

## **Focus: Enhancing comprehension of fictional (made up) texts/books**

When reading at home it is essential that children *understand* what they are reading, rather than reading simply becoming a 'word recognition' exercise. It is for this reason that we strongly encourage parents, guardians, older siblings and carers to sit with their child while listening closely to them read. Questions related to the text can be asked before, during and after the text has been read. This will encourage deeper thinking about the text.

### **Before reading:**

It is important to ask questions and make predictions *before* reading a text. This encourages your child to start thinking about whether or not they have read other texts written by the same author, or have previously read about a familiar event that may occur in the text. You may like to ask whether the text is about a topic your child is familiar with. This prior knowledge will assist in enhancing their comprehension.

Suggested questions may include:

- What inspired you to choose this book?
- Have you read any other books by this author?
- Look at the front cover of the text. Read the blurb on the back (if applicable). What do you think this text will be about? What information from the cover or the blurb have you used to help make your prediction?

### **During Reading**

It is important to ask questions *during* the text. This will support your child in their efforts to enhance their comprehension of the text overall.

Suggested questions may include:

- What do you think will happen next? What information from the text made you think that?
- You made a prediction before you started reading, do you still think that will happen, or would you like to alter/change your prediction? Why? (Encourage your child to refer to the text to justify their answer).
- Look at the illustrations on the page you are about to read. Does the illustrator give you any hints as to what will happen next?

### **After reading**

It is important to ask your child questions *after reading* the text as this is a great opportunity to check if their predictions about the text were correct. It also offers a chance to see if questions asked throughout the text were answered.

**Suggested questions may include:**

- Think about the whole story. Can you summarise it all in a few sentences?
- (Choose an event from the text to discuss) Why do you think the character did that/responded in that way? What would you have done in that situation? Why do you think the author chose the words he/she did?
- Was there a lesson the author was trying to teach you by writing this text? A moral within the story could be something like, 'Honesty is the best policy' or 'You should always try your best and you will eventually succeed!'