

## **Belmore Book Talk prompts**

### **General response questions**

- What did you like? What surprised you? What intrigued you?
- Is there anything you don't like about the book/poem/text?
- Does the book remind you of anything that has happened in your life? A memory? An experience?
- Does it remind you of another story/film...?
- Is there anything you were wondering about? Anything that doesn't make sense?
- What questions might you like to ask the author/illustrator?
- In your opinion, what makes this a good story/text/poem?
- Could this book be better? How?
- Is this book as good as...? Why do you think that is?
- How is the book different from...? Which is better and why?
- Would you recommend the book to one of your friends? What would you say to encourage them to read it

### **Recall questions: finding information from the text**

- What happened in the story?
- Can you give me a quick summary of the main events?
- What is the main purpose of the text? What key information is it trying to convey?
- Who are the main characters in the book - can you give me a few details you remember about each one?
- Which piece of information in the text did you find most interesting?
- Where does the story take place - can you remember some of the details which help you picture the setting?
- When did the story take place - is it set in modern times, history or the future?
- What might this mean - what is happening at this point in the story?
- Read the part that tells you...
- Where did you find the information about...?
- Which words/phrases/facts do you like best?
- Which line of the poem is your favorite - why do you think this?

### **Making sense - developing our ideas and thoughts using the text**

- What do you think about.... What clues make you think that?
- What is your opinion of...? Why do you think that? What evidence do you have to support your view?
- How do you know that? What words give you that impression?
- Using all you have found out, can you tell me what you feel about...?
- Which are your strongest bits of evidence to make you think that?
- Can you explain why...?
- How do you feel about...? Why is that?

- What does this tell you about what the character is thinking?
- Which parts of the text helped you find the information you needed to support your view?
- Do you agree with this opinion....?
- Explain your own opinion using the text to help show why you think that.
- How do the two characters get on? What evidence tells you that?
- If you were going to interview this character/author, which questions would you ask to help you understand the book more fully?
- What did he mean when he said...?
- Why do you think the author has described... in this way?
- Which three things tell you that...?
- At the end of the story the main character is feeling... Does this surprise you? Explain as fully as you can using parts of the story to help you.
- Who do you think is telling the story? How do you know?
- Do you think this is true/untrue? What clues lead you to think this?
- Predict what you think is going to happen next - why do you think this?
- Who would you like to meet most in the story? Why?
- Why do you think the author chose these particular words/phrases/facts?
- How did one of the characters change during the story?

### **How it all fits together: thinking about organisation and structure**

- What kind of text is this and how do you know straight away?
- What do you expect a book of this type to be like?
- How does the title encourage you to make decisions about the story/ text...?
- What is the purpose of the pictures?
- How does the layout help the reader?
- Does the story follow a familiar pattern/ structure?
- Each part of the text has a purpose-boxes, headings, arrows, diagrams...can you explain these purposes?
- Why do you think the author/illustrator choose those colours - what effect do you think he/she wanted to achieve?
- In the text, how have the different parts of the... been made clearer?
- How do you know the order to follow the information in the text?
- Look at how the poem is organized; does this help you understand the overall theme better?
- Why are these words in italics/bold? What is the purpose of making these words stand out?
- Were you surprised by the ending of the story and would you change the ending if you could?
- Are the beginning and ending of the story similar in any way?

### **Loving language: using and choosing the right words**

- When you read those words, how do they make you feel?
- What do these words mean and why do you think the writer chose them? Explain what you think the physical description of the character tells us about him/her?
- Now what do their actions reveal about them?
- How does the writer build up the sense of...?
- What choice of words creates the.....atmosphere?
- By writing the line in this way, what effect has the author created?
- What do you notice about the length of sentences used here?
- Why do you think the author has chosen this sentence type?
- Which words/phrases encourage you to want to read on?
- Why has the author used repetition?
- Why did the author choose this title?
- What is the effect of writing in the past/present tense?
- What words or phrases make the text sound like a piece of persuasion/explanation, etc...?
- How effective do you think the speech/quotations are within the text?

### **Connecting to the writer: reading as a writer and considering the overall effect**

- What is the purpose of this particular text?
- I wonder why the writer has decided to...
- What was in the author's mind when he/she wrote those words/that description...?
- What effect does the text/passage have on you as a reader - how do you think the author achieved that effect?
- Can you think of other stories/texts which had a similar affect on you?
- Why do you think the author chose this setting in particular?
- What does the text tell us about the writer's views and opinions?
- Do you agree with his/her approach to the subject?
- What makes this a successful story?
- What evidence do you have to justify your view?
- Do you think it could be improved - how?
- What was the most interesting/most unconvincing part of the story/ text? Explain why.
- What impression of... does the first paragraph give you? -
- Is the character likable/unlikeable?
- How does the author make you feel towards the character?

### **Connecting to the world: relating and reading to ourselves and the wider world**

- Does this story remind you of any personal experience/ something that has happened to you before - could you describe and share it?
- Do you know another story/text which deals with the same issues and themes, e.g. social, cultural, moral issues?
- How would this story be different if it was written today?
- How would this text/story be different if written by another author you know, like...? Can you think of questions you'd like to ask the character about your life/life today?

- What would this character think about...- why do you think that?
- Have you ever been in that situation? What happened? If not how would you have felt in the same situation?
- What do you think would have happened if...?
- How would you have felt in the character's shoes?
- Are there any patterns you notice and recognise? e.g. familiar story structure, plot, style, theme?
- What do you think this story/text is trying to tell us? Is there a message?
- Could you suggest the key ingredients you'd need to write a story/text of a similar type?