

A Parent's Guide to Primary School Reading Terminology

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Phonics

This is referring to letter sounds within a word. We use our phonetic knowledge in order to 'decode' what a word says.

Decoding

This is when we use the letter sounds to work out what a word says. We don't have to know the meaning of the words in order to decode.

Comprehension

This is when we 'comprehend' or 'understand' what is happening in a piece of text.

Retrieval

Retrieval is being able to understand a piece of text and pick out answers to literal questions. For example, questions beginning with Who, What, Where, When and How.

Inference

Inference questions are questions where the answer isn't actually stated in the text. You must use clues to 'work out' the answer to the question.

Vocabulary

Vocabulary refers to the words used in the text. It can be subject specific (e.g. topic words), colloquial (informal words used in every day conversation e.g. slang words) or could even be archaic language (old fashioned words we don't really use any more.)