Select a few of these to focus on and spend just a few minutes in discussion at a predetermined point in the reading.

Setting the scene

- If you were the author what would you make happen in this story?
- Who are the characters?
- Which of them are the most important?
- What do you think they will turn out to be like?
- Is the story a true story?
- What is the setting for the story?
- When is it set, now, in the future or the past?

Monitoring comprehension

- Is the plot proceeding as expected?
- What clues is the author giving about characters, setting or events?
- How do you feel about the characters? Are they likable, believable?
- Is there another interpretation of a character's actions that might make you feel differently about them?
- Is it possible to predict the climax of the story, the problem, or the main event?
- How will the characters deal with it?
- How does the author want you to think at this point?
- Was there any part of the story that puzzled you or caught your attention? Why?
- How long do you think it took this part to happen?
- Is this story like any others you have read? In what way?
- Who is narrating this part of the story?
- How do you know what each character thinks or feels in this story? What clues does the author give?

Summarise orally

- What has happened so far? Main events
- What caused this event?
- How was the problem resolved?
- Which characters have been introduced and what have we learnt about them?

See the picture

Imagine the character or setting whilst a selected piece of text is read to you. Tell a partner how you imagined the person or setting. Read the text together and substantiate or change your image. You could even draw it if you have time.

Figure 4.14 Improving comprehension: Activities during reading

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