To become good readers children need to develop skills in seven key areas and it can be useful to think about these when reading with your child.

1) Decoding: Using strategies to **break down words**.

2) Retrieval and Recall: Finding information from the text to find evidence for how e.g. a character is feeling or what the setting is like.

3) Inference: Reading between the lines i.e. how does an author 'show' not 'tell' us how a character is feeling.

4) Structure and Organisation: E.g. subheadings (to locate information quickly), paragraphs, new line for new speakers, chapters, contents pages, glossaries, etc.

5) Language: to consider how the author has carefully selected words for effect.

6) Purpose and Viewpoint: What does the narrator or author perhaps feel about a certain situation or subject?

7) Making Links: To real life experiences or to similar books.

- What has happened in the story so far?
- What do you think will happen next?
- Who is your favourite character? Why?
- Who is the character you like least? Why?
- Do you think the author intended you to like / dislike this character?
- How do you know? Does your opinion of this character change during the story? How? Why?
- Find two things the author wrote about this character that made him / her likeable?
- If you met one of the characters from the story, what would you say to him / her?
- Which part of the story is your favourite / least favourite? Why?
- Would you change any part of the story? How?
- Would you change any of the characters? How?
- Which part of the story was the funniest/scariest/ saddest/ happiest? Find some evidence in the text to support your opinion. What is the purpose of this book? How do you know?
- Why is this page laid out in this way? Could you improve it?
- Pick three favourite words or phrases from this chapter. Can you explain why you chose them?
- Did this book make you laugh? Can you explain what was funny and why?
- Have you read anything else by this author? Is anything similar?
- Does this book remind you of anything else? How?
- When do you think this book was written? How do you know?
- Does it matter? What would it be like if it was written now?
- Do you think the title of the book is appropriate? What would you have called it?
- What is the genre of the book: sci-fi, mystery, historical, fantasy, adventure, horror, comedy?
- What are the features that make you think this? Find two sentences which describe the setting. Is the plot fast or slow moving? Find some evidence in the text, which supports your view.
- If the author had included another paragraph before the story started what do you think it would say? Would you like to read another book by this author? Why/ why not?