

### At Home Activities

#### The Domino Effect

You and your child will alternate sentences to retell the story, but every turn must start with the phrase, "Because that happened..."

Adult: "The main character chose to sneak out of the house at night."

Child: "Because that happened, he missed his alarm and was late for the championship game."

Parent: "Because that happened, the coach benched him for the first half..."

#### The "Slow-Motion" Replay

Pick the most action-packed or chaotic scene in the book (a chase scene, a big argument, or a discovery). Challenge your child to retell that specific event in "slow motion." They are not allowed to move on to the next major plot point until they have listed at least five specific, granular details about the setting, the characters' movements, or the exact words spoken in that exact scene.

#### The "Who Said It?" Retell

Challenge your child to retell a major event in the book using only the dialogue and spoken interactions between the characters. They have to change their voice or mimic the expressions of the characters to show who is speaking.

#### Multi-Character Timeline

Pick one scene in the book or story. Have your child retell that exact scene multiple times, but each time they must do it through the eyes of a different character involved.

- Round 1: Retell what happened from Character A's perspective.
- Round 2: Retell the exact same scene, but include the details Character B would have noticed.

#### The "Rewind" Button

Have your child retell the story normally from the beginning. At random intervals, you shout, "REWIND 30 SECONDS!" or "FAST FORWARD 2 CHAPTERS!" Your child must physically mimic a VCR tape rewinding ("Bzzzzt"), stop, and then either repeat the last few details with different wording, or instantly jump forward and accurately pick up the exact sequential details of that later chapter.

#### The "Director's Commentary"

Pretend the book is a movie, and you are both watching it together. Your child is the director giving the "behind-the-scenes commentary". They retell the story, but they must narrate the background details that the author included to set the scene. For Example: "Notice how the author keeps mentioning the storm rattling the windows? That's because the character is feeling incredibly trapped and anxious about the phone call she's waiting for."

### Did You Know?

Retelling trains a child's brain to organize information logically, which directly builds the foundational thinking skills they need for essay writing and public speaking.

