



## **Helping your child with Reading in Key Stage Two**

To help you support your child's comprehension skills at home, we have created a list of questions you may find useful. They are linked to the areas that we use to assess how well your child understands the text.

### **The meaning of words in context:**

- The writer uses words like ... to describe .... What does this suggest about... (character/setting)?
- What other words/phrases could the author have used?
- Which word most closely matches the meaning of the word x?
- The writer uses ...words/phrases...to describe ... How does this make you feel?
- Give the meaning of the word..... in this sentence

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

- Where/when does the story take place?
- What did s/he/it look like?
- Who are the characters in the book?
- Where in the book would you find...?
- What happened in the story?
- Who is telling the story? How do you know?
- Which part of the story best describes the setting?
- What part of the story do you like best? Find evidence to support your opinion.
- What was revealed at .... (beginning, middle, end, paragraph)

### **Summarise main ideas from more than one paragraph.**

- What's the main point in this paragraph?
- Can you sum up what happens in these three/four/five... paragraphs?
- Which is the most important point in these paragraphs? How many times is it mentioned?
- Write sub-headings for each paragraph

### **Inferences - explanation and justification with evidence from the text:**

- What makes you think that?
- Which words give you that impression?
- How can you tell that...?
- Can you explain why...?
- Explain what x (phrase with challenging vocabulary) suggests about x.
- What does this... word/phrase/sentence... imply about... (character/setting/mood)?

### **Predict what might happen from details stated and implied:**

- Can you think of another story, which has a similar theme; e.g. 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; e.g. 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?
- Why did the author choose this setting? Will that influence how the story develops?

**Identify/explain how information/narrative content is related and contributes to meaning:**

- Why did the character do that?
- What are the clues that a character is liked/disliked/envied/feared/loved/hated etc...?
- Why is 'x' (character/setting/event) important in the story?
- What is the story (theme) underneath the story? Does this story have a moral or a message?
- Why do you think the author chose to use a... question/bullet/subheading/table etc to present the information?
- How does the title/layout encourage you to read on/find information?
- Where does it tell you that...(could be information contained in headings/glossaries/labels etc.)?
- Why has the writer written/organised the text in this way?

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

- What does the word 'x' tell you about 'y'?
- 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?
- In the story, 'x' is mentioned a lot. Why?
- What other words/phrases could the author have used?
- The writer uses ...words/phrases to describe ... How does this make you feel?
- What do you think the writer meant by... 'x'?
- The author makes an action/description 'like' something else. Why?
- How has the writer made you and/or character feel ...happy /sad/angry/frustrated/lonely/bitter etc?
- What do these words mean and why do you think the author chose them?

**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 ...?
- Which is better and why?
- Compare and contrast different character/settings/themes in the text
- What do you think about the way information is organised in different parts of the text? Is there a reason for why this has been done?