Sharing reading with independent readers

Even when children can read independently, it is important that they still get a chance to share their reading at home. Like any conversation, talking about books can happen anywhere and at any time — in the car, at the bus stop, or over dinner. Books can bring up strong feelings that need to be shared. A great way to start is to bring up what you have read recently and how it made you feel. Then, invite your child to do the same. You could ask:

* If you could be friends with any character in the book, who would it be and why?
* What has been the most exciting part of the book so far?
* What has surprised you most about the story? Why was it surprising?
* What do you think the saddest part of the story has been so far? Why?
* Is there anything in this story that is similar to something that has happened in your life? What was it and how is it similar?
* What would you do in a situation similar to that faced by a character in the story?
* How would you change the book's ending if you could re-write it?
* If you could ask any character in this book a question, what would it be?
* Does this book remind you of anything else you’ve read?