



VIPERS Reading Comprehension: A Parent's Guide

Helping your child become a confident reader starts with understanding the skills they need. Hillside Primary School, we use **VIPERS** to teach and assess key reading comprehension skills. Each letter stands for a different skill that helps children understand, enjoy, and think deeply about what they read.

V – Vocabulary

What it means: Understanding the meaning of words in context.

Try at home:

- Ask your child, *"What does this word mean?"*
- Play word-of-the-day games.
- Spot interesting words during bedtime reading and talk about them.

I – Inference

What it means: Reading between the lines to understand what is *suggested*, not said.

Try at home:

- Ask, *"How do you think the character is feeling? How do you know?"*
- Discuss clues in the pictures or text.

P - Prediction

• **What it means:** Thinking about what might happen next based on what has already happened.

Try at home:

- Pause while reading and ask, *"What do you think will happen next?"*
- Encourage your child to explain their reasoning.





P – Prediction

What it means: Thinking about what might happen next based on what has already happened.

Try at home:

- Pause while reading and ask, *“What do you think will happen next?”*
- Encourage your child to explain their reasoning.

E – Explanation

What it means: Explaining opinions, choices, and how authors use language.

Try at home:

- Ask, *“Why do you like this character?”*
- Discuss favourite parts and why they stand out.

R – Retrieval

What it means: Finding key information directly from the text.

Try at home:

- Ask questions like, *“Who...?” “Where...?” “When...?”*
- Encourage your child to point to the exact words in the book.

S – Sequencing (KS1) / Summarising (KS2)

What it means:

- **KS1:** Putting events in the right order.
- **KS2:** Summarising the main ideas.

Try at home:

- Retell stories together in order.
- For older children, ask them to sum up a chapter in one or two sentences.





How You Can Support Reading at Home

- **Read together daily**, even for just 10 minutes.
- **Talk about books**—characters, settings, surprises, and feelings.
- **Model reading** by letting your child see you enjoy books.
- **Visit the library** to explore new genres and authors.
- **Celebrate effort**, not perfection!

