**How to do well in comprehension**

Comprehension is like talking about books; the only difference is that you have to write down your ideas and opinions rather than discuss them. This can make it a bit trickier because you can’t bounce your ideas off other people. Don’t worry! You can still practise comprehension by talking to your friends and family about books, television programmes and films. Talk about what you like and don’t like, predict what might happen next, read aloud or act out your favourite parts, compare stories to others that you have read, and, above all, give ***reasons***for your opinions. Try to speak in full sentences and use language from the books and films so that you get used to picking out key information.

As far as proper comprehension is concerned, read the text really carefully at least once. It is a fine balance between reading quickly in the time you have, but slowly enough so that you take in and understand the information. As with everything, the more you practise, the better you’ll get at it!  There are lots of different sorts of questions but we have practised all of these at school so don’t panic! Read each question a couple of times to make sure you understand exactly what it’s asking you. ***Lots of people lose marks in SATs by half-reading the question and doing what THEY think it says, not what’s actually on the page!*** For example, if the question asks you to find and copy one word, do exactly that- don’t copy a sentence because it will be wrong. If you are asked to tick three adjectives, do exactly that- two or four adjectives will be wrong.

Remember there are lots of different reading skills – not just reading what’s on the page! Think about which ones you’re confident in and which ones you need to work on.

**AF2** Use your **skimming and scanning** skills to find the relevant part of the text and the information needed. Remember that questions usually match the order of the text. Questions which ask you to pick out facts or details can be a quick way of picking up several vital marks, so don’t make silly mistakes.

**AF3 Use inference and deduction** to think logically about the hidden messages and meanings in a text. Read between the lines and remember that good authors show rather than tell- if a character stomps out of a room, what does this tell you about how that character is feeling?

**AF4 The organisation questions are about** how the text is set out and why. You know all the different sorts of fiction and non-fiction so you know what features to look out for.

**AF5 Language and words** are chosen by authors deliberately, not by chance! Therefore you need to think about which vocabulary, techniques and phrases have been used and why. It is not good enough to say that an author has done something for effect!

**AF6** Think about the **impact** of what you have read. Why did the author write it in the first place? Was it meant to persuade you? Was it meant to scare you? Most importantly, what did **you** think about the text and **why**? Look for evidence to support your ideas and you can’t go far wrong!

**AF7 Making links** is sometimes tricky but does the text make you think of anything else? Does it remind you of other stories? It is set somewhere you’ve been to? Is it about something that you already know a lot about?  Try to use any other knowledge that you may have.

Comprehension isn’t supposed to put you off reading- it’s supposed to make you a better reader! Reading regularly also makes you better at comprehension! The single most important thing you can do to help you with comprehension is read, read, read…