

Year 6 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 However, please be aware that every child is different and information can quickly become out of date.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?

Why Is Reading Comprehension Important in Year 6?

In English schools, as part of their SATs tests, year 6 children take an English Reading test, which assesses their reading comprehension skills. However, reading comprehension is crucially important beyond the SATs tests, as it represents your child's ability to understand, process and gain meaning from what they read. This can increase their enjoyment of reading, but also gives them key skills that will be important throughout their life.

How Should My Child Prepare for the Reading SATs Test?

The reading SATs tests are based on a different theme and type of writing (genre) each year. Your child might have material that is fiction, non-fiction or both. Sometimes the material may be more visual, poetic or formal than others. However, the questions follow similar patterns every year, so the best way to practise these skills is for your child to have a go at practise tests and so learn which questions appear often and how to answer them.

What Are Content Domains?

'Content domain' is the term that teachers use to describe how the reading test covers different skills, such as summarising, comparing or predicting. Each domain is covered at different depths of thinking and skill level, so the same domains are covered repeatedly as children progress through school. These domains can be tricky for parents to understand, but as the patterns are repeated over time as children progress through primary school (and particularly in year 6), you will see the same skills being used again and again. It may help to replace the word 'domain' with 'skill' and leave the teacher vocabulary to the teachers.

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

Reading Activity Mat Pack

This handy revision mat pack contains one fiction, one non-fiction and one poetry extract and four revision questions based on the reading test's different content domains. Each question is identified using our lovely Twinkl dog characters who will help to show your child the type of question they're being asked to answer.



SATs Reading Revision

Once you've practised the content domains with your child and they're used to the intention of questions in the SATs, then the next step is to prepare them for what the test will look like. This SATs Reading Revision Activity Pack provides an introduction to the test that you should read before giving the book to your child so you're well informed before starting. In these activities, you'll find the question types colour-coded to remind your child which skill is being tested.

Step 2



Step 3

Assessing Reading Comprehension

The user-friendly activity booklet in Step 2 should have built your child's confidence with a range of question expectations. Once you have done this, try out this pack of three Year 6 Practice Assessment Tests, based on new KS2 SATs papers. You'll find a range of texts (fiction, non-fiction and poetry elements), an answer booklet and a mark scheme so you can give your child accurate feedback. Once you're at this stage, follow the timings of the tests and don't offer extra support to your child unless they appear to lack confidence or motivation in tackling the papers.

Summer Activity Book

As the tests get closer, we recommend taking the time for your child to practise the skills without formal testing. This Summer Activity Book is a great tool for the summer term as your child approaches the test. The skills needed for all the English tests are practised in an informal way so that your child can maintain progress while working more fluidly.

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.



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Go!



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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.



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Boost



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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.



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ORIGINALS



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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!