

Questions to ask when hearing children read-

Here are some ideas for questions to ask when hearing your child read. Choose one or two per reading session.

FOCUS AREA	FICTION Questions about narratives, plays, scripts and poetry	NON-FICTION Questions about non-fiction and information texts
Retrieving information or ideas	Where/when does the story take place? Who was the character that...? Show me in the text where you found...? Read/write down the part that tells the reader about... What is happening at this point/in this part of the story/play? Find one/two things that the main character did in this part of the story/ play	Where can you find an important piece of information about ...? Find two pieces of information that tell you about ...? What does this part of the text tell us about? Which part of the text tells us about ...? How do you know that ...? Can you explain why.....?
Interpreting information and ideas	Why was...important in this story/play? Did any characters help each other in this story/play? How did they do this? Tell me/write about what sort of character/person...was from the things they did/said in the story/play. What do you think...thoughts were at this point in the story/play? Use the text to help you think through your answer. If you were going to interview one of the characters, which questions would you ask and why? Which is the most interesting/exciting/funniest/scariest/your favourite part of the story/play? Why? Which part of the text shows this? How did one of the characters change their ideas/attitudes during the story/play? What was it that brought about this change? In this part of the play/story, what do you think the character feels about...? How can you tell? What do you think would have happened if...? Write/tell me about one important event that happened that could not be left out. Say why it was so important. Did any of the characters show their feelings? How/why did they show this/these feeling(s) Why was (a character) angry/upset/pleased/puzzled in this part of the story/play? If...had not done..., how might this have changed other events in the story/play? What you think is going to happen next. Why do you think this? Which part of this poem did you like best? Why? How did you think this story/play/poem will end/should have ended? Can you tell me what word the poet might have used here? (delete significant word(s)) Why?	How do you know that this text is trying to tell you more about...? Do you agree with this/the author's opinion? Explain your own opinion using the texts to help you? How do you feel about this topic? Why? What do you think about/is your opinion of...? Can you support your view with evidence from the text? What do you think are the important points the author is trying to get over to you as the reader? (and AF6) What was it that made...want to...? (biographies, autobiographies, history texts) Which do you think are the most important issues and why? (environmental/health/)

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Discussing structure and organisation	<p>How has the author organised the writing? Why does the author begin a new paragraph here? How does the layout of this play script help actors to read and perform the play? Why are brackets used in this play script? How does the punctuation help you as the reader of this poem/play script? What is/are the main event(s) that happen(s) in this/each paragraph? Can you find any repeated patterns in this poem?</p>	<p>Why are particular words/sections within a text in bold/italics/larger print? Why have bullet points/numbers been used in this text? How does this text layout help the reader? Why has this text been highlighted? How does (a diagram/picture/caption) help you to understand the information on this/these pages? What is the purpose of the list/diagram/caption/sub-headings in this text? Why has some of the information been presented in a table? What is the main idea of this/each section/paragraph? What would be a good heading for this section? Why?</p>
Discussing writers' use of language	<p>How has the author used words/phrases to make this character funny/sad/ adventurous/clever/frightening/ excited/disappointed/ etc? What does/do this/these words tell you about (a character)? Which part of the story best describes the setting/characters/action? Which words and /or phrases do this? Find and copy some words or phrases that show us that this character is special/helpful/adventurous/unsure/worried etc. Why is ... a good title for this story/book/chapter/play? Do you notice anything special or unusual about the words the poet has used here?</p>	<p>What do these words tell you about...? Which word(s)/phrases/types of sentences are used well in this text...? Is this writer an expert on ...? How do you know? Why do you think the writer chose to use the word(s)/phrase(s)...to describe...? Why do you think the author chose...as the title//headline/heading...? (and AF3) Find something that is not a fact but the author's opinion.</p>
Discussing writers' purposes and viewpoints	<p>Did you enjoy reading the story/play/poem or not? Explain your answer by referring to the characters, events and how it made you feel. How did the story make you feel? Why did it make you feel like this? Why do you think the author chose this particular setting for this poem/ story/play? How has the author started this in an interesting way? How does this make the reader want to read on? How do you feel when you read this poem? Which parts make you feel like this?</p>	<p>What does the writer think about/is the writer's opinion on/is the writer's viewpoint on in this part of the text? Why do you think the writer produced this article/leaflet/flyer/brochure etc? How does the writer try to persuade you to...? Which information/facts does the writer include to make you believe that...? Which words/points do you think are the strongest/most powerful in persuading the reader to...? Why do you think the writer says/writes...? Why do you think the writer included details about ...? Which advert/text would most persuade you to buy/take part in...? Why? If ... was alive today he/she would he be arguing for ...? The writer says Do you agree or disagree? Why?</p>

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Relating texts to social, cultural and historical traditions	<p>Read these two poems? What do they have in common? How are they different?</p> <p>When do you think this story/poem was written? How do you know?</p> <p>In which country do you think this story takes place? Why?</p> <p>Does the setting remind you of a setting you know from another story/ poem?</p> <p>Do you know any more stories like this? Tell me why they are alike.</p> <p>Do you know another story with similar characters in? Tell me how they are similar.</p> <p>Many traditional tales have messages. What do you think this story is trying to tell us?</p>	<p>What kind of a text is this? How do you know?</p> <p>When you have read these two texts, what can you find that is the same about them and what is different?</p> <p>Do you know of any other texts with similar issues or themes?</p>