

Sharing reading with your child

It is very important for readers to continue to practise reading aloud, even in year 7 and beyond. It improves their speed and fluency, both of which ultimately aid understanding. If they are reading a more difficult text, you could support them by taking it in turns to read. You can then model fluent reading, and build their resilience by encouraging them to persevere with a text they are finding difficult. Sharing a book also gives your child the chance to ask and answer questions as you go.

Another way of sharing a book with a more confident and independent reader is to swap and share books between you so you are reading the same books as them – there are so many good young adult books out there right now, you might find you enjoy them yourselves! Having conversations with adults about books builds confidence and enthusiasm – and we know taking enjoyment from reading is very important.

Good questions to ask your child as they are reading

These are examples of questions you can ask your child about the book they are reading that will encourage them to think more deeply about the meaning. These questions encourage them to make inferences (read between the lines for hidden meanings) and deductions (work things out that aren't stated explicitly). For example, in the sentence '*The rain kept Tom indoors all afternoon*' the reader understands that Tom wanted to go out but that the unpleasant weather conditions prevented this. The question 'How did Tom feel?' would check if your child has inferred this meaning from the sentence.

- How do you feel about.....? Why?
- What words give you that impression? Why?
- Can you explain why.....?
- At the end of the story the main character is feeling Does this surprise you?
- What does this tell you about whatwas thinking?
- Do you think this is true/untrue? Why do you think this?
- What do you think the is thinking? If it were you what would you do?