



YEAR 4 READING CAFE



HOW WE TEACH READING AT DULWICH HAMLET...



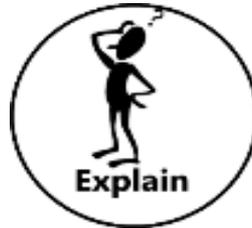
Retrieve



Interpret



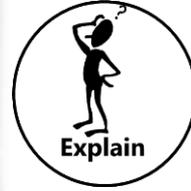
Author's Choice



Explaining Vocabulary

We teach reading through texts. The children will take turns in reading the passage out loud, then we discuss the vocabulary used and the meaning of the writing. The children then answer questions about the passage.





What does the word 'supernatural' mean?



What colours are in the boy's hat?



How can you tell that the teacher is scared of the boy?



How has the director matched the events in the film to the music?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JrfuAukYTKg>



Brain Development

Babies are born learning. From birth to age 3 are critical years for the development of language skills that are foundational for future learning success.

Parents are a child's first and most important teacher.

Knowledge

Books are a pleasure, yes, and they are also informative. You and your child can learn something new when you read aloud.

Language

The number of words that a child knows when he or she enters kindergarten is the most important predictor of a child's success or failure.

Reading aloud grows your child's vocabulary and introduces many words and concepts that you might not use in everyday conversation.



Why Read Aloud?

Love of Reading

Parents that read aloud demonstrate that reading is important, that reading is pleasurable, that reading is valued.

Bonding

Is there anything better than sharing a good book with a child in your lap?

Literacy Skills

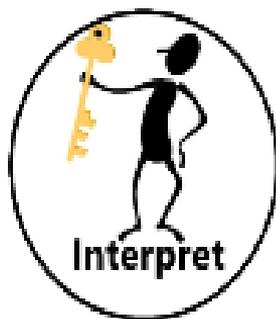
Vocabulary, Phonics, Familiarity with the printed word, Storytelling, Comprehension.

Reading aloud is invaluable for building literacy skills.



THE COMING OF THE IRON MAN...





The children have answered these questions, each of which encourage the children to use or consider the above reading skills.

Can you organise them into each reading category?

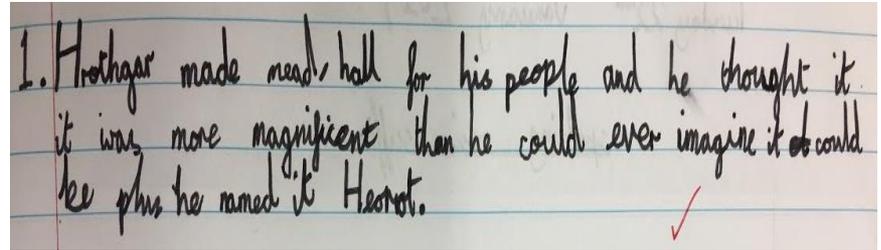


EXAMPLES OF RICE ANSWERS FROM CHILDREN'S BOOKS

- **Retrieve** questions are perhaps the simplest, as they require children to find information in the text.
- Questions are presented in a variety of formats: multiple choice, table completion, single word answers or longer answers.
- Some answers still require significant detail, and/or understanding of challenging vocabulary in context.



What did Hrothgar feel was more magnificent than he could ever imagine it could be? What did he name it?



EXAMPLES OF RICE ANSWERS FROM CHILDREN'S BOOKS

- **Interpret** questions require more in depth answers.
- Children must first find the relevant section of text, then explain and evidence their answer, using quotes from the text to support what they have said.
- Questions cover a range of ideas, including settings, characterisation, character motivation and different perspectives.



1. Look at page 25.

Why did Hothgar choose to leave the hall when the 'shadows were lengthening'?

Hothgar chose to leave the hall when the shadows were lengthening because he knew that Grendel was coming here to hunt. To support my view, the text says, 'But now, as he looked out, Hothgar saw the shadows lengthening and knew that time was coming to quit the hall. He knew, as they all did, that outside in the gallery dark, & the dreaded monster was leaving his lair again, was already gliding through the invading shadows to Hrothgar.'



EXAMPLES OF RICE ANSWERS FROM CHILDREN'S BOOKS

Choice questions require the children to consider the effect on the reader of the author's choice of words, imagery, structure or presentation.

It is not enough to say that something is done because 'it is effective'. Children are required to explain why it is effective.

- What image does the simile or metaphor evoke in the mind of the reader?
- Is there personification?
- Does the text create rhythm, alliteration or rhyme?
- What is the chosen word associated with?



2) Why do you think the author has chosen to put the word 'CRASH!' in capitals over and over again?

the author wrote it because
2. I think if the word is repeated in capitals several times then it lets you know it's loud, big and continuous.



EXAMPLES OF RICE ANSWERS FROM CHILDREN'S BOOKS

- **Explain** questions require children to understand the meaning of selected words, and explain their impact and effect in the given context.
- In a lesson, we will often pre-teach and explore three unfamiliar words. These are often included in the explain questions, along with associated synonyms and antonyms.



4. Explain the meaning of the word 'blindingly' in the sentences:

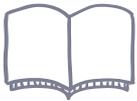
"The four junior explorers emerged from the tunnel only to squint and sneeze in the bright light that reflected blindingly off the snow all around them". P.139

The word 'blindingly' means can't see very well. ^{or very bright} In this context it is blinding as the light shines at them. ✓



HOW CAN YOU HELP AT HOME?

- Reading with an adult at home regularly is important for all children, even if they are fluent readers
- Taking it in turns to read can help your child focus on comprehension and encourages reluctant readers
- Reading to your child with expression not only makes the text more exciting, but helps to unlock the meaning of the words



VOCABULARY



“Vocabulary skills at age 13 strongly predict both Maths and English Literature GCSE results more strongly than socio-economic background.”

Why Closing the Gap Matters: Oxford Language Report

Tier 1 Words	Tier 2 Words	Tier 3 Words
Familiar and occur in general use	Highly useful, appear primarily in print and are likely to appear in multiple contexts or with varying meanings	Technical vocabulary that's specific and occur to rarely to have maximum return

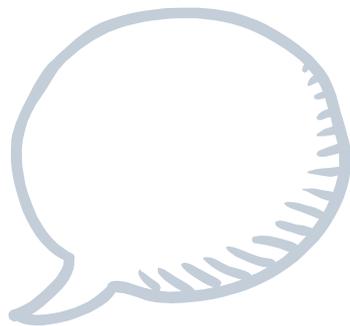
VOCABULARY



- Research shows that children need to understand 95% of the words in a text to grasp full meaning
- Children will often say they understand the meaning of a word if they have heard it and can read it
- It is important to give children an accurate, accessible definition of a word, rather than let them guess
- Exploring the etymology of a word can offer a story behind the word
- Exploring word connections helps to broaden children's vocabulary – adding prefixes and suffixes to a word, generating synonyms and antonyms

TIPS FOR READING AT HOME

- Take it in turns to read – you read to them, they read to you
- Question your child about vocabulary that might be unfamiliar
- Make use of your voice to help engage your child and encourage them to do the same
- Discuss any illustrations/pictures in the text
- Read short and manageable sections of the text at a time
- Surround yourself with stories but read a variety of text types



THANKS!

Any questions?