Reading Response Booklet

Helping you to support your child’s reading at home
A. P. E.

Answer it: What is the answer to the question you’ve been asked? Remember what you’ve read; don’t guess.

Prove it: Show how you know that is the answer. Choose a quote which helped you answer the question. Remember to use inverted commas around the word(s) or phrase(s) the author used.

Explain it: Why did that quote help you answer the question? Give as much detail as you can. Write some sentences which make it clear why you came to your answer.
Answer it

I think ...
The writer ...
In this text ...
I believe that ...
It is clear that ...
The speaker ...
My opinion is ...
Prove it

I know this because ...
The text includes ...
The writer states that ...
For example ...
I get this impression because ...
The writer describes ... as ...
The character ... says ...

A.P.E.
Explain it
This suggests that ...
The means that ...
This implies that...
This makes you realise...
This can be interpreted as...
The effect of this is ...
This makes the reader feel ...
A.P.E.
Vocabulary Questions:
Give / explain the meaning of words in context

Questions you could use:
• What is the meaning of this word?
• Highlight a key phrase or line. By writing a line in this way what effect has the author created?
• How could you work out the meaning of this word? Give three strategies.
• The writer uses words like ... to describe .... What does this tell you about a character or setting?
• What other words/phrases could the author have used?
• The writer uses ... words/phrases ... to describe ... How does this make you feel?
Retrieval Questions:
Find and record information identifying key details from fiction and non-fiction

Questions you could use:
• Where does the story take place?
• When did the story take place?
• What does s/he/it look like?
• Who was s/he/it?
• Where did s/he/it live?
• Who are the characters in the book?
• Where in the book would you find...?
• What do you think is happening here?
• Through whose eyes is the story told?
Summary Questions
Summarise main ideas from more than one paragraph

Questions you could use:
• What’s the main point in this paragraph?
• Can you sum up what happens in these three/four/five... paragraphs?
• You’ve got ‘x’ words; sum up these paragraphs.
• Sort the information in these paragraphs. Do any of them deal with the same information?
• Make a table/chart to show the information in these paragraphs.
• Which is the most important point in these paragraphs? How many times is it mentioned?

Summarising Sheba
Inference Questions:
Make inferences from the text, explaining and justifying your answers using evidence from the text

Questions you could use:
- What makes you think that?
- Which words give you that impression?
- How do you feel about...?
- Can you explain why...?
- I wonder what the writer intended.
- I wonder why the writer decided to...
- What do these words mean and why do you think the author chose them?
- How do you know that the character is upset? Explain your answer.
Prediction Questions
Predict what might happen from details stated and implied

Questions you could use:
• Can you think of another story, which has a similar theme; e.g. good over evil; weak over strong; wise over foolish? Do you think this story will follow a similar plot line?
• Which other author handles time in this way; e.g. flashbacks; dreams?
• Which stories have openings like this? Do you think this story will develop in the same way?
• Why did the author choose this setting? Will that influence how the story develops?
• How is character X like someone you know? Do you think they will react in the same way?
Compare, Contrast and Comment Questions
Explain how information relates to the whole meaning and make comparisons within a text

Questions you could use:
• Explain a character's different/changing feelings throughout a story. How do you know?
• What are the clues that a character is liked/disliked/envied/feared/loved/hated etc...?
• What is similar/different about two characters?
• Describe different characters' reactions to the same event in a story.
• Compare and contrast different characters/settings/themes in the text.
• What do you think about the way information is organised in different parts of the text?
Author Choice Questions
Explain how meaning is enhanced through choice of words or phrases

Questions you could use:
• What does the word 'x' tell you about 'y'?  
• What does this... word/phrase/sentence... tell you about... character/setting/mood etc?  
• Highlight a key phrase or line. By writing a line in this way what effect has the author created?  
• Which words do you think are most important? Why?  
• The writer uses words like ... to describe .... What does this tell you about a character or setting?  
• What other words / phrases could the author have used?