



When reading with your child, even if they can read fluently, they may still come across a word they need to decode. If this happens, encourage them to decode the sounds in the word “c-a-t” and then blend them together “cat”. You can watch the videos below if you are not sure on the pronunciation of sounds.

To support with correct pronunciation:

Phase 3 sounds: <https://vimeo.com/753931102/b9a2f8194f>

Phase 5 sounds: <https://vimeo.com/753933192/43104a30e0>

Once your child is reading fluently and longer needs to decode and blend all the time, you can support them further by asking them some comprehension questions in line with the age-related expectations for their year group which you will find below.

Year 2

Check that the text makes sense to them as they read, and help them correct any words or phrases they get wrong.
Talk about and explain the meanings of words to them. You can link the meaning of new words to words they already know e.g. silent (new word) means completely and totally quiet (word they already know) or distressed (new word) means extremely upset (word they already know).
Talk about their favourite words and phrases.
What do you think the character is thinking or feeling?
Why do you think the character did that? Or said that?
Who might it be...? What might it be...? When might it be...? Where might it be...?
Ask them to predict what they think might happen based on what they have read so far. What do you think is going to happen? What makes you think that?

Maple Class

Check that the text makes sense to them and talk about their understanding.
Talk about words and phrases that capture their interest and imagination.
What is the character feeling? How do you know?
What is the character thinking? How do you know?
Why has the character done that? How do you know?
Ask them to predict what they think might happen or might be true based on details from what they have read but also from details that are implied e.g. maybe earlier on in the book it said it was raining outside so from this you can tell that they are probably not going to go to the park this afternoon or maybe the character

keeps talking about all the things they love about football so you can predict that they are probably a fan of a football team even if they haven't said this specifically.

Oak Class

Check that the book makes sense to them, talk about their understanding and explore the meaning of words.

What does this word or phrase tell us about the character/setting/atmosphere?

Why do you think the author chosen to use that word or phrase?

How does that word or phrase make the reader feel?

What do you think the author meant by that?

What is the character feeling? How do you know?

What is the character thinking? How do you know?

Why has the character done that? How do you know?

Ask them to predict what they think might happen or might be true based on details from what they have read but also from details that are implied e.g. maybe earlier on in the book it said it was raining outside so from this you can tell that they are probably not going to go to the park this afternoon or maybe the character keeps talking about all the things they love about football so you can predict that they are probably a fan of a football team even if they haven't said this specifically.

The knowledge and skills that pupils need in order to comprehend are very similar at different ages. This is why the questions are similar for each year group. The difficulty of the book they are reading increases the level of challenge, not necessarily the question you ask.

Remember – when reading with your child, it is fine to just let them read! You do not have to keep stopping them to ask questions – they learn to read best by reading!

In general, you could:

Ask one comprehension question near the start.

Talk about vocabulary and words and discuss their understanding if this comes up whilst they read.

Ask one comprehension question at the end.

Thank you – reading with your children is one of the most powerful things you can do and it makes a huge difference to them across the school curriculum and in life beyond. Every time you read with your child it makes a massive difference to their learning!