

Every child a Reader

Supporting Parents to Improve Reading Skills at Home



**Heather
Clements
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Reading together

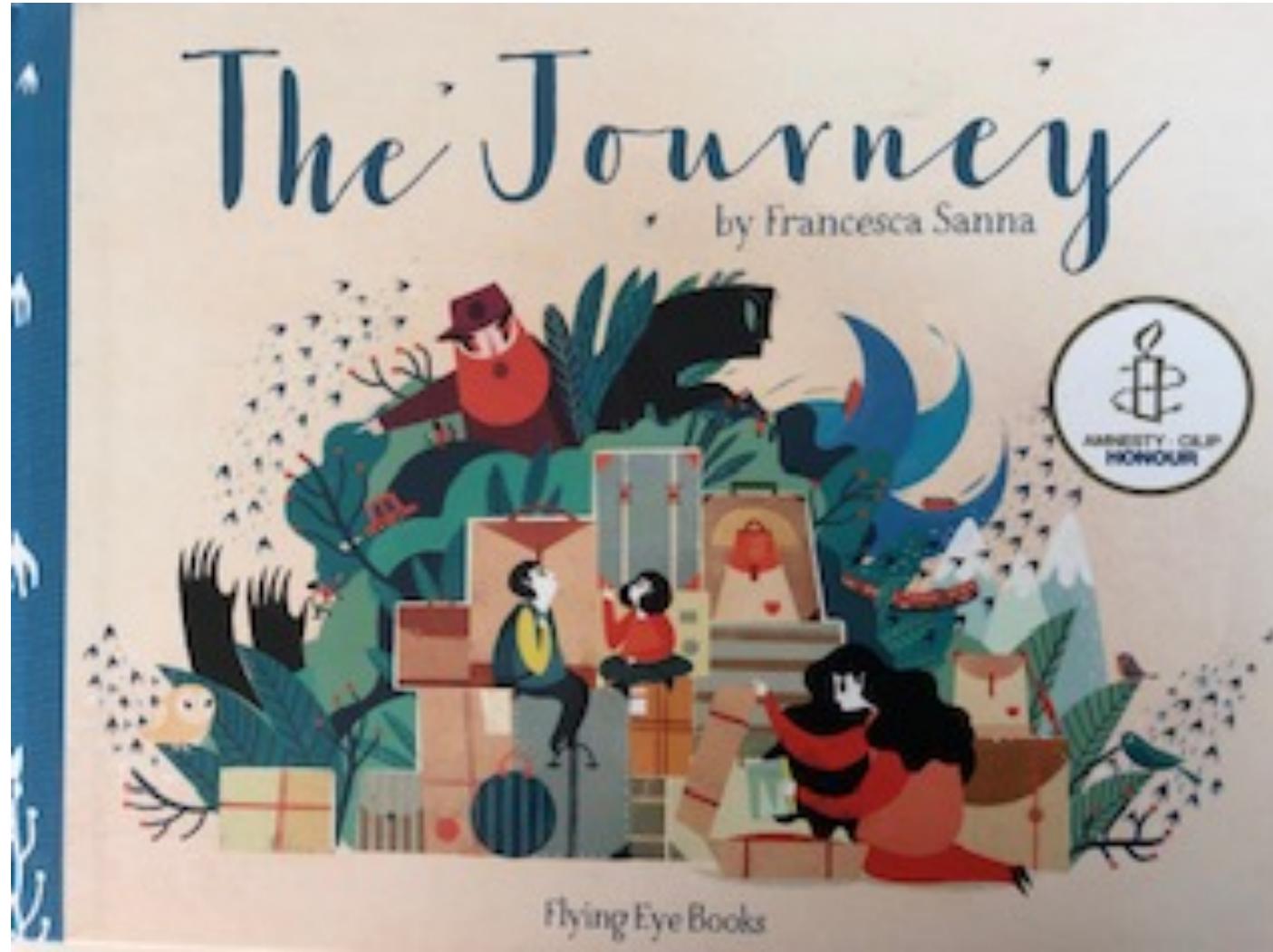
The following slides are an attempt to model the process of reading with you child not as a teacher but as a co-reader. I have used the book The Journey by Francesca Sanna because though it is primarily a picture book the key messages in it generate lots of ideas for discussion.

The age range is also very broad probably 8-11 and actually appeals to adults because of the underlying messages within the book.

I haven't used all the pages but I have tried to model some of the things you might discuss as you share the book. The questions and prompts are only ideas and should be selected according to age as some are quite sophisticated ideas - please don't try to use them all!

If you want to get the book its on Amazon but hopefully the approach used here can be applied to different books.

Coming soon unpicking a longer novel



What can we learn about this book from the cover.

Who do you think the people are in the picture?

Why do you think there are lots of boxes?

What type of scenery can you see?

What else interests you about this picture?

What sort of journey do you think it will be?

There is another clue on the front cover that tells us this might be an important book to read - what is it?

What is it like to have to leave everything behind and travel many miles to somewhere unfamiliar and strange? A mother and her two children set out on such a journey: one filled with fear of the unknown, but also great hope.

Winner of the 2007 Ezra Jack Keats Book Award Honor

Beautiful and powerful

- the Guardian,
Best Children's Books of 2006

A heart-stopping,
visually sophisticated story
- New York Times

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The back of a book tells us a bit more - it has a “blurb”.
What are the facts about the story included in the blurb?

There are only two things in the picture birds and suitcases what do you think they might stand for?



*Before the story starts there is a double page picture look closely- what can you see?
What do you think the dotted line stands for ?
What does it tell us about the journey?*

*What do you notice about the setting?
What sort of life do you think the child in this story had?
What do you predict the “change” might be?*



*What does the word
chaos mean?*

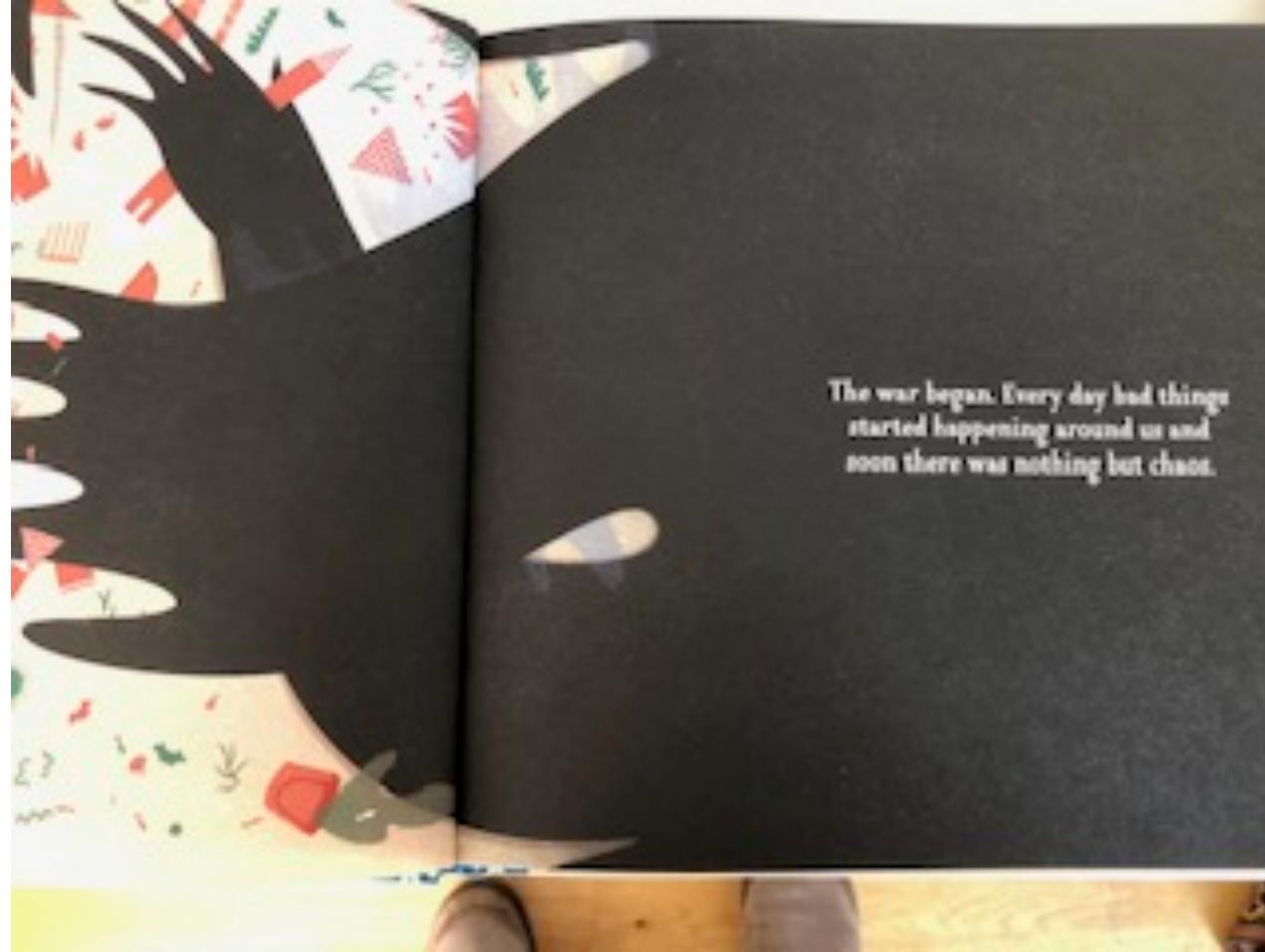
*Describe how you might
feel if there was a war
here?*

*What do you think the
black signifies in the
picture?*

*What do you think the
child might see or hear?*

*On the next page there is
a single sentence on a
black page:*

*“And one day the war
took my father” why do
you think the author has
done this?*





There is no text on this page what would you say? Can you describe how the mother and children might be feeling? What might the mother say to comfort the children? What is the significance of the black hands in the image?

*Why do you think
the mother I telling
them this?*

*What do you think
is going to happen
next?*

*Where do you think
they might want to
go? Why?*

The other day, one of my mother's friends told her that many people are leaving. They are trying to escape to another country. A country far away with high mountains.





Over the next few days we see them going from a car to a taxi to a fruit wagon to a bicycle to walking - what does this tell you about their journey? Why do they have to leave more and more behind? What would you try to keep for as long as possible if you were on a journey like this?

*They have been
travelling for a
long time to get
here how might
they feel when
they see this wall?
There doesn't seem
to be anyway to get
across the wall but
why else is this a
scary picture?*

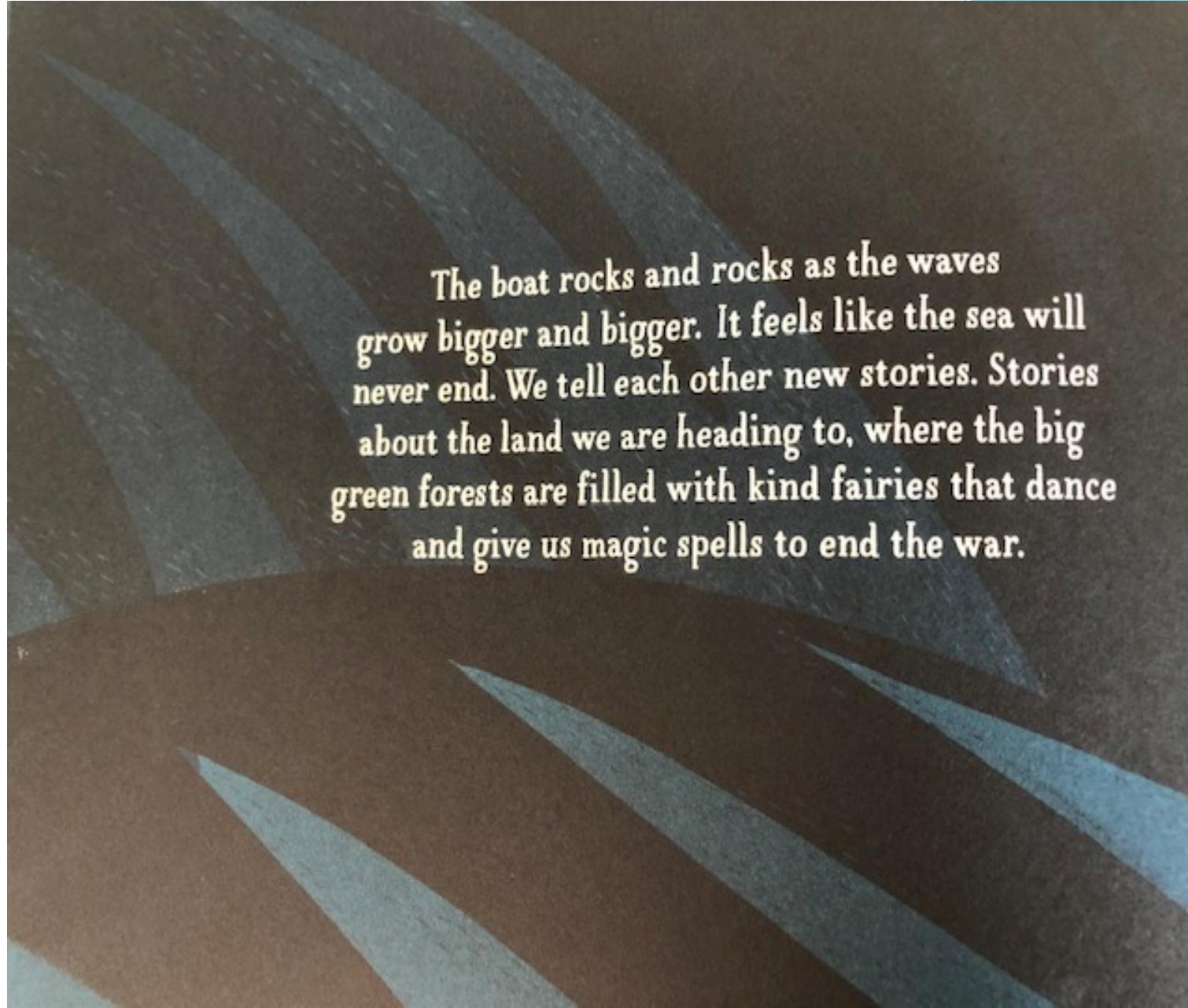




Yet again we have a an image of a dark powerful figure how do these people make the family feel? How does the picture show us this?

*When they reached
the sea they thought
they would be safe
and they told stories
about sea monsters -
when the storm got
bad what did they
start to imagine and
why?*

*Describe what it
might have felt like
in the small boat
tossed by the waves -
think about the
sounds and the
reaction of the
people around them?*



*The boat rocks and rocks as the waves
grow bigger and bigger. It feels like the sea will
never end. We tell each other new stories. Stories
about the land we are heading to, where the big
green forests are filled with kind fairies that dance
and give us magic spells to end the war.*

*The journey
continues
but at least
they seem
safe now?
Why do you
think they
are still
anxious?
What is the
significance
of the birds
above the
train?*



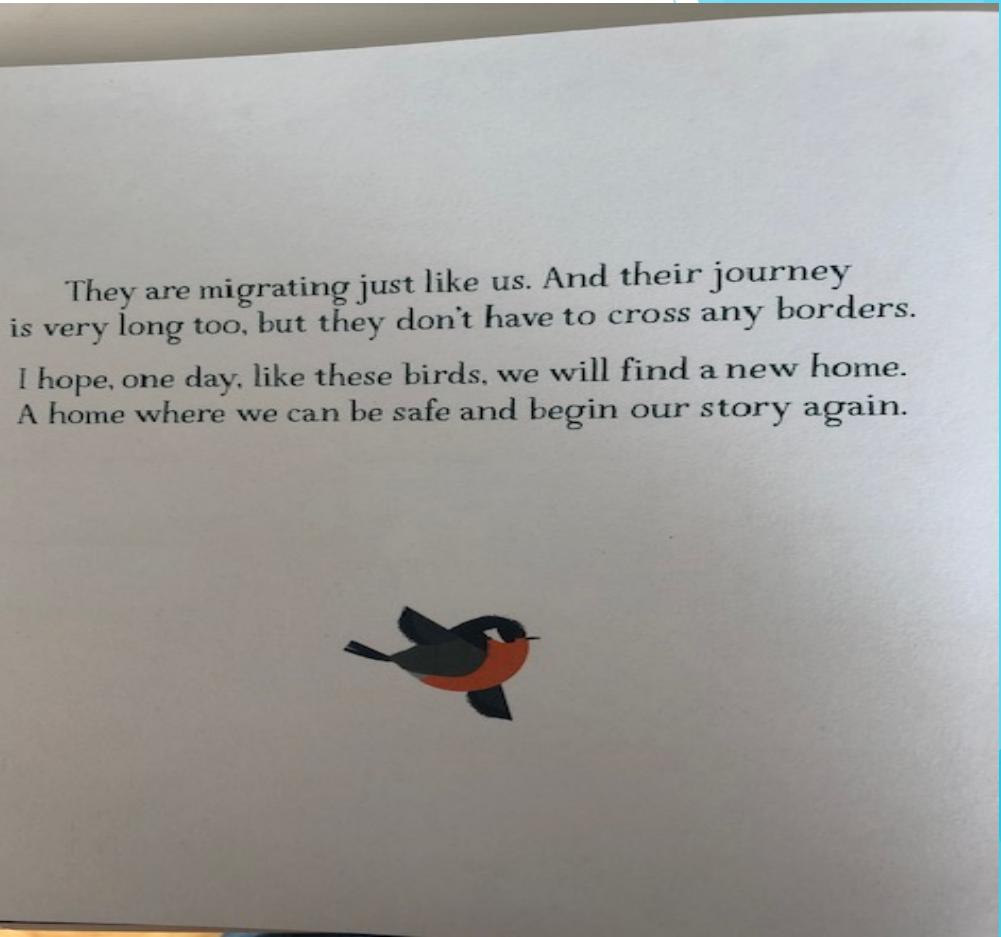
This is the first time we have seen the word migrating - in this context he is describing the birds flying to better weather - why is this like their story?

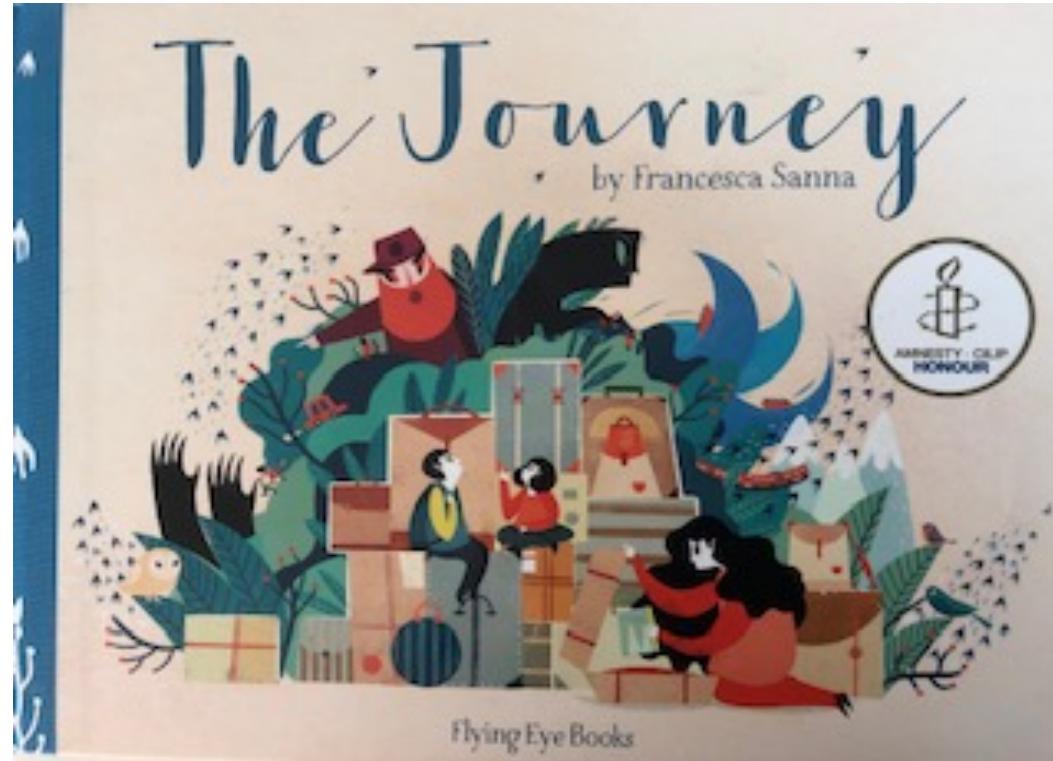
Why is the birds journey different from the family?

Where have you heard the word migrant before? What does it mean?

What is another name for some who has to leave their country because of a war?

This family may have come from Syria where there has been a war for 8 years. can you locate it on a map and work out how someone escaping Syria might reach the UK.





Now you have read the book why do you think it is supported by amnesty?

When you hear about refugees in the future how will this story effect your thinking?

Key points to remember

- ▶ Read every day with your child for at least 30 minutes - do it when they (and you) are fresh early in the day - they can read independently at any time and you can still enjoy a book at bedtime but this is real learning
- ▶ Ensure that children always understand and frequently revisit the “big picture” - what is this story about
- ▶ Start your learning by **testing out what children know already using the rubric to help assess where they are**
- ▶ Reading aloud to your child takes away the barrier of decoding and enables them to engage more fully with the text. Then they can read to practice their decoding or word reading skills.
- ▶ Remember to check that they understand the words they are reading especially words that are new or unusual
- ▶ **Ensure your input is focussed on all the areas of reading**
- ▶ **Ensure you are using questions to check understanding and help them build answers incrementally by asking additional questions or seeking examples from the text**
- ▶ Most of all make it fun with a feeling that you are enjoying the book and learning about it together - if it is a chore for you it will be a chore for them



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Every Child a Reader

Of all the things you do to support your child during the current pandemic reading with them is likely to have the most impact on their future so give it all the time and effort you can