

Reading in Year 5



By the beginning of year 5, pupils should be able to accurately read aloud a wide range of poetry and books written at an age-appropriate interest level at a reasonable speaking pace. They should be able to read most words effortlessly and work out the pronunciation of unfamiliar written words with increasing automaticity. If the pronunciation sounds unfamiliar, pupils in year 5 should ask for help in determining both the meaning of the word and how to pronounce it correctly.

Year 5 pupils should be able to read texts aloud with appropriate intonation to show their understanding. They should be able to summarise and present a familiar story in their own words. They should be reading widely and frequently for pleasure and to retrieve information, outside of school as well as in school. They should be able to read silently with good understanding. They should be able to infer the meanings of unfamiliar words and then discuss what they have read.

During year 5, pupils should continue to expand their vocabulary through exposure to stories, plays, poetry, non-fiction and textbooks, both read by them and to them by others. They should be given the opportunity to listen to books and other writing that they have not come across before – hearing and learning new vocabulary and grammatical structures, and having a chance to talk about this. Their confidence, enjoyment and mastery of language should be extended through public speaking, performance and debate.

How you can help at home



Give your child access to lots of books on many different topics and by a wide range of authors who write in different styles.

Encourage your child to ask for help with the pronunciation of new words if their reasonable attempt does not sound correct.



Encourage your child to read silently to themselves but check their understanding of what they have read after doing so.



Broaden the vocabulary you use when speaking to your child and be prepared to clarify the meaning of a wider range of words, modelling them within sentences.

Encourage your child to read silently to themselves but check their understanding of what they have read after doing so.



Read difficult texts to your child and allow them the chance to listen and ask questions.

Year 5 children are expected to:	To support this, you could say:
apply their knowledge of root words, prefixes and suffixes, both to read aloud and to understand the meaning of new words they meet	Can you find a word which begins with the prefix dis-? What does the prefix anti- mean? So what could this new word mean?
maintain positive attitudes to reading and an understanding of what they have read	Did you enjoy that book? Why? What kind of text would you like to read next?
continue to read and discuss a wide range of fiction, poetry, plays, non-fiction, reference books and textbooks	What did you think about...? Shall we go and watch a play about...? Have you ever read a... poem?
read books which are structured in different ways and written for a range of purposes	Can you see any subheadings in this text? Why are they used? What organisational feature is this?
increase their familiarity with a wide range of books, including myths, legends, traditional stories, modern fiction, fiction from our literary heritage and books from other cultures and traditions	What type of story is this? Have you ever read a...? Let's go to the library and see if we can find a book from... What other cultures would you like to read about?
recommend books that they have read to their peers, giving reasons for their choices	Would you recommend it? Who do you think would like this book? What makes it so good?
identify and discuss themes (such as loss or heroism) and conventions (such as the use of first person in diary entries) in and across a wide range of writing	Can you see a theme running through this story? What is it? How often is it mentioned? How does this text differ to a story?
make comparisons within and across books	Is that what... said had happened too? How is... similar to...? Do they differ?
learn a wider range of poetry by heart	Can you recite...?
prepare and perform poems and plays out loud, showing an understanding through intonation, tone and volume so that meaning is clear to the audience	Would you like to try going to a local drama group? Think about your voice when you read that; how might the witch speak?
check that the book makes sense to them; discussing their understanding and exploring the meaning of new words in context	Tell me about what you've just read. Were there any words you didn't quite understand? The word... means...; In a sentence it's...

ask questions to improve their understanding	Is there anything you don't understand that you want to ask me about?
draw inferences, such as inferring characters' feelings, thoughts and motives from their actions, and justify inferences with evidence	How do you think... is feeling? What makes you say that? Show me in the text. Why do you think... acted in that way?
predict what might happen from details stated and implied	What might...? What makes you think that? Show me in the text.
summarise the main ideas drawn from more than 1 paragraph, identifying key details that support the main ideas	What theme can we see across these paragraphs? Is anything mentioned more than once?
identify how language, structure and presentation contribute to meaning	Why is this text set out this way? How does that help you as a reader?
discuss and evaluate how authors use language, including figurative language, and consider the impact on the reader	Can you find an example of figurative language on this page? Why might the author write in this way?
distinguish between statements of fact and opinion	Do you think... is a statement of fact or an opinion? How do you know?
retrieve, record and present information from non-fiction texts	Find the part of the text about... What does... mean?
participate in discussions about books that are read to them and those they can read themselves, building on their own and others' ideas and challenging views courteously	I think that.... do you agree? Why do you agree / why not? Tell me your opinion about... I don't agree. I think that... In my opinion...
explain and discuss their understanding of what they have read, including through formal presentations and debates, maintaining a focus on the topic and using notes where necessary	Over the holidays, I would like you to plan a presentation for me on... Can you explain to me why... is the best snack? I think... Is. Let's debate it. Can you think of three reasons why...?
provide reasoned justification for their views	Why do you think that? What evidence supports that idea?

At the end of Key Stage 2, your child's understanding of reading is tested through six different strands known as 'content domains'. These are set out below with questions related to each domain.

1a Vocabulary

Give explain the meaning of words in context

What does this word/phrase/sentence tell you about the character/mood/setting?

By writing this way what effect has the author created?
How has the author made you feel
happy/sad/angry/frustrated?

1b Retrieval

Retrieve and record information/ Identify key details from fiction or non-fiction

Where/when does the story take place?

Where in the text would you find...?

What part of the story best describes...?

2c Sequencing

Summarise main ideas from more than one paragraph

What is the main point in this section of the text?

Recap what has happened so far in 20 words or less.

Which is the most important point in this paragraph?

1d Inference

Make inferences from the text/ explain and justify these with evidence from the text

What do these words mean and why might the author have chosen them?

Can you explain why?

Which words give you the impression that...?

2e Predict

Predict what might happen from details stated or implied

Can you think of another story with a similar theme/opening/ending?

Why did the author choose this setting? Will it influence how the story develops?

How is this character like someone you know in real life?
Will they act in the same way?

2f/h Commentate

Identify/ explain how information/ narrative content is related and contributes to meaning as a whole. Make comparisons within a text

Explain how a character's feelings change throughout the story. How do we know?

What is similar /different about these two characters?
How could this part of the text be improved?

2g Choice

Identify/ explain how meaning is enhanced through choice of words and phrases

What does this word... tell you about...?

By writing this way, what effect has the author created?

Which words do you think are most important? Why?

