



Darell Primary and Nursery School

Supporting your child to discuss, review and recommend books

One of our three big goals across the school is 'For every child at Darell Nursery and Primary School to love reading.' Possibly the most important reading skill is comprehension. If readers can read the words but do not understand or connect to what they are reading, then they will miss out on the huge pleasures that reading can bring.



Below is a list of suggested questions that can be asked to elicit feedback and check your child understands what they are reading. This is a long list: it is not intended that every question should be asked every time as this might interrupt the flow of the story.

Before reading a new book

- Look at the front cover. What do you think the story might be about?
- What kind of book do you think this is going to be?
- What is the title?
- Who is the author/illustrator?
- What job does an author/illustrator do?

Questions to ask as the reader progresses through the book



Setting

- Where did the story happen? Early Years: provide a choice - Is the story at the seaside or in the city? How do you know?
- Are there passages in the book that are especially about the place where the story is set? What did you like, or dislike, about them?
- Was the setting interesting in itself? What would you like to know about it?

Characters

- Who are the most important/key characters in the book? Early Years: Can you remember the names of the people / animals in the story?
- What did he/she look like?
- Which character interested you the most? Why?
- Which character(s) didn't you like?
- Did any of the characters remind you of people you know? Or remind you of characters in other books?

Events

- Who did.....?
- When did...?
- What happened when...?
- How did....?
- What happened to...?
- Why did ...?

Predicting

- What do you think will happen next? What makes you think this?
- What is happening? What do you think happened before? What will happen after?



Solving

- What would happen if ...? (the big billy goat had crossed the bridge first)

Vocabulary/Author's choice of words

- Find a word that means _____. Early Years: what does ... mean?
- What does the word ____ mean in this sentence?
- What does this word/phrase mean?
- Which word best describes the character/setting/mood?
- When you were reading, did you 'see' the story happening in your imagination? Which details - which passages - helped you 'see' it best? Which passages stay in your mind most vividly?

After reading a book or chapter

- Can you retell what has happened in your own words?
- What happened in the beginning/middle/end? Early Years: what happened first? What happened after ... ?
- Can you summarise in a sentence the beginning/middle/end of the story?
- How long did this story take to happen? How do you know?



Expressing opinions

- What was your favourite part? Why?
- Was there anything you liked about this book?
- Were there any parts you didn't like? Why?
- When you first saw the book, even before you read it, what kind of book did you think it was going to be? What made you think this? Now you've read it, is it as you expected? If you had written this book, how would you have made it better?
- What will you tell your friends about this book?
- What won't you tell them because it might spoil the book for them? Or might mislead them about what it is like?
- Would you like to read it again? Why? Why not?
- Who do you think would especially like this book? Why?

Making Links

- Have you read other books like it? How is this one the same? How is it different?
- Does this book remind you of anything that has happened to you?
- Can you think of another story that has a similar theme e.g. good over evil, defeating the enemy, accomplishing a goal, discovering a new world
- Early Years: have you been to the zoo / forest / seaside? What did you see / hear?