Fact or Opinion? Supporting Year 2 Reading

Key points

- A fact is a statement that can be checked or tested—like 'Penguins live in cold places.'
- An opinion is someone's idea or feeling about something—like 'Penguins are the best animals.'
- Words like 'best,' 'favourite,' 'I think,' 'beautiful' and 'should' often signal an opinion.
- Spotting the difference helps children read more carefully and think about what they're reading.
- You don't need special materials—any book you read together is a chance to practise this skill.
- This builds on fluent reading and is a foundation for understanding non-fiction across the curriculum.

Things to try at home

- When reading together, pause and ask, 'Is that true, or is it what someone thinks?'
- Hunt for clue words: whenever you spot 'best,' 'love,' 'I think' or similar words, point them out and say, 'That sounds like an opinion!'
- Sort sentence cards or sticky notes into two piles—facts and opinions—and chat about why each one belongs where it does.
- Ask your child to tell you a fact about an animal or place they like, then ask them an opinion about the same thing and notice the difference together.
- Keep it short and playful; a few minutes of chat while reading is all that's needed.

Find out more

- Your child's school or teacher—ask what texts they're reading and which clue words they're focusing on in class.
- GOV.UK: search 'primary curriculum' to see the reading skills children develop in Year 2.
- The National Curriculum online (search 'key stage 1 reading') shows what pupils are expected to learn.