Make Predictions & Critical Thinking

One of the key elements in FSCE is critical thinking. One part of this is making predictions when reading. At home it is easy to support this. When a child becomes a “free reader” we obviously feel our time reading together is over. Don’t fall into this trap! This is time to listen and question. By questioning you can develop critical thinking.

Use the questions below to help - print this out and keep it close when reading with your child.

Before Reading – Make a Prediction

Look at the title, cover and pictures.

1. What do you think this book or chapter will be about?
2. What makes you think that?
3. What do you think might happen?
4. Who do you think will be important in this story? Why?

While Reading – Stop and Think

Pause at an interesting point in the story.

5. What do you think will happen next?
6. Why do you think that will happen?
7. Can you find something in the story that supports your prediction?
8. How do you think the character is feeling? What makes you think this?
9. What would you do if you were this character?
10. Has anything happened that surprised you? Why was it surprising?

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Think Like a Detective

11. What clues has the author given you about what might happen next?
12. Is there anything the author has not told us yet that you would like to know?
13. Why do you think the character made that choice?
14. Could the character have made a different choice? What might have happened?

After Reading – Check Your Predictions

15. Was your prediction correct?

    ☐ Yes ☐ Partly ☐ No

16. What actually happened?
17. What clues helped you make a good prediction?
18. Did you change your prediction while you were reading? Why?
19. What was the most important event in this chapter or story? Why?
20. If the story continued, what do you think would happen next?

Ask Your Own Question

Good readers don't just answer questions — they ask them too!

What is one question you would like to ask about the story:

Now answer it !

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