

Decision Tree: Conversation Starters for Connection

Because the best reading moments don't end when the last page closes.

WHY THIS MATTERS

Every great story opens a doorway to conversation — to wonder, empathy, and imagination. These prompts help you slow down, listen, and guide your child to think like a reader. Whether you use just one question or a few, the goal is to keep curiosity blooming before, during, and after reading.

The questions aren't a script. They're invitations. Think of them less like a checklist and more like a collection of keys — each one opens a different door, and you decide which door matters most today.

HOW TO USE THESE PROMPTS

- 1 **Keep the tone light and curious.** Ask like you're wondering together, not testing comprehension. Your child can always feel the difference.
- 2 **Choose just one or two per story.** Over time, your child will begin to ask their own questions too — that's the real win.
- 3 **Let silence be part of the magic.** Give your child a moment to think, imagine, and respond. Resist the urge to fill the quiet.
- 4 **Follow their lead.** If they go off-topic or start retelling the story in their own way — that's connection happening. Go with it.

CONVERSATION STARTERS | Decision Tree by Stage

Before Reading

ASK ABOUT THE COVER

"What do you think this story is about?"

LINK TO LIFE

"Have you ever seen a forest like this?"

SET THE MOOD

"What feeling do you get just from looking at the pictures?"

During Reading

CLARIFY MEANING

"Why did she run away?"

PREDICT

"What might happen next?"

WONDER ALOUD

"I wonder why the character did that — what do you think?"

After Reading

REFLECT

"What was your favourite part?"

EXTEND

"If you were the main character, what would you do?"

CONNECT

"Does anything in this story remind you of your own life?"

Remember: These are starting points, not a script. If your child's answer surprises or delights you — follow that thread. The best conversations always go somewhere you didn't plan.