



Kristina Mills  
Fourth Grade Lead Teacher  
Kristina.mills@lovett.org

4075 Paces Ferry Road, N.W., Atlanta, GA 3027

## **5 Big Reading Skills**

*Questions to ask your children while they are reading or while you are reading to them.*

### **1. Previewing and Preparing**

Students get their brains ready for the reading. Students may do one or all of the following:

1. Look at the cover
2. Take a picture walk
3. Read the blurb
4. Identify the genre- readers have different work to do in different genres.
5. Identify the series- if this is a series book, the reader will remind him/herself about what they already know about the characters in this series.
6. Identify the author- if the reader has read some of this author's books, the reader will remind him/herself about what they know about this author.
7. Non- Fiction: What do you already know about the subject?

*Questions:*

1. *What do you think this book is going to be about?*
2. *Let's look at the picture on the front. What do you see? Who do you think these characters are and what do you think they are going to do?*
3. *What kind (genre) of book/reading is this? What is your job as a reader while you are reading?*

### **2. Monitor for Meaning**

When readers monitor for meaning, they hold onto big ideas and use those ideas to make predictions, form opinions and carry the meaning of the text as they read. A large part of this skill is being able to understand plot, character and author's tone.

*Questions:*

1. *What do you know about the character/characters so far?*
2. *What does what you learned about the characters tell you about what kind of person they are?*

3. *Based on what you have already read what predictions can you make?*
4. *Has the main character changed at all?*
5. *What kind of relationships does the main character have? Why?*
6. *What does the main character want and how is he/she trying to get it? Do you think he/she will succeed?*
7. *Where does this story take place?*
8. *Tell me about the connections that you have made while reading? Does the story remind you of you or your family? Have you read any other books like this one? Does this story remind you of anything that is happening in the world?*
9. *Non Fiction: What are you learning about the topic? How does that fit into what you already know?*
10. *What are the big ideas in the book?*

## **2. Envisioning**

When readers read, they use all of their senses to help them build meaning. They make a movie in their minds about what the scenes each look like. They listen for sounds, smell the smells and clearly picture the setting and the characters.

*Questions:*

1. *What does the character look like? How do you know?*
2. *Tell me about what this scene looks like? Paint a picture of what is happening.*
3. *When that character talks...what does he/she sound like? Can you make your voice sound like the character when you read?*
4. *Describe the setting.*
5. *Non-Fiction: Can you describe what you are learning about?*

## **3. Interpreting**

Reader pays close attention to the main idea of the book and the tone and purpose of the author's writing. Readers ask themselves, "What is the author trying to say?"

*Questions:*

4. *Why do you think the author wrote this?*
5. *What is the big idea in this story? (Think about big general themes)*
6. *What did you learn from this book?*
7. *What do you think that author's opinion is about \_\_\_\_\_?*
8. *If you had to write a different title for this book, what would it be? Why?*

## **4. Synthesizing**

When readers interpret a piece of writing, they can then use that interpretation to grow a bigger idea. This idea is a universal idea that relates to the world. Reading helps us grow

new ideas about the people and the world around us. It makes us re-examine and re-adjust our thinking.

*Questions:*

1. *Has this book changed your ideas about anything? (I used to think \_\_\_\_\_, but now I think \_\_\_\_\_).*
2. *Has it confirmed your ideas? Tell me what and how?*
3. *Do you wonder about anything after reading this book?*
4. *Is there anything that you need to investigate further to help you fully understand the big ideas?*

\* These skills are not progressive. Students should be using these skills in combination as they move through texts. Predicting and Inferring are a part of each skill.