



Ask Open-Ended Questions While Reading

Asking kids a few open-ended questions while you read books together helps them build language and comprehension skills — and it's fun!

Open-Ended Questions:

- Have many possible answers (don't have one "right" answer).
- Invite detailed answers (more than "yes" or "blue").
- Encourage children to use more complex language.

Tips:

- **Count to 10 in your head.** Kids need more time to think and answer.
- **Narrow it down.** If a child is stumped, give them choices. "Did you like the alligator or the hippo the best? What did you like about them?"
- **Ask follow-up questions.** For example, "What do you see that makes you say that?"
- **Story flow is important too.** Use questions when it feels comfortable. It is also great just to read the story.
- **Get kids talking more than you!** Open-ended questions help kids practice using language to express ideas.
- **Ask a few questions per book.** It is also important to let children enjoy the flow of the story.
- **Ask open-ended questions with nonfiction books too!**



Ask Open-Ended Questions While Reading

Before Reading	While Reading	After Reading
What do you think this book is about?	How do you think the character feels?	What does this story remind you of in your own life?
What do you already know about _____?	What would you do if you were _____?	Is there anything you are still wondering about?

More Ways to Start an Open-Ended Question:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What if...? • How did...? • Why did...? • What would happen if...? • What caused...? • What might...? • How would you feel...? • What character traits describe...? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why do you think...? • Why is...? • What clues did you use...? • What (or who) does [this] remind you of? • Who do you know...? • What do you already know about...? • Where have you been that was like... [setting]?
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