Suggested Questions to ask Readers

Reading is much more than decoding the text on a page. To help your child develop their comprehension skills you can ask them a few questions as they read.

Questions about your child's chosen book and the text within and where possible, encouraging them to tell you in their own words what they have just read will help develop their understanding.

Here are some possible questions to ask children when discussing the text with them:

Features of the book:

- Where can we find the blurb?
- Is there a contents page?
- What genre do you think this book is (fiction or non-fiction)?
- Why do you think the text is organised like this?
- What made you choose this book?
- What do you think this book is going to be about?
- Why is this word underlined/in bold/in italics?

Vocabulary:

- Give me three adjectives (describing words) to describe one of the characters
- Can you think of a word that rhymes with?
- What sound does "....." start with? Can you think of any other words which start with the same sound?
- What does mean?
- Why does the writer use _____?
- Can you find any interesting adjectives/verbs/examples of alliteration?
- Why is this word in "inverted commas"?
- Find a word in paragraph 2 which shows.....
- Can the word _____ have more than one meaning?
- What other word could the author have used instead of _____ which has the same meaning?
- Which word tells you that?

Retrieval

- Who are the main characters in the book?
- What did do?
- Has there been any surprises or twists in the storyline so far?
- When and where did the story take place?
- Summarise what you have just read to me
- How did _____ react when.....?

Inference

- How did the character change throughout the book?
- How did the character's feelings change?
- What is the author secretly trying to tell us without making it obvious?
- What do you think the character was thinking when....

Prediction

- How do you think the book will end?
- What do you think is going to happen next?

Sequencing

- What happened in the beginning of the book?
- Give me the main events of the story so far

Summarise

- What is your favourite part of the story and why?
- Tell me the funniest part so far
- How does the author make you want to continue reading?
- If you were to make a film based on the book, which character would you most like to play? Which character would you cast me as? Why?
- If you were to make a film based on the book, what type of music would you use for it and why?
- Who would you like to meet in the story? Would you be friends with them?
- What would be a suitable caption for this image?
- If you could ask the author three questions, what would they be?
- If you could ask the main character three questions, what would they be?
- If you could be friends with one of the characters, which one would you choose?
- In the text it states "......", but what else can we understand from this?