

Useful questions to ask when reading with your child.....

Fiction	Non-Fiction
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Where does the story take place? -When did the story take place? -What did the character look like? -Where did the character live? -Who are the key characters in the book? -What happened in the story? -What kinds of people are in the story? -Explain something that happened at a specific point in the story. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -What is the text about? What is the title of the text? Who is the author of the text? -What kind of things would you expect to see in this book? -Can you find examples of different features of this text type? -Find something that interests you from the text. Explain why you chose that particular part. -Where would you look to find out what a technical word means? -What is on the cover of the book? What does this tell you about the content inside?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -If you were going to interview this character/author, which questions would you ask? -Which is your favourite part? Why? -Who would you like to meet most in the story? Why? -What do you think would happen next if the story carried on past the ending of the book? -Who was the storyteller? How do you know? -Predict what you think is going to happen next. Why do you think this? -Is this a place you could visit? Why/why not? -How is the main character feeling at the start/middle/end of the story? Why do they feel that way? How do you know? Does this surprise you? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Which parts of the book could help you find the information you need? -When would you use the contents page in the book? -When would you use the index page in the book? -What sort of person do you think would use this book? -When might someone use this book? Why? -Can you suggest ideas for other sections or chapters to go into the book? -Do you think the author of the book is an 'expert' about the topic of the book? Why/why not?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Were you surprised by the ending? Is it what you expected? Why/why not? -What is the main event of the story? Why do you think this? -How has the text been organised? -Why do you think authors use short sentences? -How did you think it would end/should end? -Has the author used an unusual layout in the text? Is so, describe it and say why you think they did this. -Has the author used a variety of sentence structures? -Has the author put certain words in bold or <i>italic</i>? Why have they done this? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Can you find an example of a page you think has an interesting layout? Why did you choose it? -Why have some of the words been written in <i>italics</i>? -What are the subheadings for? -Why have some of the words been written in bold? -How does the layout help the reader? -What is the purpose of the pictures? -Can you find examples of words which tell you the order of something? -What kind of a text is this? How do you know?

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Why did the author choose this title? -Do you want to read the rest of the text? How does the writer encourage you to read the rest of the text? -Can you find some examples of effective description? What makes them effective? -Which part of the story best describes the setting? -Can you find examples of powerful adjectives? What do they tell you about a character or setting? -Can you find examples of powerful adverbs? What do they tell you about a character, their actions or the setting? -Can you find examples of powerful verbs? What do they tell you about a character, their actions or the setting? -Find an example of a word you don't know the meaning of. Using the text around it, what do you think it means? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Why does this book contain technical vocabulary? -Find an example of a technical word. Read the sentence it's in. What do you think it means based on how it's used in the sentence? -Are there any examples of persuasive language? -Why do we need a glossary in a text?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Can you think of another story that has a similar theme eg good over evil, weak over strong, wise over foolish? -Why did the author choose this setting? -What makes this a successful story? What evidence do you have to justify your opinion? -How could the story be improved or changed for the better? -What was the most exciting part of the story? Explain your answer as fully as you can. -What genre is this story? How do you know? -What was the least exciting part of the story? Explain your answer as fully as you can. -When the author writes in short sentences, what does this tell you? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Why has the writer written this text? -Have you found any of the illustrations, diagrams or pictures useful? Why/why not? Try to explain fully. -Why did the writer choose to present the information in the way they did? -How could the information be presented better? -What makes this text successful? -Are there any features that it hasn't got? Why do you think it doesn't have them? -Can you think of another text that is similar to this one? What are the similarities and differences between them?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Do you know another story, which deals with the same issues eg social, cultural, moral issues? -Have you ever been in a similar situation to a character in the book? What happened? -How would you have felt in the same situation? -What would you have done differently to the character in a particular situation from the book? -How would you feel if you were treated in the same way as the main character? -What did the story make you think of? -Have you read any other stories that have similar characters to this one? If so, which story was it and what happened? -Do you think this book is trying to give the reader a message? If so, what is it? 	

