Happy Fall Bear Creek Families!
This month we will focus on reading at home. According to Science Daily “Research shows that there can be up to a million-word gap for children who read at home versus those who do not”. Reading at home increases vocabulary and background knowledge and builds a bond between you and your child. In addition to reading asking your child questions about their book will only deepen their understanding. This month I am posting question stems to help you engage your child with their book! Happy reading!

-Natalie Geer
Reading Coach

When I read Fiction, I think...
In the Beginning/ Middle...
● Who are the characters?
● What do I know about them so far?
● What are their traits? Good traits? Bad traits?
● What evidence do I have to support that trait?
● How is the character feeling?
● What is the main problem? Little problems?
● How does the character react to the problem?
● Who are the secondary characters?
● What is the relationship between the main character and secondary characters? How do you know?
● What is the character’s motivation? What do they really want and why?

In the End...
● What is the solution? How does the character solve the problem?
● Does the character get what they wanted?
● What is the lesson learned/ central message?
● What is the setting?
● Why is the setting important to the story?

When I read Nonfiction (informational), I think about...
● What is the topic the author is teaching me about?
● What is the central idea of the section or whole text? (WHAT about the topic)
● What are the supporting details that go with the central idea?
● What are the text features? (Heading, caption, glossary, photograph etc.)
● How do they help me understand the text?
● What is the text structure? (Chronological, cause & effect, comparison, description, problem/solution)
● Why did the author choose that structure?
● What is the important vocabulary? Can I figure out what the words mean?
● What is the author’s perspective or point of view about the topic? (opinion)

Non-fiction texts teach your child facts and information about the real world. No matter your child’s grade level, these questions will enhance their understanding of what they are reading.

Fictional texts have characters, setting (where the story takes place) and usually a problem and solution. These books can also teach a lesson (moral). No matter your child’s grade level, these questions will help your child understand character traits, and learn life lessons.