

Reading Question Stems

Social, cultural, historical and literary understanding

How do you know this is a... [fairytale]?

How does this compare with other [Michael Morpurgo] books?

How is [Harry] like other schoolboys in other books?

How do you know this is set in [World War 2]?

What does the word [tranquil] tell you about the setting?

Which features tell you this is a [fantasy story]?

What do the characters' reactions tell you about the time that this was set in?

How does [the war] affect the characters?

Writer's purpose and viewpoint

What is this text trying to tell you about [war]?

How are you supposed to feel about [the death of Yoda]?

How do you know that the author [likes Chelsea]?

Why did the author write ...?

Who is this book for? How do you know?

How is the purpose of [the letter] and [the story] different?

Where would you expect to see this ... text?

Why were [quotes from scientists] included?

Which text is most/more effective? Why?

Which text is [the writer's own opinion]?

Writer's use of language

Explain why [the word 'galloped'] is used.

Why does the writer [compare the rain with horses' hooves]?

What does ['the thunderous cacophony'] tell you about [the lion's roar]?

Why did the author use...?

How does [the comparison with a skyscraper] help you to understand [his height]?

Why are words like ['swept, squished, suck'] used?

How do the words create a feeling of...?

What do phrases like... tell you?

Why did the author choose...?

Structure and organisation

What is the purpose of [the pictures on page 7]?

How does the layout help...?

Why is [this paragraph in italics]?

Why are [subheadings] used?

Why has [the information been presented in this way]?

Why is [the layout on page 17 different to page 19]?

Why did the author choose...?

Why does the author use...?

Deduce, infer and interpret information

How did [Jack know that the giant was coming]?

What words tell us...?

What does the word ... imply?

Why did...?

What ideas are we given about...?

What does... think?

How did ... react or feel?

How was [Jack's life different after he had the harp and the goose]?

Why is [the fact that Jack cut down the beanstalk] important?

Retrieving information

What does ... mean?

Can... have more than one meaning?

What happened at...?

What did the ... do?

Which word tells you... ?

Where did ... go?

Describe...

Where are...?

Why do... ?