Prompts to Help Get "Book Talk" Going At Home

Below are a list of questions that can serve as conversation starters with your children at home. The most effective conversations revolve around somewhat open-ended questions, rather than "quizzing" readers on the "who? what? when? "of a book. Research shows that children benefit enormously from discussing books at-home, particularly when their "parent-partner" has read the books alongside them and can add on to their ideas or pose new ones.

Fiction

- ❖ What's happening in the story so far? What are you thinking about it?
- ❖ What seems special or a little unusual about the character/s?
- ❖ What are you thinking about the character/s? Why?
- ❖ Would you want to be friends with this character? Why/why not?
- ❖ Does the character ever have mixed feelings about something? What? Why?
- ❖ What is the problem in the story? Why is this a problem?
- ❖ Tell me about the different ways the character tries to solve his/her problem. Do you think these are good ideas? Why/why not?
- ❖ Usually, secondary characters either create a problem, make it worse, or make it better. What role do you think the secondary characters play in this story?
- ❖ How does the character grow/change in this book?
- ❖ Why did the author title the book (or chapter) _____?
- ❖ What message/life lesson is the author trying to send us? What does the main character learn about life that we can also learn?

Informational/Non-Fiction

- ❖ What kinds of information are you learning about _____?
- ❖ What seems to be really important about _____? Why?
- ❖ What do you find most interesting about _____? Why?
- ❖ Is there anything you find surprising about _____? Say more about that...
- ❖ Does _____ remind you of anything else you know a lot about? How?
- ❖ What does _____ really want/need? What gets in its way?
- ❖ Sometimes when I learn a little about something, it makes me have even more questions about it. What other questions do you have about _____? How could we answer these questions?
- ❖ How do you think the author feels about _____?

JFK.2013