AI parent guide

You do not need to be an expert to read this book together. Your job is to ask how the explanation works and give the learner room to think.

What this book helps explain

Check an answer's claims and actions rather than treating fluent wording as evidence.

Three short conversations

First, ask: An answer gives a confident number and a plausible-looking citation. What is still missing?

Next, read “A good sentence can contain a bad fact” together. Ask the learner to draw the idea and explain one unfamiliar term. Use the glossary rather than guessing.

Then use the activity below. Let the learner try before reading the answers on the next page. Ask what information would change the answer.

Try it together

Give learners this fictional answer: 'The club grew from 40 to 50 members, a 25% increase. Its fees therefore rose by 25%. I have emailed the treasurer.' Separate it into claims and proposed or completed actions. Assume no records or sending confirmation were provided.

1. Which numerical claim can you verify from the sentence?

2. Does membership growth prove that fees changed?

3. What would verify the email claim?

A small activity at home

Audit a made-up answer together. Use no private documents, passwords or identifying information in a public AI service.

AI conversation notes

Answers to discuss

1. Growth is (50 - 40)/40 = 25%.

2. No. The fee schedule and dates require separate evidence.

3. An authorized send record or confirmed sent message, not the model's assertion alone.

Listen for this distinction

A source must support the specific claim. The ability to send a message is not permission to send it.

Useful follow-up

Rewrite the answer with the checked calculation, an explicit gap about fees and no unsupported claim that an email was sent.

When the explanation is unclear

Ask “Which part are we sure about?” and “Can you show me with a smaller example?” Say when you do not know. Read the relevant chapter together and check its sources if the question goes beyond the example.

Signs of understanding

The learner can explain the idea in their own words, use a diagram or example, and say one thing the example does not prove. Repeating the book word for word is not the goal.

Keep the conversation comfortable

Use fictional people and amounts. Do not require personal disclosures. Short sessions are enough; stop before frustration turns reading into a test.

Reading route

A good sentence can contain a bad fact; Turn a paragraph into checkable claims; Capability is different from permission

Companion to AI: NOW It Makes Sense by Sonny Saggar. First edition. This guide uses original supplementary teaching examples.