



## READING ADVICE FOR PARENTS

Suggested techniques and questions for further supporting your son with reading.

The importance of reading is well recognised at Approach Education and forms the foundation upon which your children's literacy will develop in the coming years. Research worldwide has for many years amplified the links between a child's reading ability and academic performance, not to mention personal and spiritual growth.

Reading is a central component of every child's English curriculum and should be a well-established part of family life. Our 'Books of the Week' aim to inspire an open-minded view of different books and create courageous and attentive readers.

For parents eager to further support their children's interest and skill in reading, below are a range of questions that we hope will help you in doing so. These are not meant to be prescriptive, but rather provide a starting point from which you can tease out themes, literary devices and other areas of interest: you might even like to invite your son to ask you questions too.

Above all we hope your son enjoys reading with you and you likewise with your son.

### INFERENCE QUESTIONS:

What makes you think.....? Give evidence for your opinions.

Which words/phrases give you that impression?

Why do you think the author chose to..... Give reasons for your answer.

How was.....different after.....? Why?

Explain why the author chose this word to describe....

What impression do we get of.....? Why?

What do you think will happen to the main character now?

Can you give reasons for your opinion? What makes you think this?

Why is.....important?

What does the word.....imply about ...../

Which character would you most like to meet? Explain why.

Why did the character behave like this?

What do people usually do when.....?

Does that remind you of anything in your own life?

Why do you think (s)he behaved, did, thought that?

What do they seem to think about each other?

Can we work out how.....feels about.....?

Which characters seem to.....?

## VOCABULARY QUESTIONS:

What does this word tell us about the character/setting/atmosphere?

Look at that sentence/passage and circle a word/phrase that means the same as .....

Which words/phrase in this text give us the impression that the main character is.....?

Which words/phrase in this text give us the impression that the setting is.....?

Which words/phrase in this text give us the impression that the atmosphere is.....?

The author uses words like.....to describe .....

What impression does this give us of the character/setting/atmosphere?

The author describes the main character as .....

Think of another word that could be have been used instead.

Why did the author use the word.....to describe.....?

How does the author make the reader feel.....in this part of the text?

How has the author's choice of words created the feeling.....?

What do phrases such as .....tell you about .....

What might that mean?

What do you think the writer is saying, when they use.....?

What does that imply/suggest/indicate about .....

Can you think of a synonym/antonym for.....?

Look for an example of a simile in the text. How does this add meaning?

Look for an example of a metaphor in the text. How does this add meaning?

Look for an example of personification in the text. How does this add meaning?

Why have the headings/chapter names/character names been chosen for this book?

Why did the author choose the verb/adjective/adverb?

Which sentences are most.....?

Which word(s) makes you feel.....?

## PREDICTION QUESTIONS:

Who is on the front cover?

What is in the background?

How might these details give us clues about the content of the book?

Based on what you know about the character/event, how do you think the story will develop next?

Think about the author's other stories/books.

Are there any familiar themes/ characters/settings which compare to the story we are reading?

How did the story end?

How might this story end?

Do you think the character will change his/her behaviour in the future? Give evidence for your ideas.

How is the character like someone that you know?

How would she he/react to this situation?

How does that affect how you think this character might respond?

The character is in a tricky situation. What will the character do next? What would you do and why?

What don't we know about.....?

What more do we need to know?

Is anything missing from.....?

What do you think is likely to happen when .....?

Do you think the author has a plan for .....?

What might happen if.....?

What do you guess could happen....?

Why do you suppose this.....?

## RETRIEVAL QUESTIONS:

Where is the story set?

How does the main character look/behave/speak?

When is the story set?

Where would you find a section about.....?

Can the word ..... have more than one meaning?

What does the word ..... mean?

What did ..... do when .....?

Where did ..... go?

Find a word or phrase which tells us how the character is feeling.

Where in the book would you find..... ??

Who are the key characters in the book?

What happened at ..... ?

Describe .....

Which paragraph tells us .....?

Which section tells us.....?

Where does the story take place?

When did the story take place?

What did (S)he/it look like?

Who was (s)he/it?

Where did (s)he/it live?

## Commentary Questions:

Look at the section entitled ..... Why has this been included in this text?

Look at the front cover of this book. What sections would you expect to find in this book?

Explain how the character's behaviour/appearance has changed over the book. Why/how has this happened?

What is the purpose of ..... ?

How does the layout help to ..... ?

Compare one character to another. How are they different or similar?

When might someone choose to read this book?

In what ways is ..... Like .....?

How has the author organised the text? Why?

How does the organisation of this text help us to better understand the information?

In what ways do diagrams, photographs or illustrations help us to enjoy/understand the text?

Who has the author written this text for?

Compare how the characters are reacting to this problem. Who deals best with the situation?

How has the character changed during the text?

Which is the most important section in this book? Explain your choice.

Compare one setting to another in the book. Why are the two settings significant (important) to the story?

What can you tell about the viewpoint/opinion of the author on this topic?

How have your feelings about ..... changed?

What's different now about .....?

What, overall, is the effect of ..... ?

What was the most effective/thought-provoking moment of the story?

## Summary Questions:

What is the main theme/argument in this paragraph?

What is the main message in this paragraph?

Can you describe what has happened in this paragraph/chapter?

Using less than 20 words, could you write a new blurb for this book.

Which is the most important message in this book?

Can you describe what happened in three sentences?

Why do you think that might be important?

Is there anything you know now which you didn't know before?

What sticks most in your mind about

What moment do you remember most from

Can you remind us about

How would you sum up?

