

## Questions to ask your children when reading

It is really important that the children read a wide variety of books - both fiction and non-fiction. Reading will improve the children's vocabulary and being asked questions will ensure that the children understand what they are reading. Here are some examples of the type of questions to ask when you listen to your child read:

### **LITERAL/RETRIEVAL**

- Where does the story take place?
- When did the story take place?
- What did he / she look like?
- Where did he / she live?
- Who are the main characters in the book?
- What happened in the story?
- What kinds of people are in the story?
- What is happening at this point in the story?
- Read the part that tells me ...
- Where did you find the information about...?

### **INFERENCE**

- What makes you think that ...?
- What gives you that impression? Why
- How do you feel about...? Why?
- Can you explain why...?
- Through whose eyes is the story being told? How do you know?
- Which is your favourite part of the story? Why?
- Predict what you think is going to happen next. Why do you think this?
- Who would you most like to meet from the story? Why?

### **STRUCTURE & ORGANISATION**

- Were you surprised by the ending? Why?
- How are the beginning and the ending of the story similar?
- What kind of a text is this? How do you know?
- What is the main event of the story? Why do you think this?
- How does the layout help the reader?
- Why have these words been made to stand out in bold / italics / capitals?
- What are the subheadings for?

## **WRITER'S USE OF LANGUAGE**

- What did the author mean when he used these words?
- What do these words mean and why do you think the author used them?
- How has the author used adjectives to make this character funny / angry/ happy/ etc.?
- What do these words tell you about ...?
- Why did the author choose this title?
- What is the effect of writing in the past / present tense?

## **AUTHOR'S VIEWPOINT**

- Can you think of another story that has a similar theme?
- What was in the author's mind?
- Why did the author choose this setting?
- What makes this a good story? What evidence in the text tells you this.
- Why do you think the author wrote that description?
- What was the most exciting part of the story?
- What is the author's opinion of ...?

## **SOCIAL, CULTURAL & HISTORICAL CONTEXT**

- Do you know another story that deals with the same issue?
- Do you know any more stories like this?
- What does this remind you of?
- Have you even been in that situation? What happened?
- How would you have felt in the same situation?
- What might you have done instead?
- What do you think would have happened if...?
- What kind of text is this? How do you know?
- Does this story have a message? What is it?
- Which stories have openings like this?
- Have you read any books by the same author?

## **VOCABULARY**

- Can you think of another word for ..... (eg happy=joyful)
- Have you read any words that you don't understand?
- Can you work out what they mean by looking at the rest of the sentence?
- Can you spot any words that rhyme with.....?
- How many others can you think of?
- How has the author described the character? Pick out any words or phrases that really help you to paint a picture in your mind.