Stretching Your Child’s Understanding

Fiction Questions

Fiction contains characters, settings, problems, and solutions. There are real lessons that you can learn from fiction stories. Your child should always be thinking about the character’s actions and feelings. Here are some sample questions to ask your reader at home before, during, and after reading the text. Feel free to ask other questions as well!

Before Reading

• What predictions can you make about what will happen?
• What do you already know about ____________?
• What clues does the title give you about the story?
• Is this text fiction or nonfiction? How do you know?

During Reading

• What predictions can you make for the rest of the story?
• What is the setting of the story? How do you know?
• How has the main character changed so far in the story?
• What character traits would you use to describe the main character(s)? (Friendly? Greedy? Brave? Kind?)
• What is the main character trying to do? Do you think he or she will be successful?
• Tell me what happened first, next, and last in the story?
• What do you understand from what you just read?

After Reading

• Who are the main characters in this story?
• Which character has a problem? How do you know? What was the solution to the problem?
• What is the setting of this story? How do you know?
• Why do you think the author picked this place as the setting?
• When does the story take place? How do you know?
• What character traits would you use to describe the main character(s)? (Compassionate? Mean? Strong?)
• What life lesson have you learned from this story?
• What connections can you make to the story? (main character)?
• Was this book written in sequence order or does it go back and forth in time? Explain your thinking.
• How was the character feeling when ____________ happened? How do you know?
• Tell me what happened first, next, and last in the story.
• Can you summarize what you just read into only one or two sentences?
• Which of your predictions were correct? What information from the text tells you that you are correct?