



Reading at home

Questions to ask your children when
listening to them read

To understand, describe, select or retrieve information, events or ideas from texts and use quotation and reference to text

| Fiction | Non-fiction |
|--|--|
| <p>Where does the story take place?</p> <p>-When did the story take place?</p> <p>-What did the character look like?</p> <p>-Where did the character live?</p> <p>-Who are the key characters in the book?</p> <p>-Who was the character that...?</p> <p>-What happened in the story?</p> <p>-What part tells the reader about...?</p> <p>-Explain something that happened at a specific point in the story?</p> <p>-Find one/two things that the character did in this part of the story?</p> | <p>What is the text about? What is the title? Who is the author?</p> <p>-What kind of things would you expect to see in this book?</p> <p>-Can you find examples of different features of this text type?</p> <p>-Find something that interests you from the text. Explain why.</p> <p>-Where would you look to find out what a technical word means?</p> <p>-What is on the cover of the book? What does this tell you about the content inside?</p> <p>-Where can you find an important piece of information about...?</p> <p>-What does this part of the text tell us about?</p> <p>-Which part of the text tells us about?</p> |

To deduce, infer or interpret information, events or ideas from texts

| Fiction | Non-fiction |
|---|--|
| <p>Why was ...important in the story/play?</p> <p>-If you were going to interview this character/author, which questions would you ask?</p> <p>-Which is your favourite part? Why?</p> <p>-Who would you like to meet most in the story? Why?</p> <p>-What do you think would happen next if the story carried on past the ending of the book?</p> <p>-Who was the storyteller? How do you know?</p> <p>-Predict what you think is going to happen next. Why do you think this?</p> <p>-Is this a place you could visit? Why/why not?</p> <p>-How is the main character feeling at the start/middle/end of the story? Why do they feel that way? Does this surprise you?</p> <p>-Tell me about what sort of character...was from the things they said/did?</p> <p>-What do you think...thoughts were at this point in the story?</p> <p>-Which is the most interesting/exciting /funniest/scariest part of the story? Why?</p> <p>-What do you think would have happened if...?</p> <p>-Did any of the characters show their feelings? How/why did they show their feelings?</p> <p>-How do you think it should have ended?</p> <p>-Can you tell me what word the poet might have used here? Why was ...important in the story/play</p> | <p>-Which parts of the book could help you find the information you need?</p> <p>-When would you use the contents page in the book?</p> <p>-When would you use the index page in the book?</p> <p>-What sort of person do you think would use this book?</p> <p>-When might someone use this book? Why?</p> <p>-Can you suggest ideas for other sections or chapters to go into the book?</p> <p>-Do you think the author of the book is an 'expert' about the topic of the book? Why/why not?</p> <p>-How do you know that...? Can you explain why...?</p> <p>-What do you think about/is your opinion of...? Can you support your view using evidence from the text?</p> |

To identify and comment on structure and organisation of texts, including grammatical and presentational features at text level

| Fiction | Non - fiction |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Were you surprised by the ending? Is it what you expected? Why/why not? -What is the main event of the story? Why do you think this? -How has the text been organised? -Why do you think authors use short sentences? -How did you think it would end/should end? -Has the author used an unusual layout in the text? Is so, describe it and say why you think they did this? -Has the author used a variety of sentence structures? -Has the author put certain words in bold or <i>italic</i>? Why have they done this? -Why does the author start a new paragraph here? -How does the layout of the play script help actors to read and perform the play? -How does the punctuation help you as the reader? -Can you find any repeated patterns in this poem? | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Can you find an example of a page you think has an interesting layout? Why did you choose it? -Why have some of the words been written in <i>italics</i>? -What are the subheadings for? -Why have some of the words been written in bold? -How does the layout help the reader? -What is the purpose of the pictures? How do they help you understand the information? -Can you find examples of words which tell you the order of something? -What kind of a text is this? How do you know? -Why have bullet points/numbers been used? -Why has this text been highlighted? -Why has some information been presented in a table? -What would be a good heading for this section? Why? |

To explain and comment on writers' use of language, including grammatical and literary features at word and sentence level.

| Fiction | Non-fiction |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Why did the author choose this title? -Do you want to read the rest of the text? How does the writer encourage you to read the rest of the text? -Can you find some examples of effective description? What makes them effective? -Which part of the story best describes the setting? -Can you find examples of powerful adjectives? What do they tell you about a character or setting? -Can you find examples of powerful adverbs? What do they tell you about a character, their actions or the setting? -Can you find examples of powerful verbs? What do they tell you about a character, their actions or the setting? -Find an example of a word you don't know the meaning of. Using the text around it, what do you think it means? - How has the author used words/phrases to make this character funny/sad/clever/frightening/excited/disappointed etc? -What do these words tell you about the character? -Which part of the story best describes the setting/characters/action? Which words/phrases do this? -Find some words or phrases that show us the character is helpful/adventurous/worried etc? -Do you notice anything special/unusual about the words the poet has used here? | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Why does this book contain technical vocabulary? -Find an example of a technical word. Read the sentence it's in. What do you think it means based on how it's used in the sentence? -What do these words tell you about...? -Is this writer an expert on...? How do you know? -Why do you think the author chose. as the title/sub-heading...? -Find something that is not a fact but the author's opinion? -Are there any examples of persuasive language? -Why do we need a glossary in a text? |

To identify and comment on writers' purposes and viewpoints, and the overall effect of the text on the reader

| Fiction | Non-fiction |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Did you enjoy this story/poem? Why/why not? Explain answer by referring to characters/events/how it made you feel. -Can you think of another story that has a similar theme eg good over evil, weak over strong, wise over foolish? -Why did the author choose this setting? -What makes this a successful story? What evidence do you have to justify your opinion? -How could the story be improved or changed for the better? -What was the most exciting part of the story? Explain your answer as fully as you can. -What genre is this story? How do you know? -What was the least exciting part of the story? Explain your answer as fully as you can. -When the author writes in short sentences, what does this tell you? | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Why has the writer written this text? -Have you found any of the illustrations, diagrams or pictures useful? Why/why not? Try to explain fully -Why did the writer choose to present the information in the way they did? -How does the writer try to persuade you to...? -Which information/facts does the writer include to make you believe that...? -Why does the writer say/writes...? -How could the information be presented better? -What makes this text successful? -Are there any features that it hasn't got? Why do you think it doesn't have them? -Can you think of another text that is similar to this one? What are the similarities and differences between them? -The writer says do you agree/disagree? Why? |

To relate texts to their social, cultural and historical traditions

| Fiction | Non-fiction |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Do you know another story, which deals with the same issues eg social, cultural, moral issues? -Have you ever been in a similar situation to a character in the book? What happened? -How would you have felt in the same situation? -What would you have done differently to the character in a particular situation from the book? -How would you feel if you were treated in the same way as the main character? -What did the story make you think of? -Have you read any other stories that have similar characters to this one? If so, which story was it and what happened? -Do you think this book is trying to give the reader a message? If so, what is it? -When do you think this story is written? Why? -In which country do you think this story takes place? Why? -Does the setting remind you of another setting? Why? -Many traditional tales have messages. What do you think this story is trying to tell us? | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What kind of a text is? How do you know? -Do you know of any other texts with similar issues/themes? |