Questions to use when reading with your child

Plot:

- What happened in the story?
- What might have happened if a certain event did not take place?
- What is going to happen next?
- Which part of the story was the most important? Why?

Setting:

- Where do you think the story is set?
- When was the story set / What time is the story set in?
- How did the writer create the atmosphere for the setting?
- Is this setting familiar to you / does it remind you of a place you have been?

Characterisation:

- Which character did you like the best? Why
- How did the author describe the characters?
- Find the passage that tells you about the character's personality?
- How did the characters change during the story?

Author's style:

- What special words did the author use to help you hear, see, smell, taste or feel things?
- What picture has the author's writing left in your mind?
- How does the author let you know when and where the story takes place?
- · What do you like about this author?

Themes:

- What is the main idea / theme of the story?
- Does this text remind you of any others that you have read? Why and how?
- What do you think the author is trying to say?
- · Are there any hidden messages in the story?
- What do you think the author feels about particular issues e.g. bullying, families, gender, race?