KS2 Reading for Understanding Parent Prompts

These prompts help support your child's understanding when reading at home.They are based on the KS2 reading domains used to assess comprehension.

When reading together, choose one or two questions from different sections to talk about the text. This will help your child think more deeply, discuss ideas, and build confidence as a reader.

Vocabulary

What do the words ..... and ..... suggest about the character/ setting/ mood?
Which word tells you that....?
Find one word in the text which means.....
Find the word that is closest in meaning to.....
Find a word/ phrase which shows that.....

Inference

What makes you think that?
Can you explain why....?
What's your opinion?
What will he/she do?
How will he/she solve the problem?
What is he/she thinking?
What is he/she feeling?
What would it feel like there?
How would you feel?
Which words give you the impression that ...?

Prediction

From the cover what do you think this text is going to be about?
What do you predict will happen next?
What does this paragraph suggest will happen next? Why?

Explain

How does the author engage the reader here?
Which section was the most interesting/exciting part?
What is the purpose of....?
How does the layout help the reader?

Retrieve

How would you describe this story/text? What genre is it?
How did...?
How often...?
Who had...?
Who is...?
Who did....?
What happened to...?
What does.... do?
How ..... is .....?
What can you learn from ..... from this section?
The story is told from whose perspective?
What has happened so far?
Where did the story take place?

Summarise

What is the main message of the text?
Can you summarise in a sentence the opening/middle/end of the story?

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Talk about the Book (KS2)

These prompts are designed to encourage natural, enjoyable conversations about books.
Unlike the reading domains on the otherside—which reflect how children are assessed in school—these talk stems are about sharing ideas, opinions and connections.
Reading together should feel relaxed and positive.
Sometimes, there's no need to ask lots of questions or make it feel like a test. Instead, enjoy chatting about the story, following your child's interests, and sharing your own thoughts.
This kind of book talk helps children develop a love of reading and deeper understanding over time.
Thank you for supporting your child's reading journey at home. 📚💛

I like/dislike this because...

The most interesting part is... because...

This reminds me of... (another book, film, real life) because...

This is similar/different to... because...

This made me feel... because...

This made me think about...

I was surprised that... because...

Something I found interesting was...

I learned that... (non-fiction)

The most important information is... because...

A key idea in this text is...

I think the character/author is trying to show... because...

I agree/disagree with... because...

I would recommend this to... because...

If I could change something, I would... because...

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