

KS2 Reading  
Question  
Stems

**\* = question stems from 2026**

**Find and copy** questions.

Where, when or who questions.

Mostly in vocabulary – **which** questions.

**What** questions with a written response.

**Why** questions with a written response.

**How** questions with a written response.

Tick, circle, draw lines, complete the table,  
numbering or underline questions.

**Evidence** or multiple written response questions.

**Two** acceptable points – impression, feature,  
atmosphere, personality – and evidence from the  
text to support the answer questions.

## 2a – Give/explain the meaning of words in context

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| <b>Vocabulary Fiction</b> | <p>Look at the paragraph beginning:<br/><b>Find and copy one</b> word meaning ...</p> <p>Look at the paragraph beginning:<br/><b>Find and copy one</b> word that suggests ...</p> <p>Look at the first paragraph beginning: ...<br/><b>Find and copy one</b> word that shows that ...</p> <p>Look at the paragraph at the top of page ...<br/><b>Find and copy one</b> word that shows ...</p> <p>Look at page ...<br/><b>Find and copy two different</b> words that show ...</p> | <p>Look at page ...<br/><b>Find and copy one</b> word that shows that ...</p> <p><b>Find and copy one</b> word from ... that shows that...</p> <p><b>Find and copy</b> a group of words that means the same as ...</p> <p><b>Find and copy two</b> other words from the same paragraph which mean something is ...</p> |
|                           | <p>Which word is closest in meaning to ...?<br/>Tick <b>one</b>.</p> <p>Which of the following words is closest in meaning to ...?<br/>Tick <b>one</b>.</p> <p>Which of the following is closest in meaning to ... as it is used here?<br/>Tick <b>one</b>.</p> <p>Read the paragraph beginning:<br/>Which of the following is closest in meaning to ... in this sentence?<br/>Tick <b>one</b>.</p>                                                                               | <p>Look at page ...<br/><i>Quote from the text.</i><br/>Which word is closest in meaning to ...?<br/>Tick <b>one</b>.</p> <p>Which of the following is closest in meaning to ...?<br/>Tick <b>one</b>.</p> <p><i>*Quote from the text.</i><br/>The word ... is similar in meaning to ...<br/>Tick <b>one</b>.</p>      |
|                           | <p>What does ... mean in this sentence?</p> <p>What does the word ... mean in this sentence?</p> <p>What does ... mean in the text?</p> <p>What do the words ... mean?</p> <p>Look at the paragraph beginning:<br/>What does the word ... tell you about ...?</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|                           | <p>What does ... mean?<br/>Tick <b>one</b>.</p> <p><i>Quote from the text.</i><br/>What does this tell you about how ...?<br/>Tick <b>one</b>.</p> <p>.. was the name for ...<br/>Tick <b>one</b>.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | <p>Circle the correct option to complete each sentence below.</p> <p>Choose the best words to match the description above. Circle both of your choices.</p> <p><i>*Read the paragraph beginning:</i><br/>What had ... done with ...?<br/>Tick <b>one</b>.</p>                                                          |

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| Vocabulary<br>Non-Fiction | <p><b>Find and copy one</b> word that is closest in meaning to ...</p> <p>Look at the paragraph beginning:<br/><b>Find and copy one</b> word from this paragraph that is closest in meaning to ...</p> <p><b>Find and copy one</b> word which means ...</p> <p>Read the paragraph beginning:<br/><b>Find and copy one</b> word that means the same as ...</p> <p>Look at the section headed:<br/><b>Find and copy one</b> word which shows that ...</p> | <p>Look at the section:<br/><b>Find and copy one</b> word which tells us that ...</p> <p><b>Find and copy two</b> different words from the sentence above that show ...</p> <p><b>Find and copy</b> a group of words that tells you ...</p> <p>Read the paragraph beginning:<br/><b>Find and copy one</b> word which tells us...</p> |
|                           | <p>Look at the section headed:<br/>The text refers to ...<br/>Who are ...?</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|                           | <p>Which word is closest in meaning to ...?<br/>Tick <b>one</b>.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | <p>Which of the following is closest in meaning to ...?<br/>Tick <b>one</b>.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|                           | <p>... is described as ... by ... and ...<br/>What does the word ... mean when ... uses it?<br/><br/>What does the word ... mean when ... uses it?</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | <p>*Look at the section:<br/>Quote from the text.<br/>What is the meaning of the word ... in this sentence?<br/><br/>*Quote from the text.<br/>What does the word ... mean in this sentence?</p>                                                                                                                                     |
|                           | <p>Underline <b>one</b> word in the quotation below that suggests ...</p> <p>What does the word ... mean in this sentence?<br/>Tick <b>one</b>.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | <p>Look at the section:<br/>Quote from the text.<br/>This means that ...<br/>Tick <b>one</b>.<br/><br/>*Quote from the text.<br/>The word ... tells us that ...<br/>Tick <b>one</b>.</p>                                                                                                                                             |

## 2b – Retrieve and record information/identify key details from fiction and non-fiction

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| <b>Retrieval Fiction</b> | <p>Look at page ...<br/>Where did ...?</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | <p>Who ...?</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
|                          | <p>... has two names. What are the two names?</p> <p>What did ...?</p> <p>What does ... ask ... to do?</p> <p>What does the ... tell ...?</p> <p>What is ... doing when ...?</p> <p>What has ... been ... in the first paragraph?</p> <p>What was ... explanation for ...?</p> <p>Read the paragraph beginning:<br/>What did ... think ... had been doing before ...?</p> <p>Look at the paragraph beginning:<br/>What conclusion does ... draw from this?</p> <p>What effect did ... have on ...?</p> | <p>What was <b>one</b> effect of ...?</p> <p>Look at the paragraph beginning: to the end of page ...<br/>What is happening ...?</p> <p>Look at page ...<br/>Quote from the text.<br/>What was ...?</p> <p>Read the paragraph beginning:<br/>In what way was ... different from ...?<br/>Write <b>one</b> way.</p> <p>Read the paragraph beginning:<br/>What made ... worry that ...?</p> <p>*Read the paragraph beginning:<br/>What do ... need to ...?<br/>Write <b>one</b> thing.</p> <p>*According to ..., what should ... do?</p> |
|                          | <p>Why had ...?</p> <p>Why were ...?<br/>Write <b>one</b> reason.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | <p>*Look at the beginning of the story.<br/>Why did ...?</p> <p>*Read the first paragraph.<br/>Why does ... choose ...?</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
|                          | <p>How did ... react ?</p> <p>Look at page ...In ... opinion, how do ... feel about ...?</p> <p>How ... was ... when ...?</p> <p>How do you know that ...?<br/>Give <b>two</b> ways.</p> <p>Look at page ...<br/>How did ... know that ...?<br/>Give <b>two</b> ways.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | <p>Read the paragraph beginning:<br/>How can you tell that ... was feeling ... at this point in the story?</p> <p>Look at page ...<br/>How did ... work out ...?<br/>Write <b>one</b> way.</p> <p>Read the first paragraph beginning:<br/>How did ... ?<br/>Write <b>one</b> way.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
|                          | <p>Complete the table below to show what the text says ...</p> <p>Look at the whole text.<br/>Complete the table below to show his/her thoughts.</p> <p>Number the following 1-4 to show the order in which ...</p> <p>Read the paragraph beginning: to the paragraph ending ...<br/>Write the number 1-4 to show the order that ...</p> <p>Choose the best group of words to fit the sentences.<br/>Draw a circle around your choice.</p>                                                             | <p>Read the paragraph beginning:<br/>Which image shows ...?<br/>Tick <b>one</b>.</p> <p>Look at the whole text.<br/>Tick <b>one</b> box in each row to show what the text tells you about ...</p> <p>Why did ... ...?<br/>Tick <b>one</b>.</p> <p>*Using information from the text, tick <b>one</b> box in each row to show whether each statement is about what ... or ... did.</p> <p>*Using information from the text, tick <b>one</b> box in each row to show whether each statement is <b>true</b> or <b>false</b>.</p>          |

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|  | <p>Look at the paragraph beginning:<br/>Tick one box in each row to show whether each statement is <b>true</b> or <b>false</b>.</p> <p>Look at page ...<br/>What made ... decide to ...?<br/>Tick <b>one</b>.</p> | <p>According to ..., what <b>two</b> things are needed to be ...?<br/>Tick <b>two</b>.</p> <p>*Read the paragraph beginning:<br/>What are the <b>two</b> main reasons why ... loves ...?<br/>Tick <b>two</b>.</p> |
|  | <p>Look at page ...<br/>Write <b>two</b> things ... had to do ....</p> <p>Write <b>one</b> piece of evidence that shows he was ...</p>                                                                            | <p>What made .... realise that ....?<br/>Write <b>two</b> things.</p>                                                                                                                                             |

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| Retrieval<br>Non-Fiction | Look at the first two paragraphs.<br>In which ... is ...?                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|                          | What event ...?<br><br>What is the name of ...?<br><br>In what way is ...?<br><br>In what year ...?<br><br>What <b>two</b> skills did ... show ...?<br><br>Name <b>two</b> cities where ...<br><br>Look at page ...<br>Give <b>two</b> ways that ...<br><br>Look at page ...<br>According to the text, what makes ...?                                                                                                     | Look at page ... What is <b>one</b> name that ...?<br><br>Look at page ...<br>According to the text, what do ...?<br><br>Look at page ...<br>According to the text, what is it important to have when ...?<br><br>*Read the paragraph beginning:<br>What did ... do to get ... interested in ...?<br><br>*Look at the paragraph beginning:<br>What did ... do to ...?<br><br>*Look at the section:<br>What did ... do that resulted in ...? |
|                          | Look at ... answer to the question.<br>Quote from the text.<br>What else ...?<br><br>According to the text, why ...?<br>Give <b>two</b> reasons.<br><br>Look at ... answer to the question: ...<br>According to ... why did ...?<br>Write <b>two</b> reasons.<br><br>According to ... why does ...?<br><br>Why are ...?                                                                                                    | Give <b>two</b> reasons why ...<br><br>Why do ...?<br><br>Explain why ...<br><br>Look at section:<br>Quote from the text.<br>Why?<br><br>According to the text, why are ...?<br><br>*Look at the section:<br>Why did ... have ...?                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|                          | Look at ...<br>How does the text suggest that ... ?<br>Give <b>two</b> ways.<br><br>Look at ...<br>How do you know that ...?<br>Give <b>two</b> ways.<br><br>Look at the section headed:<br>How ...?<br><br>How did ...?                                                                                                                                                                                                   | According to the text, how ...?<br><br>Look at ... answer to the question: ...<br>How can you tell that ... thinks ...?<br>Write <b>two</b> ways.<br><br>How can you tell ... are ...?<br><br>Look at the section:<br>How long had ... been ...?                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|                          | Using information from the text, put a tick in the correct box to show whether each statement is <b>true</b> or <b>false</b> .<br><br>Look at page ...<br>Tick <b>one</b> box in each row to show whether each of the following ... is ... or not ...<br><br>Look at the section headed:<br>Complete the sentence below.<br>Tick <b>one</b> .<br><br>Look at page ...<br>Why is it important for ....<br>Tick <b>one</b> . | The text uses ... to help describe ...<br>Draw <b>four</b> lines to match ...<br><br>Number these facts.<br>The first one has been done for you.<br><br>Look at the whole text.<br>Complete the table below with the year in which each event happened.<br><br>*Using information from the text, write the year that each of ... ... happened.<br><br>*Look at the section:<br>When did ... ... to ...?<br>Tick <b>one</b> .                |

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|  | <p>*Read the paragraph beginning:<br/>Write <b>two</b> ways in which ... ..</p> |  |
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## 2d – Make inferences from the text/explain and justify inferences with evidence from the text

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| Inference Fiction | <p>Look at ...<br/>Find and copy a group of words that shows ...</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | <p>Look at page ...<br/>Find and copy one word which shows that ... was ...</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|                   | <p>Look at the paragraph beginning:<br/>Where was ...?</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|                   | <p>Look at page ...<br/>... stopped speaking in the middle of a sentence.<br/>What was ... going to say?</p> <p>Look at page ...<br/>Quote from the text.<br/>What does ... mean when he/she says this?</p> <p>What does ... think?</p> <p>Look at top of page ...<br/>What is ..?</p> <p>In the paragraph beginning:<br/>In what way does ... think ...?</p>                                                                                                                                                          | <p>Look at the paragraph beginning:<br/>What suggests that ... had ...?</p> <p>Read the paragraph beginning:<br/>What made ... suspect that ... was ...?</p> <p>What might ... have been thinking at this point in the story?</p> <p>Look at page ...<br/>Quote from the text.<br/>What does this sentence suggest?</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|                   | <p>According to the text on page ... why might ...?</p> <p>Look at the first paragraph, beginning ...<br/>Why does ...?</p> <p>Look at page ...<br/>Why is/has ...?</p> <p>In the last paragraph,<br/>Give <b>two</b> reasons why ...</p> <p>Why did ... like ...?</p> <p>Why might ... have been ... by ...?</p> <p>Look at page ...<br/>Why did ... find it ... to ...?</p> <p>Why does ... say this to ...?</p>                                                                                                     | <p>Look at the end of the extract.<br/>Why was ... worried?</p> <p>Why else might ... have been ... to ...?<br/>Write <b>two</b> reasons.</p> <p>Why did ... want to know</p> <p>Why did ... choose ...?</p> <p>Why did ... think ...?</p> <p>Look at page ...<br/>Why was ... at this point in the text?</p> <p>*Look at page ...<br/>Why was it ... for ... to ...?</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|                   | <p>How can you tell that ... was ...?<br/>Give <b>one</b> piece of evidence that shows ...</p> <p>How can you tell this person was in a ... mood?</p> <p>How can you tell this ...?<br/>Give <b>two</b> ways.</p> <p>Look at page ...<br/>Quote from the text.<br/>How did ... feel at this point?</p> <p>Look at page ...<br/>How can you tell that ... enjoyed ...?</p> <p>How do you know ... had ...?</p> <p>How can you tell that ... was ...?</p> <p>Look at page ...<br/>How can you tell that ... was ...?</p> | <p>Look at the first paragraph on page ...<br/>How can you tell that ... was ...?</p> <p>How can you tell that ... did not ...?<br/>Give <b>two</b> ways.</p> <p>Look at the paragraph beginning:<br/>How can you tell that ... was feeling ...?<br/>Give <b>two</b> ways.</p> <p>How did ... always know when ...?</p> <p>*How can you tell ... found it ... to ..?</p> <p>*How can you tell ... was ...?</p> <p>*Think about the whole text.<br/>How can you tell that ... knew a lot about ...?<br/>Write <b>two</b> ways.</p> <p>*How can you tell ... was <b>not</b> keen on ...?</p> |

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|  | <p>Look at the first paragraph. ...<br/>How can you tell ... was feeling ...?<br/>Write <b>two</b> ways.</p> <p>Look at the paragraph beginning: '... to ...'<br/>Which words would best complete sentence/question/command?<br/>Tick <b>one</b>.</p> <p>This tells us that at the end of the story ... felt that ...<br/>Tick <b>one</b>.</p> <p>When ... says ..., who is ... referring to?<br/>Tick <b>one</b>.</p> <p>Look at the first paragraph beginning:<br/>... description of the ... makes it seem ...<br/>Tick <b>one</b>.</p> <p>Draw <b>three</b> lines to match each character to the most suitable description.</p> <p>Look at page ...<br/>What two things made it hard for ... to ...<br/>Tick <b>two</b>.</p> | <p>*Think about the whole text. ... wanted to ... How can you tell?<br/>Write <b>two</b> ways.</p> <p>Read the paragraph beginning:<br/>Tick <b>one</b> box in each row to show whether each statement is something ... <b>knew</b> or something ... <b>imagined</b>.</p> <p>What is ... thinking after ...?<br/>Tick <b>one</b> thought.</p> <p><i>Quote from the text.</i><br/>What was ... trying to do when he said this?<br/>Tick <b>one</b>.</p> <p>Look at page ...<br/><i>Quote from the text.</i><br/>What does this suggest about the way ... felt?<br/>Tick <b>one</b>.</p> <p><i>Quote from the text.</i><br/>Who said this and how?<br/>Tick <b>one</b>.</p> <p>Read the first paragraph, beginning:<br/>... noticed several signs that ... was ...<br/>Give <b>two</b> signs that ... was ...</p> <p>Look at the whole text.<br/>Write <b>three</b> pieces of evidence that show ... was ... about ...</p> <p>Look at the top of page ...<br/>Give <b>three</b> ways you can tell ...</p> <p>Look at page ...<br/>What are <b>three</b> ways ... shows ...?</p> <p>Look at page ...<br/>Give <b>two</b> pieces of evidence that show ...</p> <p>*Look at page ...<br/>Write <b>two</b> pieces of evidence that tell you ... was ...</p> <p>*Look at the bottom of page ...<br/><i>Quote from the text.</i><br/>Write <b>two</b> reasons why this ... was ... to ...</p> <p>*Look at the whole text.<br/>Write <b>three</b> pieces of evidence that show ... is ... about ...</p> |
|  | <p>The poet/author describes ... as ...<br/>This makes ... sound ...<br/>What other impressions do you get of ...?</p> <p>Look at page ...<br/>Write one piece of evidence that shows ... was ... by ...</p> <p>Look at the paragraph beginning:<br/>... was worried by ...<br/>Write one piece of evidence that shows ... was worried by ...</p> <p>Look at the first paragraph.<br/>What suggests that ...?<br/>Give <b>two</b> things.</p> <p>Look at page ...<br/>... said to ...<br/>What <b>two</b> things does this show about ...?</p> <p>Look at page ...<br/>Give <b>two</b> pieces of evidence that ...</p>                                                                                                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |

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|  | <p>Look at page ...<br/> How is ... made to seem ...?<br/> Explain <b>two</b> ways, giving evidence from the text to support your answer.</p> <p>How can you tell that ...?<br/> Explain <b>two</b> ways, using evidence from the text to support your answer.<br/> How does ... know ... before ...?</p> <p>Look at the paragraph beginning:<br/> What does this paragraph tell you about ... character?<br/> Explain <b>two</b> features of ... character, using evidence from the text to support your answer.</p> <p>Look at page ...<br/> What impressions do you get of ... at this point in the extract?<br/> Give <b>two</b> impressions, using evidence from the text to support your answer.</p> <p>What impressions do you get of ...?<br/> Give <b>two</b> impressions, using evidence from the text to support your answer.</p> <p>Think about the whole text.<br/> What impressions do you get of ...?<br/> Give <b>two</b> impressions, using evidence from the text to support your answer.</p> | <p>What impressions do you get of the relationship between ... and ...?<br/> Give <b>two</b> impressions, supporting your answer with evidence from the text.</p> <p>Think about the whole text. How is a ... atmosphere created?<br/> Give <b>two</b> ways, using evidence from the text to support your answer.</p> <p>Look at the paragraph beginning:<br/> What do you learn about ... personality?<br/> Give <b>two</b> things, using evidence from the text to support your answer.</p> <p>What impressions do you get of ... and ...?<br/> Give <b>one</b> impression for <b>each</b> using evidence from the text to support your answer.</p> <p>How can you tell that ...<br/> Explain <b>two</b> ways, using evidence from the text to support your answer.<br/> An example has been done for you.</p> |
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| Inference<br>Non-Fiction | Look at page ...<br>When do ...?                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | *Look at the sections: ... and ...<br>While ... was ..., ... needed help from other people.<br>Who helped ...?                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
|                          | Look at page ...<br>What else in the text tells us that ...?                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
|                          | Why are ... important?<br><br>Look at the section:<br>Why did ...?                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | *Why would it be ... to ...?                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|                          | How can you tell that ... were not ...?                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
|                          | Look at the section headed:<br>Put a tick in the correct box to show whether each of the following statements is a <b>fact</b> or an <b>opinion</b> .<br><br>Using information from the text, tick <b>one</b> box in each row to show whether each statement is a <b>fact</b> or an <b>opinion</b> .<br><br>Look at the section headed: ...<br>Complete the table below with <b>one</b> piece of evidence to support each statement.<br><br>Quote from the text.<br>This suggests that ...<br>Tick <b>one</b> .<br><br>Look at the section headed:<br>These ... suggest that the reader ...<br>Tick <b>one</b> . | Look at ... answer to the question beginning:<br>Who is ... referring to?<br>Tick <b>one</b> .<br><br>Look at the first two paragraphs.<br>Why is ...?<br>Tick <b>two</b> reasons why.<br><br>According to the text, ... is ...<br>This suggests...<br>Tick <b>one</b> .<br><br>Draw <b>three</b> lines to match each paragraph to its main content.<br><br>Read the sections: ... and ...<br>Tick <b>one</b> box in each row to show whether each statement is <b>true</b> or <b>false</b> . |
|                          | ... was ...<br>Give <b>one</b> piece of evidence from the text which shows this.<br><br>... are very important to ...<br>Give <b>two</b> ways they are important.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | What positive messages does ..... want readers to understand about .....?<br>Give <b>two</b> positive messages, using evidence from the text to support your answer.<br><br>Look at the section:<br>What ... are ... facing?<br>Give <b>two</b> problems.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|                          | *Look at the sections: ... and ...<br>What was it about ... personality that ...?<br>Write <b>two</b> impressions of ... personality, using evidence from the text to support each answer.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |