Reading Strategies

Here are some ideas of questions you can ask your child before, during and after reading any book which will help with their comprehension.

Before

* How does the cover make you feel?
* Who do you see on the cover?
* What do you think the story will be about?
* How do you know that?
* Have you ever \_\_\_\_\_ (insert whatever they say about what they think will happen)?
* Do you think this story will be fiction or nonfiction? How can you tell that from the cover?
* What’s your prediction?

During

* What do you think will happen next?
* Where do you think they will go now?
* What should he/she do next?
* What would you do?
* Discuss the meaning of any new/tricky words. What do you think the words mean?

After

* Explain what do you think the author’s purpose for writing the book was?
* Where was the setting?
* What happened at the beginning? Middle? Ending?
* What did you like about it (favourite part)?
* What did you dislike about the book (least favourite part)?
* Would you recommend this book to others? Why?
* Which parts of the story could be improved?

The following links will give you lists of recommended books organised by age category. Most should be available in your local library.

[100 best books for children | BookTrust](https://www.booktrust.org.uk/books-and-reading/our-recommendations/100-best-books/)

[The Reader Teacher Bookshop UK](https://uk.bookshop.org/shop/TheReaderTeacher)

Follow-Up Activities

The following activities could be completed once finished reading a book:

* Design a new front cover for the story – remember to include the title, author and illustrator.
* Write a summary of the story. Remember to include only the important parts of what happened at the beginning, middle and end.
* Draw a picture of a character or setting from the book. For extension, find evidence and quotes from the book to support what you have drawn.
* Write a book review, remembering to give it a star rating and to say why you would / would not recommend this book to others.
* Draw a picture of your favourite part of the story.
* Re-write the story from the perspective of a different character in the book.
* Re-tell the story in your own words to someone else at home.
* Think of, or find another story that is similar to this one.