In addition to spending time reading independently, elementary-age students benefit from rich conversations about books. You can connect with your child and deepen their reading comprehension through meaningful discussion. Use the questions below to engage with your child, encourage thoughtful reflection and nurture a love of reading.

For Fiction:
1. Where does this story take place? Why do you think the author chose to set it there?
2. Does this story take place in the present day or in a different time period? How does the author show this?
3. Who is telling this story? Is there a narrator? Is it told in the first person? Third person?
4. How would you describe the main character? Can you pick three specific words to describe them? Why did you choose those words?
5. Do you like the main character? Why or why not?
6. What do you think will happen next? Why do you think that? What clues has the author given you?
7. Does the main character have a problem? What is it?
8. How is the problem solved? Or what is the solution?
9. Could this story be true? Why or why not?
10. Do you know any real people who are like the characters in this story? Who are the people? How are they the same? How are they different?
11. Has anything in your life happened that is similar to the things that happened in this story? Tell me about it.
12. Can you retell this story to me, including the most important things that happened in the beginning, middle and end?
13. Were there any parts of the story that were confusing to you? Let’s look at one together.
14. Were there any words in this story that were new to you? Let’s find one new word to look at together.
15. What is the scariest, funniest, saddest, most interesting, or most funny part of the story? Can you find it and read it aloud to me? Can you draw a picture illustrating that part?
16. Why do you think the author chose the title for this story? How does it relate to the story?
17. Would you like to be a character from the story? If so, which one?
18. If you could have a conversation with one of the characters in the story, which character would you choose and what would you talk about?
19. If you were going to write a sequel to this book, what would happen in it?
20. Would you recommend this book to a friend or family member? Why or why not?
For Nonfiction / Informational Texts:
1. What is this book mostly about? Why is this topic interesting or important to you?
2. What is one fact from this book that you already knew? Can you tell me two new facts that you learned?
3. Can you show me an interesting chart, illustration, photograph or diagram? What information did you learn from this graphic feature?
4. Were there any parts of this text that were confusing to you? Any unfamiliar words? Let's look at them together.
5. Can you make a connection between this book and something in your life? Have you had any experiences that relate to the topics covered in this book? Tell me about it.
6. Can you make a connection between this book and another book that you have read? Tell me about how this book reminds you or makes you think of something in the other book.
7. Why do you think the author chose to write this book? What key message or information were they trying to share with their readers?
8. If you could have a conversation with the author of this book, what would you talk about?
9. What are you still wondering about? What would you like to know more about on this topic?
10. Would you recommend this book to a friend or family member? Why or why not?