



How can you help your child to get the most out of the fiction that they are reading?

Below is a selection of 15 questions that we use in English to help our pupils to fully engage with the books that they are reading.

By asking some of these when your child is completing reading homework/reading a text outside of school, you will be helping them to develop their skills (and can be really checking that they have understood the text/completed tasks set, if relevant).

- Who's your favourite character? Why? What happens in that chapter?
- What would you say are the most significant events and why?
- What do I need to know before I read this chapter?
- What do we learn about the characters? Who do you really dislike?
- Why are the characters behaving in the way they do? What are their motivations?
- Why has the writer decided to make that character behave in that way?
- Who would you get to play these characters in a film version of the book?
- With which characters can you sympathise?
- How do you think the character feels at this point?
- Have you ever felt the same way? If so, when?
- What questions would you ask the character if you met them at this point in your reading?
- Would any of the characters make a great Prime Minister/Football team manager/Teacher? Why?
- Which words do you think are used particularly effectively? Are there any words you have come across that you have never seen before/don't understand?
- Which big ideas about life is the author trying to get across to us?
- Which techniques does the author use in this part of the novel to really engage the reader?

If, in your discussions with your children, you have asked questions that have opened up a really great conversation we'd love to add them to our list!