

Year 6 Reading Parent Guide 2023

Every KS2 reading assessment will contain questions designed to test different reading skills (called ‘domains’). Your child has been practising these skills throughout KS2 and the SATs reading test is an assessment of how well your child can apply these skills to unfamiliar texts.

The seven main types of reading question that your child may encounter are:

Vocabulary Questions 2a: Give/explain the meaning of words in context.	V
Retrieval Questions 2b: Retrieve and record information/identify key details from fiction and non-fiction.	R
Summary Questions 2c: Summarise main ideas from more than one paragraph.	S
Inference Questions 2d: Make inferences from the text/explain and justify inferences with evidence from the text.	I
Prediction Questions 2e: Predict what might happen from details stated and implied.	P
Compare, Contrast And Comment Questions 2f: Identify/explain how information/narrative content is related and contributes to meaning as a whole. 2h: Make comparisons within the text.	C
Author Choice Questions 2g: Identify/explain how meaning is enhanced through choice of words and phrases.	A

Vocabulary Questions

Give/explain the meaning of words in context.

Vocabulary questions are all about the words that a writer uses and the meaning of those words. This can include the child's ability to:



- explain and understand the meaning of words in a text;
- decipher the meaning of unfamiliar words by using clues from the text;
- identify the correct usage of a word by its context (i.e. bat – a piece of sports equipment or an animal);
- recognise synonyms (words with the same meaning) and antonyms (words with an opposite meaning).

Example questions include:

'Find and copy a word in the text that means relatives from long ago?'

'The mud flats would have formed a freshwater oasis in an otherwise parched environment. Give the meaning of the word parched in this sentence.'

The best way to support the development of your child's vocabulary is through lots of talk and lots of reading. Don't be afraid to use more advanced vocabulary and to explain its meaning to your child (which teachers do all the time). When reading to your child or hearing them read to you, discuss the meanings of words they come across and talk about how we could use those words in different situations.

2b: Retrieval Questions

Retrieve and record information/identify key details from fiction and non-fiction.

Retrieval questions simply ask pupils to find information within the text. They test pupils' basic understanding of what they have read and may ask about characters, the setting of the story, key events and in non-fiction texts, just the facts.



Example questions include:

'Who is telling this story?'

'Where is the story set?'

'Write down one fact you have learnt about spiders.'

When answering questions like this, it is important that pupils are able to pick out the key information rather than copying out chunks of text in the hope that the answer is in there somewhere.

The best way to support your child with retrieval is to talk about books you have shared together and ask questions about them. Encourage your child to focus on what the question is asking. For example, if you ask, 'Who is the main character in this story?' They shouldn't just name all the characters but should think about who takes a main part in the story and could, therefore, be called the main character.

2c: Summary Questions

Summarise main ideas from more than one paragraph.

Summary questions will test your child's ability to summarise (or retell) the most important points of a text without giving a detailed and in depth summary of what they have read.

S

Example questions include:

'Can you describe what has happened in this chapter?'

'What is the most important message in the leaflet?'

'What is the main argument of the letter?'

It is very important that your child reads these types of questions carefully. For instance, the topic of a text may be the rainforest but there could be a section about deforestation section. Therefore, if the question was, 'what is the author's main point in this section?' and they wrote 'the rainforest', then this would be classed as incorrect as the correct answer should have been 'deforestation'.

To support your child at home, ask them to summarise the key points of a chapter or section of a book they have read. You could also ask them to summarise films and television shows (or segments of them) that they have watched to reinforce this skill.

2d: Inference Questions

Make inferences from the text/explain and justify inferences with evidence from the text.

Inference questions involve being a 'reading detective' as children have to use clues from a text to infer meaning. This could be about the author's intentions, the layout of a text or a character's thoughts and feelings.

I

For example, a text may read:

'It's not fair!' shouted Jack as he slammed the door shut and flung himself onto his bed. He picked up his pillow and screamed loudly into it.

Inference questions about this section of text may include:

'How is Jack feeling?'

'Where do you think Jack is?'

Your child needs to use the clues within the text to work out an answer and justify it, e.g. 'He is feeling angry because it says he slammed the door and screamed into his pillow,' or 'He is in his bedroom because it says he was on his bed and picked up a pillow'.

Inference questions are very much about asking pupils what they think but they must be able to justify their answer by referring back to the text.

To support your child with inference questions, talk about what you have been reading together and ask lots of questions that begin with 'why', 'where', 'who', 'how', 'what', 'do you think...?' Encourage your child to explain why they think something and to refer back to the story to find evidence to back up their ideas.

2e: Predict Questions

Predict what might happen from details stated and implied.

Prediction questions ask pupils to say what they think will happen next, based on what they have read so far.

P

Example questions include:

'What do you think will happen to Sam when he goes into the forest?'

'How do you think the story will end?'

'What features would you expect to see in this type of text?'

As with inference questions, children need to use their understanding of the text to justify their answer.

To help your child with these types of questions, stop regularly when reading together to ask, 'What do you think will happen next?'

Discuss your child's ideas and share your ideas too. Try to model your thinking aloud about what you already know about the story and the characters to help you to make predictions about what may come next.

2f&h: Compare, Contrast and Comment Questions

Identify/explain how information/narrative content is related and contribute to meaning as a whole

Make comparisons within the text.

For these types of questions, children are expected to identify links between different parts of a text, and also explain how a whole text conveys a message or idea. These questions also ask children to make compare different sections, people, and places within a text. They may be asked to compare different characters, settings or themes within the text.

C

Example questions include:

'At what point did the character's mood change?'

'How do the characters react differently to the situation?'

2g: Author Choice Questions

Identify/explain how meaning is enhanced through choice of words and phrases.

For questions about the author's words and phrases, children must be able to explain and comment on writers' use of language. They have to explain how words and phrases add extra meaning to the text.



Example questions include:

'...they crossed the glassy surface of the lake...

What two impressions does this give of the water?'

'Why has the author used the verb 'zoomed' in this sentence?'

'Find and copy three words or phrases that the writer has used to show that the children are in a dangerous situation.'

Key Stage 2 SATs Reading Paper – What to expect

Pupils take one reading test at the end of KS2. The tests usually contain 3 different texts (both fiction and non-fiction) with accompanying questions based on each text. The texts are usually within 1 booklet and there is a separate answer booklet with question. Children have an hour to read through the texts and answer the questions at their own pace. They should read the first texts, then answer the questions about it, before reading the second text and so on.

The types of questions your child will be asked are as follows:

Written Responses

Pupils are asked or instructed to give a written answer. This can sometimes just be a one word answer such as, 'Find and copy one word that means...or it can be an extended answer involving several points. The number of lines given to respond usually indicates the length of answer required. For example:

Do you think Miss Harris will change go back to the theme park again?

Explain your choice fully giving evidence from the text

Tick Box Answers

Pupils will be instructed to tick one or more boxes to answer the question. It is important that they read carefully how many boxes they need to tick. For example:

The struggle had been between two rival gangs...

Which word closely matches the meaning for the word rival?

Tick one.

equal

neighbouring

important

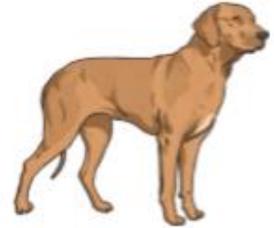
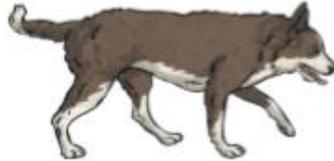
competing

Picture Questions

Pupils have to read a text carefully and relate it to a picture that best represents what is described in the text. For example:

Which of these pictures best represents the dog that the author describes?

Tick one.



Matching Boxes

Pupils will be asked to draw lines between two sets of boxes to match up the most appropriate answers. For example:

Draw lines to match the age of a guide dog to what it does at that age.

one-year-old

retires from being a guide dog

eight-weeks-old

lives as a guide dog

seven-years-old

trained by a puppy-walker

True or False Questions

Pupils will be given a set of statements about the text and have to put ticks in a box to show whether they are true or false. For example:

	True	False
The toy soldier was made from rusty metal.		

Sequencing Questions

These questions ask pupils to order events from the story usually by numbering them from 1 to 5. For example:

Number the following (1–5) to show the order in which they happen in the story.

She eats the pomegranate seeds.

Demeter searched everywhere for Persephone.

Demeter forbade the trees and plants from growing.

Zeus decided that she had to return to the underworld for three months every year.

Hades kidnaps Persephone and takes her to the underworld.

Multiple Choice Questions

Children are asked or instructed to circle the correct answer. For example:

Circle the correct option to complete the sentence below.

Jake rode his horse ...

speedily.

slowly.

safely.

fearfully.

Questions to Discuss with Your Child when Reading Together

Vocabulary Questions



- What does this word tell us about the character/setting/atmosphere?
- Look at a sentence/passage and find a word that means the same as ...
- Which words/phrase in this text give us the impression that the main character is...?
- Which words/phrase in this text give us the impression that the setting is...?
- Which words/phrase in this text give us the impression that the atmosphere is...?
- What do phrases such as ... tell you about...?

Retrieval Questions



- Where is the story set?
- Put the events of the story in the order in which they have happened?
- What is the name of the main character?
- How does the main character look/behave/speak?
- When is the story set?
- What are the names of the characters in the book?
- Where would you find a section about...?
- What does the word... mean?
- Find a fact about ...
- What information have you learnt about ...?

Summary Questions



- What is the main argument in this paragraph?
- What is the main message in this paragraph? Can you describe what has happened in this chapter?
- Describe how to (based on a concept in the text)
- Using less than 20 words, describe/write a blurb for this book.
- Which is the most important message in this book?
- Can you describe what happened in 3 sentences?

Inference Questions



- What does...think?
- How did ... react?
- What makes you think that? Give evidence for your opinions.
- Explain why the author chose to...?
- How was... different after...?
- How did...?
- Why did...?
- What ideas are we given about...?
- What impression do we get about...?
- What do you think will happen to the main character now? Can you give reasons for your opinion?
- What makes you think this?
- Why did the character behave like this?

Prediction Questions



- Who is on the front cover? What is in the background? How might these details give us clues about the content of the book?
- Based on what you know about the character/event what do you think the story will develop next?
- How do you think the story will end? What clues in the text make you think that will happen?
- Think about the author's other stories. Are there any familiar themes/characters/settings to the story we are reading? How did the story end? How might this story end?
- Do you think the character will change his/her behaviour in the future? What makes you think this?
- The character is in a tricky situation. What will the character do next? What would you do? Why?

Compare, Contrast And Comment Questions



- Describe how the character reacts to this problem. How is this different/similar to his/her previous reactions?
- Compare how two characters are reacting to this problem. Who deals best with the situation?
- How has the character changed during the text?
- Which is the most important section in this book? Justify your choice.
- How did people in the past understand this topic, compared to how we understand it today? Why have these views changed?
- Compare one setting to another in the book. Why are the two settings significant to the story?

Author Choice Questions

- What does the word ...tell us about the character/setting/atmosphere?
- Look for a phrase that implies that the setting is...
- The author uses the word ...to describe... What impression does this give us?
- Look for an example of a simile in the text. How does this add meaning?
- How have the headings/chapter names been chosen for this book?
- Explain why the word...is used to describe...
- Why does the writer compare... to...?
- What does the word/phrase... tell you about ...?