



Reading and asking questions

Vlad and the Space Race

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.

? **Where are Vlad and Strelka living?**

They are living in Moscow, in Russia.

? **What did Vlad and Boxtan feel when they were in the rocket?**

They probably felt scared and confused. They may also have been excited and curious. [There is no wrong answer here]

? **What does it mean when something is 'too good to be true'?**

It sounds great but there must be a hidden problem

? **What does it feel like to be spun around fast?**

It can make you feel dizzy, it pushes you outwards. [Relate the discussion to being on a roundabout or funfair ride]

? **What is gravity and what does it do?**

Gravity is the force that pulls things towards Earth. It stops us flying away!

? **What does it feel like to be in space?**

It is like floating in water. [Watch videos eg Chris Hadfield]

? **Why was Strelka's tummy grumbling?**

Because she was hungry and didn't have enough to eat.

? **Why does Vlad think he will become a '2D flea'?**

2D things are flat and he feels like he is being squashed by the force pushing him back.

? **Do you think Vlad and Strelka would like to go into space again?**

Maybe, but they also like the life they have on Earth now. [No wrong answers :)]

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!

www.readingriddle.co.uk