**Questions to help you think about your reading**

**First reactions**

When you first saw this book, what kind of book did you think it was going to be?

Was there anything you liked about this book?

What especially caught your attention?

What would you have liked more of?

Was there anything you disliked about this book?

Were there parts that bored you?

Did you skip parts? Which ones?

If you gave up, where did you stop and what stopped you?

Was there anything that puzzled you?

Was there anything you thought strange?

Was there anything that you’d never found in a book before?

Was there anything that took you completely by surprise?

Were there any patterns or any connections or that you noticed?

**Comparisons with other books and your life**

Have you read other books like it? How is this one the same? How is it different?

Has anything that happens in the book ever happened to you?

Which parts in the book seem to you to be most true to life?

**The writer’s use of language**

Were there words or phrases that you liked? Or didn’t like?

You know how, when people speak, they use words or phrases or talk in a way that you recognise as theirs: are some words or phrases used like that in this book?

Have you noticed anything special about the way language is used in this book?

When you were reading, did you ‘see’ the story happening in your imagination?

Which passages stay in your mind most vividly?

**Settings**

Did it matter where it was set? Could it just as well have been set anywhere? Or would it have been better set somewhere else?

Did you think about the place as you were reading?

Are there passages in the book that are especially about the place that the story is set? What did you like, or dislike, about them?

Was the setting interesting in itself? Would you like to know more about it?

**Characters**

Which character interested you the most?

Is that character the most important in the story or is it really about someone else?

Which character(s) didn’t you like?

Did any of the characters remind you of people you know? Or remind you of characters in other books?

Were you, as it were, inside the head of one of the characters, only knowing what s/he knew, or did the story take you inside a number of characters?

Did we ever get to know what the characters were thinking about? Were we ever told what they were feeling? Or was the story told all the time from outside the characters, watching what they did and hearing what they said, but never knowing what they were thinking and feeling?

**Narrators**

Who was narrating the story? Do we know? And how do we know?

Is the story told by someone we know about in the story or by someone we know or don’t know about outside the story?

What does the narrator think or feel about the characters? Does s/he like or dislike them? How do you know?

Does the narrator approve or disapprove of the things that happen and that the characters do? Do you approve or disapprove of them?

Did you feel as if everything was happening to you or as if you were an observer, watching what was happening but not part of the action?

**Timing**

How long did it take the story to happen?

Did we find out about the story in the order in which the events happened?

When you talk about things that happen to you, do you always tell your story in the order in which they happened? Or are there sometimes reasons why you don’t?

Are there parts of the story that took a long time to happen but were told about quickly or in a few words? And are there parts that happened very quickly but took a lot of space to tell about?

When you were reading the story, did you feel it was happening now? Or did you feel it was happening in the past and being remembered?

Was this a book you read quickly, or slowly? In one go, or in separate sessions?

**Review and recommendations**

Would you like to read it again?

What will you tell your friends about this book?

What won’t you tell people because it might spoil the book for them?

If the writer asked you what could be improved in the book, what would you say?

**Finding out more**

Do you know anything about the writer? Or about how the story came to be written? Or where? Or when? Would you like to find out?

Would you now like to read other books by the same writer?