

The Coombes CE Primary School

Generic questions to use while hearing your child read

"RIGHT THERE – the answer is in front of you"

Questions relate to the immediate environment and require concrete thinking. Examples include:

- "What is that?"
- "What can you see?"
- "Find one like this"
- "What is — doing?"
- "Is it a —?" (yes/no response)

"THINK AND SEARCH – the answer is in front of you but you need to look for it"

Involve some analysis such as classifying/ grouping objects, describing and understanding object functions.

- "Find something that can ...(cut)"
- "What is happening in this picture?"
- "Where is the...?" (requires a location response e.g. "under the table" not just pointing)
- "Find something that is ...(red) and ...(spiky)"
- "How are these different?"
- "Which one is ... (a fruit)?"

"THE AUTHOR AND YOU – the answer is not in front of you, use clues from the book and form your own answer"

Require child to use their own knowledge to make basic predictions, assume the role of another, or make generalisations. Begin to use higher-order thinking skills.

- "What will happen next?"
- "How do you think he feels?"
- "How do I make... (a sandwich)?"
- "How are these the same?"
- "What is a ...?" (definitions)

"IN YOUR HEAD – the answer is not in the book – it is your own opinion"

Involve problem solving, predictions, solutions and explanations. Require own knowledge and thinking about the future and past.

- Predicting changes: "What will happen if...?"
- Solutions: "What should we do now?"
- Causes: "How did that happen?"
- Justifying: "Why can't we ...eat ice-cream with a knife and fork?"
- Explanations: "How can we tell he is sad?"

Specific reading skills questions to ask while hearing your child read



PRIOR KNOWLEDGE

- Have you read a text by this author before?
- Does this front cover remind you of anything you have seen before?
- What is the topic of the text and what do you know about that topic?
- What experiences have you had that relate to the text/ characters?



VOCABULARY

- What does this word tell us about the character/setting/atmosphere?
- Look at a sentence/passage and find a word that means the same as ...
- Which words/phrase in this text give us the impression that the main character is...?
- Which words/phrase in this text give us the impression that the setting is...?
- Which words/phrase in this text give us the impression that the atmosphere is...?
- What do phrases such as ... tell you about...?



RETRIEVAL

- Where is the story set?
- Put the events of the story in the order in which they have happened?
- What is the name of the main character?
- How does the main character look/behave/speak?
- When is the story set?
- What are the names of the characters in the book?
- Where would you find a section about...?
- What does the word... mean?
- Find a fact about ...
- What information have you learnt about ...?



SUMMARISING

- What is the main argument in this paragraph?
- What is the main message in this paragraph? Can you describe what has happened in this chapter?
- Describe how to (based on a concept in the text)
- Using less than 20 words, describe/write a blurb for this book.
- Which is the most important message in this book?
- Can you describe what happened in 3 sentences?



PREDICTION

- Who is on the front cover? What is in the background? How might these details give us clues about the content of the book?
- Based on what you know about the character/event what do you think the story will develop next?
- How do you think the story will end? What clues in the text make you think that will happen?
- Think about the author's other stories. Are there any familiar themes/characters/settings to the story we are reading? How did the story end? How might this story end?
- Do you think the character will change his/her behaviour in the future? What makes you think so?
- The character is in a tricky situation. What will the character do next? What would you do?



INFERENCE

- What does... think?
- How did ... react?
- What makes you think that? Give evidence for your opinions.
- Explain why the author chose to...?
- How was... different after...?
- How did...?
- Why did...?
- What ideas are we given about...?
- What impression do we get about...?
- What do you think will happen to the main character now? Can you give reasons for your opinion?
- What makes you think this?
- Why did the character behave like this?



COMPARE, CONTRAST & COMMENT

- Describe how the character reacts to this problem. How is this different/similar to his/her previous reactions?
- Compare how two characters are reacting to this problem. Who deals best with the situation?
- How has the character changed during the text?
- Which is the most important section in this book? Justify your choice.
- How did people in the past understand this topic, compared to how we understand it today? Why have these views changed?
- Compare one setting to another in the book. Why are the two settings significant to the story?



AUTHOR CHOICE

- What does the word ... tell us about the character/setting/atmosphere?
- Look for a phrase that implies that the setting is...
- The author uses the word ...to describe... What impression does this give us?
- Look for an example of a simile in the text. How does this add meaning?
- How have the headings/chapter names been chosen for this book?
- Explain why the word...is used to describe...
- Why does the writer compare... to...?
- What does the word/phrase... tell you about ...?