



Reading and asking questions

Vlad and the Florence Nightingale Adventure

The most important thing when reading with your child, is to make it feel like fun rather than a test. The first time you share a book, focus on reading it all the way through to find out what happens, and don't worry about asking questions. There is one exception to this:

What do you think will happen next?

Obviously this only works as a prediction if they don't already know the answer. So if there is a cliff-hanger or moment of suspense, it is good to use this one on the first read through.

After you have read the story once, read it again and think about the events and characters. Asking a question is a way into the discussion, and helps understand any facts or messages.

Here are some suggestions of questions you could ask. Don't ask them all at once, but use them each time you look at the book, and feel free to mix them up, alter them, or reverse roles and let your child ask the questions.

? Do Vlad and Loxton like the hospital? Why?

Yes, they like it because it's dirty and there is lots of food for them to eat

? Do you think a clean hospital will help the patients get better?

Yes. They will feel happier and there will be less germs

? What is the chef cooking?

Alexis Soyer is cooking soups and jellies because they are soft and easy to eat

? Do the soldiers like the hospital? Why?

No, they don't like it because it is dirty and they are probably going to get even more sick

? How did Florence Nightingale find Loxton?

He left footprints in the flour

? What do you think Florence Nightingale was writing?

She was writing letters, and recording what medicine patients had taken

? How do you think the nurses felt when they saw the hospital?

Upset or worried as they realised it was going to be very hard work to clean it

? Does Vlad like Jimmy?

Not in the beginning, as Jimmy wants to clean. By the end they have become friends

? Do you think Mary Seacole will be pleased to see Vlad?

No! She doesn't want fleas either

There is another history sheet outlining the general history - you can use it as an opportunity to find out more together as a follow up activity.

Finally, a good way to find out if your child has understood the story is to ask them to tell you the story in their own words. This often reveals any misunderstandings and is also good practise for shaping a story and helps them create their own writing.

Check the Reading Riddle website and YouTube channel for further advice on reading.

Have fun!