

Avocado Baby By John Burningham
Book talk - reciprocal reading conversation guide

Pages 1-11

Vocabulary	<p>Q1 Which word on page three lets you know that Mrs Hargraves finds it hard to feed the baby?</p> <p>A: Difficult.</p>
Retrieval	<p>Q2 What could the baby do now he is strong?</p> <p>A: He can: break the straps on his high chair, wrench the side of the cot and pull the other children uphill in a cart.</p>
Sequence	<p>Q3 What happened after the children suggested giving the baby an avocado?</p> <p>A: Mrs Hargraves cut the avocado in half, mashed it and fed it to the baby who ate it all up.</p>
Inference	<p>Q4 Why do the children suggest eating an avocado pear?</p> <p>A: Because an avocado pear is healthy and will make the baby strong.</p>
<p>Prediction</p> <p>Remember to ask pupils to identify what the prediction is based on.</p>	<p>Q5 Will the burglar get away from the Hargraves house? NB-pupils may answer yes or no, either answer is valid as long as they can justify it.</p> <p>A: Yes, I think the burglar will escape without being caught because a baby cannot stop him and he is a sneaky thief.</p> <p>No, I think that the avocado baby will stop him because he is so strong.</p>
Explain	<p>Q6 Explain why the baby is stronger than the other Hargraves children, using the text to justify your answer.</p> <p>A: The baby is stronger because he eats avocados, which are healthy and the other children do not. We know this because the author says the Hargraves had never bought avocados before.</p>

Amazing Grace By Mary Hoffman
Reading comprehension-answers

Pages 1-12

Vocabulary	Q1 Grace persuades Ma and Nana to join in her role-play. What does persuade mean? A: Convince/encourage.
Retrieval	Q2 What is the name of Grace's cat? A: Paw Paw.
Sequence	Q3 Put in order the ways you see Grace dressed. A: As a soldier holding a shield, in a hat, as a pirate, as an American Indian, in a tutu and in a yellow vest.
Inference	Q4 Why does Grace keep her hand up when Raj says Peter is a boy's name? A: Grace does not care the role is a boy, she can be Peter Pan.
Prediction	Q5 Looking at the front cover, what do you think the book will be about? A: I think the book will about a little girl called Grace who is amazing.
Explain	Q6 Do you like the character of Grace? Why? A: I like Grace because she is amazing/I would like to be her friend because she is a determined character.

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Reading comprehension

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Swan Song by Gill Lewis
Book talk – reciprocal reading conversation guide

Chapter Three

Vocabulary	<p>Q1 Find and copy the phrase that suggests the town is in the middle of nowhere and very different to what Dylan is used to. A: At the very end of the world.</p> <p>Q2 Find and copy two words that means mum had a bad-tempered look on her face. A: Scowled, frowned</p>
Retrieval	<p>Q3 What time of day did they arrive near the village? A: Late afternoon</p> <p>Q4 What is the difference between where Dylan has lived and this town? A: The town is in the countryside, surrounded by hills but Dylan is from the city.</p>
Summary	<p>Q5 What happened after they pulled in at the lay-by? A: Mum got out the look at the town where her dad lives.</p>
Inference	<p>Q6 What evidence is there to give us the idea that Dylan might have been lonely? A: He says there was no one his age nearby and they didn't know the new neighbours. No one waved them off when they left.</p> <p>Q7 How do we know his mum was upset in the car? A: She didn't speak. She frowned.</p>
Prediction	<p>Q8 What will happen when they get to the house? A: His mum had said she didn't want to go back so I think she'll be very quiet when she gets there and won't want to speak to anyone.</p>
Explain	<p>Q9 The author says that Dylan's mum 'shut the door' on their life. Why is this effective? A: She's actually shutting the front door before they leave but also they're starting a new life and saying goodbye to the old one.</p>

Perry Angel's Suitcase by Glenda Millard Reading comprehension	
Chapter One – A Small and Shabby Suitcase - first two pages	
Vocabulary	<p>Q1 Perry's case was embossed with golden letters, does embossed mean the same as printed?</p> <p>A:No, embossed is when a material is stamped with a shape or pattern that makes indentations in the material.</p>
Retrieval	<p>Q2 How did Perry arrive?</p> <p>A:On the ten thirty express.</p> <p>Q3 How many goslings were there?</p> <p>A:There isn't a definite number given but there must have been a few because it is described as a gaggle.</p>
Summary	<p>Q4 Explain what the reader learns about Layla. Choose the most accurate summary.</p> <p>A:Her best friend is Griffin, she lives on a farm and loves being outdoors, playing with animals, climbing trees and catching fish.</p>
Inference	<p>Q5 What was incongruous about Perry's suitcase?</p> <p>A:It was small and shabby but had been embossed with five golden letters.</p> <p>Q6 Does Layla usually get her own way? How do you know?</p> <p>A:Yes, she can't imagine anything happening but her being allowed to take Perry under her wing and teach him how to do the activities she loves.</p>
Prediction	<p>Q7 What are yabbies?</p> <p>Choose the most accurate prediction.</p> <p>A:They must be fish – Layla catches them in the dam.</p>
Explain	<p>Q8 The author makes Layla's life sound incredible, how does she do this?</p> <p>A:She mentions all the amazing things Layla does which she plans to teach Perry how to do.</p>

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A Monster Calls – Patrick Ness
Reading comprehension
Answers

Chapter Ten - Understanding- first two pages

Vocabulary	<p>Q1 Conor spent a long time sawing down a sapling, what is a sapling? A: A young tree.</p> <p>Q2 Conor's grandma ordered him around in the morning, which word best describes her attitude towards him? Selfless Selfish Demanding Demeaning A: Demanding.</p> <p>Q3 The morning sun was cool, what does the word cool tell you about the weather? A: It was sunny but not particularly warm.</p>
Retrieval	<p>Q4 What was still playing on Conor's mind? A: The monster's story.</p> <p>Q5 What made Conor feel guilty? A: That his grandma wouldn't let him see his mum.</p> <p>Q6 How did Conor respond to Lily's apology? A: He said he didn't forgive her.</p>
Summary	<p>Q7 Summarise Lily and Conor's conversation.</p> <p>A: Lily told Conor she forgave him. Conor told Lily she got herself in trouble. Lily then tried to forgive Conor again and he refused to forgive her.</p>
Inference	<p>Q8 Was it surprising that Conor's attitude upset Lily? A: No, he was being quite rude to her and refused to forgive her, it wasn't surprising that she was upset with him.</p> <p>Q9 How would you describe Conor's attitude towards Lily? Explain your answer. A: He was quite rude-Lily was trying to apologise to him and he refused to listen or apologise.</p> <p>Inference with evidence: Q10 How do you know Lily was making a real effort to make up with Conor? A: She tried to apologise several times and to encourage him to apologise to her so they could be friends again. She wouldn't have done all that if she didn't really want to make friends with Conor.</p>

Prediction	<p>Q11 Will Conor and Lily make friends again?</p> <p>A: Almost certainly, they seem to have been friends for a long time and they are sure to be friends again in the future.</p>
Explain	<p>Q12 How does the author want the reader to feel about Conor and Lily after reading these pages?</p> <p>A: To like Lily for making such an effort to apologise and to think Conor is being silly for not accepting her apology.</p>

A Monster Calls – Patrick Ness
Reading comprehension

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Windrush Child by Benjamin Zephaniah Reading comprehension - answers	
Chapter Twenty Three - first two pages	
Vocabulary	<p>Q1 They ate white rice and stewed cabbage. What does the word 'stewed' tell the reader about how the cabbage was cooked? A: The cabbage was boiled for some time.</p> <p>Q2 Leonard's mum had never know her parents and had brought up without them. What is the term used for someone without parents? A: An orphan.</p> <p>Q3 Leonard's mum moved from an orphanage to a hostel. What is a hostel? A: A flat or room provided for young people by the government.</p>
Retrieval	<p>Q4 How did dad and Leonard search for mum? A: They began by searching for places they thought she might be then took bus rides to different areas of the city.</p> <p>Q5 Why did Leonard want to look at the postcard dad had sent him years ago? A: To help him remember when dad was still his hero.</p> <p>Q6 Did Leonard know anything about mum's childhood before dad told him? A: No, nothing.</p>
Summary	<p>Q7 Explain what you learn about mum's childhood on these pages.</p> <p>A: That she was left at an orphanage when she was very young and never knew her parents or any of her family.</p>
Inference	<p>Q8 Why did dad restrict himself to asking Jamaicans if they had seen mum? A: He would have trusted Jamaicans to help him and some of them might well have known mum.</p> <p>Q9 How did dad's proposed choice of meal show that he relied on mum a lot? A: He was going to heat up some of the soup she had left, he wouldn't have been used to cooking for himself.</p> <p>Inference with evidence: Q10 Which organisation shows that Jamaican people in Britain had begun to form their own social group and support each other? Explain your answer. A: The Caribbean Community Centre. This would have been the place where people from the Caribbean came to meet each other and offer friendship and support.</p>

Prediction	<p>Q11 Would mum have been happy that dad told Leonard about her childhood?</p> <p><i>NB-pupils may answer yes or no as long as they are able to justify their answer.</i></p> <p>A:Yes, this was surely something mum would have wanted Leonard to know about.</p> <p>No, this was something personal she would have wanted to tell Leonard herself.</p>
Explain	<p>Q12 What is the significance of Leonard helping his dad to cook a proper meal?</p> <p>A:It shows that Leonard is beginning to warm to his dad again and that he is beginning to grow up and be able to look after himself.</p>

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