

## 'Before' Strategy: Looking at the content

It's important not to assume that your child has lots of background knowledge about a topic. Here are some ideas and also questions that you might like to use with your child:

- 1) Look at the title/heading/topic. "What can you predictions can you make by just looking at the title?"
- 2) Have your child look at any pictures/graphs/illustrations. Ask, "What does the picture seem to be about? Why do you think the author included them?"
- 3) Check to see if there are any captions in the text. Encourage your child to see how they add extra information.
- 4) Are there any graphs, charts, maps or tables? What information do they show? Ask, "What do these tell you about the type of information that we might read about?"
- 5) Boys love **BIG IDEAS**, so look for any of these in the story/text. Look for clues in large fonts, bold titles, chapter names, underlined words or those in italics.
- 6) Author's purpose is a key comprehension strategy. Ask, "Why do you think the author wrote this book/article/text?" This can be a good opportunity to look up information about the author.
- 7) Can your child see any link between their own background knowledge and the content of the book/text? Ask, "Let's look at what you already know. Do you think this might help you when reading this text?"
- 8) If, for example, your child was exploring a topic about Egypt then I would suggest that you show them some pictures about Egypt, a map and watch some short Youtube clips. Get them familiar with some vocabulary such as *mummies* etc.



ASSIST



ENGAGE



EXTEND

