

## The Reading Assessment Focuses - questions to ask

Reading Assessment focus	Questions
<p><b>2. Understand, describe, select or retrieve information, events or ideas from texts and use quotation and reference to text.</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Where does the story take place?</li> <li>• When did the story take place?</li> <li>• What did he/she look like?</li> <li>• Where did he/she live?</li> <li>• Who are the key characters in the book?</li> <li>• What happened in the story?</li> <li>• What kinds of people are in the story?</li> <li>• What is happening at this point in the story?</li> <li>• Read the part that tells me.....</li> <li>• Where did you find the information about.....?</li> </ul>
<p><b>3 Deduce, infer or interpret information, events or ideas from text.</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What makes you think that?</li> <li>• What words give you that impression? Why?</li> <li>• How do you feel about.....? Why?</li> <li>• Can you explain why.....?</li> <li>• If you were going to interview this character/author, which questions would you ask?</li> <li>• What sort of person do you think would use this book? Describe a time when you think they would use it.</li> <li>• Which parts of the book could help you find the information you need?</li> <li>• Do you agree with this opinion? Explain your own opinion using the texts to help you?</li> <li>• At the end of the story the main character is feeling ..... Does this surprise you? Explain as fully as you can using parts of the story to help you?</li> <li>• What does this tell you about what .....was thinking?</li> <li>• Through whose eyes is the story told?</li> <li>• Who was the storyteller? How do you know?</li> <li>• Do you think this is true/untrue? Why do you think this?</li> <li>• What do you think the ..... is thinking? If it were you what would you be thinking?</li> <li>• Which is your favourite part? Why? Which bit of the text shows this?</li> <li>• Predict what you think is going to happen next. Why do you think this?</li> <li>• Using all the evidence available, can you tell me what you feel about....?</li> <li>• Who would you like to meet most in the story? Why?</li> <li>• Can you support your view with evidence?</li> <li>• What is your opinion? What evidence do you have to support your view?</li> <li>• Is this a place you could visit? Why/why not?</li> <li>• How did one of the characters change during the story? Draw a timeline that shows the changes.</li> </ul>

<p><b>4 Identify and comment on the structure and organisation of texts, including grammatical and presentational features at text level.</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Were you surprised by the ending?</li> <li>• How did you think it would end/should have ended?</li> <li>• How are the beginning and ending of the story similar?</li> <li>• What would happen if the order of events was changed?</li> <li>• What kind of a text is this? How do you know? What will it be like? What can I expect of a book of this type?</li> <li>• List the words that tell you what order to follow eg first, then.</li> <li>• What is the main event of the story? Why do you think this?</li> <li>• What is the purpose of the pictures?</li> <li>• How does the layout help the reader?</li> <li>• Some of the text is printed on a dark background. What effect do you think the designer wanted to achieve by doing this?</li> <li>• How does the way the title is written encourage you to read the .....?</li> <li>• In the leaflet, how have the different parts of the ..... been made clear?</li> <li>• What are the lines in the photograph for?</li> <li>• How do you know the order to follow the information in the text?</li> <li>• Why have these words been made to stand out?</li> <li>• Why are these words smaller but still in bold print?</li> <li>• Why are some words in the glossary printed in italics <i>like this</i>?</li> <li>• At the end of the story the author leaves you guessing about what will happen next. What do you think will happen next? Why do you think this?</li> <li>• Why is this paragraph in bold print?</li> <li>• What are the subheadings for?</li> <li>• Why has some of the information been presented as a table?</li> <li>• What is the purpose of the writing in the boxes?</li> <li>• What do the arrows show you about the structure of the text?</li> </ul>
<p><b>5 Explain and comment on the writers' uses of language, including grammatical and literary features at word and sentence level.</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I wonder what the writer intended by using these words?</li> <li>• What do these words mean and why do you think the writer chose them?</li> <li>• How has the author used adjectives to make this character funny?</li> <li>• What do the physical descriptions of characters tell us about how they are feeling?</li> <li>• Look at the verbs/adjectives/adverbs, what do these words tell us about.....?</li> <li>• By writing the line in this way, what effect has the author created?</li> <li>• What do these words tell you about .....?</li> <li>• Which word encourages you to read the .....?</li> <li>• What does the word <i>scrambled</i> tell you about the way Legs got dressed?</li> <li>• Why do you think the author has mentioned ..... a lot in the story?</li> <li>• Explain what you think this phrase adds to the story.</li> <li>• Why did the author choose this title?</li> <li>• What is the effect of writing in the past/present tense?</li> <li>• Why do you think the writer has chosen to use the words .....?</li> <li>• Why do you think the author has written this sentence in this way?</li> <li>• Which author's style did you enjoy the most? Why?</li> <li>• Do you want to read the rest of the text? How does the writer encourage you to read the rest of the text?</li> <li>• How do these phrases help to make the description effective?</li> <li>• How does the author make the ..... appear frightening?</li> <li>• Which part of the story best describes the setting?</li> <li>• Which words and /or phrases do this?</li> </ul>

**6. Identify and comment on writers' purposes and viewpoints and the overall effect of the text to the reader.**

- Can you think of another story that has a similar theme eg good over evil, weak over strong, wise over foolish?
- I wonder why the writer has decided to...?
- What was in the author's mind?
- Why did the author chose this setting?
- How would the views put across in these texts affect your views on....?
- What makes this a successful story? What evidence do you have to justify your opinion?
- Could it be better? Is it as good as.....?
- What effect does it have on you as a reader?
- Why do you think the writer wrote that description?
- What is the author trying to tell you about.....by writing this section in .....? (eg short lines)
- What was the most exciting part of the story? Explain your answer as fully as you can?
- Which illustrations did you find most useful?
- Do you think that the writer believes that ..... exist? How can you tell that the writer has this opinion?
- What are the main contrasts the poet makes in the third and first parts of the poem?
- What impression of .....does the first paragraph give you? In what ways is the second paragraph different?
- The texts try to make you care about ..... Which do you think is the most effective? Why?
- What is ..... opinion about .....?
- If ..... was alive today would he be arguing for .....?
- What do you think makes this a successful story? Use evidence from the text for your answer?

**7 Relate texts to their social, cultural and historical contexts and literary traditions.**

- Do you know another story, which deals with the same issues eg social, cultural, moral issues?
- What would this character think about.....? (Possibly a present day issue)
- Do you know any more stories like this?
- Have you ever read a book with a similar theme to this one?
- What does this remind you of?
- What does it make you think of?
- Do you know any more stories like this?
- Does this story remind you of any personal experience/something that has happened to you? Describe it.
- Have you ever been in that situation? What happened?
- How would you have felt in the same situation?
- What might you have done instead?
- Can you compare ..... to a person who has frightened you?
- How would you feel if you were treated like .....? What would you do?
- What do you think would have happened if.....?
- Are there any familiar patterns you notice eg familiar story structure, imagery?
- What kind of a text is this? How do you know? What will it be like? What can I expect of a book of this type?
- Many traditional tales have messages. What do you think this story is trying to tell us?
- Which stories have openings like this?
- Do you know any other texts with similar issues or themes?
- Do you know another story with these characters in?
- Can you think of another story where the main character has problems with their family?