



Skill: Understand the story

After Reading

Learn the strategy

Reading tip: I have another question

- 1. Think about predictions:** Help your child compare what they thought was going to happen to what *did* actually happen.
- 2. Retell it:** Talk more about what happened.
- 3. Connect it to you:** Help your child think of ways this story connects to their experience or other things they've read.

If we ask *Did the character win in the end?* our child will answer “yes” or “no” and that’s the end of it. But a question like *How did the character win in the end?* is “open-ended” and leads to a conversation. Talking deeper about topics it helps children understand texts deeper, too.

Ask your child

- Think about your prediction. What turned out to be true? What was different?
- What do you think will happen next? Why?
- What happened in the beginning? What happened in the middle? What happened in the end?
- Tell me more. What else happened?
- Did this remind you of anything in your life? How so?
- This reminds me of _____. How does this text connect to that?

Interact & play

Play charades! Instead of retelling the story, take turns silently acting out different events in the beginning, the middle and the end of the story. Try to act out the events in the order they appeared in the story.

If you’re doing this with a nonfiction text, act out interesting things you learned.

Practice in the real world

Children can practice making connections between their life and the life of other people with characters in a book. And then you can extend it to real people—people you know, people in the news, even people in history. You might start the conversation this way:

I can imagine how that feels because...
I had something similar happen to me when...
I bet that person thinks/feels _____ because if I was them...

Tips & tricks

- Almost any question can be turned into an “open-ended” question if you put a “why” on the end. For example, *Do you like that book? Why?*
- Use these questions before and during reading, too. It’s always the right time to ask open-ended questions!

My thoughts and questions 

