

Supporting Comprehension

Talking to your child about what they have been reading independently or what you have been reading together is a wonderful opportunity to make connections with your lives, develop concepts and understandings and talk about opinions and reactions. Different types of questions and involvement in discussions will allow your child to respond to texts, build concepts, clarify meaning, explore issues, share perspectives and refine thinking.

Literal Questions

Literal level questions focus on what was said. The answer is 'right there' in the text, illustrations or diagrams. It is helpful to follow up these types of questions with further discussion that requires your child to clarify and substantiate their answer.

Inferential Questions

The answers to inferential questions can be found in the text but not necessarily in the one place. Your child has to 'put the answer together' from various sections of the text or even between two different texts, e.g. "How was ... similar to or different from ...?"

Interpretive Questions

Interpretive questions require your child to base the answer on the text but also draw on their own previous experiences to reach an answer, e.g. "From what you know about ... was ... a good idea?"

Critical or Evaluative Questions

These questions go beyond the text, asking for the child's own opinions or judgements. The text provides a starting point for discussions about the underlying messages or themes in the text, e.g. "What is your reaction to...? What is your opinion about ...?"

Book discussions should be a fun way for you and your child to explore the text and to stimulate further discussions.