Questions to ask your child when reading at home

What does this word/phrase/ sentence tell you about the character?
In the story, 'x' is mentioned a lot. Why?
The writer uses words like 'x' to describe 'y'. What does this tell you about a character or setting?
What other words/phrases could the author have used?
How has the writer made you and/or the character feel happy /sad/angry/ frustrated/lonely?

Where does the story take place?
When did the story take place?
What did s/he/it look like?
Who are the characters in the book?
Where in the book would you find 'x'?
What do you think is happening here?
Which part of the story best describes the setting?
What words and/or phrases describe the setting?
What evidence do you have to justify your opinion?

What's the main point in this paragraph?
Can you sum up what happens 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?

What makes you think that?
Which words give you that impression?
How do you feel about?
Can you explain why?
What do these words mean and why do you think the author chose them?

Do you know of another story which deals with the same issues; e.g. social; moral; cultural?
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?

What are the clues that a character is liked/disliked/envied/ feared/loved/hated etc?
What is similar/different about two characters?
Why is 'x' (character/setting/event) important in the story?
What is the story (theme) underneath the story?
Does this story have a moral or a message?
Why do you think the author chose to use a question/bullet/ subheading/table etc to present the information?

How does the title/layout encourage you to read on?
Why has the writer written/ organised the text in this way?

Who do you think this information is for?

What does this word/phrase/ sentence tell you about the character/setting/mood etc?
What other words/phrases could the author have used?
The writer uses 'x' words/phrases to describe 'y'. How does this make you feel?
Has the writer been successful in their purpose or use of language?
What do you think the writer meant by 'x'?
Which words do you think are most important? Why?
The author states that 'x' is something it isn't. What is the effect of this? Why have they done this?

How is it similar to 'x'?
How is it different to 'x'?
Which is better and why?
Compare and contrast different character/settings/themes in the text.
What do you think about the way information is organised in different parts of the text?
Is there a reason for why this has been done?