

## **Helpful questions to ask children when reading...**

Children's understanding of what they have read is the key to success and enjoyment of reading. It allows children to challenge ideas, collect a wider range of vocabulary and become creative writers as they use the language they have acquired to improve their writing.

Below are grouped questions under different themes that you may ask your child after they have read. They are some basic question starters that will give you a starting point for the type of questions to ask your child about the book they are reading.

### **Comprehension Questions**

*Ask your child these questions immediately after they have finished their reading session.*

- Where does the story take place?
- When did the story take place?
- Can you describe a character's appearance?
- Where do the characters live?
- Who are the main characters?
- What happened in the story?
- Can you describe the problem in the story? How would you solve it?
- What happened after...?
- Can you tell me why...?
- Look at the picture of the character, how do you think they are feeling? Why might this be?
- Describe what happened at/when...
- What do you think will happen next?
- What did the character say to...?

### **Inference Questions**

*Ask your child these questions when you want them to practice 'reading between the lines'.*

- What does the word ... make you think of?
- If you were going to interview/ask a character a question, who would you ask and what would your question be?
- What do you think will happen because of ...?
- Why do you think ... feels...?
- How have the characters changed during the story?
- Predict what you think is going to happen next. What makes you think this?
- How do you know that...?
- What does the main character feel at this point in the story? How do you know this? Can you pick out a sentence?

### **Language/Vocabulary Questions**

*Ask your child these questions when you want to help improve their vocabulary or language analysis skills.*

- What does ... mean?
- Which words has the author used to make the writing sound more formal/informal?
- What has the author used in the text to make the characters sound funny/sad/angry?
- Think of another word you can use here. What different effect would your word have?
- As a reader, how do you feel about this character? What makes you feel that way?
- Can you find any language devices (similes, metaphors, personification) in the story?
- Find some adjectives that help you picture the scene/character in your mind.

### **Writer's Viewpoint**

*Ask your child these questions when you want them to think about the deeper meanings or messages of what they have read.*

- What is the writer's purpose and viewpoint of writing the story?
- Can you think of another story that has a similar theme?
- What effect do you think the story has on the reader?
- What impression does the author want to give of this character? Why?
- What is the purpose of this paragraph?
- What question would you like to ask the writer of the story?
- Does the article/story try to get you to care about anything?
- What can you tell about what the author thinks/feels?