



Reading Power



What is Reading Power?

Reading power is a reading comprehension programme that helps pupils to think while they read. It encourages pupils to interact more meaningfully with a text and develop a deeper understanding of what they read.

The 'Reading Powers' are introduced to children gradually to help them change the way they think as they read, helping them become great readers!

There are 5 Reading Powers;



Connect



Visualise



Question



Infer



Transform

How can you help?

Reading power is all about the discussion we have with our children before, during and after reading time. You can help us to help your child become a better reader by reinforcing the language of thinking we use in the classroom when you're reading with your child at home.

This booklet contains prompt sheets for each Reading Power which contain questions, and ideas that you could refer to when reading with your child at home. We hope that this helps!

Happy Reading!





THE POWER TO CONNECT

When readers learn to connect when reading:

- The story reminds them of something they've experienced
- Their minds become 'busy' with memories
- They are making sense of the text in terms of events/people
- They can make connections to pictures, characters, actions and feelings from the story
- They are most likely reading books about real-life situations, such as family, friendship, school, siblings, pets, holidays etc..

Questions that encourage children to 'Connect'

What does the story remind you of?

Have you ever felt like one of the characters in this story?

Does this story remind you of something that's ever happened to you?

Does this story remind you of another story you've read or heard?

Do the characters in the story remind you of anybody you know?

Have any of your connections made you understand or enjoy the story better?





THE POWER TO VISUALISE

“When your head is full of pictures-they have to come out”

What is it?

Powerful readers are able to visualize the text while they are reading. When we read a story, certain words help to create images in your mind. These images are what the readers use to help them understand the text better. Visualizing utilises all of our senses, including sounds, tastes and feelings. As with connecting, we often use our personal experiences to help us visualize.

How to ‘visualize’ at home with your child:

- Choose a book that is very descriptive. Books about weather, seasons, special places often work well for visualising.
- If possible, do not show the cover or pictures to your child (you may even want to cover the cover with some paper)
- Begin to read the story and ask your child to try to ‘visualise’ while you are reading.
- Stop after a few pages and ask your child to describe what they ‘saw’ (visualised) in their mind. Ask them what picture words they found helpful when they were listening.
- Continue reading and asking your child to visualise.
- When you are finished, read over the book again, but this time show your child the pictures. Talk together about the illustrations compared to their images.
- Next time, have your child read the story so you can practise visualising.





THE POWER TO QUESTION

“The answers aren’t important really. What’s important, is knowing all the questions.”

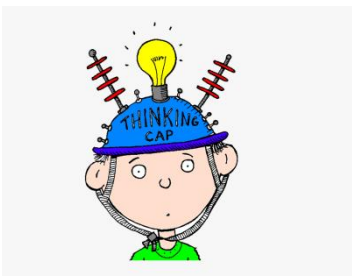
What is it?

Active readers are able to ask questions about the text while they are reading. Questioning the text helps the readers to move from a more ‘passive’ reading of the words into a more ‘active’ reading stance. Questions may or may not be answered by the time we’re finished reading, but it is often these ‘unanswered’ questions that help us to think more deeply about the story.

How to ‘Question the text’ at home with your child:

- Begin with the cover and title only. Ask your child ‘what are you wondering about this book?’ Model a few questions YOU are also wondering about the book.
- Now begin reading. After a few pages, again, ask your child ‘What are you wondering?’ Continue to model your own questions. When possible, also try to answer some of the questions. ‘Well maybe he did this because...’
- Continue reading, questioning the text. Try to guide your child to ask questions connected with the story.
- When the book is finished, reflect on some of the unanswered questions and discuss possible answers.





THE POWER TO **INFER**

'Filling in, in our head, what is not written on the page'

When readers learn to infer while reading:

- They learn to look for clues, in the text, in pictures and in their own knowledge that will help them make sense of the text.
- They are encouraged to become good 'book detectives' they learn that some authors write very little text but leave clues for the reader to discover and interpret
- They understand that the expression 'less is more' means that fewer words on the page means more thinking for the reader.
- They are learning to fill in, in their heads, what's not written on the page.
- They are more likely to say 'Oh I get it now!' while they read than 'Huh? I don't get it'

Questions that encourage children to 'Infer';

What do you already know? (because the author told you)

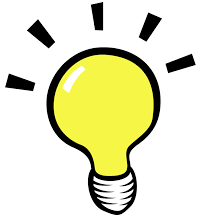
What three clues do you think are the most important in this picture?

What are you wondering about this picture?

What are you inferring this person is feeling?

What are you inferring is happening in this picture? Maybe...?





THE POWER TO TRANSFORM

Reading a story can sometimes change the way we think about ourselves, other people or the world.

What is it?

Our thinking can actually change or transform while we read. Good readers sometimes take what they have read plus their thinking voice to create a new thought. It is like adding another layer to your reading—the thinking layer. The power to transform builds upon all 4 previous reading powers and is perhaps the most complex of all reading powers to teach but we should not underestimate the children's ability to do it – even the youngest of them! The word 'transform' refers to the idea that certain books can change the way we think about ourselves, about others or about the world. We need to help children to sort through the details of the story and focus on the pieces that matter most to them.

When readers learn to be transformed by what they read;

- They understand that books have the ability to change the way we think about ourselves and the world.
- They can be touched in some way by the words on the page, the thoughts in their head, the feelings in their hearts
- They are introduced to books that deal with thought-provoking issues such as war, poverty, conservation, bullying...
- They learn to look beyond the pages of the text, to think about the effects the book might have on their own lives.
- They understand that transformation happens over time and that reading a particular book may plant seeds that may one day make a difference to the way they live or view the world.
- They know that a story has the power to change them, because their brains have the power to store away facts, stories, questions and feelings that will shape their lives
- They learn to look for the things in a book that matter most to them.
- They ask themselves 'What difference has this book made to me?' Or 'Has anything changed in me because of this book?'

