

Questions to ask when reading with your child



Key Questions:

Mark Hartley – key questions for EYFS:

A) Finding information in the text (retrieval)

- Where does the story take place (where does the story happen)?
- When do you think this story happened?
- Who are the characters in this story?
- Who are the most important characters in the story?
- What happens in the story?
- What is happening at this point in the story?

B) Story sequencing

- Can you remember what happened at the start of the story?
- Can you remember how the story ended?
- What was the next thing that happened after . . . ?
- Do you remember what happened before . . . ?
- Can you retell the story to me in order?

C) Personal response, inference and interpretation questions

- Which is your favourite part? Why do you like this part?
- Which is your favourite picture? Why do you like that picture?
- Does the story remind you of anything that has happened to you?
- Can you predict what you think is going to happen next? (What do you think is going to happen next?) Why do you think that?
- Who would you like to meet most in the story? Why?
- Did any of the characters change during the story? What makes you think that?
- Can you explain why . . . ?
- What do you think *character X* is thinking? If it were you what would you be thinking?
- What do you think *character X* should do now?
- Would you like to ask *character X* a question? What question would you ask? Why would you ask that question?
- At the end of the story *character X* is feeling Does this surprise you?
- Can you think of a different ending for the story? (Could the story have ended differently?)
- Can you think of another story (any other stories) like this one?

D) Questions about the way the text is structured

- What is the main event in this story? How do you know this?
- What does this picture tell you?
- Why are these words in capital letters?
- Why are these words in bold print?
- Why are these words in italic print?
- Were you surprised by the ending?

E) Questions about the writer's use of language

- What do this word means? Why do you think the writer chose it?
- Has the writer used any words to make this character funny? kind? scary? unusual?
- Which word tells us that . . . ?
- What do these words tell you about . . . ?
- Why do you think the author has mentioned . . . a lot in the story?
- Why did the author choose this title?
- What do these words mean and why do you think the writer chose them

. Key questions for KSI

1a define

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

Find and copy another word for _____.

Can you read around this word to work out what it means?

How can we find out the meaning of this word?

What effect has the author created by repeating the word/phrase _____?

1b retrieve

Who is/are the main character(s) in the story?

Where is this story set?

When did _____ happen?

What happened before/after _____?

Is there a dilemma in the story? What is it?

1c sequence

What happened first/next/last?

What is the first/last step in these instructions?

How/where does the story start?

Number these statements in the order they happened.

When did _____ happen?

1d infer

What do you think _____ is saying/thinking/feeling at this point?

How did you feel when _____?

Can you explain why _____?

How do you think the author feels about _____?

Find the evidence in the text.

What effect did the author want to create by _____?

1e predict

What do you think will happen next?

Who is on the front cover? What is in the background? How might these details give us clues about the content of the book?

What will _____ do next?

What do you think this chapter/section will be about?

What sentence/phrase do you think will come next?

Key questions for KS2

| 2a explain | 2b retrieve | 2c summarise | 2d infer | 2e predict | 2f meaning | 2g language | 2a compare |
|---|--|---|--|--|---|--|---|
| <p>What does this word tell us about the character/setting/atmosphere?</p> <p>Look at that sentence/passage and circle a word/phrase that means the same as _____.</p> <p>The author uses words like _____ to describe _____. What impression does this give us of the character/setting/atmosphere?</p> <p>How does the author make the reader feel _____ in this part of the text?</p> <p>How has the author's choice of words created the feeling _____?</p> | <p>What did _____ do when _____?</p> <p>Where did _____ go?</p> <p>Who is/are the main character/character(s) in the story?</p> <p>When did _____ happen?</p> <p>Where was _____ when _____ happened?</p> <p>What did _____ do before/after _____?</p> | <p>What is the main theme/argument in this paragraph?</p> <p>How would you sum up _____?</p> <p>Can you describe what has happened in this paragraph/chapter?</p> <p>Using less than 20 words, could you write a new blurb for this book?</p> <p>Summarise the first/second/last paragraph.</p> | <p>What makes you think _____? Give evidence for your opinions.</p> <p>Why do you think the author chose to _____? Give reasons for your answer.</p> <p>How was _____ different after _____? Why?</p> <p>Why do you think _____ tells _____?</p> <p>Explain why _____ felt/reacted this way.</p> | <p>Think about the author's other stories. Are there any familiar themes/characters/settings to the story we are reading?</p> <p>Do you think the character will change his/her behaviour in the future? Give evidence for your ideas.</p> <p>How is the character like someone that you know? How does that affect how you think this character might respond?</p> <p>The character is in a tricky situation. What will the character do next?</p> <p>What do we need to know, in order to _____?</p> | <p>How has the author organised the text? Why?</p> <p>How does the organisation of this text help us to better understand the information?</p> <p>In what ways do diagrams, photographs or illustrations help us to enjoy/understand the text?</p> <p>Who has the author written this text for?</p> <p>Look at the section entitled _____. Why has this been included in this text?</p> | <p>Look for an example of a simile in the text. How does this add meaning?</p> <p>Look for an example of a metaphor in the text. How does this add meaning?</p> <p>Look for an example of personification in the text. How does this add meaning?</p> <p>Why have the headings/chapter names been chosen for this book?</p> <p>Look for a phrase that implies that the character is _____.</p> | <p>What's different now about _____?</p> <p>In what ways, is _____ like _____?</p> <p>Compare one character to another. How are they different or similar?</p> <p>Compare one setting to another in the book. Why are the two settings significant to the story?</p> <p>Can you compare this text to a similar one you have read?</p> |

