

Five-minute reading talk

A simple activity for parents, carers and children. Choose a short page from a story you already have. Read it aloud, take turns, or let your child read - whichever suits them today.

You need: one story, this sheet and a pencil. No new books needed.

1. Notice something | 1 minute

Ask: "What happened on this page? Show me the bit that tells us."

Your child can talk, point to a picture or act it out.

One thing we noticed:

2. Be a detective | 2 minutes

Choose one question: "How might the character feel?" or

"Why do you think they did that?" Then ask: "What gave you that idea?"

Look back together for a clue in the words or pictures.

Our idea:

Our clue:

3. Play with one word | 1 minute

Choose an interesting word. Say it, explain it in your own words, then use it in a silly sentence. If it is unfamiliar, explain it together.

Our word:

Our sentence:

4. Finish with a choice | 1 minute

Ask: "Which part would you tell someone about?" Let your child choose.

Next time, revisit the same page or try another - both are fine.

Make it fit: for younger children, use the pictures and give spoken answers. For older readers, ask whether another explanation could fit the same clue. Keep it a shared conversation; there is no score.
