What word/s were used to describe?
- What was the main idea? OR What was the story about?
- Where did the story take place?
- Who do you think.....?
- Give me an example of
- What happened at the beginning? In the middle? At the end?

Analysis & Inference (*Distinguish between fact and fiction; make assumption/guess/theorise implied but not actually stated in the text*)

about what is

- Which events could not have happened? Why?
- How would the story have ended if _____ had happened?
- Can you explain what must have happened when...?
- Can you explain why the character did?
- Can you identify the point in the story that made the character.....?
- Based on _____'s actions, what do you think will happen?
- What do you think the author is trying to say?

- What clue in the text makes you think that.....?
- After reading that, what does it make you think about?
- What have you learned about.....?
- What do you already know about this topic?
- Why do you think the author bolded (or changed the font) at that part of the story?

Synthesizing (use existing knowledge to form a new idea or opinion)

- How did 'what you know' change after reading this text?
- How does this information in this text fit with what you read in?
- Can you tell me what might have happened if.....?
- How could the author have improved this story/text?
- Can you tell me how you would have liked this story to end.
- How did that description help you to understand.....?
- What do you imagine the character/setting looks like?

Evaluation (makes conclusions about the validity of ideas or information in the text)

- Why do you like.....?
- How did you feel when.....?
- Do you believe thatcould have happened?
- Why is that character/page/part of the text appealing or interesting to you?
- Does that information sound correct? Why?
- Do you agree with the author?
- Could that really happen? Or be true? Why?
- Did you like this text? Why/why not?
- Why does that picture/page/part of the story appeal to you?
- What is the most important part of this story? Why?
- What changes would you make to the story if you were the author?

Reading for meaning is EXTREMELY IMPORTANT as it reflects your child's ability to effectively decode, process and comprehend the text.

Take the time to nurture these skills as reading is not just an ESSENTIAL LIFE SKILL but it is a FUNDAMENTAL SKILL THAT UNDERPINS THE CURRICULUM and enables your child to experience SUCCESS AS A LEARNER.