

Generating rich discussions during reading time with the children is really important but easier said than done. Discussion helps children gain a deeper understanding of the book and to develop their critical thinking skills. It's really important that children can make a point and then justify it, using evidence from the text. Sometimes it is really hard to think up questions to ask about the text being read. The following are a handy guide to help you on your way.

Inferring

- Can you predict what is going to happen next? Why did you make that prediction? Can you point to something in the book that helped you make that prediction? OR What do you already know that helped you make that prediction?
- Why did the character do that?
- What did the author mean by?
- What's going to happen next?
- The character must be feeling *insert emotion*. Are there any clues that help us know that?

Summarising

- What is the problem to be solved in this story? Is there a solution?
- What has happened so far?
- In general, what is this story about?
- What do you wonder after reading so far?
- What is the most important point in this story or passage?

Synthesising

- Is there anything that you understand in a new way from reading this story?
- What idea's (concepts or feelings) are the most interesting to you? Why?
- Does (a historical event or personal experience) make more sense after reading this?
- Does this book make you think of anything that has happened to you? If so, what?
- Does this story remind you of anything else you have read? Can you make comparisons between the two?

Analysing

- What things would make everyone like this book?
- In what ways does the author make you feel as if you were there?
- What are some examples of rich, colourful, or great language that make this a good passage/book to read? How does the language add to the power of the story?
- How does the use of figurative language help to paint a picture?
- What are the critical points in the plot? How does the story unfold?

Critiquing

- What is believable/unbelievable about this text?
- Should other children read this? Why or why not?

- What important information do you think is missing?
- Would people in your life act this way?
- What would have made this story more interesting to read? Why?
- What are the words or phrases that you really liked or disliked? Why.

Basic Recall/Explicit Questioning

- Who is the main character in the story?
- Who are the other characters in the story?
- What is your favourite part of the chapter or book?
- Describe your favourite character.
- Where do you think the story takes place? Why do you think that?
- When do you think the story takes place? Why do you think that?
- What is the problem in this story?
- How is the problem solved?
- Why do you think the author wrote this story? What did he/she want you to lea