

Later Reading Skills

By now you are probably confident that your child is a good reader with great decoding ability and so the comprehension aspect of reading is more important than ever. One or two of these questions each time you read could make a big difference.

Before you open the book <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ What are you expecting from this book and why▪ What does the blurb tell us and how does it try to make the book appeal▪ Talk about the title and what it may say about the story	During reading - strategies if they get stuck <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Decode (break the word down)▪ Blend sounds you recognise▪ Look for words within the word▪ Read to the end of the sentence▪ Check meanings in a dictionary
Find information directly from the text <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Describe what happened at▪ Who spoke to▪ Can you tell me why▪ Where did s/he/it live▪ What happened after▪ Which paragraph tells you▪ Where and when did the story take place▪ What did s/he/it look like	Read between the lines <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Describe why a character felt/thought▪ Explain why this is important▪ Through whose eyes is the story told▪ What could this tell us about the character▪ Put yourself in their shoes, what would you/your friends say/do/think/feel▪ What would this character think about (perhaps something currently in the news)
Comment on the structure and organisation <p>These are particularly good for non-fiction</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Where in the book would you find▪ How many levels of headings and subheadings does this book have▪ If you can't find information in the contents, where else might you look▪ What is the difference between the index and the contents and how are they used	Think about language choices <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Which words and phrases tell you that the author is describing▪ How has the author been humorous▪ What is the author's style, which features help you identify this and why is this style effective▪ How could this be made to sound more friendly and informal or more formal and serious▪ What words/phrases indicate the author's attitude
Understand the writers' viewpoints <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Why did the author choose this setting▪ What did the writer intend by▪ What impression do you think the writer wants to give of this character and why▪ What effect does this have on other characters▪ In this paragraph, what effect does the author want to have on the reader▪ Which text would most persuade you to change your mind and why	Make social, cultural and historical links <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ How would this text work in a different cultural/historical setting▪ What are the links to texts by the same author▪ What research would the author have needed to do before writing this text▪ Can you think of another story which has a similar theme e.g. good over evil; wise over foolish▪ Do you know of another story which deals with the same issues e.g. social; moral; cultural
At the end of a book <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ What makes this a successful story▪ How could it be improved▪ Is it as good as▪ How is it similar to▪ How is it different from▪ Which is better and why▪ Which bits surprised you▪ Sell it to me in 2 minutes	Also... <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Include a variety of text types▪ Keep listening to your child read aloud▪ Keep reading to them, particularly the longer novels that they may be less inclined to attempt alone▪ Talk about books you have enjoyed reading▪ Encourage children to ask their own comprehension questions - to you, for younger siblings or themselves