Further Reading Activities

Here are some activities you could try to vary reading time at home.

a) Drawing

- Create your own illustrations/draw one of the characters.
- Design an alternative front cover.
- Draw a map of the location(s) within the story.

b) Become the author

- Turn part of the story into a play/write an alternative ending.
- Extend the story – what would happen in the next chapter?
- Write the story from another character's point of view.

c) Summarising

- Write your own book blurb for the back cover.
- Tell the story as a series of cartoon pictures.
- Make a storyboard (the author may have done this when planning the story) – identify the main events in the story.
- Can you tell the story in 6 sentences/100 words etc?

d) Non-fiction

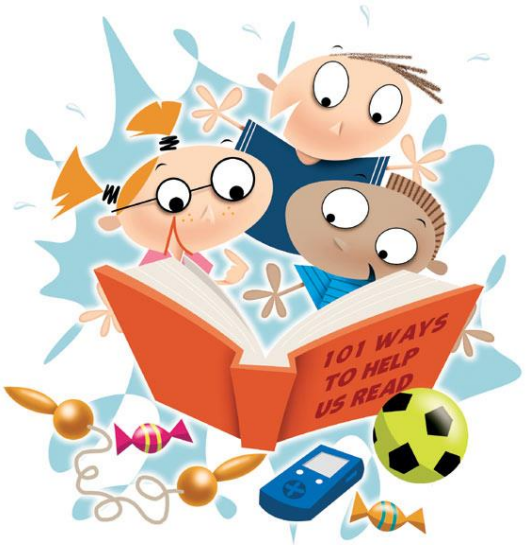
- Write down 3 new facts you have learnt from the text.
- Practise using the index/contents pages to find information.
- Make your own quiz based on the information.
- Make your own glossary/dictionary based on new words.

e) Other ideas

- Find other books by the same author or in the same series.
- Revisit old favourites.
- Listen to taped stories – use your imagination to create the pictures.
- When reading aloud, develop voices for particular characters.

Visit www.lovereading4kids.co.uk for great suggestions of authors and books that would be appropriate for/interest your child. It also features 'Top 10 Books', 'Author of the Month', 'Books of the Month', 'Books for Reluctant Readers' and many more categories, giving you the opportunity to read extracts of the books to help to choose. You do need to register with the website but registration is free and quick to do.

Helping Your Child to continue to develop as a Reader



Questions to help develop reading

Here are some generic questions you could ask to help your child develop their understanding of the text further.

Questions to help a reader understand, describe, retrieve events/ ideas from texts and refer to the text to help them (strand 2)

- Where and when did it take place?
- Where did he/she live?
- What did he/she look like?
- Describe what happened at …….
- Who spoke to…. and what did they say?

Questions to help deduce, infer or interpret information/events/ ideas (strand 3)

- How did a character feel when..?
- Why did the character act in that way?
- What was the character thinking when…? How do you know? Try and support your ideas with actual words from the text.
- What does this conversation tell you about the character?
- If this character was you, how would you or your friends react?
- Can you predict what might happen next? Why?
- If ……had happened, what might the ending have been?

Questions to help identify and comment on the structure and organisation of the texts (strand 4)

- Why has the author started at this point in the story?
- What's the difference between the index and the contents?
- Where could you find out about……?
- How do the headings help you when you scan a text?
- Give two ways that this text is written like a diary, report etc
- What is the most important point of the paragraph/section?
- Why has the author repeated the phrase……?

Questions to help explain and comment on the writers' use of language (strand 5)

- What does this word/phrase mean?
- Which **words** tell you that the author is describing ……?
- Discuss use of italics, exclamation marks, words in capitals etc.
- How is a certain character described? How does that make you feel about him/her?
- What has the author used in the text to make the character funny/sad/angry etc?
- Why has the author used lots of questions in this information text?
- How has the author created tension/suspense/excitement?

Questions to help identify and comment on the writers' purpose and viewpoint, and the overall effect of the text on the reader. (strand 6)

- Who is telling the story? How do you know?
- Why did the author write from that characters point of view?
- How has the author made you feel… about a certain character?
- What do you think the writer's opinion is? How do you know?
- What does the author want to persuade you to think?
- Why did the author choose this setting?
- Discuss facts and opinion in the text.

Questions to help relate texts to social, cultural and historical contexts and literary traditions. (strand 7)

- Can you think of another story where good triumphs over evil?
- What type of writing is this?
- When is this book set? What clues in the text tell you this?
- Discuss historic events when reading something with an historical setting.

Discussing Personal Responses

- How did you feel while reading the book? Why?
- What was the most exciting/strangest/funniest/saddest part?
- When you were reading, did you feel part of the story or did you feel more like an observer?