English home learning tasks: 20/04/2020

Focus: Spiderwick Chronicles Book 1 (will be set on activelearn

Task/Day 1:

Outcome: To work on reading comprehension.

Task: Introduce book to your child. Show them the front cover and ask “**What type of book do you think this is? What clues can you get from the cover? Who are the main characters?**”. Read together the two letters before chapter 1. Ask “**What other clues did we get? How do the letters set up the story?**”. Read up to the end of page 6. Discuss with your child what they have learnt so far. Prompt them with open ended questions if they seem to get stuck (e.g. **What do we know about the characters**). Read to the end of chapter 1. Ask “**What happens to build up the suspense about an imaginary world?**”

Have you child write all the information they know about the three children, giving them access to the book. As an extension, have them write a letter to get to know one of the Grace children better, writing why they want to get to know them better.

Task/Day 2:

Outcome: To make logical predictions based on text, giving reasons as to why they have made that prediction.

Task: Ask child to summarise the story so far. In class, we often play a game, limiting their summary to 25 words or less. This makes them be careful with their choice of words and reduces the chance of going off topic.

Read chapter 2 to mid-page 20 and ask them to predict what might happen next and why. Read to page 23 ad ask “**Who might have placed the objects in the wall? Why do you think that?**”. Read to the end of Chapter 2.

Read Chapter 3 to the end of page 34. “**What details make the library seem a strange place?**” Ask them to identify the nouns and adjectives that help visualise the library. Read to the end of Chapter 3.

Carry out the “Spot the difference” task (attached worksheet). For each difference, have the child write why the drawing is incorrect. As an extension, have them find a quote in the book, write the page number and the quote to explain why the drawing is incorrect.

Task/Day 3:

Outcome: To become familiar in using a dictionary to check the meaning of words.

Task: Re-read the first paragraph of Chapter 3. Discuss how there are often clues in the text to help is understand unfamiliar words. Choose one word that the child doesn’t understand the meaning of, and show them how to use context clues and sound to help work out the word. Show them how to use a dictionary to check the meaning (an online one will do if you don’t have access to one).

Complete worksheet. As an extension, your child should choose a few unfamiliar words to use in their own writing. Maybe write about their own dream secret room.

Task/Day 4:

Outcome: To review direct speech and punctuation.

Task: Show page 24 of the book to your child. Have them read out the characters (maybe they do different voices for them) while you read out the narrative. Explain that this is called *direct speech*. Ask them to identify what makes direct speech different/special. (Inverted commas/speech marks\*, punctuation inside the speech marks, capital letters at the start of the speech and a new paragraph for each speaker.)

Have children punctuate speech on worksheet. As extension, have them write a short dialogue (based on the book or otherwise) and punctuate it and structure it correctly.

Task/Day 5:

Outcome: To read and compare a range of texts.

Task: Have your child read/re-read a section of another fiction book. Try to choose one with similar themes of paranormal/supernatural-esque themes or a similar mystery themed book, but if not then just a fiction book. Read with them the first one or two chapters, then discuss what the similarities and differences are between that book and Spiderwick Chronicles. Guide their thinking by asking questions about the characters, the setting, the atmosphere, the structure of the text and how the author is trying to convey meaning.

Have your children write up a little table of similarities and differences. As an extension, ask them to think of other stories that might fit into a similar genre (of either Spiderwick or the other chosen book) and write a short paragraph to give a reason as to why.