



Questions to answer in your reading record when reading at home.

If you are reading with a parent or carer, ask them to ask you these types of questions.

Before reading the book:

- What do you think this story will be about?
- What might happen in the story?
- What genre will this story be? E.g. fantasy, comedy, horror.
- What do we call the writing on the back of the book? (Blurb) or what does the blurb tell us?

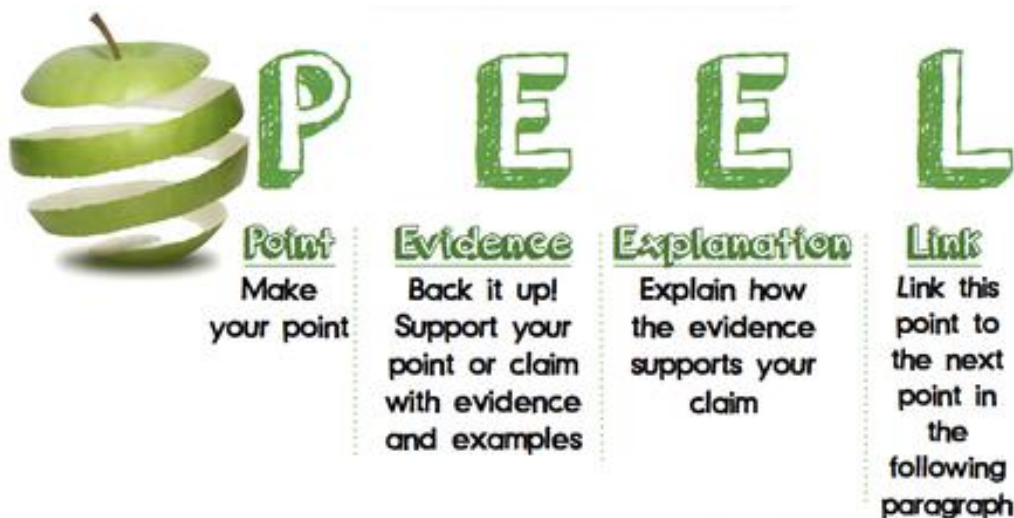
During the reading of the book:

- What has happened so far? Is it what you expected to happen?
- What might happen next?
- How do you think the story might end?
- Who is your favourite character? Why?
- Who is the character you like least? Why?
- Find 2 sentences, which describe the setting or character.
- Is the plot fast or slow moving? Find some evidence in the text.
- What does the story remind you of?
- Can you relate to the character?
- Have you heard similar stories before?

At the end of the book:

- Which part of the story is your favourite / least favourite? Why?
- Would you change any part of the story? How?
- Would you change any of the characters? How?
- Which part of the story was the funniest, scariest, saddest, and happiest?
- Would you like to read another book by this author? Why?
- Does your opinion of this character change during the story? How? Why?
- If you met one of the characters from the story, what would you say to him / her?
- Find 2 things the author wrote about this character that made him / her likeable or unlikeable?

When writing in your reading record, choose one of the questions to answer and don't forget to PEEL!





Tips for reading at home

1. Choose a quiet time

Set aside a quiet time with no distractions. Ten to fifteen minutes is usually long enough.

2. Make reading enjoyable

Make reading an enjoyable experience. Sit with your child. Use expression and take it in turns to read.

3. Maintain the flow

If your child mispronounces a word do not interrupt immediately. Instead allow opportunity for self-correction. It is better to tell a child some unknown words to maintain the flow rather than insisting on trying to build them all up from the sounds of the letters. If your child does try to 'sound out' words, encourage the use of letter sounds rather than 'alphabet names'.

4. Be positive

If your child says something nearly right to start with that is fine. Don't say 'No. That's wrong,' but 'Let's read it together' and point to the words as you say them. Boost your child's confidence with constant praise for even the smallest achievement.

5. Success is the key

Until your child has built up his or her confidence, it is better to keep to easier books. Struggling with a book with many unknown words is pointless. Flow is lost, text cannot be understood and children can easily become reluctant readers.

6. Visit the Library

Encourage your child to use the library regularly.

7. Regular practice

Try to read with your child on most school days. 'Little and often' is best.

8. Communicate

Try to communicate regularly with positive comments and any concerns in your child's reading record. Your child will then know that you are interested in their progress and that you value reading.

9. Variety is important

Remember children need to experience a variety of reading materials e.g. picture books, hard backs, comics, magazines, newspapers, poems, and information books.

10. Talk about the books

There is more to being a good reader than just being able to read the words accurately. Just as important is being able to understand what has been read. Always talk to your child about the book; about the pictures, the characters, how they think the story will end, and their favourite part. You will then be able to see how well they have understood and you will help them to develop good comprehension skills.

