

Cops and Robbers by Janet and Allan Ahlberg
Reading comprehension

Pages 1-15

Vocabulary	Q1 Which adjectives on page one tell you the cops are good people? A: Hardworking, brave and true.
Inference	Q2 How does the author infer the robbers are bad people? Range of potential answers: A: He writes, they have "crowbars and skeleton keys." He writes, they "prowl and creep." He writes "they take whatever they please."
Prediction	Q3 Will Officer Pugh stop the robbers? Pupils may answer yes or no as long as they can justify their answer, yes is the more likely answer. A: Yes, I think that he will stop the robbers because he is a good person and a policeman. No, I think the robbers are sneaky and will get away with their crimes.
Explain	Q4 What is your opinion of the robbers? Use the text to explain your answer. A: I do not like the robbers because the author says they are villainous, and Grabber Dan "is gruff and steals enough to fill a van."
Retrieval	Q5 Who whistled a warning to the other robbers? A: Snatcher Jack.
Sequence	Q6 What happened after the station Sergeant rang for Officer Pugh? A: He explained to Officer Pugh that they needed to stop a robber mob.

Cops and Robbers by Janet and Allan Ahlberg
Reading comprehension

Pages 1-15

Vocabulary	Q1 Which adjectives on page one tell you the cops are good people? _____
Inference	Q2 How does the author infer the robbers are bad people? _____ _____
Prediction	Q3 Will Officer Pugh stop the robbers? _____ _____
Explain	Q4 What is your opinion of the robbers? Use the text to explain your answer. _____ _____ _____
Retrieval	Q5 Who whistled a warning to the other robbers? _____
Sequence	Q6 What happened after the station Sergeant rang for Officer Pugh? _____ _____ _____

Meerkat Mail by Emily Graven	
Book talk - reciprocal reading conversation guide	
Pages 1-14	
Vocabulary	Q: Find and copy an adjective on page 1. A: Dry/hot.
Inference	Q: Why was Sunny too hot? A: Sunny was too hot because he lives in the hot desert where it gets very hot and there is no shade.
Prediction Remember to ask pupils to identify what the prediction is based on.	Q: What do you think the book will be about, looking at the cover? A: I think that the book will be about a meerkat who goes on holiday and sends postcards because the story is called meerkat mail.
Explain	Q: How does the author show that Sunny would like to change his life? A: He doesn't like that they are very close and do everything together all the time.
Retrieval	Q: Where does Sunny arrive on Wednesday? A: Cousin Edwards.
Sequence	Q: Can you put the story so far in the correct sequence? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. We meet Sunny and the meerkats. 2. Sunny sends mail from Uncle Bob's on Monday. 3. Sunny writes mum a goodbye letter because he wants to leave 4. Sunny sends mail from Cousins Scratch and Mitch. 5. Sunny is too hot. 6. Sunny sends mail from Cousin Edwards on Wednesday. A: 1, 5, 3, 2, 4, 6

Hansel and Gretel by Anthony Browne
Reading comprehension

Page 21 – Hansel is put in a cage

Vocabulary	Q: 'and make a great treat of the day' What does the author mean by this? A: The witch will enjoy the day enormously.
Inference	Q: Why would the children have been so keen to enjoy the witch's meal? A: They had eaten nothing for days and she had provided lovely beds for them to sleep in.
Prediction	Q: Will Gretel keep on doing what the witch wants her to? Choose the most accurate prediction. A: Probably, she knows the witch could easily kill her or Hansel.
Explain	Q: Why does the witch make Gretel feed Hansel? A: She enjoys being cruel and prefers other people to do her work for her.
Retrieval	Q: How did the witch manage to get Hansel into the cage? A: He dragged him there while he was still half asleep and locked him up quickly.
Summary	Q: Sum up what the witch planned to do with the children. Choose the most accurate summary. A: She wanted to keep them with her, fatten them up then eat them.

Hansel and Gretel by Anthony Browne

Reading comprehension

Page 21 – Hansel is put in a cage

Vocabulary	Q1 'and make a great treat of the day' What does the author mean by this? <hr/> <hr/>
Inference	Q2 Why would the children have been so keen to enjoy the witch's meal? <hr/> <hr/>
Prediction	Q3 Will Gretel keep on doing what the witch wants her to? <hr/> <hr/>
Explain	Q4 Why does the witch make Gretel feed Hansel? <hr/> <hr/>
Retrieval	Q5 How did the witch manage to get Hansel into the cage? <hr/> <hr/>
Summary	Q6 Sum up what the witch planned to do with the children. <hr/> <hr/>

Perry Angel's Suitcase by Glenda Millard	
Book talk - reciprocal reading conversation guide	
Chapter Seven – Madonna and the Promise – first two pages	
Vocabulary	<p>Q1 Perry cradled his egg and watched what other people were doing – what does the word ‘cradled’ tell you about how he held the egg?</p> <p>A: He held it carefully and gently.</p>
Inference	<p>Q2 Had Indigo and Violet decorated eggs before? How do you know?</p> <p>A: They clearly had done, they knew how to dye them and Violet knew how to make very elaborate patterns on them.</p> <p>Q3 Why was Violet’s egg striped with white when it came out of the saucepan?</p> <p>A: The ribbon she tied around it stopped the dye getting onto those parts of the shell.</p>
Prediction Remember to ask pupils to identify what the prediction is based on.	<p>Q4 Was Indigo likely to be right when she told Perry his egg would hatch if he held it much longer?</p> <p>Choose the most accurate prediction.</p> <p>A: No, she was exaggerating, it wouldn’t really hatch if he kept holding the egg.</p>
Explain	<p>Q5 Does the author hint at the egg decorating being competitive?</p> <p>A: Yes, Violet and Indigo both seemed determined to outdo each other, with Violet trying to do something more elaborate than Indigo.</p>
Retrieval	<p>Q6 How did Indigo decorate her egg?</p> <p>A: She used a fine pen to cover it with scrolls and curls.</p> <p>Q7 Which dyes did Violet use to colour her egg?</p> <p>A: Red and blue.</p>
Summary	<p>Q8 What was happening in the kitchen?</p> <p>Choose the most accurate summary.</p> <p>A: Violet and Indigo were decorating eggs, they boiled them in water with dye in then decorated them. Perry watched until Indigo helped him.</p>

FARThER by Grahame Baker-Smith Reading comprehension	
First pages – Father's house and father working	
Vocabulary	<p>Q1 Can you find a phrase which best describes the position of the house? A: Perched on headland</p> <p>Q2 Why are the wings called hopeful? A: Because father hopes they will let him fly using them.</p>
Inference	<p>Q3 What does the position of the house suggest about the people who owned it? A: That they liked their own company and preferred not to see other people.</p> <p>Q4 Why was the house so well suited to Father's interest in flying? Give two reasons. A: He could study how seabirds flew and had a perfect spot to take off from.</p> <p>Inference with evidence: Q5 Father's desire to fly took over his life, explain how you know by referring to the text. A: The text says he spent day and night working on his flying machine, this shows how much it took over his life.</p>
Prediction	<p>Q6 Would the house have had many visitors? Choose the most accurate prediction.</p> <p>A: No, it was remote and difficult to get to.</p>
Explain	<p>Q7 The author suggests that Father's obsession with flying sometimes made him a poor father, how? A: At times father would sit and stare out of the window and forget his son was even there, despite him being sat on his lap.</p>
Retrieval	<p>Q8 Name three of the tools Father had on his bench. A: Scissors, a saw, a set square, a compass.</p> <p>Q9 Who would sit with Father when he stared out of the window? A: His son and the family dog.</p>
Summary	<p>Q10 Explain what the reader has learned about Father in these pages. Choose the most accurate summary.</p> <p>A: His life's dream is to build a machine that will let him fly and this is what he spends much of his time doing. Sometimes he sits and stares out of the window.</p>

FArTHER by Grahame Baker-Smith

Reading comprehension

First pages – Father's house and father working

Vocabulary	<p>Q1 Can you find a phrase which best describes the position of the house?</p> <hr/> <p>Q2 Why are the wigs called hopeful?</p> <hr/> <hr/>
Inference	<p>Q3 What does the position of the house suggest about the people who owned it?</p> <hr/> <hr/> <p>Q4 Why was the house so well suited to Father's interest in flying? Give two reasons.</p> <hr/> <hr/> <p>Inference with evidence: Q5 Father's desire to fly took over his life, explain how you know by referring to the text.</p> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
Prediction	<p>Q6 Would the house have had many visitors?</p> <hr/> <hr/>

Explain	<p>Q7 The author suggests that Father's obsession with flying sometimes made him a poor father, how?</p> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
Retrieval	<p>Q8 Name three of the tools Father had on his bench.</p> <hr/> <p>Q9 Who would sit with Father when he stared out of the window?</p> <hr/>
Summary	<p>Q10 Explain what the reader has learned about Father in these pages.</p> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>

Holes by Louis Sachar	
Book talk - reciprocal reading conversation guide	
Chapter Twenty Two	
Vocabulary	<p>Q: Armpit said that Zero 'liked' to dig holes. Which word is the best alternative for liked in this context?</p> <p>A: fond of, favoured, <u>enjoyed</u>, attached to</p> <p>Q: Stanley thought he saw a 'look of defiance' when he asked Zero if he knew the alphabet. What is meant here?</p> <p>A: Zero was about to challenge Stanley for asking him that question.</p>
Inference	<p>Q: How did Zero feel when Stanley offered to teach him to read?</p> <p>A: He was really happy as it says in the text 'a smile spread across his face'</p> <p>Q: How did Zero feel when he successfully recited the alphabet?</p> <p>A: He was proud and pleased he had been able to do it.</p>
Prediction Remember to ask pupils to identify what the prediction is based on.	<p>Q: Will Zero continue to let Stanley help him?</p> <p>A: It seems so as he asked for help in the first place and seems to be enjoying it.</p>
Explain	<p>Q: How was Stanley shown to be beginning to see the other boys as his new family?</p> <p>A: He offered to teach Zero to read even though Zero didn't ask or expect him to.</p>
Retrieval	<p>Q: Explain how Zero planned to pay Stanley back for the time he spent teaching him.</p> <p>A: Zero said that he would spend one hour a day digging Stanley's hole for him, so they would finish at the same time.</p> <p>Q: Which letter did Zero first get stuck on?</p> <p>A: F</p>
Summary	<p>Q: Summarise the reasons why Stanley offered to help Zero learn to read and write.</p> <p>A: Stanley was first to finish digging that day, the boys said Zero was a worm and liked to dig. When Stanley asked Zero why he had dug his hole, he said it was because Stanley hadn't stolen the seeds. Stanley was grateful to Zero.</p>