

Poetry Books

- What is the title of the poem?
- What is the poem about?
- How many verses are there?
- Do all the lines start with a capital letter?
- Are there any rhyming words?
- Which lines rhyme?
- Do you notice anything about the layout of the poem? Why do you think it is like this?
- Is it a humorous poem?
- Is there any alliteration (words that start with the same sound) in the poem?
- Is the rhythm the same all the way through the poem, or does it change?
- What punctuation marks are there? Why do you think they are there?
- What do you like about the poem?
- Which is your favourite poem and why?

Please feel free to write how your child responded to the questions you asked in their reading diary. It is very helpful to us to know how they are applying their skills at home.



Meadowside Parent/Carer guide to questions you can ask children as they read



Emerging and Developing Readers

When children are learning to read, as well as knowing how to blend sounds together to make new words, they need to develop an understanding of what books are about and develop their comprehension skills. We support children to do this through guided reading sessions and when appropriate through individual reading with a child. In this guide we have some suggestions of questions you may wish to ask your child when they are reading to you, or when you are reading to them, to develop their skills further. Choose one or two questions each time which you feel are appropriate linked to the type of book they have chosen.

Fiction Books

- What do you think this story might be about?
- What do you think might happen next?
- How do you think the story will end?
- Why do you think the book is called?
- Can you think of a different title for the book?
- What do you think will happen next?
- Which part of the story do you think is the funniest/saddest/most interesting?
- Do the pictures/layout help you understand the book better? How? Are the pictures clear? Do they make the book more enjoyable?
- Did any of the pictures tell you something different from the words?
- Who did you like best/ not like in the story and why?
- What clues is the author giving us about the type of person this character is?
- Find some words or phrases that show us that this character is special/helpful/adventurous/unsure/worried etc.
- How has the author used words/phrases to make this character funny/sad/adventurous/clever/frightening/excited etc.?

- Can you think of a different word the writer could have chosen that would have a similar meaning to this word?
- Why do you think the author has chosen to write these words in capitals / italics / bold writing? Are there any other parts of the story where this happens?
- How did the story make you feel? Why did it make you feel like this?
- Did the book make you think of something which had happened to you?
- Do you know another story with similar characters in? Tell me how they are similar.
- Do you know any more stories like this? Tell me why they are alike.
- Many traditional tales have messages. What do you think this story is trying to tell us?
- In which country do you think this story takes place? Why?

Non-fiction Books

- Is this book like a story book? What is different about it?
- (Pointing out the contents page) Here it says _____ are on page _____. What do you think that page will be about?
- Does your information book have an index? How would you use it to find something out?
- Do the photos/layout help you understand the book better? How? Are the pictures/diagrams clear? Do they make the book more interesting?
- Why do you think some words are underlined / a different colour or size / written in bold writing?
- How are the captions next to the photographs or pictures helpful to the reader?
- What did you find out that you did not know before you read this book?
- What else would you like to read about in this book?