

## **Extending Reading into Conversation**

Mentors can improve students' reading comprehension by engaging in *Book Talk*. Book Talk (discussing the story, illustrations, and reader reactions) extends the reading experience while building communication skills and an understanding of the world of literature. Each child and reading session is unique, but you may use these conversation starters to enhance your reading time.

In general:

- Give the student plenty of time to answer the question.
- Share your opinion about the question.
- Use your judgment to determine how much time to spend on Book Talk based on your child's response or interest.
- If appropriate, encourage students to draw comparisons between the book and their lives. Almost any book will present an opportunity to discuss topics like pets, family members, holiday celebrations, birthday parties, favorite animals, and school, just to name a few!

Some questions:

- What do you think this book is about?
- What do you think will happen next? Why?
- Who is your favorite character in this story? Why?
- What is the most interesting (or exciting) part of this story?
- What would you ask this author if you met him or her?
- If you were the main character, what would you do in this situation?
- Where/when does this story take place? How do we know that?
- What other stories does this book remind you of?
- Do you think this could happen in real life?
- Can you imagine if you lived in this world? What would it be like for you?