

Fowey Primary School Book Talk

The purpose of each question below is to help you and the children develop a clearer sense of themselves as readers so they can see themselves as a reader and identify the types of reading they enjoy. By seeing themselves as a reader and knowing the types of reading they enjoy and what 'counts' as reading (i.e. not just books – blogs, magazines, comics, online), we can help them all read more regularly, enjoy reading and progress with it. You don't have to complete book talk sessions section by section, you can mix and match – it's up to you. You don't have to do all the questions in a section either. These are prompts to help you achieve the objective in the heading of each section.

To improve teacher's knowledge of children's reading

This is teacher led – ask these questions to the class. This could take the form of a discussion, or post it's on a board, or pair and share but the point is by the end, you as the teacher know more about the children's reading)

What's your favourite book now? Why?
What type of book's do you like to read? Why?
What type of books do you not like to read? Why?
Do you see yourself as a reader? Why? Why not?
Do you prefer fiction or non-fiction? Why
What's your favourite book we've read this year? Why?
What's your least favourite book we've read this year? Why?
What's your favourite book you've ever read at school? Why?
What's your least favourite book you've ever read at school? Why?
What's your favourite book you've ever read at home? Why?
What's your least favourite you've ever read at home? Why?

To improve teacher's knowledge of children's reading practises

This is teacher led – ask these questions to the class. This could take the form of a discussion, or post it's on a board, or pair and share but the point is by the end, you as the teacher know more about the children's reading practises)

Do you enjoying reading? What do you enjoy?
How often do you read?
Where do you find out about new books?
Do you read a range of books from different authors/ styles/ genres?
What types of reading count?
How many different types of reading have you done this week?
Where do you like to read?
Who do you like to read with/to or listen to read?
Who in your family reads? What types of reading do they do?

To develop children's ability to talk informally about books and their reading

The idea of this is to get the children talking about books to each other and really analysing them. You can do it in a range of ways.

Judging a book by its cover. *Gather one book or a range of books. Show just the covers. Ask children to talk about whether they think it would be interesting why/why not. Discuss in pairs or groups then share as a class. If using a range, encourage comparison. You could then give the books out for them to look at and see if they agree with their judgement when they look more closely or you could read extracts and ask them to reflect if they like it more/less now.*

Book Blanket. *Lay out a range of books on blankets on the floor or on the tables. Ask children to come in and walk around. Ask them to stop and go to a book that appeals to them. Discuss with the person next to them why. They could then sit down and explore the book on their own if just they went to the book or with others who did too. Get them to read and explore the book. Repeat with other questions i.e. walk around and stop by the most beautifully illustrated book or a book you don't like or a book that looks like it's for older children or a book that looks like it's for younger children etc.*

Book review. *Select a book or a range of books the children have read. Ask them in pairs or groups to write or orally rehearse a review for that book (there are review templates available on twinkl). Think about the categories you include i.e. star rating, who would like this book, what type of reader would enjoy this book, which books is it similar to, what's good about it, what's not etc.*

Favourite book. *Ask the children to bring in or find from the library a book they enjoy. In a small group or with a partner, or one at the time to the class (over time) share why it is (or was when they were younger) their favourite book.*

Read and review. *Read a short book i.e. a picture book and ask children to review it in pairs or groups. Think about the categories you include i.e. star rating, who would like this book, what type of reader would enjoy this book, which books is it similar to, what's good about it, what's not. You might include questions like below to stimulate discussion:*

What did you like about the story?

What didn't you like about the story?

Did it remind you of anything you've read before?

Did it remind you of a film you've watched?

Did it remind you of an experience you'd had?

What was the most memorable part?

Do you like the illustrations? Why? Why not?

Who's your favourite character?

Are there any character's you don't like?

Reading aloud

Give children the opportunity to choose a book to bring in and read aloud to their peers.

Independent reading time

Give some free reading time to choose a text from the library (doesn't have to be AR) and read independently or explore books together.

Reciprocal reading and reading communities.

Either complete a reciprocal reading activity OR give the children an opportunity to form their own little book club. They could choose a text in class and explore it as a book club taking it in turns to lead the club. They could use some of the questions above in other sections as a stimulus for their club or these below.

Would you recommend this book to someone? Why or why not (or with what caveats)?

What kind of reader would most enjoy this book?

Did you like the way the author writes? Why? Why not?

Who was your favourite character? Why

Were there any characters like you?

Were there any characters that you disliked? Why?

How did the book make you feel?

What surprised you the most about the book?

Were there any bits of the book you didn't like?

What was your favourite bit?

Did you learn anything from the book?

Have you got a favourite word or sentence?

Is this book similar to any other books you have read?

How would you adapt this book into a movie? Who would you cast in the leading roles?

Rate this book on a scale of 1 to 10, with 10 being the highest. Why did you give the book the rating you did?

To improve children's knowledge and perception of themselves as readers

The focus of this activity is that the children learn about themselves as readers. Their likes and dislikes in reading. Do they prefer fiction or non-fiction? Horror, romance, comedy, drama, factual, plays, poetry etc. Talk to them about the different 'types' of books so they can label their preferences. Do they like to read outside or inside? Where? Why? Give them examples of yourself i.e. 'I like fiction because I like to be in a different world. I like to read about horror and crime because I find it really interesting and dramatic not knowing who has done it or what will happen next. I like to read outside or in a snuggly spot inside if it's cold.' They would probably discuss these in pairs or groups.

What's your favourite book now? Why?

What type of book's do you like to read? Why?

What type of books do you not like to read? Why?

Do you see yourself as a reader? Why? Why not?

Do you prefer fiction or non-fiction? Why

What's your favourite book we've read this year? Why?

What's your least favourite book we've read this year? Why?

What's your favourite book you've ever read at school? Why?

What's your least favourite book you've ever read at school? Why?

What's your favourite book you've ever read at home? Why?

What's your least favourite you've ever read at home? Why?

Do you enjoy reading? What do you enjoy?

How often do you read?

Where do you find out about new books?

Do you read a range of books from different authors/ styles/ genres?

What types of reading count?

How many different types of reading have you done this week?

Where do you like to read?

Who do you like to read with/to or listen to read?

Who in your family reads? What types of reading do they do?