



HELPING YOUR CHILD WITH THEIR READING IN YEARS 5 and 6:

The key skills to work on with your child are:

READING FLUENTLY AND REGULARLY:

Your child may be spending more time reading confidently and independently to themselves but parents still have an incredibly important role to play in their reading development. Discuss what has been read, pick out tricky words and ask questions about what they have read.

PERFORMANCE:

How can you use your voice to make your reading interesting? Use expression. Pay attention to punctuation and sentence structures. Look for exclamation marks, speech marks, italics etc. to give you clues.

RETRIEVAL:

Can they find information in the text to answer straightforward questions about Where/Who/What/When? e.g. Where does he live? Who did he meet? What happened after he arrived? What does this word mean?

READING ALOUD TO YOUR CHILD

Research has shown that reading aloud to your child has a huge impact on reading and writing skills. It provides a great model for language and story structure and gives them access to texts which may be too complex for them to gain full enjoyment and understanding from on their own. Children are never too old to benefit from this shared time!

Once they are confident in these skills, they then need to consider the more difficult skills of:

INTERPRETATION:

Can they put themselves in the character's shoes? How do you think they feel? Why do you think/explain/how do we know? What might happen next?

How is it set out? What type of text is it (instruction/letter/newspaper/fairy story)? If it is a non-fiction book, how do you use contents/index etc? Which other stories do they know with a similar setting or theme? How does it compare to other books by the same author?



AUTHOR'S USE OF LANGUAGE:

Look closely at why the author has chosen particular words for effect e.g. What is the simile that the writer uses to compare the wind? Why is this a good phrase? Why does the writer use this phrase to begin the sentence? How does it make you feel? Why?

IDENTIFYING PURPOSE AND VIEWPOINT:

Ask what effect the text has on the reader? Is there an underlying message in the story/book e.g. a battle between good and evil; pollution and green issues; being kind to each other? What do you think was the point of the text? Did the writer convince you that his or her ideas were right? Why/Why not?

How you can help at home:

If you can try and use different types of questions from these different categories, it will help your child develop a better understanding of what they read.

As children progress through Key Stage 2, their progress is measured more by their understanding of the text and ability to answer probing questions showing their interpretation of the text.

A little time spent regularly on this several times a week will really help your child's continued progress in reading. Although children can seem very mature and independent in their reading, they can benefit enormously from time spent sharing and discussing books, films, magazines, blogs, poems or newspaper articles. Happy reading!

