

Generic TUTOR TIPS for Books

BEFORE READING

- Preview front and back of the book, viewing illustrations and title.
- Skim quickly through pages noting illustrations (plus noting any Table of Contents, Glossary words, and Index.)
Tutor: While scanning, collect a few words you think may be difficult for your student. Point them out, pronounce and explain them.
- Ask student:

Nonfiction

“What do you think this book is about?”
“Do you think it is fiction or nonfiction? Why?”
“What do you already know about this topic? Explain how you found out.”
“What would you like to learn from this book?”

Fiction (DO NOT SHOW THE ENDING.)

“Who do you think is the main character in this book?”
“What do you think might be the character’s problem?”
“What do you think will happen in the end?”
“Have you ever experienced something similar to what seems to be going on in this story? Explain.”

- Decide on how book will be read: child reads; both tutor and child share reading alternate pages; tutor reads with expression.

DURING READING

- Coach student in decoding difficult words. Use illustrations, insert blank in context-what makes sense, word chunks-beginning/middle/end sounds, other related words/word families, etc.
Tutor: Build vocabulary flash cards (from index cards) for practice and review games.
- Ask student 1-3 questions per page:
 - * Does child know the meaning of a correctly pronounced word? For example, **“Find the word that means...”**
 - * Can the child paraphrase a sentence/paragraph/page in his/her own words?
 - * Ask the child to discuss his/her opinion of a character or a character’s actions.
 - * Fiction: See if the child can recognize a cause (reason why) and effect (result) relationship in the plot.
Nonfiction: Can the child give 3-5 details that support the main idea.
 - * Ask the child to predict what will happen next and explain why.
 - * Can the child retell what was read so far?
 - * Ask the child to create a “mind movie” and relate what is seen, heard, smelled, felt, and/or tasted in the scene.

AFTER READING

- Ask the child to recall details from the beginning, middle, and end of the book.
- Discuss the author’s purpose in writing this book: to inform, to explain how, to entertain, to persuade.
- Ask: **Did you like this book? Why or why not? Who else might want to read this book? For what purpose?**
- Discuss how topics in the book may relate to the child’s life in some way, or discuss the child’s opinions of the book’s theme.

GRAPHIC ORGANIZER

- Choose a way for the child to organize thoughts of the book visually. Present or create a Venn diagram, Story Elements web, 5 Ws web, etc. (*Tutor: Google search “Graphic Organizers” for many forms from which to choose.*) Have child draw or write answers.

VOCABULARY OR COMPREHENSION GAME: Tic-Tac-Toe, Dot-to-Dot, Hangman, etc.

- Use book related flash cards for vocabulary game.
- Take turns asking each other questions from the book which must be answered correctly to move forward in game.