



Reading and asking questions

Vlad and Tutankhamun's Tomb

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.

? What was Kel's job?

Kel was an artist. He painted wall murals

? Why wasn't Tutankhamun's Tomb ready?

Tutankhamun was only young so they thought they had years to prepare

? How do Vlad and Mui feel when they hear the stone closing?

They are scared that they will be trapped

? What was the weather like in ancient Egypt?

It was hot and sunny.

? What are they putting into the tomb?

All the objects that Tutankhamun will need to live in the next world

? Why is everything in untidy piles and not neatly arranged?

They were doing it in a hurry and had not prepared everything

? How do the artists see in the tomb?

They used oil lamps as the tombs were underground and had no windows

? The last coffin was solid gold - do you think it was heavy?

Yes it is extremely heavy - 110kg

? Why is Tutankhamun so famous?

Most pharaoh's tombs were robbed. Tutankhamun's was full of amazing things never seen before

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.