



Inspiring Junior Readers

Years 3, 4, 5 and 6

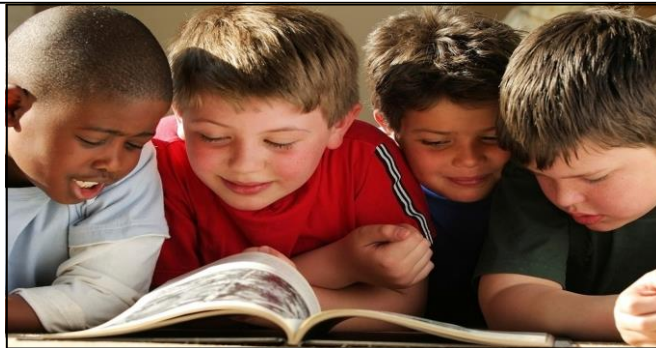
Why Read?

Confident readers do well in school and their reading skills will stand them in good stead for the rest of their lives.

The better we are at reading, the easier life is.

Children who know what fun books are and how interesting they can be will be keen to learn to read.

Parents and carers can help by sharing lots of books with children from an early age, and by hearing and helping their children read when they start school.



We learn to read for all kinds of reasons

To make us
laugh

To relax and
escape

To help us make
decisions

Finding out about
things

To follow
instructions

Reading Is Everywhere

Out and About:

street signs
traffic signs shop signs
café menus posters
at the park at the seaside
at the petrol station

In the Home:

comics
shopping lists magazines
food labels car manuals
instruction booklets
take-away menus
newspapers

Talking and Listening is Great!

Show interest in what your child does and ask them questions about it

Share conversation with your child and give them time to reply

Chat about news, stories, magazines, films or the TV

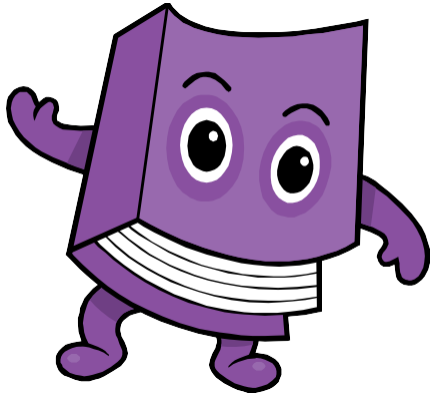
To become expert readers children need to be good at having conversations!



Tips for sharing a book with a child

- Follow your child's interests.
- Boys often love science fiction, action stories and humour.
- Read to your child with expression.
- Bring story characters alive with different voices.
- Give your child lots of praise and encouragement.
- We all learn much better when we feel our efforts are valued.
- Talk about the story and the pictures along the way
- Ask what might happen next, or make up your own endings
- Use contents and indexes when researching for information
- Ask your child what they would like to find out

A few minutes spent together every day with a book will help your child for the rest of their life!



Questions asked by parents when you listen to your child reading.

Listed below are some questions you might like to share with your child when reading, choose a one of two from each section each time you share a book

Fiction Books

- 1) Where does the story take place?
- 2) When did the story take place?
- 3) What did he/she look like?
- 4) Where did he/she live?
- 5) Who are the key characters in the book?
- 6) What happened in the story?
- 7) What kinds of people are in the story?
- 8) What is happening at this point in the story?
- 9) Read the part that tells me.....
- 10) Where did you find the information about.....?

Interpreting

- 1) What makes you think that?
- 2) What words give you that impression? Why?
- 3) How do you feel about.....? Why?
- 4) Can you explain why ?
- 5) If you were going to interview this character/author, which questions would you ask?
- 6) What sort of person do you think would use this book?
- 7) Describe a time when you think they would use it.
- 8) Which parts of the book could help you find the information you need?
- 9) Do you agree with this opinion? Explain your own opinion using the texts to help you?
- 10) At the end of the story the main character is feeling Does this surprise you? Explain as fully as you can using parts of the story to help you?

Commenting on text structure

- 1) Were you surprised by the ending?
- 2) How did you think it would end/should have ended?
- 3) How are the beginning and ending of the story similar?
- 4) What would happen if the order of events was changed?
- 5) What kind of a text is this? How do you know? What will it be like? What can I expect of a book of this type?
- 6) List the words that tell you what order to follow eg first, then.
- 7) What is the main event of the story? Why do you think this?
- 8) What is the purpose of the pictures?
- 9) How does the layout help the reader?
- 10) Some of the text is printed on a dark background. What effect do you think the designer wanted to achieve by doing this?

Comment on the 'writers' choice' of vocabulary.

- 1) I wonder what the writer intended by using these words?
- 2) What do these words mean and why do you think the writer chose them?
- 3) How has the author used adjectives to make this character funny?
- 4) What do the physical descriptions of characters tell us about how they are feeling?
- 5) Look at the verbs/adjectives/adverbs, what do these words tell us about ?
- 6) By writing the line in this way, what effect has the author created?
- 7) What do these words tell you about ?
- 8) Which word encourages you to read the ?
- 9) What does the word scrambled tell you about the way Legs got dressed?
- 10) Why do you think the author has mentioned a lot in the story?

Fiction Books continued...

Giving viewpoints

- 1) Can you think of another story that has a similar theme eg good over evil, weak over strong, wise over foolish?
- 2) I wonder why the writer has decided to...?
- 3) What was in the author's mind?
- 4) Why did the author chose this setting?
- 5) How would the views put across in these texts affect your views on....?
- 6) What makes this a successful story? What evidence do you have to justify your opinion? Could it be better? Is it as good as.....?

Relate texts to social, cultural, traditional and historical contexts.

- 1) Do you know another story, which deals with the same issues eg social, cultural, moral issues?
- 2) What would this character think about.....? (Possibly a present day issue)
- 3) Do you know any more stories like this?
- 4) Have you ever read a book with a similar theme to this one?
- 5) What does this remind you of?
- 6) What does it make you think of?

Non-Fiction Books

Questions Finding information

- 1) What is the text about? What is the title of the text? Who is the author of the text?
- 2) What kind of things would you expect to see in this book?
- 3) Can you find examples of different features of this text type?
- 4) Find something that interests you from the text. Explain why you chose that particular part.
- 5) Where would you look to find out what a technical word means?
- 6) What is on the cover of the book? What does this tell you about the content inside?

Interpreting

- 1) Which parts of the book could help you find the information you need?
- 2) When would you use the contents page in the book?
- 3) When would you use the index page in the book?
- 4) What sort of person do you think would use this book?
- 5) When might someone use this book? Why?
- 6) Can you suggest ideas for other sections or chapters to go into the book?
- 7) Do you think the author of the book is an 'expert' about the topic of the book? Why/why not?

Commenting on text structure

- 1) Can you find an example of a page you think has an interesting layout? Why did you choose it?
- 2) Why have some of the words been written in italics?
- 3) What are the subheadings for?
- 4) Why have some of the words been written in bold?
- 5) How does the layout help the reader
- 6) What is the purpose of the pictures?
- 7) Can you find examples of words which tell you the order of something?
- 8) What kind of a text is this? How do you know?

Comment on the 'writers' choice' of vocabulary.

- 1) Why does this book contain technical vocabulary?
- 2) Find an example of a technical word. Read the sentence it's in.
- 3) What do you think it means based on how it's used in the sentence?
- 4) Are there any examples of persuasive language?
- 5) Why do we need a glossary in a text?

Giving viewpoints

- 1) Why has the writer written this text?
- 2) Have you found any of the illustrations, diagrams or pictures useful? Why/why not? Try to explain fully
- 3) Why did the writer choose to present the information in the way they did?
- 4) How could the information be presented better?