



Here are some tips to help during reading sessions with your child at home.

- Meaning of words: What do these words mean? Use a dictionary to find out.
- Spelling patterns: Can you spot any words which have your current or previous spelling patterns?
- Alternative words: Can you think of any other words which mean the same. For example excited: thrilled, eager, delighted. Use a thesaurus to investigate.
- Predict: What will happen? Why do you think that?
- Start at the end: What do you think has happened before this point? Why do you think that?
- Discuss feelings: Talk about how the characters are feeling and how you as a reader are feeling.
- Settings: Where is the story set? Are there any other stories with the same setting? For example 'Kensuke's Kingdom' & 'Treasure Island' are both set on an island.
- Problem & resolutions: What happened? What went wrong? Is there another way it could have been resolved?
- Fact or Fiction: Is this a story book or a non-fiction book? How do you know? Have you learnt anything from the book?

Before reading with your child, highlight any unfamiliar words and recap over the story so far.

Ask who is the author? Does the blurb give us any clues about the story?

Has your child read any more stories by the same author or illustrator?

If your child comes across an unfamiliar word, you might want to suggest sounding it out, splitting it up into syllables, looking for a root word or reading on to establish meaning.

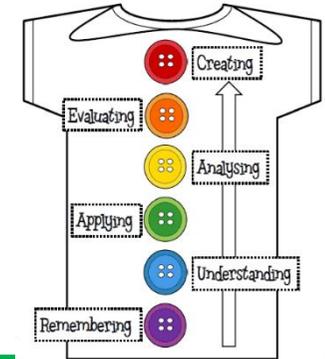
You might want to take it in turns to read so your child can hear how you read.

You could just focus on a couple of pages and spend more time talking about the story and questioning your child using the example questions on this handout.

Could you create a new piece of work based on the story?

Visit the library to find books of a similar genre or by the same author.

You could also ask questions using question words such as:  
who, what, when, where, why, how, which.



### Remembering

Record five major events from the story in chronological order.

What was the main problem within the story?

### Understanding

In your own words, briefly describe one event, adventure, conflict or episode that was important to the development of the story.

### Applying

Write five questions you could ask one of the characters to understand them better.

Is there a moral to the story?

### Analysing

Use your imagination to create and construct a biography of one of the characters.

Was there an aspect of the story which was unrealistic?

### Evaluating

Make three recommendations to the author and/or publisher to improve the story.

Should the book have a different title?

### Creating

Design a new cover for the book which reflects the content of the story.

Create a 'tweet' from one of the characters.

Feel free to share other stories with your children, it doesn't always have to be a school reading book. Please let us know of any reading achievements which we can celebrate with your child and look out for the recommended reads in our newsletters.

Activity ideas and button diagram taken from Bloom's Taxonomy Questions.