

The following are a number of questions that you can ask your child in order to determine whether they understand what they are reading. They range from quite simple knowledge questions to more complex analysis questions. **These are, by no means, to be used all at once**, but just give you an idea of the wide range of questions that you could ask your child after they have finished their home reading. **These are merely a guide.**

### CHRONOLOGICAL ORDER

Ask questions which require them to use skill of sequencing in order to form an answer. Be sure they are able to prove their answer by showing pages, pictures, etc... within the story (text).

- What happened just BEFORE \_\_\_\_\_?
- What happened just AFTER \_\_\_\_\_?
- What happened first, last, etc...?
- What happened between \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_?
- What is the first, second, third, last, etc... step in \_\_\_\_\_?

### PROBLEM/SOLUTION

Ask questions which require them to identify the problem and solution in the story (text). Make sure they support their answer with facts and details from the story (text).

What was the problem in the story?

How was the problem solved?

**\*Remember to ask "Why!"**

## MAIN IDEA

Ask questions which require them to find the main idea of a story (text). Make sure they support their answer using facts and details from the story (text).

What is the main idea of the story?

Describe what the story is mostly about in 10 words or less.

Would \_\_\_\_\_ be a good title for the story? Why?

What do you think would be another good title for the story?  
Why?

\*Remember to ask "Why!"

## RETELLING

Ask them to retell a part of the story (text). Make sure they retell the story with the proper story elements. Remember to use specific information from the text. Stop them if they begin to make up information.

Retell the part of the story from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_;

Retell your favorite part of the story.

In your own words, what happened in the beginning, middle, or end of the story?

## FACT/DETAIL

Ask questions which require them to recognize facts and details from the story (text). Make sure they use **specific** information from the story (text).

Who?      What?      Where?      When?      Why?  
   Which?      How?

## COMPARE & CONTRAST

Ask questions which require them to recognize the use of comparison and contrast in story (text). Make sure they support their examples with facts and details from the story (text).

How are \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ ALIKE?

How is \_\_\_\_\_ DIFFERENT from \_\_\_\_\_?

How are you SIMILAR to the character(s)?

How are you DIFFERENT from the character(s)?

What is one DIFFERENCE between \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_?

**\*Remember to ask "WHY!"**

## AUTHOR'S PURPOSE

Ask questions which require them to recognize why the author wrote the story (text). Make sure they can justify their answers.

Why do you think the author wrote the story, article, etc...?

Is the author trying to explain or show you how to do something?

Is the author trying to entertain you or make you feel happy?

Is the author trying to make you think like him/her?

Is the author trying to teach you about something?

Examples of Author's Purpose:

Show, Entertain, Persuade, Inform

## VOCABULARY

Ask questions which require them to determine the correct meaning of a word in context (within text). Have them justify their answers.

What does \_\_\_\_\_ mean?

What does the word \_\_\_\_\_ mean?

Can you think of another word that means the same as \_\_\_\_\_?

Can you think of a word that means the opposite of \_\_\_\_\_?

What do you think the word means by looking at the clues (pictures, words around the unfamiliar word)?

### CAUSE & EFFECT

Ask questions which require them to describe the cause or effect of an action or event within the story (text). Make sure they prove their answers using facts and details from the story (text).

What caused \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_?

What happened because of \_\_\_\_\_?

What effect did \_\_\_\_\_ have on \_\_\_\_\_?

What might happen if \_\_\_\_\_?

What is the effect of \_\_\_\_\_?

Why did the character \_\_\_\_\_?

What were the results of \_\_\_\_\_?

\*Remember to ask "WHY!"

## FACT/OPINION

Ask questions which require them to differentiate between fact and opinion in story (text).

Is \_\_\_\_\_ a fact/opinion from the story? Why?

Tell me one fact/opinion from the story?

Tell me one fact/opinion about you?

\*Remember: a fact is something one can prove (colors, size, shape, etc..) and an opinion can not be proven (emotions, feelings, etc..).

## PLOT DEVELOPMENT/RESOLUTION

Ask questions which require them to identify plot development and/or problem resolution in the story.

What problem did the character face?

What happens that causes the character to change from the beginning to the end of the story?

How is the problem solved in the story?

What events lead to the resolution of the problem in the story?

\*Remember to support your answers using details from the text.

## MULTIPLE REPRESENTATION OF INFORMATION

Ask questions which require them to use a variety of reference materials, including multiple representation of information such as maps, charts, captions, and pictures to gather information.

According to the maps/charts/captions/ or pictures...

Who? What? Where? When? How? Why?

## SIMILARITIES/DIFFERENCES

Ask questions which require them to find similarities and differences in characters, settings, and events presented in various texts.

How are \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ ALIKE?

How is \_\_\_\_\_ DIFFERENT from \_\_\_\_\_?

How is \_\_\_\_\_ both SIMILAR to and DIFFERENT from \_\_\_\_\_?

What is one DIFFERENCE between \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_?

How is \_\_\_\_\_ dissimilar to \_\_\_\_\_?

How did the character change from the beginning of the story until the end?