

*Literal--found in the text*

- Who were the characters?
- What did they do?
- Where did the story take place?
- When did the story take place?

*Inferential--found using the text and the readers ability to infer - think and search*

- How did you know that...?
- What is the difference between...?
- What, do you think, was meant by...?
- What was the main idea?

*Critical--where the reader expresses opinions - think and speak*

- What if...?
- What is your opinion of...?
- Do you agree or disagree that...? Why?



# Parent **TIP** Sheet #2

## READING BETWEEN THE LINES



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## READING BETWEEN THE LINES

These tips will help you take your child beyond just figuring out the words. They are meant to improve your child's ability to understand what they read. Comprehension support is most effective when it follows a regular structure. The reader needs to be encouraged to actively think about the material that is being read. Understanding can be developed before, during and after reading. These activities provide parents with suggestions on how they can provide help at home.

### Before reading

The purpose of before reading activities is to prepare for reading. Preparation involves much discussion and sharing.

#### *Fiction:*

- Read the title--What do you think this story is about?
- Look at the cover and make further predictions.
- Flip through the pages and talk about the pictures. Have your child ask questions about the pictures.
- Read the blurb at the back or inside cover.
- Read "About the Author." Have you read other books written by this author and what were they about?
- Read the reviews on the back.

#### *Non-fiction:*

- Read the title and look at the cover. What is this book about?
- Set a purpose for reading by asking "What are some things you would like to learn by reading this book?"
- Read the table of contents and make further predictions.
- Look at the headings.

- Look at the pictures, tables, charts or graphs.
- Make connections to your background knowledge. Have your child tell you what they may know about the topic and make a list. You could make a list yourself and compare it to your child's list.

### During reading

The purpose of during-reading activities is to help children focus on details and recognize when they have misunderstood what they are reading.

- Read the first part together and check your predictions.
- Keep reviewing what has happened as you read.
- After reading a chunk, try to make connections to your experiences, knowledge or other books (videos) you have read, e.g. Could this really happen?
- Take turns being characters. Read with lots of expression.
- Build a good vocabulary. Let your child tell you the tricky words they do not understand and try to figure out their meaning from other clues in the text or by using a dictionary. You could even explain the meaning to your child.
- As you read, you can stop and ask "What do you think?"
- Ask "why" questions (e.g. Why do you think...?)
- Read some parts aloud to your child and have them make pictures in their head. Ask them "what did you see while I was reading?"
- Take turns reading parts aloud to each other. The listener then tells the reader what was read.

### After reading

The purpose of after reading activities is to reflect on and respond to text. Discussing a story after reading brings further meaning to what has been read. There are different kinds of questions to ask.