**15 Reading Comprehension Skills**

**Whilst reading, see if you can use these skills to analyse the text.**

1. **Use prior knowledge**- what does this make us think of… what would I do if … we’ve seen this before …. Was it like that when you ….
2. **Predict**- what might happen.., what if.. .,find evidence…’cloze’ procedure where children suggest hidden word/phrase etc.. stop at a problem: consider alternatives, consequences
3. **Preview vocabulary**- prior to reading investigate new/less familiar words
4. **Magpie** – steal good words, ideas, phrases, sentences- Make own Dictionary, Glossary, Thesaurus but use words again, apply to own pieces of work
5. **Construct an image** – visualise, draw, freeze frame, turn into a cartoon strip
6. **Question**- use generic question starters ( see attached), children generate own, hot seat, talk to the author (role play) TV interview, tell us more about…. Why did you think that… how do you know…
7. **Quote**- dig deeper, use as discussion starter, point of view, fact or opinion
8. **Sequence**- pictures, verses, paragraphs
9. **Summarise**- find the main idea, skim then summarise in few sentences, highlight the key words/phrases, write a blurb
10. **Investigate** characters- feelings, thought bubbles, over time, relationships, emotions at different times, rank the characters to a given criteria , villains and heroes,
11. **Genre Swap**- change, alter, transpose into different text type.
12. **Skim and Scan-** fastest finger first,
13. **Compare and contrast**- versions of the same story, poems on a theme, authors works
14. **Express Opinion**- be able to explain why, justify, use text to back up/support – the best part, the scariest, recommend or not? Response journals,
15. **Speculate-** Alternative viewpoints- characters, and authors intent, perhaps that information was included because… I wonder whether she did that because… I don’t agree because…

**Comprehension Question Starters**

*Understand, describe, select or retrieve information, events or ideas from texts and use quotation and reference to text*

* What was…
* Where did…
* Why did… *(the answer must be within the text)*
* When…
* Which…
* Who …
* What does the word ………… mean
* How does ………… feel *( answer must be in the text)*
* What 3 things will you find out…
* Write down 2 things …..
* Choose the best word/ group of words…
* Put a ring round…
* Match these statements/ words/phrases…
* Multiple choice questions
* Put the following on order…
* Tick one phrase …………… *(from a selection shown)*
* *(statement from text)* Select 2 pieces of information to show…
* How does ….
* True/ False Statements
* Find and copy a word/phrase/sentence which shows………
* Where does the story take place?
* Who was the character that…
* Show me in the text where you found…
* What is happening in this part of the play?
* Where can you find an important piece of information about…?
* What does this part of the text tell us about?

*Deduce, infer or interpret information, events or ideas from texts*

* Why …. (*Where the answer is not able to be lifted directly from the text)*
* Why do you think….
* How can you tell… Explain fully using the text to help you…
* *(quote text)* Give 2 reasons why ….
* *(quote text)* Explain what this tells us…
* Why are the ………… described as ………….
* Having read ……………. Why do you think that …………
* If you were ……………… what would you do …………….
* For what reason might ……………………..
* Why do you think …. *(quote from text)*
* Do you think that ……………. Yes/No. Explain….
* How do we know that ……
* Where does the table show…………..
* Why was …. Important in this story/play?
* Did any characters help each other in this text?
* Tell me about what sort of character…. Was from the things they did/said.
* What do you think …… thoughts were at this point in the story/play/poem?
* If you were going to interview one of the characters, which questions would you ask and why?
* Which is the most interesting/funniest/scariest part of the ….
* How did one of the characters change their ideas/attitude during the text
* What do you think would have happened if…
* Tell me about one important event that happened that could not be left out. Say/write why it was important.
* Do you agree with the author’s opinion? Explain your own opinion using the texts to help you.
* What do you think are the important points the author is trying to get over to you as the reader?
* Which do you think are the most important issues and why?
* Can you tell me what word the poet might have used here? Why?
* How did you think this story/poem/play should have ended?
* If…. Had not done…., how might this have changed other events in the story/play?

*Identify and comment on the structure and organisation of texts, including grammatical and presentational features at text level*

* Why has the *timeline/map*/*heading etc* been included…..
* Why do you think the author connected these paragraphs…
* What is the *glossary/index etc..* for
* What is the purpose of …
* What type of text is this….
* What genre is …
* On page ….. there is a …….. why has this been included
* How does the author organise the writing?
* Why does the author begin a new paragraph here?
* How does the layout of this playscript help actors to read and perform the play?
* Why are brackets used in this playscript?
* How does the punctuation help you as the reader of this poem/play?
* What is/are the main event(s) that happen(s) in this/each paragraph?
* Can you find any repeated patterns in this poem?
* What are particular words/sections within a text in **bold /***italics/ larger print?*
* Why have bullet points/numbers been used in this text?
* How does this text layout help the reader?
* Why has this text been highlighted?
* How does ( a diagram/picture/ caption) help you to understand the information on these pages?
* What is the purpose of the list/diagram/caption/sun-heading in this text?
* Why has some of the information been presented in a table?
* What is the main idea of this/each section paragraph?
* What would be a good heading for this section? Why ?

*Explain and comment on writers’ use of language, including grammatical and literary features at word and sentence level*

* Why does the author use these words…
* Why has the title …….. been chosen
* Why does the author choose to use the word/phrase…
* In the ………… sentence, which *2* words *mean/ show*  ……..
* The author used the *word/phrase/sentence (Quote)*……………….. What do you think this means
* Look at page …………. Which sentence tells you …
* How has the author used words/phrases to make this character funny/ sad/ adventurous/ clever/ frightening/excited/ disappointed etc…?
* What do/does this/these words tell you about ( a character)
* Which part of the story best describes the setting/characters / action? Which words and /or phrases do this?
* Find and copy some words or phrases that show us that this character is special/helpful/adventurous/unsure/ worried etc..?
* Why is ….. a good title for this story/book/chapter/ play?
* Do you notice anything special or unusual about the words the poet has used here?
* What do these words tell you about…
* Which word(s)/phrases/types of sentences are used well in this text…
* Is this writer an expert on…..? How do you know?
* Why do you think the writer chose to use the word(s)/phrase(s)… to describe..
* Why do you think the author chose… as the title/headline/heading
* Find something that is not a fact but the author’s opinion.

*Identify and comment on writers’ purposes and viewpoints, and the overall effect of the text on the reader*

* What is the purpose of this ….
* Why do you think …………………..is included at the *end/beginning*
* What reason do you think this *title/heading etc..* was chosen
* Why do you think this ……………….. contains …………..
* *(Quote )* what is the effect of using this
* Did you enjoy reading the story/poem/play or not? Explain your answer by referring
* to the characters, events and how it made you feel.
* How did the story make you feel? Why did it make you feel like this?
* Why do you think the author chose this particular setting for this poem/play/story?
* How has the author started this in an interesting way? How does this make the reader want to read on?
* How do you feel when you read this poem? Which parts make you feel like this?
* What does the writer think about/is .. what is the writers opinion on…. What is the writers viewpoint…. In this part of the text?
* Why do you think the writer produced this article/leaflet/flyer/brochure etc..
* How does the writer try to persuade you to …
* Which information/facts does the writer include to make you believe that..
* Which words/points do you think are the strongest/most powerful in persuading the reader to …
* Why do you think the writer included details about….
* Which advert/text would most persuade you to buy/take part in… Why?
* If… was alive today he/she would be arguing for …..
* The writer says …. Do you agree or disagree.. Why?

*Relate texts to their social, cultural and historical traditions*

* *(quote )* What is meant by ….. *(reference to history, culture etc..)*
* Explain why ………….. is a suitable title
* Do you think nowadays …………………….. Explain your opinion.
* Read these 2 poems. What do they have in common? How are they different?
* When do you think this story/poem was written/ How do you know?
* In which country do you think this story takes place? Why?
* Does the setting remind you of a setting you know from another story/poem?
* Do you know any more stories/poems like this? Tell me why they are alike.
* Do you now another story with similar characters in? Tell me how they are similar.
* Many traditional tales have messages. What do you think this story is trying to tell us?
* What kind of a text is this? How do you know?
* When you have read these 2 texts, what can you find that is the same about them and what is different?
* Do you know of any other texts with similar issues or themes?