

Teacher Notes

Three Level Comprehension Question Prompts

Are We There Yet? By Alison Lester

How to Use This Resource

There are many ways to use these question prompts:

- During the read-aloud. Stop at the end of each section and select appropriate questions for the class to answer.
- During guided reading. These questions can be used in a small group setting easily. Use the literal comprehension questions for lower ability groups. Inferential and applied comprehension questions are good for higher ability groups.
- As an independent activity. These questions can be used by students independently. Just select appropriately levelled questions for each student.

Three Level Question Definitions

Literal Comprehension

Questions: have answers that can be found written directly in the text. The reader only needs to find the information stated to answer the questions.

Inferential

Comprehension

Questions: have answers that are not written directly in the text. The answers are implied and require further information to answer them correctly. The reader needs to connect the information to answer inferential comprehension questions.

Applied

Comprehension

Questions: need the reader to find a response that requires them to use prior knowledge from their opinions, previous reading and life experiences.

Comprehension Question Prompts

Starting Out

Literal Comprehension Questions

Who went travelling around Australia?

Grace, Luke, Mum, Dad and Billy.

What did they travel in?

An old camper trailer that belonged to Poppa.

Name two things that were in the camper trailer.

A table, a fridge, two double beds, a stove and a sink.

Where did their journey begin and end?

In a little place called Binnum in Victoria.



Inferential Comprehension Questions

Who could Buffy, Tigger and Bess be?

A dog, cat and pony.

What is a swag?

A swag is like a sleeping bag with a mattress.

Why did the family practice camping in the backyard before going on their adventure?

To experience what camping would be like before the real thing.

Who is narrating this story?

Grace.



Inferential Comprehension Questions

Can you think of anything else the campervan might need?

Answers will vary.

Would you like to travel around Australia in a camper van? Why?

Answers will vary.

What would you pack to entertain yourself for a three-month trip?

Answers will vary.

Comprehension Question Prompts

On the Road at Last

Literal Comprehension Questions

How did Luke make his family laugh at the Coorong?
He said a pelican's beak can hold more than its belly can.

What did the family do at Murphy's Haystacks?
Make letters out of their shadows on the boulders.

What did the family see at Head of Bight?
The family saw ten whales/a mother and her calf.



Inferential Comprehension Questions

Why did Grace feel sad and excited at the same time when she was leaving?
She was sad to be leaving her pets and grandparents but excited to be leaving at last.

Why did the family feel like they were the only people on earth when camping in the Flinders Ranges?
Because it was so quiet and remote.

What, do you think, is an orchestra?
A group of musicians all playing different instruments.

Inferential Comprehension Questions

Describe a time when you felt embarrassed like Kyle when he had to use the women's bathroom.
Answers will vary.

Which place, so far, would you like to visit the most?
Answers will vary.

Use your senses to describe what you would experience at The Coorong or Streaky Bay.
Answers will vary.



Comprehension Question Prompts

Over the Desert and into the West

Literal Comprehension Questions

Describe a quokka.

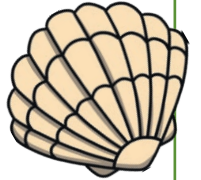
A small animal with fur and whiskers.

Why do the trees grow sideways at Geraldton?

Because the strong winds cause them to grow sideways.

Why does mum make Grace wear her hat and sunscreen all the time?

Because it is hot and she will get sunburnt.



Inferential Comprehension Questions

Why did Dad pretend to drive with his eyes closed?

Because the road was so straight he could drive it with his eyes closed.

Why did Luke surf at Wave Rock?

Because the rock looks like a wave and you surf on waves.

Why does the author describe the wildflowers as a 'tapestry'?

Because there were so many growing it looked like a piece of fabric/ an artwork.

Inferential Comprehension Questions

Describe a time when you saw dolphins or whales.

Answers will vary.

What else might you see if you were snorkelling in Turquoise Bay?

Answers will vary.

Name five things you can do at the beach.

Answers will vary.



Comprehension Question Prompts

The Outback

Literal Comprehension Questions

Why is the moon reflection in Roebuck Bay called the 'Staircase to the Moon'?

Because the reflection looks like steps leading to the moon itself.

Who helped push the campervan out of the sand?

A football team.

How does Grace describe the taste of a Witchetty grub?

Runny and delicious like an egg yolk.



Inferential Comprehension Questions

Why was mum afraid to look when she was flying in a helicopter over the Bungle Bungle?

Because the helicopter didn't have any doors.

How was Grace feeling when she was wading in the water at Tunnel Creek?

She felt scared because when something slimy slithered past her leg, she screamed.

Use five words to describe Uluru.

Answers will vary.



Inferential Comprehension Questions

Describe a time when you were very high up. Where were you? How did being so high make you feel?

Answers will vary.

Why were the days hot and the nights freezing at Alice Springs?

Because Alice Springs is in the desert and deserts have hot days and freezing nights because of the lack of cloud cover.

Why does Uluru seem to change colour throughout the day?

Because of the light at sunrise and sunset.



Comprehension Question Prompts

The Top End

Literal Comprehension Questions

What is the weather like in the top end?

Very hot.

What did Grace eat at Mindil Beach Market?

Satay prawns and a mango smoothie.

What is an 'egret' and a 'jabiru'?

They are water birds found in Kakadu.



Inferential Comprehension Questions

Why did dad ask to be woken up if they floated near a waterfall?

Because he didn't want to float over the edge.

Would you go swimming while on the Kakadu boat cruise?

No way! There are crocodiles in the water.

Why did Grace scream every time her dad grabbed her legs when swimming in Gunlom?

Because she may have thought it was a crocodile.

Inferential Comprehension Questions

Tell us about a time that you went fishing. Did you catch anything that you could eat for dinner afterwards?

Answers will vary.

What kind of stories do you think the sandstone paintings were telling?

Answers will vary.

Have you ever been swimming in a natural waterhole like Gunlom?

Describe what it was like.

Answers will vary.



Comprehension Question Prompts

The Far North

Literal Comprehension Questions

List the fun experiences Grace and her family had in the far north. Grace and her family visited a circus and Mareeba rodeo. They drove through a rainforest, snorkelled in the Great Barrier Reef, learnt to crack a whip and made a shell mermaid at Cow Bay.

How did Luke make the walking stick for Poppa?
He carved it out of a long piece of mangrove wood.

List five things you would see snorkelling in The Great Barrier Reef.
Answers will vary.



Inferential Comprehension Questions

What is a drover?
A drover is a stockman who moves cattle over long distances.

What does a flying doctor do?
The flying doctor provides health care to people living in remote areas.

Why did mum say she couldn't look when Luke was carving the walking stick for Poppa?
Because she was afraid he would cut himself with the carving knife.

Inferential Comprehension Questions

Which place, so far, would you like to visit the most?
Answers will vary.

Have you ever cracked a whip or ridden a horse before? What was it like?
Answers will vary.

In the story, Grace and Luke invented patients for the flying doctor. Can you think of any interesting medical cases?
Answers will vary.



Comprehension Question Prompts

Heading South

Literal Comprehension Questions

Why did mum get banned from the waterslides in Cairns?
Because she crashed into Billy coming down the slide.

Where did Grace and her family go bushwalking?
In the Blue Mountains.

What did Grace and her family do on their last night in Sydney?
They had a picnic overlooking the harbour where they watched the fireworks.



Inferential Comprehension Questions

What is a jetty?

A jetty is a structure that juts out into the water from the land. You can moor boats and fish from jetties.

Why couldn't dad look when he was riding the bungee ride at Surfers Paradise?

Because it went up so high and he might have been scared of heights.

What did Grace think the baby elephant wanted?

To eat her hat as the other elephant did.



Inferential Comprehension Questions

Describe what you would see, hear, and smell at a fireworks show.

Answers will vary.

On the farm at Miles, Luke had a go at shearing a sheep. What do you think may happen to the fleece next?

Answers will vary could include: skirting, classing, being made into clothing etc.

Would you like to ride the scary bungee ride at Surfers Paradise? Why?

Answers will vary.

Comprehension Question Prompts

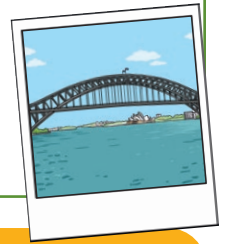
The Cold Country

Literal Comprehension Questions

Name two differences between the cold country and the outback.
Answers will vary but could include details about the temperature, activities or landscape.

Why was Grace looking for tiger tracks hiking up Cradle Mountain?
Because her mum had said that there may be a Tasmanian Tiger family in the bush.

Why is Wilsons Promontory special?
Because it is the most southerly tip of the Australian mainland.



Inferential Comprehension Questions

What are three fun things you can do in the snow?
Answers will vary but could include skiing, snowboarding, making a snowman etc.

What is a paper nautilus?
A paper nautilus is an octopus. The octopus carries her eggs in the paper nautilus which is a paper-thin egg case that she secretes.

Do you think Billy was happy to be home?
Yes, because he was always asking 'Are we there yet?'

Inferential Comprehension Questions

What kinds of board games do you and your family like to play when it's rainy outside?
Answers will vary.

Where might the family end up after crossing Bass Strait?
Tasmania.

Out of all the places, Grace and her family visited, which do you think may have been Grace's favourite?
Answers will vary.

