



Battling Brook Primary School



A Parents' Guide

How to Support your Child with their Reading

Did you know that reading does more than just help your children with their academic progress? Reading daily, for just a short time, can boost your child's mental well-being, increase focus, concentration, empathy and memory and give them a greater understanding of the world around them. Reading before bedtime helps children to relax and calm their nervous system, which helps with that all-important good night's sleep.

READING VIPERS is a questioning approach used in school to help children understand what they read more deeply. This is a short parent guide, which suggests some questions you can ask your child, when you read with them at home. The questions on the guide are for primary school children of all ages. Therefore you should pick the ones you think are most suitable for your child's reading ability. This is not a restrictive guide! Any questions you ask, or discussions you have, about a book, the characters or the effect it has on your child, are valuable. You only need to ask 1–2 questions each time you read together, with the focus being on enjoyment and the time spent together with a book.

V – Vocabulary

- What does the word ____ mean?
- * Which word(s) tells us how the character feels?
- Why do you think the author used the word... to describe...?

I – Inference

- How is the character feeling? How do you know?
- * Who is telling the story?
- What in the text tells you about _____?



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P – Prediction

- What do you think this story will be about?
- * What do you think will happen next in the story? Why do you think that? What clues helped you decide?

E – Explain

- * Does this story give us a message/teach us a moral?
- Why did the author use that word?
- * Why is this part of the book important?
- How does this event in the story make the reader feel? How does the author achieve this?
- * What is similar or different about two of the characters?

R – Retrieval

- What are the characters' names? Who is the main character?
- * Where are they?
- What word tells us the character is _____?(scared/happy/angry etc)
- * What happened to _____ at the end of the story?

S – Sequence (KS1) / Summarise (KS2)

- KS1: What happened first? What happened next?
- * KS2: What is this chapter mostly about? Can you sum it up in a few sentences?

Remember:

This isn't a test for your child – it's a conversation. Just 5 to 10 minutes of reading and discussion each day makes a big difference.