

Year 1 Reading Comprehension: A Step-by-Step Guide for Parents

This step-by-step explanation of reading comprehension 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, whether your child is just learning to read short passages fluently or is ready for reading comprehension questions like those in the year 2 SATs tests.

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.



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 However, please be aware that every child is different and information can quickly become out of date.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.

What Is Reading Comprehension?

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Reading comprehension is all about promoting understanding of what children read. Reading comprehension begins in conversation when teachers and parents talk to children about what they are about to read, what they are reading and what they've recently read. Children grow from answering questions verbally as part of a group towards writing their own answers. This journey to independent answering takes some children longer than others. Until they can read fluently and develop a wider vocabulary, some year 1 children can find comprehension very tricky.

How Do I Ease My Year 1 Child into Comprehension?

Getting your child to write about what they've been reading is a great first start. In order to write, your child will have to have understood their reading. It is often easier for children to show their understanding with stories that are easy to understand or which they know well. Encourage your child's creativity, basing activities on the theme your child is reading about.

How Can I Help Build My Child's Reading Comprehension at Home?

1. Encourage your child to choose books and talk to them about the reasons for their choices.
2. Read together, working sentence by sentence or page by page.
3. Enjoy reading tricky sections again and stay positive so re-reading feels like a good thing, rather than a problem.
4. Get your child to track words with their finger to help their reading pace.
5. Practise new words together and repeat phrases with those words in, to fix the pronunciation and meaning in your child's head.

Stick Puppet Storytime

Telling a story again in your own words is a great early step for a child to demonstrate their comprehension skills. Use these **Stick Puppet Characters** to share retelling a traditional tale with your child, particularly alongside the traditional tales comprehension activities in this guide.

Name That Story Storytelling Game

Encourage your child to show their understanding of characters using this **Name That Story Card Game**. Use this alongside Step 3 in this guide to motivate and encourage your child to demonstrate their understanding.

Bookmark It!

This lovely **Questions for Reading Bookmark** will help you when reading with your child. Cut the two sides out and glue one on the back of the other. Pick one question from each section. These short prompts will check that your child really understands what they are reading and will help you talk to them about it - a vital step in reading comprehension.

Step 1

Can We Follow Instructions?

Thinking about comprehension is about ensuring your child reads for meaning. These colouring pages are designed to focus your child on following instructions for colouring, based on comprehension. It's a great way to start with year 1 children because the outcome is colouring and not written, so the focus is on reading for meaning. You'll find several other versions of these key word comprehensions by searching on site.



Read and Respond

The next step is to encourage your child to respond to their reading in writing. In time, your child will become used to formal written questions, but to ease them in gently, try using our Read and Respond Worksheets. This colourful activity set is great for encouraging conversation and response about your child's point of view. They'll begin to understand their preferences better and start to learn about the storyline (plot) and characters in their books.

Step 2



Step 3

Traditional Tales

Starting comprehension activities with stories your child knows well helps them to adapt to being asked questions in a formal way. Why not read one of the traditional tales used in this pack as a story first? Then, when your child is familiar with the story, read the passage aloud with your child and then ask the questions. When you first tackle a comprehension, get your child to listen and let them give the answers verbally, rather than forcing writing. As you move through different stories, encourage greater independence in your child reading the passage themselves and ultimately writing their own response. There are answer sheets included in the pack too.

Checking on Understanding

Although your child won't do an official national test in reading comprehension until close to the end of year 2, most schools do regularly check on your child's comprehension. This lovely pack contains a non-fiction reading comprehension that is all about a text that your child may not be familiar with (unlike traditional tales). The text and questions within the pack are designed to be suitable for year 1 aged children. Don't present the task as a test, just make it another activity you're doing at home. As with other activities, read with your child and help them when you try one of the tasks for the first time and grow to independence gradually.

Step 4

Explore and Discover More

Twinkl Go! is a digital platform, hosting interactive content such as videos, games, audiobooks and more. Twinkl Go! enables digital content to be streamed to your computer or mobile device.



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Go!



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Book Club

Twinkl Book Club is our book subscription service. Enjoy our original works of fiction in beautiful printed form, delivered to you each half-term and yours to keep!

Twinkl Boost is a range of intervention resources, created to support and lift learning with children at every level. These include our easy-to-use SATs and Phonics Screening resources.



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Boost



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imagine

Imagine resources are designed to help your children to think creatively, question and imagine. Every week, a new topic consisting of five photos, each with related activities, is created.

Twinkl Originals are engaging stories written to inspire pupils from EYFS to KS2. Designed to encourage a love of reading and help curriculum-wide learning through accompanying resources.



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ORIGINALS



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KIDS' TV

Twinkl Kids' TV is our wonderful YouTube channel dedicated to fun and informative video-style resources full of new and creative activities you can try at home!