

Questions and Discussion Starters for Any Book

Suzanne C. Carter

Reading Specialist, Hoover Elementary



After reading a book, talk about the connections you and your child can make to what you read. For example,

- “This book reminded me of the time we saw fireflies in the summer because they are insects just like the grasshoppers in this book. In the book, grasshoppers fly like the fireflies outside at night.”
- “My favorite part of the story was when Harry (the dog) went in the house that Momma and the little girl built for him because we made a crate with a blanket for our dog. In the book, I could tell Harry had enough room to spread out in it.”

Talk about what you have read. Many of these are “Read and think” or “On my own” questions. Use them to think about the text and your own ideas!

- What is the most important part of the book/story? Why is that the most important part?
 - The most important (word, phrase, idea, illustration) in this book is
- What is the author trying to tell you? How do you know?
 - What is the author’s message?
 - What is the author’s purpose? Is the author trying to persuade you or change your thinking about something? To inform you or teach you something? To entertain you? How do you know?
 - The author really got me interested when
 - What did the author need to know to write this book?
 - What is the story really about?
- What was your favorite part of the story / book / chapter? Why?
- What did this book / story / chapter make you care about? Tell why.
- What surprised you? What did you not expect as you read?
- Who is your favorite character (fiction) or person we read about (nonfiction)? Why?
 - What words would describe this character / person?
 - Choose a character / person. Find a part where you can tell what this person was thinking. How do you know?

- If you could talk to a character or person in this book, whom would you choose? What would you say? Do you have any advice for this person?
- Could a character or a person make a different choice?
- If you could be any character or person in this book, whom would you choose? Why?
- How are you like a character (fiction) or person (nonfiction) in this book?
- Do any of the characters remind you of someone in your life?
- Which character / person taught you the most?
- Who is the most important character? Why?
- Who is the most interesting character or person? Why?
- How does a character or person change?
- How did characters feel about one another? Why?
- Who is telling the story? Was this the best character to tell it?
- Would the story be different if another character told it? How?
- What problem or problems were there in this story / book / chapter?
 - How was the problem solved?
 - Would you solve the problem the same way?
 - How else could the problem be solved?
 - If it wasn't, why can't it be solved yet?
 - How do you think the problem will be solved?
- What will happen next? In the next chapter?
 - What do you think the characters will do after this story ends?
 - What will the people in this book (nonfiction) do now?
- What did you learn from this book / story / chapter?
 - What do you already know about this (nonfiction) topic?
 - What didn't you know before you started reading?
 - Why should someone else read this book?
 - This book makes me want to . . . (action, further reading, etc.)
 - What do you want to remember about this book?
 - This book helped me to
 - What else do you want to learn about now?
- What did the book / story / chapter remind you of? Tell why.
 - How is this story like any other story you know?
 - Does the book remind you of another book?
 - Have you ever had the same experiences or things happen to you?
 - Were you reminded of anything in your own life?
 - Do any of the characters remind you of someone in your life?
 - What did this book make you think of?
- What are some interesting words, phrases, or sentences?
 - Are there words that caused you to have a feeling or to make a picture in your mind?
 - Where did the author describe something well?
 - Reread the beginning and the end of the story or book. How do they connect?