



This booklet is designed to help with improving children's reading skills with key targeted questions to ask when listening to children read and when they want to change their reading book.

Each set of questions is broken into different sections based on the Big Reading Mini Missions characters, Rex, Expi, Ansa and Detective Dood. Each one plays a key role in improving reading comprehension and encouraging reading.

Rex the Retriever (retrieval questions)

Expi Explorer (Exploring and explaining)

Ansa Analyser (Analysis)

Detective Dood (Deduce and Infer)

The children will know who these characters are as they will be displayed in the classroom.

Questions (AF2)

(I can understand, describe, select or retrieve information events or ideas from a text using quotations)

- Where does the story take place?
- When did the story take place?
- What did he/she look like?
- Where do the characters live?
- Who are the main characters?
- What happened in the story?
- What kinds of people are in the story?
- What happened after...?
- Can you tell me why...?
- Describe what happened at/when...?





Questions






(Explain and comment on writers use of language – including grammar features)

- What does (word/phrase) mean?
- Which words has the author used to make the writing sound formal/informal?
- Why has the author used... (italics, bold, exclamation marks, headings, bullet points, captions etc.)?
- What has the author used in the text to make this character funny/sad/angry etc.?
- Think of another word you can use here. What different effect would you word have?
- As a reader, how do you feel about this character? What makes you feel that way?
- Can you find any similes/metaphors/personification in the story?
- Find some adjectives that help you picture the scene/character in your mind?
- Find a sentence that encourages you to want to read more of the story?
- Why has the author set the text out like this?



(What is the writers purpose and viewpoint of writing the story?)

- Can you think of another story that has a similar theme? (good/evil/weak/strong)
- Why does the author use this type of setting?
- What makes it a GOOD story?
- What effect do you think the story has on the reader?
- Could the story be better? What would you suggest?
- What impression does the author want to give of this character? Why?
- What is the purpose of this paragraph? (e.g. time moves on)
- What questions would you like to ask the author?
- Who is this advert trying to persuade?
- Does the article/story try to get you to care about anything? What can you tell about what the author thinks?



(Think about the structure and organisation of the text and what it looks like)

- How do heading help you when you scan the text?
- How does the layout help the reader?
- How does the title of the story encourage you to read more?
- Some of the text is printed in a different way, why do you think the writer does this?
- Why has the author repeated structures; words and phrases?
- What is the purpose of the pictures?
- Why did the author choose to change of paragraphs here?
- Why has the author used 'fact boxes' for key points?
- What is the purpose of the chapter titles?
- Which words tell you what order to follow?



(I can deduce, infer and understand information from the text that I am reading)

- What does the word ... imply/make you think of?
- If you were going to interview/ask a character a question, who would you ask/what would your questions be?
- What do you think will happen because of...?
- Through whose eyes is the story told?
- Why do you think ... feels...?
- If this was you, what would you do next?
- How have the characters changed during the story?
- Predict what you think is going to happen next. What make you think this?
- How do you know that ...? (deduce/infer)
- What does the main character feel at this point in the story? How do you know this? Can you pick out a sentence?



Questions (AF7)

(Try to relate the story to its social, historical or cultural tradition)

- Do you know other stories like this? (good vs evil, wise vs foolish)
- Where is the story set?
- How is the hero/heroine in this story similar to others you have read about?
- What does the story remind you of?
- Does the story remind you of something that has happened to you?
- How would you have felt in that situation?
- What might you have done instead?
- What stories have similar openings/endings to this one?
- Many stories have a message, what is the message of this story?
- Are there any familiar patterns you notice? E.g. story structure, imagery etc.

