

# What Is Reading Comprehension?

## How Does Teaching Reading Change at Junior Level?

As children move into the junior years, the focus on word reading begins to shift so that children work on developing a wider vocabulary. Your child's comprehension skills are described by the national curriculum as 'a primary element in reading'. The knowledge and skills that pupils need in order to comprehend are very similar at different ages.

Your child still needs to encounter a wide range of different types of reading including stories, poems, non-fiction and other writing. It is expected that children develop a greater perseverance in reading so that they are reading books of longer lengths.

## How Do I Pick Books for My Junior Child?

From year 3 onwards, the importance grows for your child to be choosing books for themselves and learning which books they prefer. Visiting a library helps your child to select from a wider range of books and to be supported by professionals who can help choose books and advise your child which authors are similar to their favourites.

## How Do I Help to Build Comprehension Skills with My Child?

Reading aloud and acting out poems and playscripts are an important part of building your child's comprehension skills and younger juniors still benefit from talking about their reading and performances and explaining what is happening. Developing the ability to explain understanding in words with someone you trust helps your child to write their understanding in comprehension activities later.

### Readopoly

This colourful **Readopoly Board Game** is great for motivating your child to read and challenging them, especially during school holidays. It'll help them to be tempted to read more books and track their progress. There's even a certificate to reward your child for their efforts.

### Thesaurus Wheel

Extending vocabulary is a key skill in improving your child's comprehension and writing. This vibrant and exciting **Synonyms Thesaurus Wheel** helps your child to expand their vocabulary by finding new synonyms to read, learn and use.

### Predict Away

As children grow older and books are divided into chapters, it is really useful to encourage your child to predict what will happen next and tell the next step of the story. Children love it if you have a go too... how will the story end?

## Step 1

### Reading Skills Challenge Cards

During the lower junior years (years 3 and 4) children need to read texts of increasing length. However, some children need to build confidence with short, snappy extracts in order to focus on finding information and thinking about the text. These helpful challenge cards give questions based on popular themes. Read the card together and talk about the passage you've read. Share the questions and talk about each, speaking the answers aloud before writing them. As your child tries more cards, encourage them to read on their own and ultimately write on their own as they work through the pack.



### 60-Second Reads

This bumper pack of reading comprehension activities is suitable for children in years 3 and 4. Most children will be able to read the text in around a minute and then get stuck into comprehension questions that are based on the learning domains that they will be tested on when they sit SATs tests in year 6. Both the text and the questions are adjusted to fit the skills but to be accessible for lower junior children. Helpful answer sheets are included for parents, too.

## Step 2



## St 3

### Fossils Comprehension

This fossils-themed reading comprehension consists of a one-page article detailing important facts about fossils, along with ten questions based on the article. It helps to support your child with their science learning and reflects a typical non-fiction reading comprehension. If your child is a reluctant reader with fiction stories, a popular topic like fossils can be the ideal motivator.

### Assessing Your Child's Reading

This pack is colourful and has a lovely selection of comprehensions that mimic those that schools give to assess your child's progress. You'll find a range of different types of writing, including poetry, as well as an answer set to guide you. The first time you use a test with your child, give plenty of support, help with reading the text and questions together and with the answers. Try using a highlighter on the questions and then in the text to show your child how to spot key words and find the right place to look for their answers.

## Step 4