



## Banks of Questions Stems/Styles to Support Planning and Teaching of Assessment Domains

*Stems reflect the weighting of questions in KS2 Reading Tests.*

### 2a. Vocabulary (Explain meaning of words)

- *[Quote sentence from text]*  
What does *[one word in the sentence]* **mean** in this sentence.
- Look at the paragraph beginning: ...  
**Find and copy one word meaning...** *[provide a synonym]*?
- *[Quote sentence/phrase from the text]* ...  
Which word **most closely matches** the **meaning** of the *[one word in the quote]*? *[provide options to tick]*?
- **Look at the paragraph beginning:** ...  
**Find and copy one word** that **suggests...**
- **Look at paragraph/line beginning:** ...  
**Find and copy one word** that is **closest in meaning** to *[insert synonym]*. Or **opposite in meaning** to *[insert antonym]*.
- *[Quote from the text]*  
**Find and copy two different words** from *[sentence/paragraph]* above **that show** *[...demonstrate/ reveal/ explain/ expose/ describe/indicate...]* how *[a character]* feels *[insert how a character feels]*
- *[Quote sentence with powerful verb from the text e.g., Harry gripped his hands and feet and climbed higher...]*  
What does *[insert powerful verb]* **mean** *[connote/ insinuate/ indicate/ represent/ suggest/ signify...]*?
- *[Quote sentence from text containing a verb inferring feelings]*  
Which word is **closest in meaning to** *[insert verb from quote]*? *[provide range of synonyms to tick]*
- **Look at the paragraph beginning:** ...  
What does the word X **suggest** *[mean/ insinuate/ indicate/ signpost/ represent/ connote/ purport]* about how/why...?



- *[Quote sentence/phrase from text]*  
**Give the meaning** of the word X in this sentence/phrase.
- **Look at the paragraph beginning: ...**  
**Find and copy one word** or group of words **that shows that...**
- *[Quote phrase from the text]* What does *[word from the quote]* mean? Tick one. *[provide choice of 4]*

## 2b. Literal Retrieval (retrieve and record information / identify key details from fiction and non-fiction)

- **Write down two/three things** that you are told about...
- What did *[a character]* have to do in order to...?
- What was revealed at the *[beginning/ middle/ end]* of the story? **Tick one.** *[provide choice of 4]*
- **Tick one box** in each row to show whether each statement is **true or false.**
- *[A character]* does something *[provide 4 choices of 'how' adverbs not explicitly stated in the text]*
- Everything was fine... until... *[provide choice of 4 events]*
- **Give two reasons** why *[a character]* was *[insert mood]* ... before... *[an event]* (changes)
- **Look at the paragraph beginning: ... to ....**  
**Give one/two reasons** why/how... *[an event]* happened.
- Why did *[a character]* do something *[event previously stated in text]*?
- **Look at page X.**  
Give one piece of *[advice/ information]* that *[a character]* gives *[another character]*.

## 2c. Summarising main ideas from more than one paragraph

- Below are some **summaries** of different *[paragraphs/ stanzas/ sections]* from this text. **Number them 1 – 6 to show the order** in which they appear in the text. The first one has been done for you.
- **Number the events 1 to 5 to show the order** in which they happened. The first one is done for you.



- Which of the following would be most **suitable summary** of the *[whole text/ paragraph/ chapter section/ stanza]*. **Tick one.** *[provide 4 possibilities – 3 vague and one more precise]*
- What would be an appropriate *[title/ headline/ heading/ sub-heading]* for this *[section/ paragraph/ chapter/ stanza]*?
- In your own words **summarise** *[paraphrase, sum up, precis, outline,]* the *[paragraph/ section/ chapter/ book]*

## 2d. Inference (Make inferences from the text / explain and justify inferences with evidence from the text)

- **Look at page X.**  
How can you tell that *[a character]* was... *[insert mood e.g., sad/ happy/ eager/ keen/ stubborn/ unkind/ reluctant/ scared/ angry/ determined/ resourceful/ greedy/ puzzled/ amazed/ suspicious... etc.]*
- **Look at the paragraph beginning: ... to the paragraph ending: ...** What **impressions** of *[setting/ character]* do you get from these two paragraphs?
- **Look at the paragraph beginning: ...**  
Why did *[a character]* find *[an event/ a setting/ another character]*... *[insert mood/feeling e.g., easy/ difficult/ challenging/ emotional/ frightening/ disturbing/ funny/ puzzling/... etc.]*
- **Look at the paragraph, beginning: ...**  
**How do you know that** *[a character]* wants to/ is motivated to do... *[something/insert action]*?
- **What evidence is there of** *[a character]* being *[insert mood/feeling e.g., sad/ happy/ eager/ keen/ stubborn/ unkind/ reluctant/ scared/ angry/ determined/ resourceful/ greedy/ puzzled/ amazed/ suspicious... etc.]* in the way they behaved with *[another character]*?  
**Give two/three points.**
- **What evidence is there of** *[a character]* being *[insert mood/feeling e.g., sad/ happy/ eager/ keen/ stubborn/ unkind/ reluctant/ scared/ angry/ determined/ resourceful/ greedy/ puzzled/ amazed/ suspicious...]* when they... *[insert event]*?



- *[Insert a description from the text]...*  
**Explain** what this description **suggests** about... *[insert mood/ feeling/ genre/ etc...]*
- **What evidence in the text** is there that *[a character]* can be/ appears to be *[insert mood/feeling e.g., sad/ happy/ eager/ keen/ stubborn/ unkind/ reluctant/ scared/ angry/ determined/ resourceful/ greedy/ puzzled/ amazed/ suspicious...]*? **Give two examples.**
- *[Statement from text about a character]*  
Why was *[a character]* ... *[add word from statement]*?
- Look at *[section/paragraph]*.  
**Put a tick in the box** to show whether each statement is a **fact or an opinion**.
- *[Statement from text describing a character's action]*  
Why does *[a character]* ... do this? *[provide possibilities to tick]*
- In the paragraph beginning: ... *[ensure some dialogue between characters]*.  
Why does *[a character]* say this? Or What does this tell you about how the character might be feeling?
- *[A character]* is *[insert characteristic]*. **Give one/two piece(s) of evidence** from the text which shows this.
- Look at page X.  
How is *[a character]* made to seem *[insert characteristic e.g., mysterious/ unusual/ friendly/ scary/ aggressive/ frightening/ funny... etc]*
- When *[a character]* does *[something]* on page X *[another character reacts]*. What do you think the first character is thinking...?
- In what ways might *[a character]* *[appeal/repel]* many readers?  
**Explain fully, referring to the text** in your answer.
- Look at page/ paragraph X.  
**What are two/three ways** *[a character]* *[likes/ dislikes/ enjoys/ hates/ fears/ etc...]* something?
- *[Quote sentence from text including an adverb inferring a character's feelings]*  
Why was the *[character]* *[insert adverb]*?



- Look at Page X.  
What is *[unusual/ surprising]* for *[a character]* about this *[time/day/event]*?
- **Look at paragraph beginning: ...**  
What does this paragraph tell you about *[name a character]* character?
- *[A character]* seemed/did not seem *[insert emotion/feeling e.g., alarmed/ surprised/ angered/ puzzled etc..]* by *[meeting another character/ an event]*. **How can you tell this from the character's actions?**
- *[Insert quote from text]*  
**This tells us** *[shows/ suggests/ conveys/ reveals/ discloses/ divulges/ states/ indicates]* **that** *[a character]* felt... Tick one. *[provide 4 possibilities]*

## 2e. Prediction (predict what might happen from details stated and implied)

- **Do you** think that *[a character]* will change their behaviour? **Find one/two pieces of evidence.**
- **What may have happened before** *[previously/ beforehand/ earlier...]* *[insert an event from the text]*
- **What possibly could happen next** *[later/ afterwards/ because of/ as a consequence of/ as a result of/ following...]* *[insert an event from the text]*
- **Referring to the text**, what do you think will happen next **because of** *[as a consequence of/ as a result of...]* *[insert an event/ action/...]*
- **Based on what we know so far**, how do you think *[a character(s)]* **will react** *[change/ alter/ respond...]* **next** *[to an event]*?
- What is **most likely** going to happen next? *[insert options to discuss and compare]*



**2f. Identify/explain how information/ narrative content is related and contributes as a whole**

- **Draw lines to match** each section to its main content. One has been done for you.

**2g. Meaning enhanced through choice of words/phrases**

- *[Quote from the text]*  
**Give two impressions** *[ideas/ notions/ thoughts/]* this gives you of...
- *[Insert figurative language from text e.g., a simile or metaphor, alliteration etc].*  
What does this description **suggest** *[indicate/ connote/ etc..]* about...  
*[a character/an object / feeling or setting]*?