

Northmead's Reading Newsletter

October 2021



We all celebrated National Poetry Day earlier this month. The theme of this year's celebration was choice. We read poems on this theme.

More Pointless Questions

Goldfish
goldfish
which glass do you
prefer?
A bowl of glass
or a pond that ripples
when the winds pass?

Little bird
little bird
which do you prefer?
A house of wires
or a branch
that's a stage
for feathered choirs?

Red rose
red rose
which do you prefer?
A vase once used
to contain dry flowers
or a patch of ground
blooming with briars?

Putting such questions
to a goldfish
or a bird
or a rose
is pointless I suppose.

Which creature would you be?

Today I'd choose a whale. We all need
to roam and there's no greater space

than an ocean – a galaxy of salt water
right here on earth. And who wouldn't
want to be that great hulk of life? To see

in sound, to talk in song, to cruise the blue
or lose yourself in endless days of play:
lurching skywards, flopping backwards,

ever huffing lung-loads of warm air
back into the world. Tell me then:
which other beast is as wise

as the moon, has the heart of a star -
or a belly full of memories
from way back when?

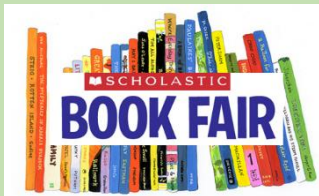
Accelerated Reader

Well done to those children
who have already become word
millionaires.



Get quizzing!!

The class in the upper school with the
greatest total of words read this half
term was 6K who managed to read a
grand total of 4,426,841 words. In the
lower school 4P read the most words,
totalling 1,906,494



Thank you to all parents who supported our Book Fair this month. I apologise if you were unable to purchase books before the online payment window closed. There will be another book fair before the end of the academic year when I will be able to invite parents in to school to browse the titles.

Through your generous support we have raised £413.22 for the school which we will spend on new book titles for teaching reading across the school and to provide new titles for our book clubs.



Year 6 were overwhelmingly excited about becoming junior librarians and helping out in the library. The badges have been ordered and will be awarded by Mrs Brown as soon as they arrive! The children are working in the library on a rota basis, which means the library is open every day before school from 8.30 and at lunchtime, for all children to change their books.



Thank you to all those parents who attended the first reading workshop for parents this academic year. I hope you found it useful. If you missed it you can watch a recording of the session on our website. (Click on Parents/Curriculum/English/Parent Reading Workshops)



In this workshop, we discussed the use of VIPERS. I have attached the question stems to this newsletter to help you formulate questions to ask your children when listening to them read at home.



I will be holding our next online reading workshop on Monday 17th January at 7pm.

This workshop will focus on the importance of vocabulary and general knowledge to create excellent readers.

READING VIPERS



vocabulary



Find and explain meaning of words in context

- What do the words and suggest about the character, setting and mood?
- Which word tells you that....?
- Which keyword tells you about the
- character/setting/mood?
- Find one word in the text which means.....
- Find and highlight the word that is closest in meaning to.....
- Find a word or phrase which shows/suggests that.....

READING VIPERS

Infer

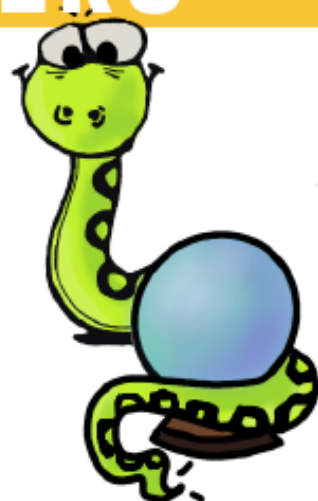


**Make and justify inferences
using evidence from the text.**

- Find and copy a group of words which show that...
- How do these words make the reader feel?
- How do the descriptions of show...
- How can you tell that.....
- What impression of do you get from these paragraphs?
- What voice might these characters use?
- What was thinking when.....
- Who is telling the story?

READING VIPERS

Predict

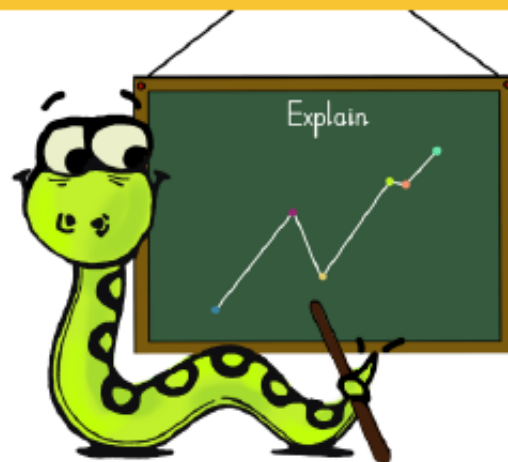


Predict what might happen from the details given and implied

- From the cover what do you think this text is going to be about?
- What is happening now? What happened before this?
- What will happen after?
- What does this paragraph suggest will happen next? What makes you think this?
- Do you think the choice of setting will influence how the plot develops?
- Do you think... will happen? Explain your answer using evidence from the text.

READING VIPERS

Explain



- > **Explain how content is related and contributes to the meaning**
 - > **Explain how meaning is enhanced through choice of language.**
 - > **Explain the themes and patterns that develop across the text.**
 - > **Explain how information contributes to the overall experience.**
- Why is the text arranged in this way?
 - What structures has the author used?
 - What is the purpose of this text feature?
 - Is the use of effective?
 - The mood of the character changes throughout the text. Find and copy the phrases which show this.
 - What is the author's point of view?
 - What affect does have on the audience?
 - How does the author engage the reader here?
 - Which words and phrases did effectively?
 - Which section was the most interesting/exciting part?
 - How are these sections linked?

READING VIPERS

Retrieve



Retrieve and record information and identify key details.

- How would you describe this story/text?
What genre is it? How do you know?
- How did...?
- How often...?
- Who had...? Who is...? Who did....?
- What happened to...?
- What does.... do?
- How is?
- What can you learn from from this section?
- Give one example of.....
- The story is told from whose perspective?

READING VIPERS

Summarise



Summarise the main ideas from more than one paragraph

- Below are some summaries of different paragraphs from the text, number them to show the order in which they appear in the text.
- What is the main message of the text?
- Using information from the whole text, identify which statements are true.
- Which of the following would be the most suitable summary of the whole text?
- Which statement is the best summary for the whole of page...
- Look at the first two paragraphs. Which sentence below best describes the...