

Parent tips for reading with children in Key Stage Two



Reading is understanding!

Reading is much more than saying the words correctly - reading is about understanding.

You can help a lot at home as you read books together.

Before reading...

Talk about the book

Look at the title

Talk about the pictures

Ask questions...

Here are some basic examples; the rest of the booklet will give you some ideas as to how to stretch your child.

What might the book be about?

Why do you think that? - what are the clues?

What do you hope to find out?

What might happen next in the story?

Who is the book written for?



Prompts for word solving/attack

- Do you see a word you know?
- Check the picture
- What happened in the story?
- Blend the first two sounds. Then look at the middle sound e.g. st

ar t

What is the final sound?

- What would make sense in the sentence there and sound right?
- What would you expect to see at the beginning of
- Can you see a word inside the word that you know?
- Is it like a word you already know?
- Blend the first two sounds, re-run and get your mouth ready for
the



Simple comprehension questions

- What do you think is happening here?
- Why do you think that?
- What happened in the story?
- What might this mean?
- Through whose eyes is the story told? - How do you know this?
- Which part of the story best describes the setting?
- What words and/or phrases do this?
- What part of the story do you like best?



Recall Questions

- 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?
- Who are the characters in the book?
- Where in the book would you find....?
- Summarise the story so far.



Analytical Questions

- What makes you think that?
- What words give you that impression?
- How do you feel about...?
- Can you explain why ...?
- I wonder what the writer intended?
- I wonder why the writer decided to...?
- What do these words mean and why do you think the author chose them?
- Has the author used adjectives to make this character funny?
- Why did the author choose this setting?
- What were the characters feeling like? - Why do you think that?



Evaluation questions

- What makes this a successful story?
- What evidence do you have to justify your opinion?
- Does it work?
- Could it be better? How?
- Is it as good as...?
- How is it similar to...?
- How is it different to...?
- Is it as good as...?
- Which is better and why?



Application and Synthesis

• Can you think of another story which has a similar theme e.g.

good over evil; weak over strong; wise over foolish?

Do you know of another story which deals with the same issues e.g.

social; moral; cultural?

Which stories have openings like this?

What is your opinion? What evidence do you have to support your view?

Using all the evidence available, can you tell me how you feel about...?

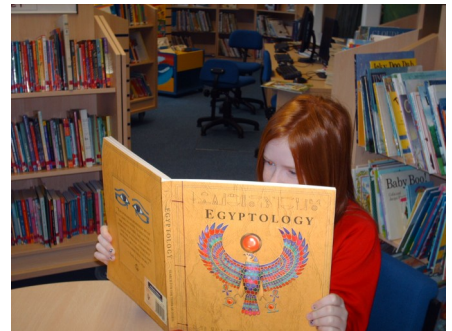
Given what you know about...what do you think..?



Non-Fiction Books

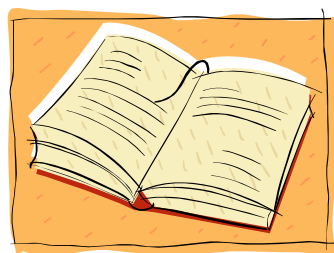
Identifying Non-Fiction Structure

- What's the purpose of this book? Why would you read it?
- Does the book have a central character?
- What makes it different from a story?
- Does this book have chapters?
- How has the author organised the material in the book?
- What could you find out from this book?
- What do you find at the start and end of this type of book?
- Compare the contents page of a fiction and non-fiction book.
- What is a bibliography?
- Look at the bibliography. Why might this be useful?



Headings and Subheadings

- Where could you find out about in this book?
- Is there another way? What's the quickest way?
- Do you notice any of the headings when you scan the text?
- Do the headings describe the information that follows?



Index

- What's the difference between the index and the contents?
- If you want to find out about how could you do it?
- What's the best place to look for information about?
- If you can't find information in the contents, where else might you look?
- If there isn't an entry in the index, what might you do to find out about?
- Where else could you look for information on this topic/subject?



Prompts for responding to the text

- **Make a new book, a caption or concertina book**
 - Play a game using text from the book
- Re-order chopped up sentences or words from the book
- Write your own story based on the book and illustrate
 - Re-tell the story
- Draw a picture of a favourite character, part of the story, etc
 - Change the ending of the story
 - Write a review for the school library



References :

Learning Development Aids

The Basic Skills Agency - Learning to read and write at home and at school.

www.lancsngfl.ac.uk/nationalstrategy/literacy

Rigby Rocket (Harcourt Education)

www.readathome.co.uk