

P4C resources

Ideas for reading a picture book

Sharing a story from a picture book is a great way to get into a richer dialogue and deeper thinking. Picture books can open up important themes and relevant issues and can help us to identify, challenge and think more deeply about the big ideas that matter to us. Check out the lists on the SAPERE resources website - many are available on YouTube too. Here are some tips for getting from a picture book to richer dialogue and deeper thinking.

1. Support thoughtful listening

Before reading, ask the listeners to be thinking as they listen. Ask them to pick out and remember one of:

- **one interesting thing from the story**
- **one thing I liked and one thing I didn't like**
- **one big idea**
- **one thing that matters to us**

2. Enable shared thinking time

After reading (and maybe some private or small group thinking time) ask each person or small group to share:

- a. what they picked out in their thoughtful listening**
- b. the reasons for the choices they made**
- c. why they think these things are important or valuable**

3. Generate questions for dialogue

Help each person or small group to turn their thoughts into discussable questions. These can be decorated or illustrated with pictures, thought bubbles and speech bubbles. Try asking for one of:

- **one open question**
- **two questions: one about the story and one more general question about people or life**
- **a question about an idea from the story**
- **two questions: one silly and one serious**
- **a question that you could ask someone who didn't hear the story**

4. Choose a question as a dialogue starter

Help everyone think about what makes a good question for dialogue and decide together which one to start with.

- **share appreciation for questions and statements. For example, 'I like this one because...'**
- **vote for a question to start a discussion**
- **spend a little time discussing each question in turn**
- **display questions so you can keep coming back to them**