

Year 5 Reading Comprehension: A Step-by-Step Guide for Parents

This step-by-step explanation of reading comprehension can help you support your child's learning at home. Each subject is broken down into manageable chunks, providing you with a simple guide to follow when exploring, whether your child is just learning to find simple information in a text or is ready for questions that involve more 'reading between the lines'.

Within **this area of the website**, you will find a selection of resources intended to help your child learn about each step of this guide. Each step also contains a keyword or phrase that you can use to search the Twinkl site for more resources and activities, designed to support your child in achieving that stage. Simply type the keyword or phrase into the search bar and press enter to explore together.



We hope you find the information on our website and resources useful. The contents of this resource are for general, informational purposes only. This guide is intended to offer parents general guidance on what subject areas tend to be covered in their child's year group and where they could support their children at home. However, please be aware that every child is different and information can quickly become out of date. There are some subject areas that we have intentionally not covered due to the nature of how they are taught or because a trained professional needs to teach these areas. We try to ensure that the information in our resources is correct but every school teaches the national curriculum in its own way. If you would like further guidance or are unsure in any way, we recommend that you speak to your child's teacher or another suitably qualified professional.

What Is Reading Comprehension?

What Is the Focus in Reading in Years 5 and 6?

By the time children are in year 5, they should have learnt how to decode (break down) words and, with words they find tricky, they should have the skills to sound them out confidently. When reading at speed, some children will still substitute alternative words at times, especially if this is a word that is more familiar to them. If this happens often with your child, concentrate on the individual letters and encourage them to sound it out. However, if your child is still unable to read by the time they're in year 5, it is worth discussing this with their school. The national curriculum expects all children to be able to read before they leave primary school and it's an essential tool for managing the secondary curriculum.

How Do Reading Comprehensions Change in Years 5 and 6?

The basics of reading comprehension remain the same. However, reading extracts become longer and the vocabulary more complicated. Texts will use vocabulary that is similar to other words that your child may recognise, so it is important that your child takes care with longer words and learns to sound them out in their head. For example, if your child reads 'invitation' instead of 'imitation' in the sentence below, the meaning completely changes:

'David ran to his bedroom to prepare an **imitation** for the party.'

What Does the National Curriculum Say about Reading Comprehension in Years 5 and 6?

The national curriculum emphasises that older juniors should have a very broad experience of reading and that poetry and non-fiction texts should be included alongside stories. They are also explicit that fiction reading includes myths, legends and traditional stories and modern works. It is expected that choices include books that reflect both our traditional literary heritage and other cultural traditions. In years 5 and 6, children will still be expected to retrieve information from a text. However, the skills of inference and the ability to give opinions become even more important than in earlier years. The curriculum says that your child should practise:

- drawing inferences such as inferring characters' feelings, thoughts and motives from their actions, and justifying inferences with evidence;
- predicting what might happen from details stated and implied;
- summarising the main ideas drawn from more than one paragraph, identifying key details that support the main ideas;
- identifying how language, structure and presentation contribute to meaning;
- discuss and evaluate how authors use language, including figurative language, considering the impact on the reader.

These more complicated indicators of your child's comprehension skills are tricky to explain, so it's better to practise them using experience. This way, your child's skills build gradually at a pace they can cope with and, if you're learning alongside them, practising the comprehension skills makes you better at looking for clues in the text and clearer at expressing thoughts in writing.

These more complicated indicators of your child's comprehension skills are tricky to explain, so it's better to practise them using experience. This way, your child's skills build gradually at a pace they can cope with and, if you're learning alongside them, practising the comprehension skills makes you better at looking for clues in the text and clearer at expressing thoughts in writing.

Reading Role Models

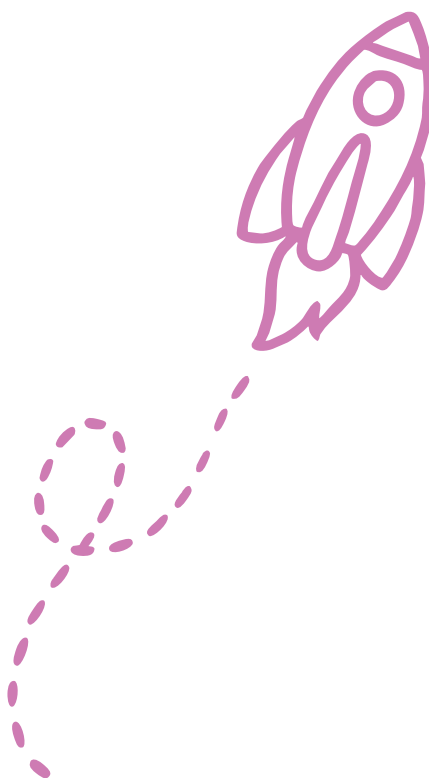
Older junior children can become reluctant readers as books get longer. One of the most useful things a parent can do is model good reading. Be seen reading yourself, reserve time for reading and read when your own child reads. If your child sees you read and make time for reading, this becomes an expected part of the day.

Reading Skills the Twinkl Way

At Twinkl, we break down the reading skills needed for effective comprehension using characters. Vocabulary Victor, Retriever Rex, Summarising Sheba, Inference Iggy, Predicting Pip, Cassie the Commentator and Arlo the Author are great for helping both parents and children to practise the essential skills needed for SATs success in reading. Download these Reading Skills Posters to learn what skills each character can teach you.

Be Opinionated!

Introduce your child to some reviews online, though don't let them read through them alone. Travel review sites, theatre and movie reviews are great for encouraging children to express opinions. Expressing opinions is an important part of comprehension work and can be developed by your child reviewing their own reading. This **Book Review Template** encourages your child to reflect on what they read and record it in writing.



Step 1

60-Second Reads

For a low-key review of your child's comprehension skills, you can't do better than our 60-Second Reads. We have them at all primary stages, but these focus on quick reading passages for upper junior children. The questions are broken down into the content domains that your child will need to grasp for the Reading SAT paper in year 6. Use these to work out which reading skills your child finds trickiest and then move on to step 2 to dig into each skill one-by-one to build confidence in each.



Mind the Gap!

When you've had a go at several 60-second reads, then it's time to practise your child's key skills and basic reading techniques to really focus on gaps in previous learning. If your child didn't have any significant areas of difficulty, then move straight on to Step 3. This set of helpful questions and activities to use as your child reads will help you to ask the right questions to plug your child's skills gaps. All members of the Totally Pawsome Reading Gang appear in the resources so your child can connect the comprehensions they've done with the skills they're practising.

Step 2



Step 3

The Totally Pawsome Reading Gang

This fantastic pack bridges the gap between reading skills and getting ready to answer questions on reading assessments. You can unpick exactly what each question is asking your child to help them achieve extra marks with this wonderful bumper resource. There's a PowerPoint, a reading comprehension and reading revision mats that focus solely on each reading content domain. Pick the reading domain your child's best at and talk together about the question types shown on that character's mat, look at the PowerPoint together to review the skill and then try the questions from that domain. Don't rush things. Focus on one domain each week or fortnight to build long-lasting success.

Take Your Pick!

Once your child is confident in all domains, it's time to look at reading assessments. This pack reflects the range of texts that the national curriculum expects your child to explore in years 5 and 6. Start by letting your child choose the theme for their first comprehension. Feedback is the most important part of reading assessment, so share the answer scheme with your child and see the checking process as a chance to get better, rather than to award a grade or level.

Step 4

Explore and Discover More

Twinkl Go! is a digital platform, hosting interactive content such as videos, games, audiobooks and more. Twinkl Go! enables digital content to be streamed to your computer or mobile device.



twinkl
Go!



twinkl
Book Club

Twinkl Book Club is our book subscription service. Enjoy our original works of fiction in beautiful printed form, delivered to you each half-term and yours to keep!

Twinkl Boost is a range of intervention resources, created to support and lift learning with children at every level. These include our easy-to-use SATs and Phonics Screening resources.



twinkl
Boost



twinkl
imagine

Imagine resources are designed to help your children to think creatively, question and imagine. Every week, a new topic consisting of five photos, each with related activities, is created.

Twinkl Originals are engaging stories written to inspire pupils from EYFS to KS2. Designed to encourage a love of reading and help curriculum-wide learning through accompanying resources.



twinkl
ORIGINALS



twinkl
KIDS' TV

Twinkl Kids' TV is our wonderful YouTube channel dedicated to fun and informative video-style resources full of new and creative activities you can try at home!