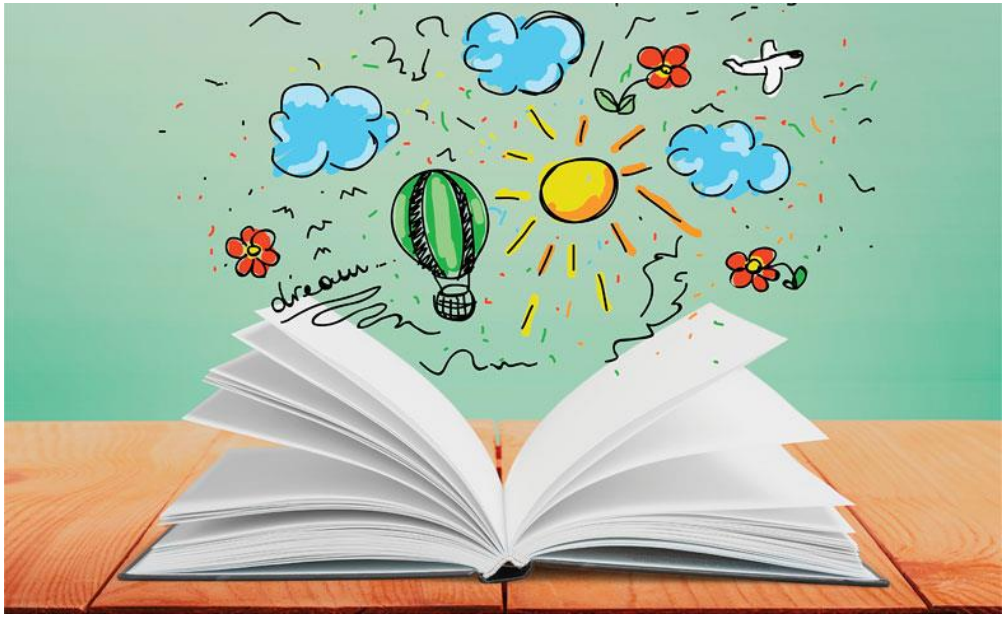
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Question stems for supporting comprehension skills

When hearing children read, it is vital to support their understanding with accurate, targeted questioning.

Please use these stem questions as a starting point, when listening to your child read to you at home.



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	Key Reading Skills	Suggested question stems for whole class reading
Year 1 - Vocabulary	• discussing word meanings, linking new meanings to those already known • draw upon knowledge of vocabulary in order to understand the text • join in with predictable phrases • use vocabulary given by the teacher • discuss his/her favourite words and phrases	• What does the word ..... mean in this sentence? • Find and copy a word which means ..... • Which word in do you think is the most important? Why? • Which of the words best describes the character or setting? • Which word in this part do you think is the most important? • Why do you think they repeat this word in the story?
Year 1 Inference	• children make basic inferences about characters' feelings by using what they say as evidence. • infer basic points with direct reference to the pictures and words in the text • discuss the significance of the title and events • demonstrate simple inference from the text based on what is said and done	• What do you think.....means? • Why do you think that? • How do you think. ..? • When do you think. ..? • Where do you think. ? • How does ..... make you feel? • Why did ..... happen?
Year 1 Prediction	• predicting what might happen on the basis of what has been read so far in terms of story, character and plot • make simple predictions based on the story and on their own life experience. • begin to explain these ideas verbally or though pictures.	• Looking at the cover and the title, what do you think this book is about? • Where do you think.....will go next? • What do you think... will say / do next? • What do you think this book will be about? Why? • How do you think that this will end? • Who do you think has done it? • What might.....say about that? • Can you draw what might happen next?

Year 1 question stems for comprehension

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Year 1 Explaining	• give my opinion including likes and dislikes (not nc objective). • link what they read or hear to their own experiences • explain clearly my understanding of what has been read to them • express views about events or characters	• Is there anything you would change about this story? • What do you like about this text? • Who is your favourite character? Why?
Year 1 Retrieval	• answer a question about what has just happened in a story. • develop their knowledge of retrieval through images. • recognize characters, events, titles and information. • recognize differences between fiction and non-fiction texts. • retrieve information by finding a few key words. • Contribute ideas and thoughts in discussion	• Who is your favourite character? • Why do you think all the main characters are … in this book? • Would you like to live in this setting? Why/why not? • Who is/are the main character(s)? • When/where is this story set? • Which is your favourite/worst/ funniest/scariest part of the story? • Is this a fiction or a non-fiction book? How do you know?
Year 1 Sequence	• retell familiar stories orally e.g fairy stories and traditional tales • sequence the events of a story they are familiar with • begin to discuss how events are linked	• What happens in the beginning of the story? • Can you number these events in the story? • How/where does the story start? • What happened at the end of the….? • Can you retell the story to me in 20 words or less? • What happened before that? • Can you sequence the key moments in this story?

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	Key Reading Skills	Suggested question stems for whole class and guided reading
Year 2 - Vocabulary	• discussing and clarifying the meanings of words; link new meanings to known vocabulary • discussing their favourite words and phrases • recognise some recurring language in stories and poems	• Can you find a noun/adjective/verb that tells/shows you that...? • Why do you think that the author used the word... to describe...? • Which other word on this page means the same as...? • Find an adjective in the text which describes... • Which word do you think is most important in this section? Why? • Which word best describes...?
Year 2 Inference	• make inferences about characters' feelings using what they say and do. • infer basic points and begin, with support, to pick up on subtler references. • answering and asking questions and modifying answers as the story progresses • use pictures or words to make inferences	• What do you think.... means? • Why do you think that? • Why do you think...? • How do you think....? • When do you think...? • Where do you think...? • How has the author made us think that...?
Year 2 Prediction	• predicting what might happen on the basis of what has been read in terms of plot, character and language so far • make predictions using their own knowledge as well as what has happened so far to make logical predictions and give explanations of them	• Where do you think.... will go next? • What do you think... will say/do next? • What do you think this book will be about? Why? • How do you think that this will end? What makes you say that? • Who do you think has done it? • What might.... say about that? • How does the choice of character affect what will happen next?
Year 2 Explaining	• explain and discuss their understanding of books, poems and other material, both those that they listen to and those that they read for themselves • express my own views about a book or poem • discuss some similarities between books • listen to the opinion of others	• What is similar/different about two characters? • Explain why... did that.. • Is this as good as...? • Which is better and why? • Does the picture help us? How? • What would you do if you were...? • Would you like to live in this setting? Why? • Is there anything you would change about this story? • Do you agree with the author's...? Why?

Year 2 question stems for comprehension

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Year 2 Retrieval	• independently read and answer simple questions about what they have just read. • asking and answering retrieval questions • draw on previously taught knowledge • remember significant event and key information about the text that they have read • Monitor their reading, checking words that they have decoded, to ensure that they fit within the text they have already read	• Who is/are the main character(s)? • When/where is this story set? How do you know? • Which is your favourite/worst/funniest/ scariest part of the story? Why? • Tell me three facts you have learned from the text. • Find the part where… • What type of text is this? • What happened to … in the end of the story?
Year 2 Sequence	• discuss the sequence of events in books and how items of information are related. • retell using a wider variety of story language. • order events from the text. • begin to discuss how events are linked focusing on the main content of the story.	• What happens in the story's opening? • How/where does the story start? • What happened at the end of the…? • • What is the dilemma in this story? • How is it resolved? • Can you retell the story to me in 20 words or less? • Can you summarise in 3 sentences the beginning, middle and end of this story?

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Year 3 question stems for comprehension

	Key Reading Skills	Question Stems
Year 3 - Vocabulary	• use dictionaries to check the meaning of words that they have read • discuss words that capture the readers interest or imagination • identify how language choices help build meaning • find the meaning of new words using substitution within a sentence.	• What does this word/phrase/sentence tell you about the character/setting/mood? • Can you find this word in the dictionary? • By writing in this way, what effect has the author created? • What other words/phrases could the author have used here? • How has the author made you feel by writing...? • Which word tells you that...? • Find and highlight the word that is closest in meaning to...?
Year 3 Inference	• children can infer characters' feelings, thoughts and motives from their stated actions. • justify inferences by referencing a specific point in the text. • ask and answer questions appropriately, including some simple inference questions based on characters' feelings, thoughts and motives. • make inferences about actions or events	• What do you think.... means? • Why do you think that? • Why do you think...? • How do you think....? • Can you explain why....? • What do these words mean and why do you think that the author chose them? • Find and copy a group of words which show...? • How does the description of ... show that they are...? • Who is telling the story? • Why has the character done this at this time?
Year 3 Prediction	• justify predictions using evidence from the text. • use relevant prior knowledge to make predictions and justify them. • use details from the text to form further predictions.	• Can you think of another story with a similar theme? • Which stories have openings like this? • Do you think that this story will develop the same way? • Why did the author choose this setting? Will that influence the story? • What happened before this and what do you think will happen after? • Do you think the setting will have an impact on plot moving forward?

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Year 3 Explaining	• discussing the features of a wide range of fiction, poetry, plays, non-fiction and reference books • identifying how language, structure, and presentation contribute to meaning of both fiction and non-fiction texts • recognise authorial choices and the purpose of these	• What is similar/different about two characters? • Explain why... did that. • Describe different characters' reactions to the same event. • Is this as good as...? • Which is better and why? • Why do you think they chose to order the text in this way? • What is the purpose of this text and who do you think it was written for? • What is the author's viewpoint? How do you know? • How are these two sections in the text linked?
Year 3 Retrieval	• use contents page and subheadings to locate information • learn the skill of 'skim and scan' to retrieve details. • begin to use quotations from the text. • retrieve and record information from a fiction text. • retrieve information from a non-fiction text	• Who are the characters in this text? • When / where is this story set? How do you know? • Which part of the story best describes the setting? • What do you think is happening here? • What might this mean? • How might I find the information quickly? • What can I use to help me navigate this book? • How would you describe the story? • Whose perspective is the story told from?
Year 3 Summarise	• identifying main ideas drawn from a key paragraph or page and summarising these • begin to distinguish between the important and less important information in a text. • give a brief verbal summary of a story. • teachers begin to model how to record summary writing. • identify themes from a wide range of books • make simple notes from one source of writing	• What is the main point in this paragraph? • Sum up what has happened so far in X words or less. • Which is the most important point in these paragraphs? • Do any sections/paragraphs deal with the same themes? • Have you noticed any similarities between this text and any others you have read? • What do I need to jot down to remember what I have read?

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	Key Reading Skills	Question Stems
Year 4 - Vocabulary	• using dictionaries to check the meaning of words that they have read • use a thesaurus to find synonyms • discuss why words have been chosen and the effect these have on the reader • explain how words can capture the interest of the reader • discuss new and unusual vocabulary and clarify the meaning of these • find the meaning of new words using the context of the sentence.	• Can you find the meaning or a word with a similar meaning in a dictionary or thesaurus? • What does this word/phrase/sentence tell you about the character/setting/mood? • By writing..., what effect has the author created? • Do you think they intended to? • What other words/phrases could the author have used here? Why? How has the author...? • Which word is closest in meaning to...?
Year 4 Inference	• ask and answer questions appropriately, including some simple inference questions based on characters' feelings, thoughts and motives (I know this because questions) • infer characters' feelings, thoughts and motives from their stated actions. • consolidate the skill of justifying them using a specific reference point in the text • use more than one piece of evidence to justify their answer	• What do you think..... means? • Why do you think that? Could it be anything else? • I think....; do you agree? Why / why not? • How do you think....? • Can you explain why.....? • Can you explain why based on two different pieces of evidence? • What do these words mean and why do you think that the author chose them? • Find and copy a group of words which show that... • What impression of ...do you get from this paragraph?
Year 4 Prediction	• justify predictions using evidence from the text. • use relevant prior knowledge as well as details from the text to form predictions and to justify them. • monitor these predictions and compare them with the text as they read on	• Can you think of another text with a similar theme? How do their plots differ? • Which stories have openings like this? Do you think that this story will develop the same way? • Why did the author choose this setting? Will that influence the story? • What does this paragraph suggest what will happen next? • Do you think ... will happen? Explain your answers with evidence from the text.

Year 4 question stems for comprehension

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Year 4 Explaining	• discussing words and phrases that capture the reader's interest and imagination • identifying how language, structure, and presentation contribute to meaning • recognise authorial choices and the purpose of these	• What is similar/different about two characters? Did the author intend that? • Explain why… did that. • Describe different characters' reactions to the same event. • Is this as good as…? • Which is better and why? • What can you tell me about how this text is organised? • Why is the text arranged in this way? • What is the purpose of this text and who is the audience? • How does the author engage the reader here? • Which section was the most …? Why?
Year 4 Retrieval	• confidently skim and scan texts to record details, • using relevant quotes to support their answers to questions. • retrieve and record information from a fiction or non-fiction text.	• Find the… in this text. Is it anywhere else? • When/where is this story set? How do you know? • Find the part of the story that best describes the setting. • What do you think is happening here? Why? • What might this mean? • Whose perspective is the story told by and how do you know? • How can you use the subheading to help you here?
Year 4 Summarise	• use skills developed in year 3 in order to write a brief summary of main points, identifying and using important information. • identifying main ideas drawn from more than one paragraph. • identify themes from a wide range of books • summarise whole paragraphs, chapters or texts • highlight key information and record it in bullet points, diagrams, maps etc	• What is the main point in this paragraph? Is it mentioned anywhere else? • Sum up what has happened so far in X words/seconds or less. • Which is the most important point in these paragraphs? Why? • Do any sections/paragraphs deal with the same themes? • How might I record this to ensure the best possible outcome?

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Year 5 question stems for comprehension

	Key Reading Skills	Question Stems
Year 5 - Vocabulary	• explore the meaning of words in context, confidently using a dictionary • discuss how the author's choice of language impacts the reader • evaluate the authors use of language • investigate alternative word choices that could be made • begin to look at the use of figurative language • use a thesaurus to find synonyms for a larger variety of words • re-write passages using alternative word choices • read around the word' and *explore its meaning in the broader context of a section or paragraph.	• Can you quickly find..in the dictionary and thesaurus? • What does this word/phrase/sentence tell you about the character/setting/mood? • By writing..., what effect has the author created? Do you think they intended to? • What other words/phrases could the author have used here? Why? • How has the author made you/this character feel by writing...? Why? • Find and highlight the word which is closest in meaning to ... • Find a word which demonstrates... • Can you rewrite this in the style of the author using your own words? • How have simile and metaphor been used here to enhance the text?
Year 5 Inference	• drawing inferences such as inferring characters' feelings, thoughts and motives from their actions, and justifying inferences with evidence. • make inferences about actions, feelings, events or states • use figurative language to infer meaning • give one or two pieces of evidence to support the point they are making. • begin to draw evidence from more than one place across a text.	• What do you think... means? Why do you think that? Could it be anything else? • I think....; do you agree? Why/why not? • Why do you think the author? decided to...? • Can you explain why...? Can you give me evidence from somewhere else in the text? • What do these words mean and why do you think that the author chose them? • How does the author make you feel? • What impression do you get from these paragraphs?
Year 5 Prediction	• predicting what might happen from details stated and implied • support predictions with relevant evidence from the text. • confirm and modify predictions as they read on.	• Can you think of another story with a similar theme? How do their plots differ? • Which stories have openings like this? Do you think that this story will develop the same way? • Why did the author choose this setting? Will that influence the story?

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Year 5 Explaining	• provide increasingly reasoned justification for my views • recommend books for peers in detail • give reasons for authorial choices • begin to challenge points of view • begin to distinguish between fact and opinion • identifying how language, structure and presentation contribute to meaning • discuss and evaluate how authors use language, including figurative language, considering the impact on the reader • explain and discuss their understanding of what they have read, including through formal presentations and debates.	• What is similar/different about two characters? Did the author intend that? • Explain why… did that. • Describe different characters' reactions to the same event. • Does this story have a moral? • Which is better and why? • How is the text organised and what impact does this have on you as a reader? • Why has the text been written this way? • How can you tell whether it is fact and opinion? • How is this text similar to the writing we have been doing? • How does the author engage the audience?
Year 5 Retrieval	• confidently skim and scan, and also use the skill of reading before and after to retrieve information. • use evidence from across larger sections of text • read a broader range of texts including myths, legends, stories from other cultures, modern fiction and archaic texts. • retrieve, record and present information from non-fiction texts. • ask my own questions and follow a line of enquiry.	• Find the… in this text. Is it anywhere else? • When/where is this story set? Find evidence in the text. • Find the part of the story that best describes the setting. • What do you think is happening here? Why? • Who is telling this story? • Can you skim/scan quickly to find the answer?
Year 5 Summarise	• summarising the main ideas drawn from more than one paragraph, page, chapter or the entire text identifying key details to support the main ideas. • make connections between information across the text and include this is an answer. • discuss the themes or conventions from a chapter or text • identify themes across a wide range of writing	• What is the main point in this paragraph? Is it mentioned anywhere else? • Sum up what has happened so far in… words/seconds or less. • Which is the most important point in these paragraphs? Why? • Do any sections/paragraphs deal with the same themes? • Can you find a text with a similar theme?

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Year 6 question stems for comprehension

	Key Reading Skills	Question Stems
Year 6 - Vocabulary	• evaluate how the authors' use of language impacts upon the reader • find examples of figurative language and how this impacts the reader and contributes to meaning or mood. • discuss how presentation and structure contribute to meaning. • explore the meaning of words in context by 'reading around the word' and independently explore its meaning in the broader context of a section or paragraph.	• What does this word/phrase/sentence tell you about the character/setting/mood? • By writing..., what effect has the author created? Do you think they intended to? • Can you find examples of simile, metaphor, hyperbole or personification in the text? • Why has the text been organised in this way? Would you have done it differently? • What other words/phrases could the author have used here? Why? How has the author made you/this character feel by writing...? Why?
Year 6 Inference	• drawing inferences such as inferring characters' feelings, thoughts and motives from their actions, and justifying inferences with evidence. • discuss how characters change and develop through texts by drawing inferences based on indirect clues. • make inferences about events, feelings, states backing these up with evidence. • infer characters' feelings, thoughts and motives, giving more than one piece of evidence to support each point made. They can draw evidence from different places across the text	• What do you think... means? Why do you think that? Could it be anything else? • I think....; do you agree? Why/why not? • Why do you think the author decided to...? • Can you explain why...? • What do these words mean and why do you think that the author chose them? • How do other people's descriptions of ...show that...? • Where else in the text can we find the answer to this question?
Year 6 Prediction	• predicting what might happen from details stated and implied • support predictions by using relevant evidence from the text • confirm and modify predictions in light of new information.	• Can you think of another story with a similar theme? How do their plots differ? • Which stories have openings like this? Do you think that this story will develop the same way? • Why did the author choose this setting? Will that influence the story?

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Year 6 Explaining	• provide increasingly reasoned justification for my views • recommend books for peers in detail • give reasons for authorial choices • begin to challenge points of view • begin to distinguish between fact and opinion • identifying how language, structure and presentation contribute to meaning • discuss and evaluate how authors use language, including figurative language, considering the impact on the reader • explain and discuss their understanding of what they have read, including through formal presentations and debates. • distinguish between fact, opinion and bias explaining how they know this.	• What is similar/different about two characters? Did the author intend that? • Explain why... did that. • Describe different characters' reactions to the same event. • Does this story have a moral? • Which is better and why? • Can you identify where the author has shown bias towards a particular character? • Is it fact or is it opinion? How do you know? • How does the author make you feel at this point in the story? Why did they do that? • Can you explain it in a different way?
Year 6 Retrieval	• Children confidently skim and scan, and also use the skill of reading before and after to retrieve information. *They use evidence from across whole chapters or texts • Read a broader range of texts including myths, legends, stories from other cultures, modern fiction, plays, poetry and archaic texts. • Retrieve, record and present information from a wide variety of non-fiction texts. • Ask my own questions and follow a line of enquiry.	• Find the... in this text. Is it anywhere else? • Can you skim the next... and find me the answer to...? • When/where is this story set? Find evidence in the text. • Find the part of the story that best describes the setting. • What do you think is happening here? Why? • Who is telling this story? • What genre is...? • Can you look at these other texts and find me what is similar and what is different?
Year 6 Summarise	• summarise information from across a text and link information by analysing and evaluating ideas between sections of the text. • summarising the main ideas drawn from more than one paragraph, identifying key details to support the main ideas • make comparisons across different books. • summarise entire texts, in addition to chapters or paragraphs, using a limited amount of words or paragraphs.	• What is the main point of the text? • Can you look in this paragraph? What does the author mean? Is it mentioned anywhere else? • Sum up what has happened so far in... words/seconds or less. • Can you read the text and summarise what has happened? • Which is the most important point in these paragraphs? Why? • Do any sections/paragraphs deal with the same themes?