

Ways to engage your child in productive discussions about reading:

How do you get them talking?

Invite them to share what they are thinking by sharing your thinking first.

(This lowers the stress by making it conversational and also models for them the kinds of thinking real readers do when they read.)

Don't quiz them!

The last thing you want to do is to make talking with you about reading (or reading itself) a chore! However, if appropriate, you can say, *"Can you remind me what happened because I forgot/didn't read that part."*

What can you talk about?

Try answering these questions yourself and then asking your child.

For Fiction

1. What do you think of that character? (Do you like her? Would you like to be his friend? Based on her actions and words, can you tell what kind of person she is?)
2. What did you think about what _____ did in that part?
3. Why do you think _____ is acting that way?
4. What do you think the character is thinking/feeling about _____?
5. What do you think will happen next?
6. What did the character learn? How did the character change? Are there big "life lessons" in this book that are useful to you?

For Non-Fiction

1. What's interesting?
2. What do you want to know more about?
3. Does it fit with what you already knew/thought? If not, what will you do about that? (More research, check other sources, try it out in real life, change your mind, examine the source...)
4. Does it connect with other things you know/think about? Does it make you think about any big ideas? Are there any life lessons to be learned?