

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

Based on our most recent test results, I've identified that your child is struggling with comprehending what they have read. Talking about books and reading DAILY is an important tool in expanding your child's reading skills. Reading with comprehension is more than being able to answer simple questions about a story that has been read. It is important that parents support the processes of inferring, synthesizing, analyzing, and critiquing at home.

The suggested questioning strategies on the next page can guide you in facilitating meaningful discussions that develop good comprehension skills at home.

It is suggested that you engage in discussion through asking some of these questions AT LEAST 3 times per week after reading with your child.

Strategies for Expanding Meaning

	Definition	Example
Inferring	To arrive at a decision or opinion using your own knowledge and clues from the text.	If a story states that a boy "woke up and made himself something to eat." You could ask, "what meal did the boy eat?" Students would use the clue in the text "woke up and ate" and their own knowledge (I know the meal I eat when I wake up is called breakfast) to determine that the boy ate breakfast.
Summarizing	To put into your own words, a shortened version of the spoken or written material.	After reading The Three Billy Goats Gruff you may ask "In general, what was this story about?" Students should respond by briefly retelling the important points of the story in their own words. They may respond with something along the lines of, "The Three Billy Goats Gruff is about 3 goats who were hungry because all of their grass was gone so they had to trick a troll to get across the bridge to eat some new grass."
Synthesizing	A process where students merge new information with prior knowledge to form a new idea, perspective, or opinion.	To arrive at a decision or opinion using their own knowledge and clues from the text. You might ask "Is there anything you understand in a new way from reading this text?" Students may respond with, "I know Dr. Seuss is telling us to take care of the trees in the Lorax. I think he wants us to think about how we can take care of our environment. Things I could do at school would be to pick up trash on the playground and help keep the hallways clean!"

examples of Questions for Rich Discussion:

<p>Inferring</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Can you predict what is going to happen next? Why did you make that prediction? Can you point to something in the book that helped you make that prediction? OR What do you already know that helped you make that prediction? -Why did (the character) do that? -What did the author mean by _____? -What's going to happen next? -(Character name) must be feeling _____. Are there any clues that help us know that?
<p>Summarizing</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -In general, what is this story about? -What is the problem to be solved in this story? Is there a solution? -What has happened so far? -What do you wonder after reading so far? -What is the most important point in this story or passage?
<p>Synthesizing</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Is there anything that you understand in a new way from reading this story? -What idea's (concepts or feelings) are most interesting to you? Why? -Does (a historical event or personal experience) make more sense after reading this? -Does this book make you think of anything that has happened to you? If so, what? -Does this story remind you of anything you have read?
<p>Analyzing</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -What things would make everyone like this book? -In what ways does the author make you feel as if you were there? -What are some examples of rich, colorful, or great language that make this a good passage to read? -What are the critical points in the plot? How does the story unfold?
<p>Critiquing</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Would people in your life act this way? -What is unbelievable about this text? -Should other kids read this? Why or why not? -What important information is missing? -What would have made this story more interesting to read? -What are the words or phrases that you really liked or disliked?
<p>Basic Recall Explicit Questioning</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Who is the main character in the story? -Who are the other characters in the story? -What is your favorite part of the chapter or book? -Describe your favorite character. -Where do you think the story takes place? Why do you think that? -When do you think the story takes place? Why do you think that? -What is the problem in this story? -How is the problem solved? -Why do you think the author wrote this story? What did he/she want you to learn?

Reading Comprehension Strategies

<p>Make Connections</p> <p>What connections do I make as I read?</p> <p>Good readers notice pieces of text that relate to or remind them of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Their lives, past experiences, and prior knowledge • Other books, articles, movies, songs, or pieces of writing • Events, people, or issues <p>Tips:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That reminds me of... • This made me think of... • I read another book that... • This is different from... • I remember when... 	<p>Visualize</p> <p>Good readers create pictures in their minds while they read.</p> <p>While reading, note places where you get a clear picture in your mind that helps you understand the text:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I can picture... • I can see the... • I can visualize... • The movie in my head shows... <p>Use your senses to connect the characters, events, and ideas to clarify the picture in your head.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I can taste/hear/smell the... • I can feel the... 	<p>Ask Questions</p> <p>Good readers ask questions before, during, and after reading to better understand the author and the meaning of the text.</p> <p>Ask questions of the author, yourself, and the text:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is the author trying to say? • What is the message of this piece? • Do I know something about this topic? • What do I think I will learn from this text? • How could this be explained to someone else? • What predictions do I have about this reading?
<p>Infer</p> <p>How do I read between the lines?</p> <p>When the answers are "right there," good readers draw conclusions based on background knowledge and clues in the text.</p> <p>Ask yourself:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I wonder why... • I wonder how... • I wonder if... <p>Find information from the text that might be clues to the answers and use these with your background knowledge for possible answers.</p>	<p>Determine Importance</p> <p>What's the big idea? So what?</p> <p>Good readers look for things that help them identify big ideas and why they are important.</p> <p>Look at text features for clues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Titles and headings • Bold print • Pictures and captions • Graphs and charts • Chapter objectives and questions <p>Tips:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The big idea is... • Most important information is... • So far I've learned... • The author is saying... • This idea is similar to... 	<p>Synthesize</p> <p>How do I use what I've read to create my own ideas?</p> <p>Good readers combine new information from their reading with existing knowledge in order to form new ideas or interpretations.</p> <p>Synthesis is creating a single understanding from a variety of sources.</p> <p>Tips:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compare and contrast what I'm reading with what I already know or other sources of information. • Think of new ways to use this information. • Can connections I make across this text help me to create new generalizations or new perspectives?

Adapted from the work of Beal, Keene, and Tovani

How do I help my child become a better reader?



If they are reading a **Fiction** book ask them....

- Who are the main characters and what traits can you infer about them?
- How have the characters changed during the book?
- What questions do you have as you are reading?
- Is the story written in first or third person point of view?
- What is the author's purpose? Persuade, Inform or Entertain?
- What is the problem in the story? How do you think it will be solved?
- What do you predict will happen next?
- Could the story happen in real life?
- How are you similar to the characters? How are you different?
- What is the theme of the book? What lesson did the characters learn?
- Write a summary of the story using Somebody, Wanted, But, So, Then...
- What was your favorite part and why?
- Did you like the ending? If not, how would you change it? Write your own ending.

If they are reading a **Non-Fiction** book ask them....

- What do you think you will learn from this book?
- What do you already know about this topic?
- What questions do you have as you are reading?
- What is the main idea of the text?
- What is the author's purpose? Persuade, Inform or Entertain?
- What text features were used in this text? How did they help your understanding?
- What did you learn from this text?
- Do you have any questions after reading this?
- Were there any unknown words in this text? How did you find out their meaning?
- Where could you find more information on this topic?
- Write a summary of this text- remember to include the main idea and supporting details.

Help your child become a better **writer** by encouraging them to write about what they read!