



TOP TIPS on reading for empathy!

- 1.** **Diverse stories** Share books that allow children to see their own life experiences reflected but also introduce them to books set in other countries and with characters of different races, religions and experiences. Inspire them to imagine life for people in different situations from their own
- 2.** **Talk about characters** Focus on the characters and their feelings, more than the plot. Remember there are no right or wrong answers! Wonder together about what the characters are thinking or feeling and what they might do next
- 3.** **Help recognise feelings** Use lots of different emotion words when discussing stories. This will help children understand people's feelings and why they behave in certain ways
- 4.** **Listen 100%** Listening is a crucial part of empathy. Listen carefully as children explore what they feel about characters
- 5.** **Don't forget the pictures** Illustrations are especially good for 'reading' other people – what do the pictures tell us about how the character feels?
- 6.** **Put empathy into action** Could a book help inspire children to take action to help others?

