Personal Reflections and Conversations on Text and Media

Supporting children’s understanding and comprehension skills can be done by **asking questions** as they read, watch, listen to books, programmes, films etc that you would normally enjoy together as a family.

**Activities that you can do at home:**

1. Use a notebook or paper for children to record their personal thoughts and reflections on a book, television programme, film, game etc.
2. Use the following (three sharings) questions to guide discussions about a particular story/ book/ TV programme/ film etc

Ask children to tell you or write down:

* What they liked/ disliked
* Their puzzles – anything that confused them
* Their connections – things that linked the story/ programme etc to their own life experiences

**Extended questions you could ask as your child as they are reading/ watching/ listening:**

* How does the book/programme/film make you feel?
* Has it grabbed your attention? Why? Why not?
* Which character(s) would you most like to meet?
* Which character would you like to be?
* Can you think of a different title?
* If you were going to write a sequel, what would happen?
* Can you think of one similarity and one difference between this and something else you have recently read or watched?
* Who would you recommend this to?
* Can you retell the story in 30 words?
* Can you create a comic strip or story map to recall the main events?
* Draw your favourite scenes.
* Draw your favourite characters.

**What are ‘The 3 Sharings’?**

These are 3 things you can **ASK** your children as they read or as they watch a film, TV programme, play an online game etc. They help to develop children’s understanding of what they are reading/watching and really supports the comprehension skills needed as they move on with the learning in literacy and English:

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| **Likes and Dislikes** | **Puzzles** | **Connections** |
| * What did you like?
* What did you dislike?
* Was there anything you specifically liked/disliked about it?
* Anything that caught your attention?
* Anything you would have liked more of?
 | * **I wonder** statements are always good here e.g. I wonder why the character did that….
* What does that word / phrase mean?
* I wonder why…?
* What if…?
* I would like to know why…
* How did…?
* It didn’t make sense that…
* Was there anything that puzzled you or you thought strange?
* Anything that took you by surprise?
* Any parts you didn’t understand?
 | * Text to text, text to self, text to world connections
* Links between the text and your life - make connections to your own experiences
* Links to other things you have read, seen or heard
* It reminded me of…
* Themes, characters, setting
* Were there any patterns or connections you noticed?
* Can you make any links between parts of the text?
* Does it remind you of anything else you have read/ watched?
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