

# Westfields Junior School



## Year 5 and 6 Reading Workshop



# ASKING THE RIGHT QUESTIONS



When reading with your child, check for understanding by asking questions. Don't just ask questions at the end, it's important to check for understanding before, during and after reading. Here are some questions to ask!

## **BEFORE**

- What do you think will happen in this story?
- What might be the problem?
- Where may be the setting of the story?
- What do you know about this topic?
- What does this story make you think of?
- What are you wondering?
- What does the title tell you?

## **DURING**

- What do you think will happen next?
- What can you tell me about the story so far?
- How do you feel about the story so far?
- What questions do you have?
- Why do you think the character did that?
- What would you have done?

## **AFTER**

- What was the title?
- What was the problem/solution in the story?
- Why do you think the author wrote this book?
- What was your favorite/least favorite part?
- What would you change about the story?
- What will happen next?

## Top Suggested Reads for Year 6



### **Barlow, Steve – Hercules**

An interactive choose-your-own adventure in which the reader is Hercules. Ideal as a hi-lo title or for a quick read. Part of the I HERO Legends series.



### **Daykin, Chloe - Fish Boy**

Billy has got a lot on his mind so he takes up wild swimming and manages to communicate with fish. Although this story deals with depression and sickness, it does so sensitively. The dreamlike quality of the writing might not appeal to everyone yet this is a memorable and thought provoking book.



### **Elphinstone, Abi - Sky Song**

This is a story about an eagle huntress, an inventor and an organ made of icicles. But it is also a story about belonging and the value of diversity. The plot itself is a standard quest story with plenty of obstacles to overcome and dangers to escape from. There's also a strong magical element and a well realised setting. Fantastic read.



### **Evans, Mark - Scarlet Hood**

Scarlet is given a magical coat which allows her to travel back in time and gives her the strength to fight her fears. This is a heart-warming graphic novel told in striking pictures and simple language that is perfect for reluctant readers.



### **Hardy, Vashti - Brightstorm : a sky-ship adventure**

Arthur and Maudie set off to find their explorer father who is reputed to have died trying to reach South Polaris. A thrilling, original adventure from a debut author. The main characters have all the attributes of a very memorable story - real courage, loyalty and resilience.

## *What can I do to help my child progress further in reading?*

- Listen to them read aloud. This way you can check their understanding of words and punctuation.
- Ask them questions.
- Help them to notice the things the author does for effect.
- Widen their vocabulary by discussing new words your child finds in their reading book.
- Encourage variation in book selection (fiction, non-fiction and classic).

### What do good readers do?

#### **Ask questions**

Why is she doing that? What does this tell me about her character?  
Why is she going there? What could that word mean?

#### **Infer and deduce**

Read between the lines to find hidden meanings. Look for clues the author leaves you about the character, setting or plot.

#### **See images**

Can you picture what is happening? Can you describe these images to others?

#### **Hear a voice reading**

Which characters voice do you hear? What does it sound like?

#### **Empathise**

Think how the character might feel and give them advice. "Quick, run!"

#### **Predict**

What might happen next? Use what you have read so far, as well as what you know about the characters to predict.

#### **Summarise and reflect**

Describe what has happened so far. Consider how the characters have changed or how the mood of the book might have changed.

#### **Make a judgement**

Give your opinion about what you're reading and explain why you think that.

#### **Re-read**

Go back over the best bits or re-read to help you understand something.

## Top Suggested Reads for Year 5



### **Bell, Alex - Polar Bear Explorer's Club**

Feisty orphan Stella Starflake Pearl and her unlikely crew embark on a spectacular adventure in a fantastical land of ice and snow, which leads Stella to make a startling discovery about her own identity.



### **Butler, Steven - Nothing to See Here Hotel**

A goblin prince arrives at the hotel that Frank and his parents run for magical creatures causing them all sorts of problems!



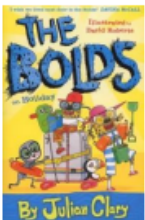
### **Butterworth, Jess - When the Mountain Roared**

Ruby moves from Australia to India and soon discovers she needs to conquer her fears if she is going to protect the local leopards.



### **Carroll, Emma - Sky Chasers**

Magpie's life is changed forever when she sees a boy dangling from the sky. An historical adventure around the race to put a balloon in the sky.



### **Clary, Julian - Bolds on Holiday**

The hyena family are off to Cornwall for a spot of camping. Plenty of terrible jokes as trouble awaits.

