



St Thomas of Canterbury Catholic Primary School

Where every child is special

Example questions to ask your child about their reading



EYFS - Fiction

Introduction	Choosing the book	Before you read the book
<p>When reading with a child take the time to question them throughout the time that you are listening to them. These questions are included as a guide. Plan to use two or three of them (as appropriate) to initiate discussion about the text. Any answers/ observations can be included in the reading record.</p> <p>Encourage your child to develop their opinion about books by encouraging them to explain their reasons</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Why did you choose this book to read? 2. Did you like the picture on the front? 3. Did you choose it because it is about ... (eg. Trains, cats, etc) 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Can you point to the title? or What is this? (pointing to the title) 2. What do you think this story will be about? 3. What might happen in the story? 4. Who is in the story? 5. Talk about the different parts of the book (eg. Front cover, back cover, title, author, illustrator)
While you are reading the book	At the end of the book	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What is happening here? 2. What is _____ doing? 3. What might happen next? 4. How do you think the story might end? 5. Is _____ friendly/ unkind/ helpful? 6. What does _____ mean? (To check understanding of a word) 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Did you like this book? Why? 2. What was your favourite part? Why? 3. What was the funniest, most exciting part of the story? 4. Which character did you like the best? Why? 5. Why did that character do ... (give a situation/ event from the story)? 6. What happened in the story? 7. Can you think of a different ending for the story? 8. Would you recommend this book to a friend? Why? 	
Key vocabulary to use in your questions		
Story Book Character Setting Plot Author	Illustrator Title Sub-title Contents Index Glossary	Headings Sub-headings Beginning Middle End Bold
		Page Italic Under-lined Pictures/ illustrations Predict Front cover Back cover Fiction Non-fiction Information Blurb



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EYFS – Non-Fiction

Introduction	Choosing the book	Before you read the book	
<p>When reading with a child take the time to question them throughout the time that you are listening to them. These questions are included as a guide. Plan to use two or three of them (as appropriate) to initiate discussion about the text. Any answers/ observations can be included in the reading record.</p> <p>Encourage your child to develop their opinion about books by encouraging them to explain their reasons</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Why did you choose this book to read? 2. Did you like the picture on the front? 3. Did you choose it because it is about ... (eg. Trains, cats, etc) 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Can you point to the title? or What is this? (pointing to the title) 2. Can you find a sub-title? 3. Talk about the different parts of the book (eg. Front cover, back cover, title, author, illustrator) 	
While you are reading the book	At the end of the book		
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What does _____ mean? (To check understanding of a word) 2. What is this page for? (pointing to the Index/Contents/Glossary) 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Which section did you like best? Where can we find that on the contents page? 2. Is there a glossary? What can we find there? (<i>word meanings</i>) 3. What was your favourite fact? What else did you learn? 4. How can we find out about.....? (<i>look at the index</i>) 5. Was there a diagram or table in the book? What did it tell us? 6. Which picture or photograph did you like in the book? 7. Was there a caption with the picture? What does it say? 8. Have you read other books about this topic? 9. Would you recommend this book to a friend? Why? 		
Key vocabulary to use in your questions			
Story Book Character Setting Plot Author	Illustrator Title Sub-title Contents Index Glossary	Headings Sub-headings Beginning Middle End Bold Page Italic Under-lined Pictures/ illustrations Predict Front cover	Back cover Fiction Non-fiction Information Blurb



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Year 1 – Fiction

Introduction	Choosing the book	Before you read the book		
<p>When reading with a child take the time to question them throughout the time that you are listening to them. These questions are included as a guide. Plan to use two or three of them (as appropriate) to initiate discussion about the text. Any answers/ observations can be included in the reading record.</p> <p>Encourage your child to develop their opinion about books by encouraging them to explain their reasons</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Why did you choose this book? 5. Did you like the picture on the front? 6. Have you read other books by this author? 7. Did you choose it because it is about ... (eg. Trains, cats, etc) 8. What could this book be about? 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Can you point to the title? or What is this? (pointing to the title) 5. What do you think this story will be about? What might happen in the story? 6. What do we call the writing on the back of the book? (Blurb) or What does the blurb tell us? 7. Talk about the different parts of the book (eg. Front cover, back cover, title, author, illustrator) 		
While you are reading the book	At the end of the book			
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Tell me what is happening in the pictures? 4. What has happened so far? Is it what you expected to happen? 5. What might happen next? How do you think the story might end? 6. What sort of character is....? Is he/she friendly/ mean...? 7. Ask children about events in the story: How would you feel if you had been that character? Has anything like that happened to you? Would you like that to happen to you? 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What was your favourite part? Why 2. What was the most interesting/ exciting part of the book? Can you find it? 3. What sort of character is....? 4. Why did that character do ... (give a situation/ event from the story)? 5. What happened in the story? 6. Are there any words or phrases that you enjoyed? 7. Did the pictures help you to understand the story better? 8. Would you still read this book if it did not have pictures? Why? 9. Are there any parts of the book that are repeated? Why do you think that the author did that? 10. Who are the main characters in the story? What character would you like to be? 11. Why are some words written in capital letters? Italics? Bold print? Different colour? 12. Would you like to read another story by this author or illustrator? 13. Have you read any other books like this one? 14. Does this book remind you of any other stories, or TV programmes/ DVDs? 15. Does this story remind you of anything that has happened to you? 16. Tell me about some other books that you have read recently. 17. Did you like this book? Why? 			
Key vocabulary to use in your questions				
Story Book Character Setting Plot Author	Illustrator Title Contents Index Glossary Headings	Sub-headings Beginning Middle End Bold Page	Italic Under-lined Pictures/ illustrations Predict Front cover Back cover	Publisher Fiction Non-fiction Information Blurb



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Year 1 – Non-Fiction

Introduction	Choosing the book	Before you read the book
<p>When reading with a child take the time to question them throughout the time that you are listening to them. These questions are included as a guide. Plan to use two or three of them (as appropriate) to initiate discussion about the text. Any answers/ observations can be included in the reading record.</p> <p>Encourage your child to develop their opinion about books by encouraging them to explain their reasons</p>	<p>9. Why did you choose this book? 10. Did you like the picture on the front? 11. Did you choose it because it is about ... (eg. Trains, cats, etc)</p>	<p>8. Can you point to the title? or What is this? (pointing to the title) 9. What do we call the writing on the back of the book? (Blurb) or What does the blurb tell us? 10. Talk about the different parts of the book (eg. Front cover, back cover, title, author, illustrator) 11. Where would you find something specific (eg can the child use the Contents page or index to locate information?)</p>
While you are reading the book	At the end of the book	
<p>8. Tell me what is happening in the pictures? 9. What facts have you read? Have you learnt anything new? 10. What does this page tell you about? 11. Is there anything that interests you on this page? 12. Where would you go to find information about...?</p>	<p>18. What was your favourite part? Why 19. What was the most interesting/ exciting part of the book? Can you find it? 20. Are there any words or phrases that you enjoyed? 21. Did the pictures help you to understand the facts better? 22. Would you still read this book if it did not have pictures? Why? 23. Are there any parts of the book that are repeated? Why do you think that the author did that? 24. Why are some words written in capital letters? Italics? Bold print? Different colour? 25. Have you read any other books like this one? 26. Does this book remind you of any other stories, or TV programmes/ DVDs? 27. Tell me about some other books that you have read recently. 28. Did you like this book? Why?</p>	
Key vocabulary to use in your questions		
<p>Story Book Character Setting Plot Author</p>	<p>Illustrator Title Contents Index Glossary Headings</p>	<p>Sub-headings Beginning Middle End Bold Page Italic Under-lined Pictures/ illustrations Predict Front cover Back cover Publisher Fiction Non-fiction Information Blurb</p>



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Year 2 – Fiction

Retrieval	Inference and Deduction	Structure and Organisation
<p>R1 Where does the story take place?</p> <p>R2 When did the story take place?</p> <p>R3 What did the character look like?</p> <p>R4 Where did the character live?</p> <p>R5 Who are key characters in the book?</p> <p>R6 What happened in the story?</p> <p>R7 What kinds of people are in the book?</p> <p>R8 Explain something that happened at a specific point in the story.</p> <p>R9 Can you find a word in the book that means happy/sad/scared/etc?</p>	<p>I1 If you were going to interview this character/author which questions would you ask?</p> <p>I2 What type of personality has the main character in the story?</p> <p>I3 Which is your favourite part? Why?</p> <p>I4 What do you think would happen next if the story carried on past the ending of the book?</p> <p>I5 Who was the storyteller? How do you know?</p> <p>I6 Predict what you think is going to happen next. Why do you think this?</p> <p>I7 Is this a place you could visit? Why/why not?</p> <p>I8 How is the main character feeling at the start/middle/end of the story?</p> <p>I9 Find evidence from the text to support your answer. Why do they feel that way? Does this surprise you?</p>	<p>S1 Were you surprised by the ending? Is it what you expected? Why/why not?</p> <p>S2 What is the main event of the story? Why do you think this?</p> <p>S3 Has the author used a variety of sentence starters? Are there any that you really like?</p> <p>S4 Has the author put certain words in bold or <i>italic</i>? Why have they done this?</p>
Writer's Use of Language	Writer's Purpose/Viewpoint	Relating to wider context
<p>L1 Why did the author choose this title?</p> <p>L2 Do you want to read the rest of the story? Why?</p> <p>L3 Can you find some examples of adjectives?</p> <p>L4 Which part of the story best describes the setting?</p> <p>L5 Can you find examples of adverbs?</p> <p>L6 Can you find examples of verbs?</p> <p>L7 Find an example of a word you don't know the meaning of. Using the text around it, what do you think it means?</p>	<p>P1 Can you think of another story that has a similar theme e.g. good over evil, weak over strong, wise over foolish?</p> <p>P2 Do any of the characters in the story remind you of other books you have read? Which ones and why?</p> <p>P3 Why did the author choose this setting?</p> <p>P4 What would you change about the story if you were the author?</p> <p>P5 What was the most exciting part of the story? Explain your answer as fully as you can.</p> <p>P6 What was the least exciting part of the story? Explain your answer as fully as you can.</p>	<p>C1 Have you ever been in a similar situation to a character in the book? What happened?</p> <p>C2 How would you have felt in the same situation?</p> <p>C3 What would you have done differently to the character in a particular situation from the book?</p> <p>C4 How would you feel if you were treated in the same way as the main character?</p> <p>C5 What did the story make you think of?</p> <p>C6 Have you read any other stories that have similar characters to this one? If so, which story was it and what happened?</p> <p>C7 Do you think this book is trying to give the reader a message? If so, what is it?</p>



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Year 2 – Non-Fiction

Retrieval	Inference and Deduction	Structure and Organisation
<p>R1 What is the text about?</p> <p>R2 What is the title of the text?</p> <p>R3 Who is the author of the text?</p> <p>R4 What kind of things would you expect to see in this book?</p> <p>R5 Can you find the contents page?</p> <p>R6 Can you find the glossary?</p> <p>R7 Can you find the index?</p> <p>R8 Find something that interests you from the text. Explain why you chose that particular part.</p> <p>R9 Where would you look to find out what a key word means?</p> <p>R10 What is on the cover of the book? What does this tell you about the content inside?</p>	<p>I1 Which parts of the book could help you find the information you need?</p> <p>I2 When would you use the contents page in the book?</p> <p>I3 When would you use the index page in the book?</p> <p>I4 Do you think the author of the book is an 'expert' about the topic of the book? Why/why not?</p>	<p>S1 Can you find an example of a page you think has an interesting layout? Why did you choose it?</p> <p>S2 What are the subheadings for?</p> <p>S3 Why have some of the words been written in bold?</p> <p>S4 How does the layout help the reader?</p> <p>S5 What is the purpose of the pictures?</p> <p>S6 Can you find examples of words which tell you the order of something?</p>
Writer's Use of Language	Writer's Purpose/Viewpoint	Relating to wider context
<p>L1 Why does this book contain key words?</p> <p>L2 Find an example of a key word. Read the sentence it's in. What do you think it means based on how it's used in the sentence?</p>	<p>P1 Why has the writer written this text?</p> <p>P2 Have you found any of the illustrations, diagrams or pictures useful? Why/why not? Try to explain fully.</p> <p>P3 Can you think of another text that is similar to this one? What are the similarities and differences between them?</p>	<p>C1 Do you think the author is trying to give the reader a message?</p>