

Reading with understanding is vital to a child's enjoyment of books. At school, we not only teach the children how to read but ensure that they understand what they are reading. Parents and carers often ask how they can help with this too, so we have provided a selection of questions below that you might like to use. Each section addresses a different reading focus. Please dip into the questions when you hear your child read but please don't ask all the questions at once!

**To understand, describe, select or retrieve information, events or ideas from texts and use quotation and reference to text**

**Suggested KS1 questions**

Which word told you that ...? e.g. Which word told you that the teddy was sad?

What did .... do/ask? e.g. What did the girl do when she lost her toy?

What happened at ....? e.g. What happened at the supermarket?

What extra information did the picture add?

What does .... mean? - choose a harder word and ask what it means

What do/did ....? e.g. what did the children do after their picnic?

Where/when are ....? e.g. Where re the children going?

What did .../you find out about ..? e.g. what did you find out about making cupcakes?

Describe.. - settings / characters

Where did .... go? e.g. Where did the children go at the end of the story?

**To deduce, infer or interpret information, events or ideas from texts**

Why did .....? e.g. why did the girl look sad?

What words tell us .....? e.g. which words tell us that mummy was worried?

Why do you think .....? e.g. why do you think she smiled at the end of the story?

How can you tell ....? e.g. How can you tell that the cat is excited?

When does this story begin? e.g. clues to the time of day / night

What does ... think/feel? (How do you know?)

**To identify and comment on the structure and organisation of texts, including grammatical and presentational features**

### **Suggested KS1 Questions**

Why has the information been presented in this way? e.g. bullet points / subheadings / numbers / chapters

Why are ... used? e.g. bullet points / subheadings / captions / contents / index

Why is .... in bold?

What does the list tell you?

Why does the author use ...? e.g. bold / italics/ capitals / exclamation marks

Why does each instruction have a number?

**To explain and comment on writers' use of language, including grammatical and literary features**

### **Suggested KS1 Questions**

Which poem was more effective ..? (e.g. creating a picture of night?)

Why did the author use ...? (e.g. rhymes, repetition)

What words told you how ..... was feeling?

What do these words, ....., tell us about .....?

Why did the author choose the words ..... and .....?

On page ..... it says ..... What does this tell you about the setting?

How was it different when you read the poem aloud?

**To identify and comment on writers' purposes and viewpoints, and the overall effect of the text on the reader**

### **Suggested KS1 Questions**

This story is both sad and happy. Explain why.

What did you like about the text/story?

What was the main purpose of the text?

Does the author like ....? How do you know?

What is the main idea of the story?

Which text is more useful for ...?

Which text did you prefer? Why?

What kind of text is in the boxes?

**To relate texts to their social, cultural and historical contexts and literary traditions**

### **Suggested KS1 Questions**

What else do you know by the author?

Did anything surprise you in this retelling of the story?

How did you know ....? e.g. the wolf would be bad?)

How was ... (animal) rather like a human in the story?

What characters were in the story that we find in traditional tales?

What features did you find that told you this was a ....?

How was the video version of the story different from the book?

How was the information in the text different from the picture?