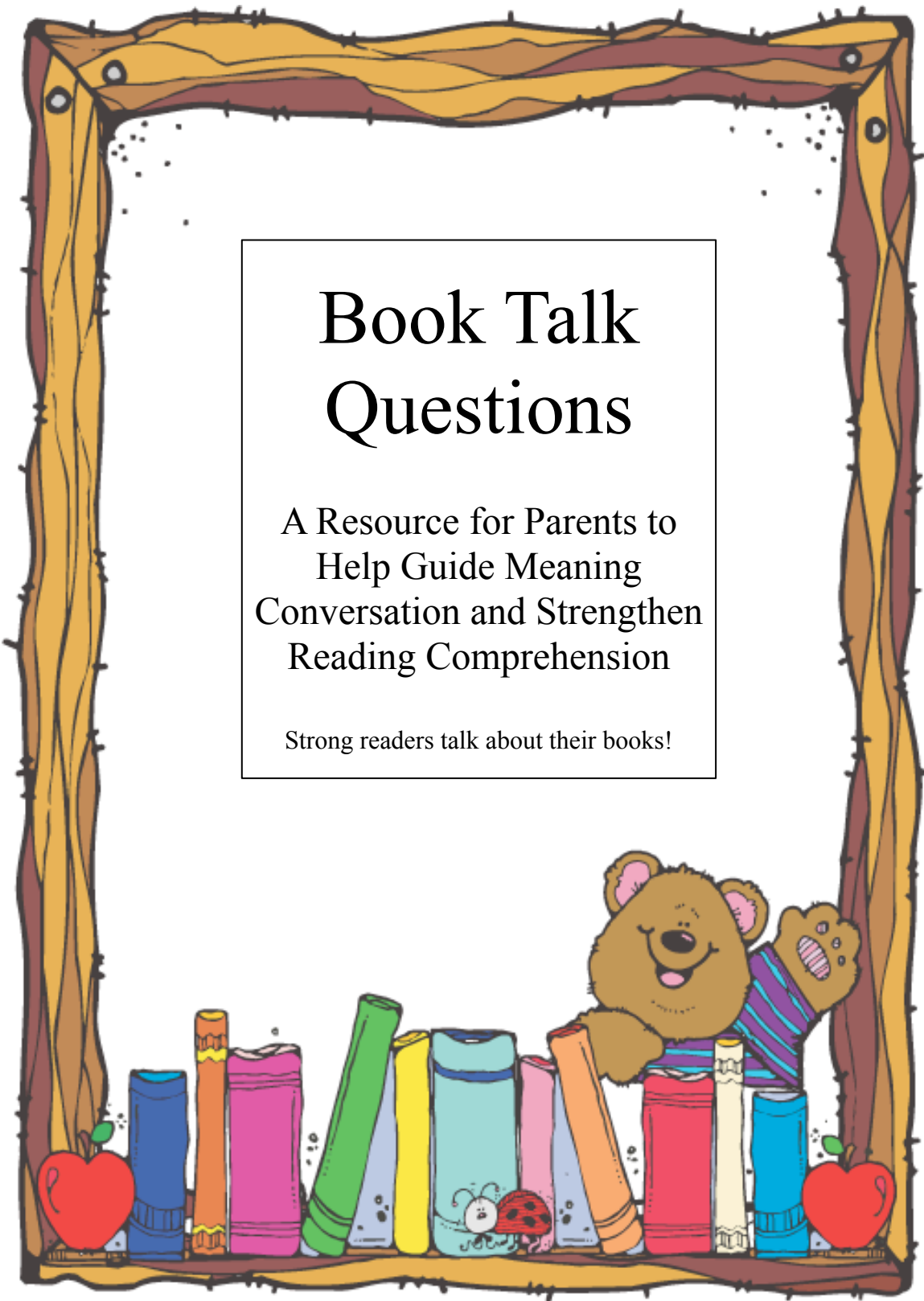


# Book Talk Questions

A Resource for Parents to  
Help Guide Meaning  
Conversation and Strengthen  
Reading Comprehension

Strong readers talk about their books!



ALL Questions and Content From THE NEW YORK READING PROGRAM.

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## General Book Talk Questions

☆☆REMEMBER THAT THESE QUESTIONS ARE SIMPLY MEANT TO GUIDE YOU IN YOUR DISCUSSION! YOU ARE NOT LIMITED TO THE QUESTIONS ON THIS PAGE AND ARE ENCOURAGED TO ADD YOUR OWN. HAVE FUN WITH THE PROCESS! YOU ARE DEVELOPING A HABIT OF HAVING MEANING CONVERSATIONS ABOUT YOUR CHILD'S READING.

### General Fiction:

1. What did this book make you think about in your own life (text to self)?
2. What did this book make you think about in the outside world? (text to world)?
3. Which other books does this remind you of (text to text)? Why?
4. How does the main character feel in this book? How do you know? Have you ever felt this way? When?
5. Do you agree with the main character's actions? Why or why not?
6. Where does the story take place?
7. What is the problem in the story? What is the solution?
8. Start at the beginning and tell me what has happened in the story so far.
9. Can you give a 5-finger retell of the story?
10. Based on what has happened so far, what do you think might happen next?
11. What didn't make sense to you in this book?
12. What do you think the author is trying to say? What makes you think that?
13. Is this an author you would like to read more from? Why or why not?
14. Which words were hard to read in this book? How will you remember them for next time?
15. Which strategies did you use as a reader tonight? How did these strategies help you?
16. How did this book touch your heart?
17. Tell me the most interesting, scariest, funniest, etc... part of the story.
18. Would you recommend this book to a friend? Why or why not?

### General Nonfiction:

19. What is the author trying to teach you?
20. What do you already know about this topic?
21. What do you want to know about this topic?
22. What have you learned about this topic?
23. How might you learn more about this topic?
24. What words did you find confusing? How did you figure them out?
25. What text features did you use to help you read? (Bold face words, diagrams, etc...)



# Skill Specific Book Talk Questions

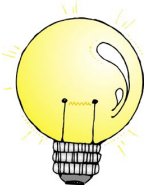
We have decided to give our parent group more specific sets of discussion topics and questions. This will help facilitate meaningful conversation during your child's nightly reading. They are examples of questions that strong readers ask themselves as they read to help them both understand and enjoy their reading. Through your book talk discussions, your child will develop the ability to question as they read independently and thus become a strong, insightful reader. Not all of these questions will make sense for every book. You can select one or two to discuss that make sense to the book you have read.

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## RETELLING

1. What is going on so far?
2. What just happened?
3. Who is this character and how is he or she connected to the other characters?
4. Where is the story taking place?
5. Retell what you just read . . .
6. Say more about that part . . .
7. Start from the beginning and tell me what has happened so far . .
8. How does this part of the story fit with earlier parts?
9. So, what's going on now in the story?
10. Can you tell me the story across your fingers (characters, setting, beginning, middle and end of the story)?



## MEANING AND COMPREHENSION

1. Can you retell this story in your own words? (Tell across your fingers: setting, characters, beginning, middle and end)
2. Who is the main character? What can you tell me about him/her?
3. Can you tell me about some of the other characters?
4. How do the characters treat each other?
5. Where does the story take place? How do you know? What evidence in the book helps you make your decision?
6. What might we expect this story to be about based on the cover of the book?
7. What is the main problem in this story?
8. How does the author solve the problem?
9. Tell me about the most interesting, scariest, or funniest part of this story.
10. What did you learn from reading this book?
11. What was the author's purpose for writing it?
12. Is this book fiction or nonfiction? How do you know?
13. Would you recommend this book to your friends? Why or why not?



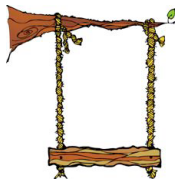
## NON-FICTION

1. What is the author trying to teach you?
2. What is the author trying to teach you now?
3. Is that like something you already knew?
4. Is that like something you have seen before?
5. How does that go with what you have already learned?
6. What question is the author trying to answer?
7. What ideas do you have now about our world or how we should act?
8. Can you compare that to . . .
9. Can you connect (this detail) with the main idea of the book?
10. That is so interesting! How did that make YOUR thinking grow?



## PREDICTING

1. What could happen next?
2. How is this going to end?
3. Who is this character and how is she connected to the other characters?
4. What do you know about \_\_\_\_\_ to help you figure out what might happen?
5. Say what you think might happen . . .
6. Based on what you know about stories /this character/type of book/etc. what do you think will happen?
7. What part of the story gave you that idea?



## ENVISIONING

8. Imagine you're there right now. What do you see/hear/etc.?
9. Stop and picture what's happening right now.
10. Act that part out.
11. Are you seeing a picture in your mind? What does it look like?
12. What part gave you that image?
13. Think about the character and how he or she might feel when she says that.
14. What else is going on in this part?
15. Based on what's going on in the story, how would the character sound in this part?

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