



DEVELOPING BOOK TALK AT HOME



Give/explain the meaning of words in context

- What does this ... word/phrase/sentence ... tell you about ... character/setting/mood etc?
- The writer uses words like ... to describe ... What does this tell you about a character or setting?
- What other words/phrases could the author have used?
- How has the writer made you and/or character feel ... happy/sad/angry/frustrated/lonely/bitter etc?

Retrieve and record information/identify key details from fiction and non-fiction

- Where does the story take place?
- Who are the characters in the book?
- What happened in the story?
- What part of the story do you like best?

Summarise main ideas from more than one paragraph

- What's the main point in this paragraph?
- Can you sum up what happens in this paragraph?
- Which is the most important point in these paragraphs? How many times is it mentioned?

Make inferences from the text/ explain and justify inferences with evidence from the text

- What makes you think ...?
- How do you feel about ...?
- Can you explain why ...?
- What do these words mean and why do you think the author chose them?

Predict what might happen from details stated and implied

- Can you think of another story, which has a similar theme, eg: good over evil; weak over strong; wise over foolish? Do you think this story will go the same way?
- Do you know of another story which deals with the same issues, eg: social; moral; cultural? Could this happen in this story?
- Which stories have openings like this? Do you think this story will develop in the same way?
- How is character X like someone you know? Do you think they will react in the same way?

Identify/explain how meaning is enhanced through choice of words and phrases

- What does this ... word/phrase/sentence ... tell you about ... character/setting/mood etc?
- Highlight a key phrase or line. By writing a line in this way what effect has the author created?
- What other words/phrases could the author have used?
- Which words do you think are most important? Why?

Identify/explain how information/narrative content is related and contributes to meaning as a whole

- Explain why a character did something
- What are the clues that a character is liked/disliked/envied/feared/loved/hated etc ...?
- Why is X (character/setting/event) important to the story?
- What is the story (theme) underneath the story? Does this story have a moral or a message?

Make comparisons within the text

- Describe different characters' reactions to the same event in a story
- How is it similar to ...?
- How is it different to ...?
- Is it as good as ...?

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