

Reading Comprehension Passages

8 short printable stories with comprehension questions, vocabulary practice and thinking challenges for children ages 7-10.

What's inside?

8 reading passages • 5 comprehension questions per story • vocabulary tasks • prediction, drawing and writing challenges • answer guide

How to use this pack

1. Ask the child to read the passage slowly. Reading aloud is fine.
2. Encourage them to answer from memory first, then look back at the passage to check.
3. Ask for complete sentences when appropriate.
4. Discuss unfamiliar vocabulary instead of focusing only on correct answers.
5. Use the challenge box for drawing, predicting, sequencing or personal connections.

A helpful reminder

Children develop reading skills at different rates. If a passage feels too difficult, read it together and discuss the questions orally.

Skills practised

Reading fluency	Recalling details	Vocabulary
Sequencing	Inference	Main idea
Prediction	Critical thinking	Written responses

1. The Little Seed

Reading focus: recalling details and explaining why

Mia found a small seed while helping her grandfather in the garden. She placed the seed in a pot filled with soil and gently covered it. Every morning, Mia gave the soil a little water and placed the pot near a sunny window. For several days, nothing seemed to happen. Mia wondered if the seed would ever grow, but her grandfather reminded her that plants need time. Mia kept watering the soil. One morning, she noticed a tiny green shoot pushing through the surface. Mia smiled and called her grandfather. Her patience had paid off, and the little seed had begun to grow.

Check your understanding

1. Where did Mia find the seed?
2. What two things did Mia do to help the seed grow?
3. Why did Mia begin to wonder if the seed would grow?
4. What appeared one morning?
5. What does the story teach us about patience?

Word detective

Vocabulary: What does **patience** mean in this story?

Think & create

Draw what you think Mia's plant might look like after four more weeks.

2. Max and the Missing Ball

Reading focus: sequencing and finding evidence

Max took his red ball outside after lunch. He kicked it across the grass, but it rolled behind a large bush. Max looked under the bush and around the flower beds, but the ball was nowhere to be seen. He checked near the fence and beside the garden chair. Just as Max was about to ask for help, he heard his dog, Rusty, barking near the shed. Max hurried over. Rusty was sitting proudly with the red ball between his paws. Max laughed and gave Rusty a gentle pat. He was relieved that the ball had been found.

Check your understanding

1. What colour was Max's ball?
2. Where did the ball first roll?
3. Name two places Max searched.
4. Who found the ball?
5. How did Max feel at the end? Use a word from the passage.

Word detective

Vocabulary: Find the word that means **happy because a worry has ended**.

Think & create

Write the events in order: Rusty barked • Max kicked the ball • Max searched • Max found Rusty.

3. A Rainy Day Adventure

Reading focus: problem solving and main idea

Ava and Sam had planned to ride their scooters outside, but heavy rain began just as they reached the door. At first, they were disappointed. Their mother suggested building an indoor fort instead. Ava collected blankets while Sam carried pillows and two chairs into the living room. Together they created a cosy fort with a small doorway. They brought in books, a torch and some fruit for a snack. Soon they were reading stories and pretending the fort was a secret mountain cabin. By the time the rain stopped, Ava and Sam were having so much fun that they did not want to take the fort down.

Check your understanding

1. What had Ava and Sam planned to do outside?
2. Why did their plan change?
3. What did they use to build the fort?
4. What did they pretend the fort was?
5. What is the main idea of this story?

Word detective

Vocabulary: What does **cosy** tell you about the fort?

Think & create

If your outdoor plan was cancelled by rain, what indoor activity would you choose and why?

4. The Helpful Neighbour

Reading focus: character traits and inference

Noah was walking home when he saw his neighbour, Mrs Green, carrying several heavy shopping bags. One bag was slipping from her hand. Noah quickly walked over and asked if she would like some help. Mrs Green smiled and handed him two bags. Together they carried the groceries to her front door. Before Noah left, Mrs Green thanked him and said his kindness had made her afternoon much easier. Noah continued home feeling proud. He realised that helping someone did not take much time, but it could make a big difference to their day.

Check your understanding

1. What problem did Noah notice?
2. How did Noah help Mrs Green?
3. What did Mrs Green say about Noah's kindness?
4. How did Noah feel afterwards?
5. Which character trait best describes Noah? Explain your answer.

Word detective

Vocabulary: What does **kindness** mean? Give another example of kindness.

Think & create

Write one small helpful action you could do for someone this week.

5. The Library Book

Reading focus: summarising and making connections

Lily loved visiting the library after school. One afternoon, she discovered a colourful book about space. It contained photographs of planets, stars, rockets and astronauts. Lily borrowed the book and read several pages before bed. The next morning, she told her teacher three facts she had learned about the solar system. Her teacher was impressed and suggested that Lily create a small poster for the class. At home, Lily drew the planets and wrote her favourite facts underneath them. She could hardly wait to share her new knowledge with her classmates.

Check your understanding

1. Where did Lily find the book?
2. What was the book about?
3. What did Lily tell her teacher the next morning?
4. What did her teacher suggest?
5. Why was Lily excited at the end of the story?

Word detective

Vocabulary: What does **discovered** mean in the first sentence?

Think & create

Write one question about space that you would like to research.

6. The Lost Duckling

Reading focus: cause and effect

During a walk around the park, Aria heard a soft peeping sound near the path. She looked carefully and spotted a tiny duckling standing alone beside the grass. Aria did not touch it. Instead, she stepped back and called her father. They watched quietly from a distance. A few moments later, a mother duck appeared from behind the reeds with several other ducklings. The little duckling hurried towards its family. Aria was glad she had waited rather than picking it up. Her father explained that wild animals are often safest when people give them space.

Check your understanding

1. What sound did Aria hear?
2. Why did Aria step back instead of touching the duckling?
3. Where did the mother duck come from?
4. What happened when the duckling saw its family?
5. What lesson did Aria learn?

Word detective

Vocabulary: In this story, what are **reeds** likely to be?

Think & create

Predict what might have happened if Aria had carried the duckling away.

7. The Beach Clean-Up

Reading focus: purpose and environmental responsibility

On Saturday morning, Leo and his family joined a community beach clean-up. Everyone received gloves and reusable bags before walking along the sand. Leo collected bottle caps, food wrappers and pieces of plastic that had washed near the rocks. He was surprised by how much rubbish they found in only one hour. A volunteer explained that litter can harm birds, turtles and other sea animals. When the group finished, the beach looked much cleaner. Leo felt tired but proud. He decided he would always take his rubbish home and remind his friends to do the same.

Check your understanding

1. What event did Leo's family join?
2. Name two things Leo collected.
3. Why can litter be dangerous?
4. How did the beach look at the end?
5. What decision did Leo make after the clean-up?

Word detective

Vocabulary: What is a **volunteer**?

Think & create

Write two ways people can help keep parks, beaches or playgrounds clean.

8. Camping Under the Stars

Reading focus: sensory details and prediction

Ella had never slept in a tent before, so she felt both excited and nervous about the family camping trip. After sunset, the air became cool and the forest grew quiet. Ella helped her brother gather sticks while their parents prepared dinner. Later, everyone sat outside the tent and looked up at the sky. Without the bright city lights, hundreds of stars seemed to sparkle above them. Ella listened to crickets and the gentle movement of leaves in the wind. When it was time to sleep, she zipped up her sleeping bag and smiled. The unfamiliar forest no longer felt frightening; it felt like an adventure.

Check your understanding

1. How did Ella feel before the camping trip?
2. What changed after sunset?
3. Why could Ella see so many stars?
4. Name one sound Ella heard.
5. How did Ella's feelings about the forest change?

Word detective

Vocabulary: What does **unfamiliar** mean?

Think & create

What do you think Ella might tell a friend about the camping trip the next day?

Answer Guide

Suggested answers are provided below. Open-ended questions may have more than one reasonable answer.

1. The Little Seed 1. In her grandfather's garden. 2. She watered it and placed it near a sunny window. 3. Several days passed and nothing seemed to happen. 4. A tiny green shoot. 5. Good things can take time; continuing patiently can lead to results. Vocabulary: patience = being able to wait calmly.	2. Max and the Missing Ball 1. Red. 2. Behind a large bush. 3. Any two: under the bush, flower beds, near the fence, beside the garden chair. 4. Rusty, Max's dog. 5. Relieved. Vocabulary: relieved.
3. A Rainy Day Adventure 1. Ride their scooters. 2. Heavy rain began. 3. Blankets, pillows and chairs. 4. A secret mountain cabin. 5. When plans change, you can find another enjoyable activity. Vocabulary: cosy = warm, comfortable and pleasant.	4. The Helpful Neighbour 1. Mrs Green was carrying heavy bags and one was slipping. 2. He carried two shopping bags to her door. 3. It had made her afternoon much easier. 4. Proud. 5. Helpful/kind/caring, supported by his decision to assist her. Vocabulary: kindness = being caring or helpful to others.
5. The Library Book 1. At the library. 2. Space/the solar system. 3. Three facts she had learned. 4. Create a poster for the class. 5. She wanted to share what she had learned. Vocabulary: discovered = found or noticed something.	6. The Lost Duckling 1. A soft peeping sound. 2. She wanted to give it space and called her father instead. 3. From behind the reeds. 4. It hurried towards its family. 5. Wild animals are often safest when people give them space. Vocabulary: reeds = tall plants that grow near water.
7. The Beach Clean-Up 1. A community beach clean-up. 2. Any two: bottle caps, food wrappers, pieces of plastic. 3. It can harm birds, turtles and other sea animals. 4. Much cleaner. 5. Take his rubbish home and remind friends to do the same. Vocabulary: volunteer = someone who chooses to help without being paid.	8. Camping Under the Stars 1. Excited and nervous. 2. The air became cool and the forest grew quiet. 3. There were no bright city lights. 4. Crickets or leaves moving in the wind. 5. It changed from frightening/unfamiliar to exciting and adventurous. Vocabulary: unfamiliar = not known or not experienced before.