

READING COMPREHENSION

HOW TO HELP YOUR CHILD UNDERSTAND WHAT THEY READ



Literal

- Find a part that tells about ____.
- What happened at the beginning/middle/end of the story?
- Who was in the story? Where did it take place?
- What problem did ____ (name of character) have? How did he/she solve it?
- What are the most important things to remember about ____ (this book/topic)?
- What facts did you learn from this book?

Inferential

- ____ (name of character) is very happy in this story but it doesn't say that. How can you tell he/she is happy?
- After reading this book, why do you think someone might want to be a (name occupation of character)?
- How are the characters the same? How are they different?
- Tell me what ____ (word from book) means. How did you know?
- What does the title tell you about this story?
- Look at this photograph. What does it tell you?
- Why do you think this (point to word in book) is written in such big, black letters? Is the character speaking in a quiet voice or a loud voice?

Personal/Critical

- Has anything like this ever happened to you? Could this ever happen to you? Why or why not?
- What would you say if you were the character in this book?
- What did you already know about ____ (topic)? What did you learn that was new?
- Did you like this book? Why or why not?
- Show me your favourite picture. Why is it your favourite?
- Is this a story or an information book? How can you tell?
- Why might someone want to write an information book about ____ (topic)?



If your child struggles with comprehension, try ...

- Making mental pictures of what is happening
- Backing up and rereading from the spot where they lost track of what was happening
- Asking questions as they read
- Making connections between the book and their own life
- Thinking about what they already know to help them understand what is happening
- Predicting what will happen next and revising guesses as they go along
- Thinking about literary elements: genre, plot, character, setting, problem/resolution
- Learning how to read non-fiction text by using the table of contents, index, headings and captions
- Understanding different characters' point of views
- Increasing vocabulary
- Recognizing characteristics of different authors
- Retelling what happened in the beginning, middle and end
- Asking "Would I recommend this book to a friend? Why?"
- Thinking about how characters changed from the beginning of the book to the end and why
- Using nonfiction text to do research