



Story Elements

Who, What, Where, When, Why?

Beginner: Ask simple questions about the story and make connections between the pictures and words.

[Tip]: “Which character do you like and why?” and, “What colour are they?”

Intermediate: Ask detailed questions about who the story is about, and what happened in the beginning, middle, and end.

[Tip]: “What are the names of the characters?” and, “What are they trying to do on this page?”

Experienced: Ask questions that encourage your child to think about different possible outcomes for the story.

[Tip]: “What would the end of the story be if...?” or, “How would you feel if...?”

Why is this important? Talking about different parts of a story helps children understand and appreciate the overall meaning of the text.

References: Shanahan, T., Callison, K., Carriere, C., Duke, N. K., Pearson, P. D., Schatschneider, C., & Torgesen, J. (2010). Improving Reading Comprehension in Kindergarten through 3rd Grade: IES Practice Guide. NCEE 2010-4038. What Works Clearinghouse

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