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Reading Strategy: ASKING QUESTIONS

Your child is reading a book for school, and when you ask about the book, they can't tell you what the book is about. Or else they remember some unimportant details, but not the big picture. Many kids can read the words of a book (decoding the language) and still struggle to understand what they are reading.

Asking Questions is a strategy that can help your child understand their reading.

- The last time you read a book or watched a movie, you probably asked questions to yourself. Like, "Who is this new character?" "What does he want?" **Good readers continually ask questions in their minds about what they are reading.**
- When your kids are reading, ask them to think of these six questions: **Who? What? When? Where? Why? How?**

Keep in mind, these questions are not only for the beginning of the text when things can be confusing.

Your kids can and should also ask them all along the way as they acquire new information. If your child is reading a story about two friends and then a new kid shows up, your reader might ask, "Who is this new person?" "What does she want?" "Why is she coming into the story now?" "How will she affect the friendship between the two original friends?" There is no end to the questions a reader can ask a text.

- Another great question for your reader — "*I wonder.*" **I wonder questions are great for aiding comprehension.** "I wonder what will happen next?" "I wonder if this new girl will be nice?" "I wonder if the two friends will get in a fight about the new girl?"

It doesn't matter if the questions are answered in the text or not. The important part is to ask them. It primes the brain to pay attention to what is happening next.

If your mind is asking questions, it will pay attention to find the answers.

Asking questions of the text is a powerful strategy that aids in reading comprehension.