



Reading Activities at Home

Remember, reading every day makes a huge difference. Reading does not have to be from your child's reading book. Books from home, leaflets, instructions for games, internet research and comics are all reading too – please note these in your child's diary as we are always pleased to see children having a varied reading diet! Don't forget also that even older children love being read to. Make time for a bedtime story every night.

Activities whilst you're reading the story

Does the story start with description, action, dialogue or a mixture?
Does the story grab your interest?

Re-read a chapter – find a 'Top Ten' of Wow Words that you will use in your own writing.

Rewrite part of the story as a script.

Write about a memory or experience of your own that is similar to something you've read in your book.

Make a list of questions you ask yourself as you read a particular chapter.

Before you finish the book, write down your predictions for the ending. After you finish, check back on the accuracy of your prediction.

Create a cartoon strip of main events so far.

Think about the ending. Write an evaluation of the resolution with three reasons.

Activities about the overall book

Who else should read this book? Why? Who shouldn't read this book? Why?

Construct a time line to fit the story. Include all the main events.

Write a letter to someone telling them about the book and your opinion.

Write a book review.

Write a summary limited to just 100 words.

Create a poster or advertisement for the book. Make sure you write on the poster why people should read it!

Re-write the book's blurb with new ideas to tempt someone to read it.

Design an alternative book cover for the story.

Activities about characters

What kind of person is the main character? Think of the character's personality.

What do other characters think or say about the main character? Why do they feel this way?

How does your character treat others in the book?

How does the character change? Explain why the character changes.

Draw and label a character or a setting from a description in the book.

Create a portrait gallery of the characters.

Write a description of the main character: their looks, the way they dress, the way they talk and their personality.

Imagine you are one of the characters in the story. Write a diary entry that reflects thoughts and feelings about an event in the story.

Think of five questions you would like to ask one of the characters.

Give some advice to a character: write a problem page letter and response, or write it as a conversation (like a script).

Which character in this book are you most like? Which character would you most like to be? Explain.

Write about what a character might be thinking or feeling at different

stages of the story. You could write it in a speech bubble.

Activities about the author's writing

List the words and phrases used to create an atmosphere, such as 'scary', 'heart thumping', 'tension', 'palms sweating'.

Finish this idea: "I love the way the author..." Be complete and give examples to support your opinion (Or, "I don't like the way the author...").

Write a letter to the author about the book.

Find new vocabulary that you do not know the meaning of and use a dictionary to understand their meaning.

Investigate other books by the same author.

Activities about non-fiction texts

Create a glossary of technical vocabulary specific to a topic.

Create an annotated diagram using factual information – use labels and captions.

Write a 'Top Ten' of facts that you've learned.

Write notes made by picking out key points from the text.

What do you think about the layout of the non-fiction text? Compare two texts about same topic.

Create a quiz based on the facts you've learned from the book.

