

Reading with children currently on reading bands

- Encourage good use of punctuation when reading aloud e.g. pausing at a full stop/comma, varying tone of voice, including when inverted commas (speech marks) are used.
- From the cover, what do you think this text is going to be about?
- Ask them to retell the story or tell you the main points.
- Scan the text to find particular words/phrases, e.g. Find one word in the text that means...
- Ask them about the setting, e.g. What does it look like? What would you feel/smell if you were there?
- Ask them to describe the characters. What do they look like? How do they behave?
- Can they describe a similarity and/or a difference between two characters?
- Discuss the features of the text, e.g. rhyming words, layout, tense, language used etc.
- Ask them for their opinions, encouraging them to pick out words or phrases from the text to justify their ideas.
- Who is telling the story?

Reading with 'free readers'

- Ask them to summarise the story and to identify the main points. Find the word that is closest in meaning to...
- Ask them to compare different settings, using evidence from the text to support their ideas, e.g. How has the environment changed? How is the author creating a different mood?
- Explore the characters' feelings, motives and behaviour, providing evidence from the text, e.g. How do you know they are feeling...? Why did he/she behave this way?
- Ask them to give opinions, encouraging them to select several phrases from different parts of the text to justify their ideas.
- Explore the structure and organisation of the text, considering why the author has made certain decisions, e.g. How has the author built suspense? Why has the author chosen to record the events in this order?
- Ask them to comment on the author's choice of language and the resulting effect on the reader.
- Talk about the author's viewpoint and how this affects the reader.
- Encourage them to identify similarities and differences between texts and versions, giving reasons for their opinions.