



Reading and asking questions

Vlad and the Stone Age

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 are the family going to eat?

They are hunting a boar (a wild pig) at the start of the story. This is going to be their food.

What does Gobnat feel when she is handed the map?

She is nervous and is trembling as she has to do this big task for the first time.

Do you think the deer they follow is real?

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

Is it a long or a short journey?

It's a long journey over several days and covering a lot of different parts of the landscape which are listed in the story.

Who is braver, Vlad Flea or Clum the wolf?

Clum seems to be braver as she wears the mask and leads the bear away. Vlad has no choice but to go too.

How would you escape a cave bear?

There is no right answer - just a chance to discuss the options.

Who is leading the group?

Tormalin is leading the group at the start, and she is training Gobnat who takes over.

How many different deer are in the story?

There's a picture in the cave, the deer they follow and a hidden deer in the flames of the fire.

Why do the family live in the south in winter?

The weather is warmer in the south and there would be more animals and plants to eat.

There is another sheet with images to find and the history behind them - 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