Waltham Gateway Academy

Waltham Gateway Academy Reading Spotlight Skill Progression Early Year – Year 6

Skill	EYFS	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
Background Knowledge	Links own experiences to simple stories.	Makes basic connections between texts and personal experiences.	Begins to use world knowledge to understand new information	Recognises when background knowledge supports comprehension.	Uses prior learning to clarify meaning/ unfamiliar contexts	Draws on wider subject knowledge and cultural references.	Applies knowledge of themes, history and culture to deepen interpretation.
Word Meaning	Understands common words in context.	Explains simple word meanings using context/ pictures.	Uses word parts and context to clarify meaning.	Uses context, word class and background knowledge to work out the meaning of words.	Infers meaning of unfamiliar words in context.	Uses knowledge of words (such as etymology, morphology etc.) to find meaning.	Analyses author's vocabulary choices for impact/ nuance.
Visualisation	Uses pictures to imagine characters/ settings.	Describes what they "see" when listening to/reading stories.	Creates mental images to support comprehension.	Visualises actions/ settings to clarify meaning.	Uses sensory language in texts to form images.	Visualises abstract and/or complex concepts (e.g., atmosphere).	Evaluates how author creates imagery and atmosphere.
Skim/Scan	Follows along with repeated words/ phrases.	Locates key words in simple texts with support	Identifies names, places, facts quickly.	Skims to get "gist," scans to find keywords.	Uses knowledge of the text and features (such as headings, subheadings, layout) to find information.	Skims/scans efficiently across different genres.	Integrates skimming and scanning into critical reading.
Retrieval	Answers literal questions about familiar stories.	Finds explicitly stated answers in simple sentences.	Retrieves simple details across a short passage.	Selects key details and quotations.	Locates/ records evidence across longer texts.	Selects precise evidence to support answers.	Synthesises evidence from different parts of a text.
Sequencing	Orders events in a familiar story with support.	Retells stories in order using props/ pictures.	Sequences key events independently.	Explains sequence using time words (first, next, later).	Recognises how order affects meaning (flashbacks).	Tracks parallel storylines and events.	Analyses structural choices (e.g., non-linear narrative).
Predicting	Anticipates what might happen next.	Makes simple predictions based on pictures/ text.	Justifies predictions with basic evidence.	Predicts using character motivation/ plot patterns	Supports predictions with multiple text points.	Predicts considering author's intent, themes, tone.	Evaluates whether predictions are confirmed/ subverted and why.

Carlie Smart

Main Idea	Talks about what the story is "about."	Identifies the main topic of a short text.	Distinguishes between main idea and minor detail	Summarises main idea in a paragraph.	Identifies main ideas across paragraphs with supporting detail.	Traces recurring ideas/themes across chapters.	Analyses central ideas/themes across whole texts.
Inference	Interprets pictures (e.g., "She's sad because she's crying").	Infers basic feelings or reasons with support.	Makes simple inferences about characters/ events.	Infers motives/ actions with some evidence.	Explains inferences with textual references.	Makes multi-layered inferences (theme, symbolism).	Evaluates multiple possible inferences, comparing perspectives and is able to give evidence to support.
Summarising	Retells key parts of a story with support.	Gives a brief oral recap of the main events.	Retell some important information they've found out from a text. Draw together information from across a number of sentences to sum up what is known about a character, event or idea.	Summarises in sequence with key details.	Summarises paragraphs concisely. Distinguishes between key and less important detail.	Summarises across chapters, retaining themes.	Produces concise, balanced summaries capturing themes, evidence, author's purpose.