

Year 5 Fiction and Stories: A Step-by-Step Guide for Parents

This step-by-step explanation to fiction and stories can help you support your child's learning at home. Each subject is broken down into manageable chunks, providing you with a simple guide to follow when exploring fiction and stories together, either as part of homework or if you decide to give your child some extra support. Whether your child is making comparisons between different stories, recognising similarities and differences between books of the same and differing genres, or they are writing stories of their own with feeling and atmosphere, you will find a step that matches where your child is at as well as some ideas for where to go next.

Within **this area of the website**, you will find a selection of resources intended to help your child learn about each step of this guide. Each step also contains a keyword or phrase that you can use to search the Twinkl site for more resources and activities, designed to support your child in achieving that stage. Simply type the keyword or phrase into the search bar and press enter to explore together.

Reading year 5



We hope you find the information on our website and resources useful. The contents of this resource are for general, informational purposes only. This guide is intended to offer parents general guidance on what subject areas tend to be covered in their child's year group and where they could support their children at home. However, please be aware that every child is different and information can quickly become out of date. There are some subject areas that we have intentionally not covered due to the nature of how they are taught or because a trained professional needs to teach these areas. We try to ensure that the information in our resources is correct but every school teaches the national curriculum in its own way. If you would like further guidance or are unsure in any way, we recommend that you speak to your child's teacher or another suitably qualified professional.

Fiction and Stories

What Are Stories and Fiction?

Stories are a wonderful way for your child to explore their creativity and imagination.

During year 5, your child will continue to explore a wide range of different stories through shared reading, guided reading, English topics, reading at home and class topics. Your child will look at many different stories and learn about diverse characters, settings and plot ideas. They will discuss their thoughts and opinions about stories, describing what they like and don't like about a narrative, giving evidence and reasons for their feelings. As well as sharing these ideas, they will also make recommendations to their friends and classmates of books they feel are an enjoyable read.

Through using a thesaurus, your child will build up a wider range of vocabulary. They will find synonyms for many different words, understanding the impact that word choices can have on the feel of a story. Your child will explore some different forms of figurative language (similes, metaphors and alliteration), beginning to understand how they can be used in stories to create atmosphere and imagery.

As your child's understanding of stories and fiction increases, they will write more and more complex stories of their own. In their narratives, they will begin to build up atmosphere and emotion; recognising some ways they can build feeling and tension, making vocabulary and sentence choices that have an impact on the reader.

As well as using the resources found in this category and the suggested keyword searches to help your child with exploring fiction and stories, below are a few ideas for games and activities to help your child learn how to find out about language features and vocabulary used in fiction and stories.

Read, Read, Read!

One of the best ways to explore stories and fiction is to read as many as you can with your child. This can include not only your child reading books, but you sharing stories with them. As your child's reading skills improve, they will be able to explore stories in more detail. Don't be afraid to ask your children questions about the stories they are reading. Ask about characters' feelings, events that have happened in the story and your child's thoughts and opinions of the story.

The Senses Trail

To help your child practise describing all aspects of a setting to build-up tension, why not try creating a senses trail while you are out and about? If you are at the park, or walking in the woods, encourage your child to use all their senses. Get them to close their eyes and describe what they can hear or smell. Find some interesting objects together and describe how they feel. Can they think of any imaginative ways to describe what they see around them? Try to encourage your child to use similes and metaphors to describe what is happening around them.

Synonym Hunt

To help your child practise using a wider range of vocabulary that would be suitable for a number of different genres, go on a synonym hunt at home. Synonyms are alternative words that have a similar meaning to the original word. Choose a room in your house, then get your child to choose synonyms for the objects in the room. Get them to think about different story genres. Can they think of synonyms that would work in different genres? For example, in the kitchen, a spoon could be a ladle for a magical setting, or in the living room, a TV could be a viewscreen for a sci-fi setting.

Comic Strip

To help your child explore stories in different ways, why not help them to create a comic strip version of part of a story they are reading? Split a piece of paper into six different windows. Ask your child to choose a scene or event from either a story they are reading or their favourite narrative. Can they create a visual representation of what is happening in the story?

Reading Year 5

During year 5, your child will continue to explore a range of different fiction and stories, including reading myths, legends, traditional tales, modern fiction, older stories from our literary heritage and stories from other cultures and traditions. As they read more types of books, they will begin to recognise how some genres can have similarities and differences between them. They will describe why a book belongs to a certain genre by identifying themes that are present which are found in other books of that type. Your child will begin to become familiar with more complex stories and make recommendations to their friends and classmates about stories they liked, giving reasons to support their thoughts. Reading comprehension packs are a great way to explore a variety of different stories with your child, they include short texts and a variety of different questions to try together.

Figurative Language

Figurative language is when imagery and creativity is used to give an everyday word or phrase a different/extra meaning. It can also be used by writers to make their work more interesting and dramatic. Some examples of figurative language that your child will probably use in year 5 are similes, metaphors and alliteration. Similes compare one thing to another, saying that one thing is 'like' or 'as ___ as' another thing (as slow as a snail, solid like a stone). Metaphors are a way of comparing one thing to another (she is a ray of sunshine, he had a heart of stone). Alliteration is the use of words that start with the same sound (six sizzling sausages). The figurative language display posters and cards in this pack are full of reminders for your child about what each type of figurative language is and some examples that they could use in their own work.

Thesaurus Skills

The more stories your child reads, the more vocabulary they will encounter. Each genre of fiction has certain words and themes that are unique to them. Your child will learn that when they are writing their own stories, they will need to be careful about the words they choose to use to ensure their narrative matches the setting, time and genre. For example, a fantasy witch mixing a potion would probably use a ladle and cauldron over the fire, rather than a spoon and bowl in the oven. To help your child search for more of these synonyms (words with similar meanings), you could take a look at a thesaurus skills resource pack. Being able to use a thesaurus is a key skill for your child to learn in order to help develop their vocabulary further.

Tension

As your child progresses through year 5, they will write their own stories. Part of this story writing will include building up tension, atmosphere, suspense and feeling. They will begin to recognise that sometimes, depending on the type of story, it is necessary for the writer to build-up suspense and make the reader feel something. They will start to use short, snappy sentences that give quickfire information, similes and metaphors to build up an image and sentences that use all the senses. To support them in the use of suspense and tension, you could look at some writing suspense and mystery activities with your child which are full of advice and practise activities for them to try at home.

Linking Paragraphs

The longer your child's stories become, the more they will use paragraphs to organise and structure their narratives. Not only will they need to consider how and when to change paragraphs, they will also learn to join their paragraphs together, creating a flow, where the story ties together across the different parts of the writing. They can use a variety of conjunctions and adverbials to create this flow, link and cohesion. By using a variety of word mats with your child, you can explore a range of these adverbials and conjunctions, building up a bank of key phrases to use within their own work.

