

5 Questions to Ask After Storytime

Turn every bedtime story into a conversation that builds emotional intelligence

Why Questions Matter

Reading together is magical — but the real learning happens when we talk about what we read. These five questions are designed to help children ages 4–8 connect stories to their own feelings, build empathy, and develop the emotional vocabulary they'll carry through life.

Use them in any order. Skip ones that don't fit. Let your child lead the conversation.

The 5 Questions

1. How do you think the character felt in that moment?

✧Follow-up: Can you show me that feeling with your face?

2. Has anything like this ever happened to you?

✧Follow-up: What did YOU do? How did it turn out?

3. Was there a moment in the story that surprised you?

✧Follow-up: Why do you think the author chose to do that?

4. If you could give the character one piece of advice, what would it be?

✧Follow-up: Where do you think that advice comes from — your heart or your brain?

5. What's one thing from this story you want to remember?

✧Follow-up: Is there something you want to try tomorrow because of this story?

A Note for Grown-Ups

There are no wrong answers here. Even silence is okay — it means your child is thinking. The goal isn't to quiz them; it's to show them that their feelings and thoughts matter.

Fiddleswerth reminds us: the moon is always watching, and every feeling is worth naming. □