

Wild About Reading!

Ms. Wilson
5th Grade

When it's time to read, set aside at least **15 minutes** to spend time reading and discussing the book.

Discuss the book's possibilities. What is it about -- based on the title; front and back cover; what the student knows about it from friends/classmates; or what **you**, the parent know about it. Maybe it's a classic you've wanted to experience again as an adult. *Old Yeller*, *Where the Red Fern Grows*, etc. Is it about animals, adventures in space, exploring other countries, or solving mysteries. Prepare yourself and the younger reader: "I love books about mysteries! I can't wait to see how long it takes for the kids to solve it." "What do you hope will happen?" Anticipate it.

Have a dictionary next to you. If it's part of the electronic device, learn how to use it. You will love having it handy; surprisingly, students need constant practice with the layout of a dictionary. Whether it's using guide words, the pronunciation key, why the parts of speech are listed, and the importance of knowing the multiple meanings. *English is a language that dances.* Talk about why the 'hem' on the edge of a piece of cloth is related to feeling 'hemmed' in when in a tight space.

Take turns reading, maybe paragraph by paragraph. They need to hear how new words are pronounced. Continue to listen to your child read long into high school. Words get bigger, and the meanings are more varied and subtle. *Encourage your child to use big words;* Try to use a large and varied vocabulary, stopping to explain the more complex words as you go. "We're going to take a more **convoluted** route to Grandma's house tonight. This means we're not going straight there; we'll circle around a bit."

Talk about the story even when you're not reading the book. Discuss your favorite characters and why you and your child like them. What about the not-so-nice ones? What makes them bad or scary? What would they have to do to make themselves more trustworthy? Discussions about the book when you're not involved in its reading, keeps the story alive. It allows you to form questions about what you've read that you can't remember, and gives you and your child a good reason to go back and reread sections.

Please move electronics (phones, etc.) to another room, unless you're reading from an electronic device! Remember, kids just want your time. **Enjoy it!**