

Here are some more good questions to ask when you share stories or when your child reads:

Who was the character that...? What is happening at this point/in this part of the story?

Find one/two things that the main character did in this part of the story.

Tell me about what sort of character/person... was from the things they did/said in the story.

What do you think...thoughts were at this point in the story/play?

How has the author used words/phrases to make this character funny/sad/clever/frightening/ excited etc.? How did the story make you feel? Why did it make you feel like this?

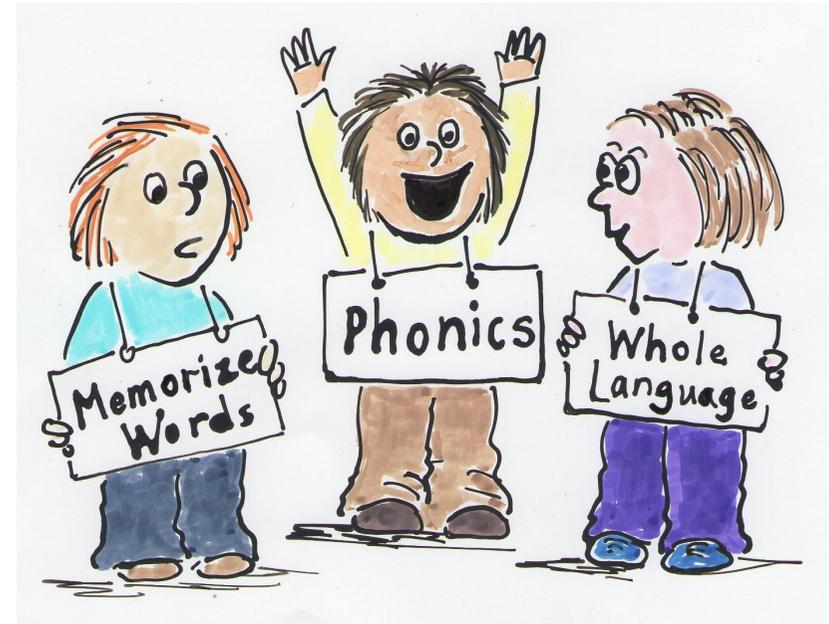
Why do you think the author chose this particular setting for this story?

Try to share a book every night at bedtimes for enjoyment.

Research shows this is the best thing you can do for your child's reading and writing development as they hear lots of words and can then use them for themselves.

There are ideas on our school website for reading and lists of good books. Happy reading!

Foundation Stage Reading information leaflet



The main focus of reading in Foundation Stage is to teach your child the sounds that make up words (phonics) and to teach them to read common words on sight (sometimes known as “tricky words” or high frequency words). We will also be reading a lot of fun and quality books to your child so that they become familiar with lots of words and the way story language is structured. The more you read to a child the easier they find reading and writing.

By half term children should know all initial sounds—the alphabet. We teach these in easy groups not a-z in order. After this teachers begin to teach sounds blended together (phonics). We use the Letters and Sounds system in our school and this is helped with the [Phonics Play website](#). Please join Phonics Play so that your child can play the games we play in school and improve their phonics.

We know some parents find early reading a bit dull and repetitive e.g. learning the tricky words and reading the short lines in books. But, the quicker your child learns the mechanics of reading, the better reader they will be **for life!**

Children need to practise their words and read at **least every other day** to build their skills. The word reading is so important because sounding out words with phonics is slow, but effective. Reading words from memory is quicker and when they do this they feel like a reader! When a child begins to read slowly but surely they begin to enjoy it. The effort of the early days really pays off for them and for you!

When your child can read simple words and sound out others their reading will be quite hesitant. Re-reading a few words or a sentence in a lively voice prepares them to read fluently and with expression. It is better to do this than read pages at a time because when a child feels like a reader, they will enjoy it, it isn't all hard work!

Talk about what has happened and the characters in the early books to get into the habit of discussing what is read. This is important as children need to know those words mean something and that they should read to understand. Some children can read the words but do not easily understand what they are. Ask questions which encourage your child to give their own opinions for example; What did Jim do? Why do you think he did it? What might happen next? What is a good word on that page? What does this word mean? What could the character do differently next time? There are some on the back of here. The next stage after hesitant reading is the “reading like a robot” stage. It is important to practise reading short sections with expression, model for the child how to do this. Reading without expression should be a short phase. Children should re-read a page or two with different expression rather than reading a book once and wanting to change it. Children can only read with expression at this age **when the words are known to them**, this is why you should re-read pages. It is a key skill at this age.

Children with a large vocabulary bank of words read much better than others and also do better with writing as they have a wider range of language to select from. Your child's writing ability also depends on their reading so it is really important.