St Andrew's CofE Primary School, Eccles

Questions you could ask your child once they have read to you:

These questions will help your child understand what he/she is reading.

- What voice might the character use?
- Who is telling the story?
- Who had….?
- What happened after…?
- What was…doing when…?
- What do other people say about the character?
- Find a few words/phrases/sentences that tell you about…(character, setting, atmosphere)
- What makes (name of character) special?
- What is another name for…?

These questions will help your child find information in the text and understand it.

- Give one example of…
- What does (a particular word) mean?
- Draw a timeline of events.
- Non-fiction books-what is the text about? What is the title of the text? who is the author of the text?
- What do you think this story is going to be about?
- How does (character) feel at this point and what does it tell you about him/her?
- In light of what you know now, why do you think he felt so (angry/happy etc)?
- What did…mean when he/she said…?
- What was…thinking when…? How do you know?
- What do these pages/paragraphs tell you about?
- Why is…an appropriate title for this text?
- Non-fiction: When would you use the contents page in the book?
- Non-fiction: When would you use the index page in the book?
- Non-fiction: What sort of person do you think would use this book?

These questions will help your child pick up on clues which the writer has added to help you guess what might happen next. (Inference and deduction)

- How are the beginning and ending similar? why is this order of events significant?
- Why is the text arranged in this way?
- What is the effect of the change of rhyme scheme?
- How does the form of this poem suit the ideas it expresses?
- Why has the writer used these repetitive structures?
- Why is there an exclamation mark/question mark/colon/bullet point…?
- Where does the writer give another point of view?
- Is the use of direct speech here effective? Why/Why not?

- Non-fiction: Why is the background in this piece a different colour?
- Non-fiction: How have the different parts of the text been made clear?
- Non-fiction: Why is there a contents page/index/glossary?
- Non-fiction: What kind of text is this? How do you know?

These questions will help your child think about how the text is structured, organised and presented.

- What does…tell you about how the speaker is feeling?
- What effect has the author created? How?
- What do the onomatopoeic words tell you?
- What does…mean?
- Find a metaphor that helps you visualise… What makes it effective?
- Non-fiction: Which bullet points are facts and which are opinions? How do you know?
- Non-fiction: Why does this book contain technical vocabulary?
- Non-fiction: why do we need a glossary in a text?

These questions will help your child think about why the writer has used particular words and phrases.

- Which is the most exciting part of the story?
- What did you learn about…from…?
- Why is the story called…?
- Why did s/he explain…in this way?
- What impression does the writer give of…'s character? What makes you feel this?
- Why did the writer choose (these words) to describe?
- Why does the author begin with…? How does this make you want to read on?
- Has the writer got one clear viewpoint on…? How do you know?
- Non-fiction: Why has the writer written this text? What do you think he/she thinks about the topic?
- Non-fiction: Have you found any of the illustrations, diagrams or pictures useful? Why/why not? Try to explain fully
- Non-fiction: What makes this text successful?

These questions will help your child think about the writers' purpose and point of view and the overall effect of the text on the reader.

- How can you recognise the attitude of this character?
- How would you describe this story? (eg traditional tale?)
- Have you read any other poems/ stories by…?
- What type of text is this paragraph/page?
- What happened during…? Does that help you to understand the writer's (second) paragraph? (How?)