



## Reading Prompts for Adults

Parents often want to know how they can help to develop the reading skills of their child. The best way is to regularly listen to them read, sometimes reading to or with them, but also discussing books read in increasing depth.

To become good readers children need to develop skills in 7 key areas and it can be useful to think about these when reading with your child.

### Decoding

*This is the understanding of the words on the page and coming across unfamiliar words. You can help to work through unfamiliar words by reading the word in its context and even looking it up in a dictionary or discussing words together.*

### Retrieval and Recall Questions

*To be able to locate important information from the text and to be able to retell the stories, describing events e.g. 'What is the name of the brother?', 'In what year was the character born?'.*

### Inference

*Reading between the lines. This is where children use clues from the text alongside their own knowledge to form links/ conclusions e.g. 'As I grabbed the popcorn, I walked into the dark abyss ready for the show to start'. This indirectly tells the reader that they are at the cinema. The reader has to use clues from the text 'popcorn' 'dark abyss' to infer that they are at a cinema using their own knowledge also.*

## Structure, Organisation and Language

*This skill is the child thinking about why the writer has chosen certain elements within their writing. Why have they structured the words/ paragraphs in a certain way? Why has the reader chosen certain words and what are their impacts on the reader?*

### Good Questions to Ask

- What has happened in the story so far?
- What do you think will happen next?
- Who is your favourite character? Why?
- Who is the character you like least? Why?
- Do you think the author intended you to like / dislike this character? How do you know?
- Does your opinion of this character change during the story? How? Why?
- Find two things the author wrote about this character that made him / her likeable?
- If you met one of the characters from the story, what would you say to him / her?
- 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/ happiest?
- Find some evidence in the text to support your opinion.
- What is the purpose of this book? How do you know?
- Why is this page laid out in this way? Could you improve it?
- Pick three favourite words or phrases from this chapter. Can you explain why you chose them?
- Did this book make you laugh? Can you explain what was funny and why?
- Have you read anything else by this author? Is anything similar?
- Does this book remind you of anything else? How?
- When do you think this book was written? How do you know? Does it matter? What would it be like if it was written now?
- Do you think the title of the book is appropriate? What would you have called it?
- What is the genre of the book: sci-fi, mystery, historical, fantasy, adventure, horror, comedy? What are the features that make you think this?
- Find two sentences which describe the setting.
- Is the plot fast or slow moving? Find some evidence in the text, which supports your view.
- If the author had included another paragraph before the story started what do you think it would say?
- Would you like to read another book by this author? Why/ why not?

*Of course, it doesn't have to be you asking the questions. Why not turn the tables and let your child ask you questions about what you are reading? The greatest encouragement for your child is to see you – their most influential role model – reading! Enjoy it!*