

# 3 steps to reading with your child

Taking an active interest in your child's learning is one of the best ways you can help your child to do better in school and in life. Learning is not just about what happens in school. Children are learning all the time through what they see, hear and do.

*A little reading goes a long way!*

- Remember: a good 10 minutes is better than a difficult half hour!
- Plan a quality, quiet time to read together.
- Ask your child to choose the book. Sharing books that they have chosen means they are more likely to engage with a book.

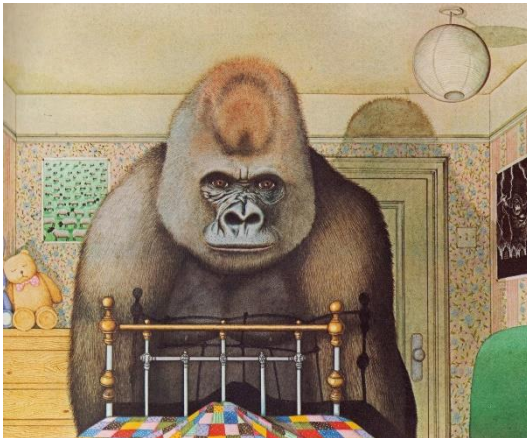
*...and most importantly...*

- Encourage your child to talk about their books. Reading is not simply sounding out words on a page, it is also about understanding what has been read.

## Step 1: Before Reading

To help your child engage with a book (and reading in general) have a short discussion to get them thinking and wondering about the story before they even start reading. By looking at the front cover, the blurb or even an exciting picture, make predictions about what the book might be about or write down questions they may have about the story. After reading, look back at the questions - have they found the answers?

It is also helpful if the adult does a quick read of the book beforehand to identify any unknown or tricky words. Discuss these words with your child to help aid their understanding while reading.



What can you see in the picture?

Where do you think it takes place?

Does anything look out of place?

Does it remind you of anything?

What do you think is happening?

What would you like to find out?

**What kind of story do you think this will be?**

## Step 2: During Reading

As you or your child are reading, pause every few pages or after a big event to discuss what has happened so far. Who are the main characters? Which word tells you what the character is like? What are the characters doing? Why are they doing that? What is the problem? How do they solve the problem? How would you have solved the problem?

To ensure a thoughtful discussion and to help your child explore their ideas further, ask them to explain their thinking and try to avoid yes/no questions.



It was a gorilla, but it **was** just a toy. Hannah threw the gorilla into a corner with her other toys and went back to sleep.

Why has the author written '**was**' in bold?

Why did Hannah throw the toy on the floor? How do you think she was feeling?

### Step 3: After Reading

Once you have finished reading, have a short discussion to ensure your child has understood the book. What was the story about? Who was your favourite character - why? What have you learned about \_\_\_\_\_? What can you tell me about \_\_\_\_\_? How would you feel if \_\_\_\_\_ happened to you? What would you have done differently? Does this story remind you of any other story - why? What did you like about this book? What would have made it better?

The discussion should not be a test, but simply a fun conversation or activity for children to demonstrate their understanding of the book.

Read up to 'In the night something amazing happened'.



What do you think has happened?

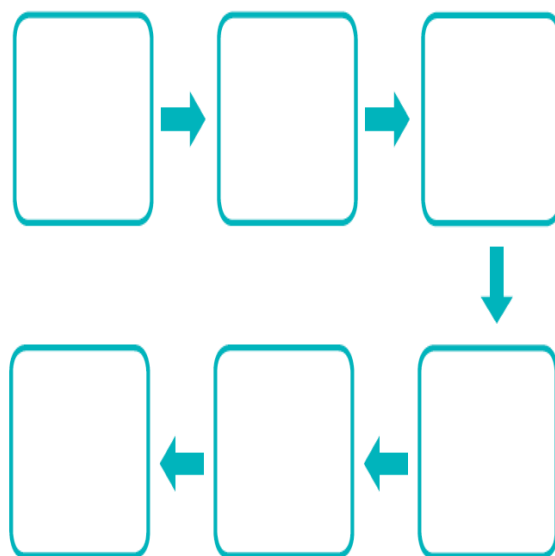
Do the pictures give you a clue?

Does this remind you of any other story?

What happened in those tales?

**Can you make a prediction of what happens next?  
Draw a picture and write a sentence to explain your prediction.**

Draw pictures to show the journey of a character in your book.



**Remember, a little reading goes a long way! (even if it is only a page)**



Taken from Gorilla by Anthony Browne



What does the word 'ignored' mean?



How many items are on the kitchen table?



What sort of man do you think Hannah's father is?



Why has Anthony Browne chosen blue for the kitchen?