



Reading and asking questions

Vlad and the Roman Triumph

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 Vlad and Felix choose to be in Rome?**

No - they have been captured and brought to Rome as prisoners.

? **Why is there a crocodile in the procession?**

Everything had been brought from Egypt and most Romans would never have seen a crocodile before.

? **Was it a good idea for Vlad to go exploring?**

No - they were in a strange city and the procession was going to keep moving.

? **Are the Roman baths like your bath at home?**

Roman baths are more like a swimming pool, but with different temperatures in each room.

? **What sounds do you think you would hear during the Triumph?**

Shouting, cheering, music, animal sounds, carriage wheels.

? **What was the Manticore really?**

It was a dinosaur skeleton, but Romans didn't know about them.

? **What food do you think is in the stew?**

The picture shows fish, octopus and various vegetables that might be in it.

? **Who caused all the dinosaur to be knocked over?**

The dog started the accidents, and the horse kicked the cart.

? **Why does Blastus like to imagine strange creatures?**

Perhaps he likes stories, or things that are more exciting than his life as a slave.

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!

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