

How Can Parents Help?

One way to help your children work in the Common Core State Standards for ELA is to ask questions that activate standards thinking. Listed below are the anchor standards for reading paired with questions that you can ask to get your children thinking more deeply about the texts that they read. Most questions can be used with fiction or nonfiction.

Anchor Standards for Reading

Standards	Questions
Key Ideas and Details	
<p>1. Read closely to determine what the text says explicitly and to make logical inferences from it; cite textual evidence when writing or speaking to support conclusions drawn from the text.</p>	<p>What does this text state explicitly? What is this mostly about? What in the text leads you to that answer? What details are most important? What inferences can you make? Can you show me in the text the basis for your answers?</p>
<p>2. Determine central ideas or themes of a text and analyze their development; summarize the key supporting details and ideas.</p>	<p>What is the central message (lesson or moral) of the story? What is the central idea of this text? Section? Passage? What ideas are you starting to see emerge? How does the author convey the central message? How can you best summarize the text? What information does the author use to support the main idea?</p>
<p>3. Analyze how and why individual, events, and ideas develop and interact over the course of the text.</p>	<p>How do the character's traits contribute to the story? At what point in the story did the character change? How do the character's actions help move the plot along? How does the plot unfold? How did the individuals/events/idea change over the course of the text? How are the ideas presented in the text connected?</p>

<p>Craft and Structure</p>	
<p>4. Interpret words and phrases as they are used in a text, including determining technical, connotative, and figurative meanings, and analyze how specific word choices shape meaning or tone.</p>	<p>Can you tell me what this word or phrase means? What do you think the author is trying to say when he/she uses that phrase? How did the author use word choice to impact meaning and tone? What tools can you use to find the meaning of this word? What clues can you find in the sentence, paragraph that can help you figure out the meaning of that word or phrase?</p>
<p>5. Analyze the structure of texts, including how specific sentences, paragraphs, and larger portions of the text (e.g., a section, chapter, scene, or stanza) relate to each other and the whole.</p>	<p>How is the information in this text organized? Why did the author choose to organize the text in this way? How does what an author said in an earlier paragraph help us understand what is happening now? What text features are used? How do the text features assist the reader?</p>
<p>6. Assess how point of view or purpose shapes the content and style of a text.</p>	<p>What is the author's point of view or purpose? How does the author's word choice help develop the point of view/purpose? Who is telling the story in this selection? How does the author develop the narrator or speaker's point of view? Is the author relaying information, or is he/she trying to convince you of an idea?</p>

Integration of Knowledge and Ideas	
<p>7. Integrate and evaluate content presented in diverse formats and media, including visually and quantitatively, as well as in words.</p>	<p>How does the illustration help tell the story? What does the illustration convey to you about the character (mood, setting)? What mood does the illustration portray? How do the illustrations help you understand what is happening in the story? What information can you obtain from the map (chart, graph, table, etc.)?</p>
<p>8. Delineate and evaluate the argument of specific claims in a text, including the validity of the reasoning as well as the relevance and sufficiency of the evidence.</p>	<p>What does the author claim? What details or facts support the author's claim? How does the author connect the ideas in each of the paragraphs to the topic of the text? What is the argument presented in the text? How is the argument developed and supported? Which of the evidence supporting the argument is most relevant?</p>
<p>9. Analyze how two or more like texts address similar themes or topics in order to build knowledge or to compare the approaches the authors take.</p>	<p>How are the ideas the same in both texts? Is there information in this text that was not included in the other text? What is similar in Book A and Book B? What is different? What is the theme of this story? How is it different from the other stories we have read about this character? Although the topic/theme of these passages is similar, how does the presentation differ?</p>