

# Questions to ask while reading any book:

These questions will promote oral language, inferencing and reading comprehension skills. These are critical for early readers, and will help them when they read more complex texts as they get older.

## Before Reading:

Before starting to read, you can look at the cover of the book. Read the title and look at the cover art. Ask some simple questions to start critically thinking about the contents of the book:

1. Is the book fiction or non-fiction? How can we tell if this is a true story or a made-up story? Look for clues- does the cover have an illustration or real picture, are the characters real or cartoons, what does the title suggest.
2. Who is the author? Who is the illustrator? What are their jobs? The author writes the words, and the illustrator draws the pictures.
3. What do you think the story will be about? Looking at the cover art and title of the book, what do they think is going to happen in the story.



## While Reading:

These can be asked throughout the book when appropriate. You can pause while reading to ask these questions:

1. **How do you think the character is feeling? What do you see in this picture? Why did the illustrator use these colours?** The illustrations in books can give lots of context clues, and looking at them works on inferencing skills.
2. **What do you think is going to happen next?** Have students predict what they think is going to happen next in the story, and discuss why they think that.
3. **What does this word mean?** Stop at WOW words and talk about the definition of it. These are words that the child may not know the meaning of.

## After Reading:

When done reading, ask questions to reflect on the book. This reinforces reading comprehension and recall skills.

1. **What was your favourite part of the story?** Discuss why they enjoyed that part, and reflect on what happened during that part of the book.
2. **If you could write a different ending to the book, what would it be?** They can use their creative thinking skills to come up with an alternate ending.
3. **What happened at the beginning, middle and end of the story? Who is the main character? What is the setting? What was the problem, and what was the solution?** All these questions are critical for reading comprehension skills. They will need to understand what happened in the story and recall what happened.