

Book Conversations

Book conversations are, as the name implies, interactive discussion between teachers and learners (or young learners) over the content of something that was read. They should not be viewed as opportunities to “check” comprehension or quiz the reader. Rather, they should be authentic, interactive (not one-way), and nonjudgmental discussions of reading. They should help readers make connections between the text (story) and their own lives or background. In this way they will more fully integrate the information from the text into their own cognitive (knowledge) structures. Although one participant may lead the discussion, all participants should feel free to enter the conversation and/or to lead it in various directions.

Questions:

Did you like the story?

Did the character remind you of anyone in your own life?

What advice would you give the character?

What do you think will happen next in the story?

Who is your favorite character?

Where else could this story take place?

If you were a character what would you do?

Why do you think the author wrote this story?

Could you write a story like this? How would it start?

How does this story compare with another story we read? How are they the same? How are they different?

Did you notice any interesting words in the story?

Did you notice any interesting sentences in the story?