

Reading with understanding is vital to a child's enjoyment of books. At school, we not only teach the children how to read but ensure that they understand what they are reading. Parents and carers often ask how they can help with this too, so we have provided a selection of questions below that you might like to use. Each section addresses a different reading focus. Please dip into the questions when you hear your child read but please don't ask all the questions at once!

To understand, describe, select or retrieve information, events or ideas from texts and use quotation and reference to text

Suggested KS2 questions

Which word told you that ...? e.g. which words told you that the weather was bad?

What did the do? e.g. what did the magic wand do?

What happened at? e.g. what happened at the edge of the cliff?

Can ... have more than one meaning?

What does mean? - choose harder word and ask the meaning

Where did ... go?

Describe e.g. character / setting

Which paragraph tells you? e.g. which paragraph tells you that the children are excited?

Where are?

To deduce, infer or interpret information, events or ideas from texts

Suggested KS2 questions

What ideas are we given about ...?

What does the word ... imply ... about?

Why did? e.g. why did Jamie look worried? Why did the car stop?

What words tell us? e.g. what words tell us that it is spring?

How did? e.g. How did you know it was night?

How was ... different after? e.g. how was the girl different after the visit?

How did react? e.g. how did the cat react when the wizard entered the room?

What does think? How do you know?

To identify and comment on the structure and organisation of texts, including grammatical and presentational features at text level

Suggested KS2 questions

Why has the information been presented in this way? e.g. bullet points / numbers / subheadings / chapters / speech

Why are ... used? as above

How does the layout help?

What is the purpose of ...? As above

Why did the author choose to ...? e.g. use italics / bold / capitals / exclamation marks / a single word on a line

Why is it easier to read? e.g. a list with bullet points

To explain and comment on writers' use of language, including grammatical and literary features

Suggested KS2 questions

Explain why is used? e.g. ! ? bold / capitals / italics / new lines

Why does the writer compare to?

What does tell you about? e.g. discuss description

Why did the author use.....? e.g. discuss particular words

How does help you to understand? e.g. discuss description

How has the choice of words created a feeling of?

What do phrases such as tell you?

Why did the author choose the verbs and?

The author makes appear (scary) Find two words or phrases that show this.

To identify and comment on writers' purposes and viewpoints, and the overall effect of the text on the reader

Suggested KS2 questions

What is this text trying to ...? e.g. teach you / make you feel

Does the author like ...? How do you know?

What can you tell about the viewpoint of the author?

What kind of magazine would you expect to find an article like this?

To relate texts to their social, cultural and historical contexts and literary traditions

Suggested KS2 questions

In what way is ... like? e.g. myth / legend / fable / traditional story

Which features could have? e.g. a moral / a happy ending / traditional characters

Give two pieces of evidence that? e.g. it is set in Roman times

How did you did know? e.g. that it is a fable

What is it about ... that tells you ...? e.g. that it is an instruction text / that times were hard in Tudor times

Could ... be described as ...? Why? e.g. a hero / heroine