

# Guidance for KS2

## Reading Comprehension Activities

The aim of this short guide is to provide information about reading comprehension and how, as a parent or carer, you can support your child to develop the reading skills they need.

### What is reading comprehension?

Reading comprehension is the ability to understand and interpret a text. There are a number of key comprehension skills that children need to develop, including: retrieval, inference, prediction, summarising and comparing and contrasting.

Retrieval is the skill of searching for and finding specific information in the text.

Inference is the ability to read between the lines and find hidden meaning, thinking about the words the author has used.

Prediction is when the reader uses clues in the text to think about, or predict, what might happen next.

Summarising is the ability to select the key points from a text and to explain them briefly in one or two sentences.

Comparing and contrasting asks pupils to look for similarities and differences between texts. This might be related to the content of the text, the structure of different texts or the style of the writer.

Children will also need to focus on vocabulary and begin to consider why writers have used particular structures or language.

### How do I know what level comprehension my child needs?

At key stage 2, Twinkl Reading Comprehensions are divided into LKS2 (lower key stage 2 - years 3 and 4) and UKS2 (upper key stage 2 – years 5 and 6). Each reading comprehension activity includes a text and accompanying comprehension questions differentiated at three distinct levels :

#### LKS2

★ level aimed at beginner year 3 readers (age 7)

★★ level aimed at year 3/year 4 readers (age 7-8)

★★★ level aimed at confident year 4 readers (age 8-9)

#### UKS2

★ level aimed at beginner year 5 readers (age 9)

★★ level aimed at year 5/year 6 readers (age 9-10)

★★★ level aimed at confident year 6 readers (age 10-11)

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Every child is different and finding the right reading level for your child is key. If your child finds a level too easy, then quickly move them onto the next level. Similarly, if your child is struggling with a level then stop them and try them with a lower one instead. It's important that your child is challenged without feeling frustrated or overwhelmed.

### Are there reading techniques to help with reading comprehension?

Talk to your child about the two key strategies they will use when reading a text for information. These two strategies are called skimming and scanning.

Skimming is a technique of rapid reading to gain an overview of the text.

Scanning is more focused reading and searching of a text for key facts and information.

Both of these techniques involve active reading and use rapid eye movement which means that your child may feel tired after completing a comprehension activity.

### Where should my child start with a reading comprehension?

Encourage your child to skim through the questions first so that they have an idea of what information they may be looking for in the text. Having a highlighter or brightly coloured pen at hand can be very useful. As they skim the questions and then the text, children should highlight or underline key information.

Once they have skimmed the text, children can use their scanning technique to look for specific facts and begin to answer the questions. Answers do not always need to be in complete sentences but must contain the key words or phrases needed to answer the question fully.

Encourage them to look for key words in the question and match them to the same or similar key words in the text.

Point out sub-headings in the text and encourage your child to use these to help them locate information more quickly.

### How can my child make progress?

If your child has come across new or difficult vocabulary, then encourage them to use a dictionary or thesaurus to look up the meaning of these words or find synonyms (words with a similar meaning). This simple skill will help to develop vocabulary and improve reading ability.

Each reading comprehension is accompanied by a set of answers. Some of the questions have a very clear answer while others require more of a personal response.

Once your child has finished the comprehension activity, it is really important to look at the answers together. Discussing and editing incorrect answers with your child is a valuable learning opportunity, focusing on the positive aspects of what they have achieved, alongside working through challenging questions together and identifying which areas they need to work on.