

Guidance for Schoolreaders Volunteers: Key Stage 2

In KS2, reading progresses from decoding words and answering simple questions to analysing and understanding deeper meanings in a text. Volunteers can support this by asking questions during the session to develop a child's overall understanding. You don't need to ask questions at the end of each sentence or paragraph as the child may lose their reading flow and this could impact their understanding and enjoyment of a text.

The National Curriculum identifies 6 reading domains which are key areas that children need to know and understand to improve their comprehension skills. Below, we have listed relevant questions and strategies related to each strand that you could use during your sessions:

Vocabulary – give/explain the meaning of words in context.

- Can you find a word / phrase that means the same as ...?
- What words has the writer used to show how the character feels?
- What do you think this word tells us about the character / setting / atmosphere?
- Which word / phrase in the text shows that the main character is ... / shows that the setting is ...?
- Can you think of another word to use instead of ...?

Inference – make inference from the text / explain and justify using evidence from the text.

- Why do you think the character behaved / reacted like this?
- Which character would you most like to meet? Why?
- Can you find a word or phrase that tells us how the character is feeling. Explain your answer.
- Which words / phrases give you the impression that ... / makes you think that ...? Why?

Prediction – predict what might happen from the details stated and implied.

- Based on what has happened so far, what do you think will happen next?
- What do you think is likely to happen when ...?
- How do you think the story will end?
- How do you think (character) will react when ... happens?

Explanation – identify / explain how information / narrative content is related and contributes to the meaning as a whole.

- Why is the text arranged in this way? / What is the purpose of this text feature?
- The mood of the character changes throughout the text. Can you find some phrases which show this?
- What is the author's point of view? What affect does ... have on the reader?
- Which section was the most interesting / exciting part?

Retrieval – retrieve and record key information / details from fiction and non-fiction.

- Where / when is the story set?
- How does (character) look / behave / speak? Can you find some evidence in the text to support your answer?
- What happened at ... / when?

Summarise – summarise main ideas from more than one paragraph.

- What is the main theme / argument / message from this paragraph / chapter?
- Can you describe what happened in this chapter?
- Can you sum up this chapter / make up a new blurb for this book using 20 words or less?
- Can you describe what happened in 3 short sentences?
- Which is the most important sentence / paragraph? Why?
- What is the most important message in this book?