



Helping your child to read:
 Activities to try at home
 KS2

Hopefully this booklet will give you ideas on activities and questions you could do at home to help support and improve your child's reading.

Reading is not just about being able to simply read the words. What is important is that the reader can discuss the character's feelings, discuss more subtle meanings and justify their ideas.

Reading fictional stories, as well as non-fiction information books, allows your child to broaden their reading knowledge and ability, experiencing a wide range of styles of writing.

5 minute activities to do with your child

Fiction Books



- Why did you **choose** this book?
- How is it living up to your expectations? What is disappointing/better?
- What other texts may be **similar** to this? What might they have in common?
- Who you **recommend** to this to and why?
- Describe the **cover**: are there any clues about the storyline?
- Read the **beginning**do the first sentences make you want to read on? Why?
- Close the text. **Predict** what will come nextREAD.....Close the text. What aspects did you correctly anticipate? What was different?
- Identify 3 words that you were impressed by or you would like to include in your own writing.

Think about the plot!



Your child could...	Then.....
List the main events in order.	Rate each chapter in marks out of 10 for excitement.
Identify the stages of the story: OPENING... BUILD UP...DILEMMA... RESOLUTION... ENDING.	Represent the stages on a comic strip.
Identify the funniest, silliest, saddest, scariest, happiest events so far.	...say WHY you chose them.



<p>Compile ingredients for a good story of the same style: fairy tale, fable, ghost story, science fiction etc.</p>	<p>Give instructions to a new author on their use of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • good character • bad character • journey • ending • setting
---	---

Choose a character

Find evidence in the text to find out:	Then.....
What they look like.	Draft the text for a 'WANTED' poster or a police report form.
Are they like you? What would you have done differently?	Write a postcard/ message in bottle / text message to character.
What are their likes and hates?	Compile a data file.
What are they feeling? Why?	Drama: Interview a character. Either a child or adult takes the role of a character and tries to answer the questions about themselves. 'What did you think when.....?' 'How did you feel when.....?' 'Why did you.....?'
What advice would you give	Compile 'Auntie's advice page'
What are they thinking?	Write thought bubbles for an incident

Think about the story line

At the beginning:

- Describe the first setting.
- List the characters with 3 word descriptions.
- Identify the problem which sets the story in motion
- What do you expect to happen?
- Write down 3 phrases to remember the beginning of the story.



In the middle:

- How has the problem developed?
- How has the story differed/been the same as your prediction?
- Note down 3 significant moments in the story so far.



At the end:

- How is everything resolved?
- Read the blurb: does it give a true picture of the story? Why? What would you include?
- What do you think that the author wished to tell us through the story?

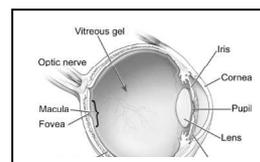
Focus on the Setting

Find evidence in the text to:	Pupils could:
Describe how the writer sets the scene at the beginning of the story.	Sketch a story map showing the places where incidents took place. Find or devise their own words or phrases that could describe the:
Record the different settings throughout the story.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Colours. • Weather. • Mood. • Landscape. • Emotions.
Find words the writer uses to set the scene and create atmosphere.	
Select a part of the story you would like to see illustrated: what would make a good picture	
	Do you agree with the chapter headings? Could you think of better ones?

5 minute activities for non-fiction books

Try to think about.....

What is the purpose of this book? Why would you read it?



How has the author organized the material in this book?

What is the quickest way to find information in this book?

How could this text be changed to make it sound more formal or informal?

What is the difference between the index and the contents pages?