

# Book Talk

## IDEAS FOR DEVELOPING CHILDREN'S READING

Reading involves more than simply decoding the words on a page. It is an interactive process with the reader using their personal experiences and knowledge to interpret and make judgements about the text. To support your child's reading some of questions below may be useful for helping them gain the most out of reading through discussion and by developing comprehension skills, particularly if your child no longer wishes to read to you.

This list is not intended as a check list every time your child reads; it is just a guide to useful questions which encourage interaction with the text and support the types of discussions we have in school.

1. When you first saw the book, even before you read it, what did you think the book would be about? Why did you think this? Now you've read it was it what you expected?
2. What aspects of the book did you particularly like? Was there anything you disliked? And why?
3. Was there anything that puzzled you, you found strange or that surprised you?
4. How is this book similar or different to other books you have read?
5. Which character interested you the most? Is that character the most important in the story? Were there characters you didn't like? Why do you feel as you do about each character?
6. Who was telling the story? How do you know? Does it make a difference?
7. Did you notice any patterns in the story?
8. How long did it take for the story to happen? Did you find out about the story in the events that they happened? Are there any parts that took a long time to happen but were told very quickly? Are there any events that happen very quickly but took a lot of space to tell about?
9. When you were reading the story did you feel it was happening now? Or did you feel it was happening in the past and being remembered? Did you feel as if events were happening to you, as if you were a character in the story? Or did you feel as if you were an observer, watching but taking no part in the action?
10. Has anything like this ever happened to you? Did you feel the same as the people in the story?
11. Where did the story happen? Did it matter where the story happened or could it have happened anywhere?
12. Did you see the story happening in your imagination? What kinds of detail helped you see it most clearly?
13. Did you ever get to know what the characters were thinking about?
14. What would you tell other people about the book? Who would you recommend the book to?
15. When you think about the story, what is the most important thing about it for you?