



# Reading and asking questions

## Vlad and the First World War

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.

? **Did the soldiers enjoy having chats (fleas) in their uniforms?**

No - they were very annoying!

? **Why are the new soldiers arriving in a ship?**

They have to travel from England to France

? **Why are there poppies in the last picture?**

Poppies grew in the battlefields and now they are a symbol of remembering the wars

? **Do you think Vlad is a hero like Crisp VC?**

Possibly - he is encouraging and helping Crisp VC

? **Do the British soldiers know the Germans are creeping towards them?**

No - the fog and mist is hiding them

? **Was it exciting to be a pilot?**

It was probably exciting to fly a plane, but not exciting to be chased by the Red Baron

? **Did Phoebe Chapple think the pigeon was important?**

She did think Crisp was special and she treated him so he could continue his journey

? **What does VC stand for in Crisp's name?**

Victoria Cross - it was the award given to Thomas Crisp

? **Why was it called a World War?**

The fighting was happening in different countries, but also there were soldiers from all around the world

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!