

Reading with your child...

Why do you read?

When do you read?

How long do you read for?

What is the focus when you read?

Simon Balle School



How do we teach reading in school?

Phonics:

- Children learn to read through phonics. Recognising individual phonemes- s,b,d and digraphs- ch, sh, ai and trigraphs air, ear. Then blends- bl, tr

Strategies:

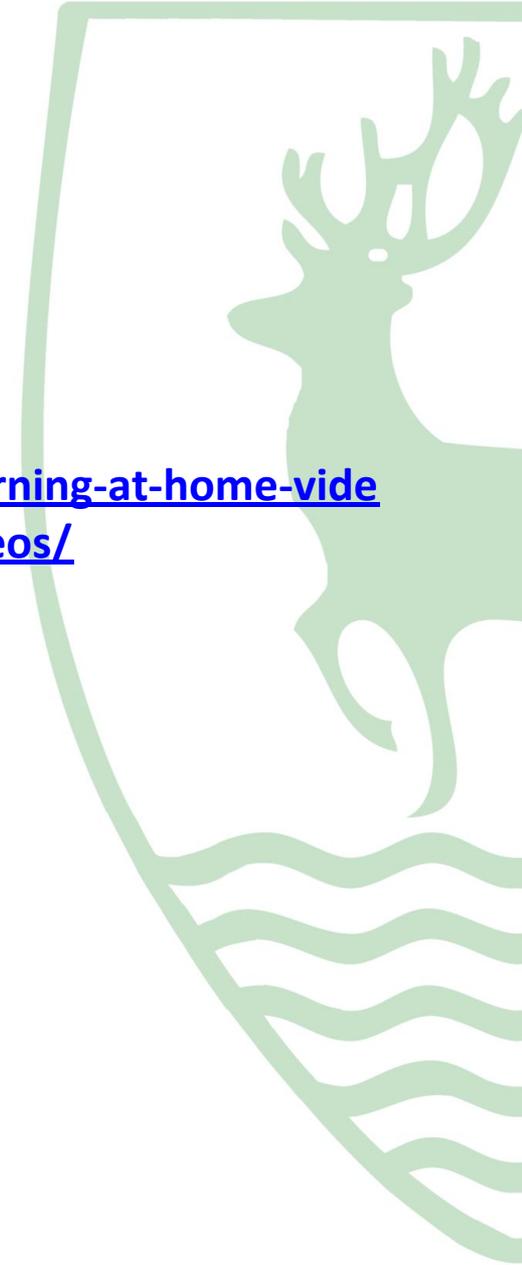
- Read stories or passages in short sections and make sure you know what happened before you continue reading.
- Ask yourself, "Does this make sense?" If it doesn't, reread the part that didn't make sense.
- Stop every page or so and take turns summarizing what you've read.
- As you read, try to form mental pictures or images that match the story.
- Decoding: Breaking longer words down into syllables and blend to read



Comprehension

<https://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/for-home/advice-for-parents/learning-at-home-videos/parent-how-to-videos/how-to-help-with-comprehension-videos/>

Simon Balle School



Literal questions:

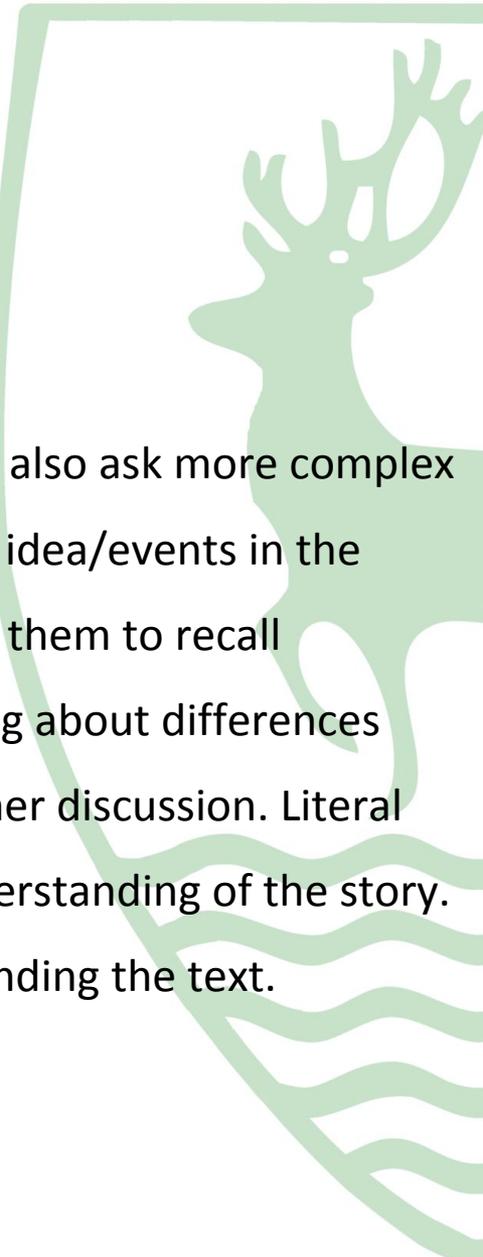
The information is literally within the text.

“What was the pirate’s name?”

“Can you remember who was on the boat?”

“What happened after they got off the boat?”

These ‘recall’ type questions are great for younger readers, but you can also ask more complex literal questions. For example, asking your child to summarise the main idea/events in the story requires them to rephrase the story in their own words. Or asking them to recall comparisons between characters/events/places in the story (e.g., talking about differences between the greedy and generous pirate) allows opportunities for further discussion. Literal questions are a good way of assessing your children’s memory and understanding of the story. These are very important on each page and is the first step to understanding the text.



Inference questions:

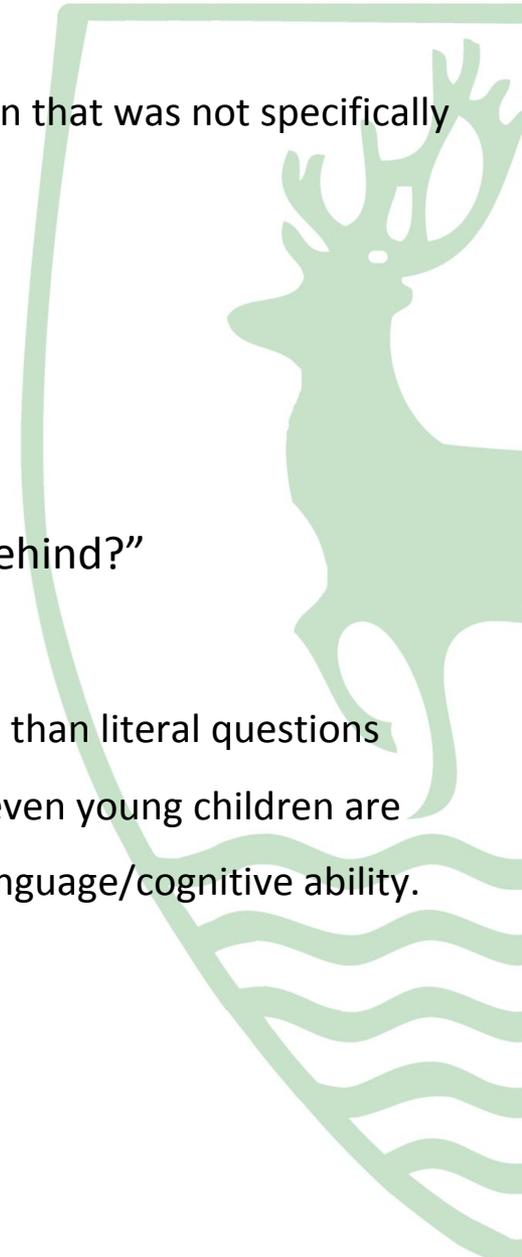
Inference questions need children to look beyond the text and give information that was not specifically provided, but which was implied (children need to 'read between the lines').

“What do you think happened next?”

“Why do you think he did that?”

“How do you think the pirate felt when he was left behind?”

These questions typically require a greater level of cognitive and language skill than literal questions (both to know the answer and explain the answer). However, it is a skill that even young children are able to do, if the inference question is appropriate for their age and level of language/cognitive ability.



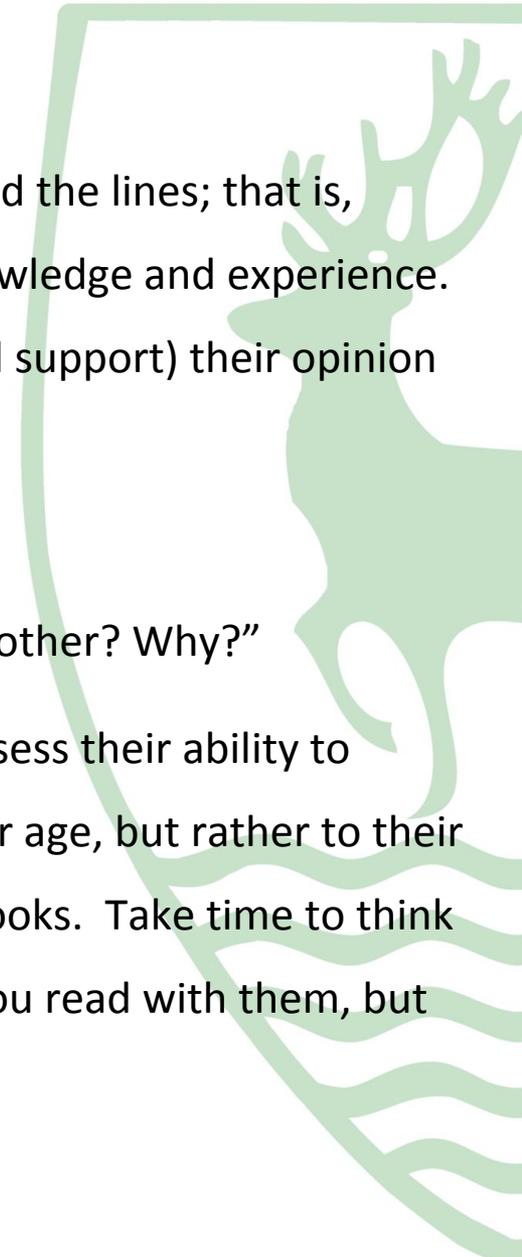
Evaluative Questions:

Finally, evaluative questions require children to read behind and beyond the lines; that is, evaluate information within the story based on their own personal knowledge and experience. In these types of questions, children should be encouraged to give (and support) their opinion about an aspect of the story (i.e., character, action, event).

“Do you think he should have done that?”

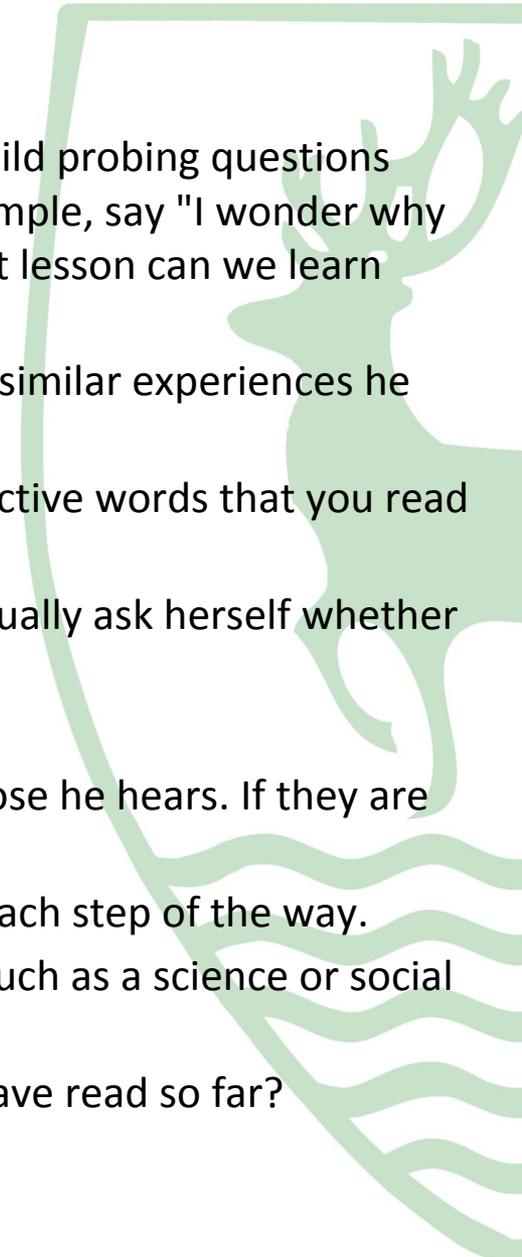
“Do you think the characters were very different from each other? Why?”

As a parent or grown-up reading with a child, you are best placed to assess their ability to answer these types of questions. Often this ability is not related to their age, but rather to their language skill and past experience of reading, sharing and discussing books. Take time to think about the questions and discussions that you have with your child as you read with them, but most importantly, enjoy sharing these stories together.



What you can do to help at home:

- Hold a conversation and discuss what your child has read. Ask your child probing questions about the book and connect the events to his or her own life. For example, say "I wonder why that girl did that?" or "How do you think he felt? Why?" and "So, what lesson can we learn here?"
- Help your child make connections between what he or she reads and similar experiences he has felt, saw in a movie, or read in another book.
- Make flash cards of words you might want to remember. Magpie effective words that you read and use them in your writing.
- Help your child monitor his or her understanding. Teach her to continually ask herself whether she understands what she's reading.
- Help your child go back to the text to support his or her answers.
- Discuss the meanings of unknown words, both those he reads and those he hears. If they are unsure, check these in a dictionary, this is an important skill.
- Read material in short sections, making sure your child understands each step of the way.
- Discuss what your child has learned from reading informational text such as a science or social studies book.
- Can your child predict what might happen next based on what they have read so far?



Questions to ask your child when reading - Key Stage 1

Before reading the book:

- Can you point to the title? or What is this? (pointing to the title)
- What do you think this story will be about? What might happen in the story?
- What do we call the writing on the back of the book? (Blurb) or What does the blurb tell us?

During the reading of the book:

- What is happening in the pictures?
- What has happened so far? Is it what you expected to happen?
- What might happen next? How do you think the story might end?
- What sort of character is...? Is he/she friendly/ mean/ nice...?

Questions to ask your child when reading - Key Stage 1

At the end of the book:

- Did you like this book? Why? (Encourage children to develop their opinion about books by encouraging them to explain their reasons)
- What was your favourite part? Why?
- What was the most interesting/ exciting part of the book? Can you find it?
- What sort of character was....?
- Why did that character do ... (give a situation/ event from the story)?
- What happened in the story?



Questions to ask your child when reading - Key Stage 2

Before reading the book:

- What do you think this story will be about?
- What might happen in the story?
- What genre will this story be? E.g. fantasy, comedy, horror.
- What do we call the writing on the back of the book? (Blurb) or What does the blurb tell us?

During the reading of the book:

- What has happened so far? Is it what you expected to happen?
- What might happen next?
- How do you think the story might end?
- Who is your favourite character? Why?
- Who is the character you like least? Why?
- Find 2 sentences, which describe the setting.
- Is the plot fast or slow moving? Find some evidence in the text, which supports your view.

Questions to ask your child when reading - Key Stage 2

At the end of the book:

- Which part of the story is your favourite / least favourite? Why?
- Would you change any part of the story? How?
- Would you change any of the characters? How?
- Which part of the story was the funniest, scariest, saddest, and happiest? Find some evidence in the text to support your opinion.
- Would you like to read another book by this author? Why?
- Does your opinion of this character change during the story? How? Why?
- If you met one of the characters from the story, what would you say to him / her?
- Find 2 things the author wrote about this character that made him / her likeable or unlikeable?



Any questions?

Thank you!

Simon Balle School

