

KS1/KS2 VIPERS/WHOLE CLASS READING LESSON STRUCTURE

Children are explicitly taught the skills of reading (outlined in the National Curriculum and the KS1 and KS2 test domains) through the use of VIPERS which were created by Rob Smith (The Literacy Shed).

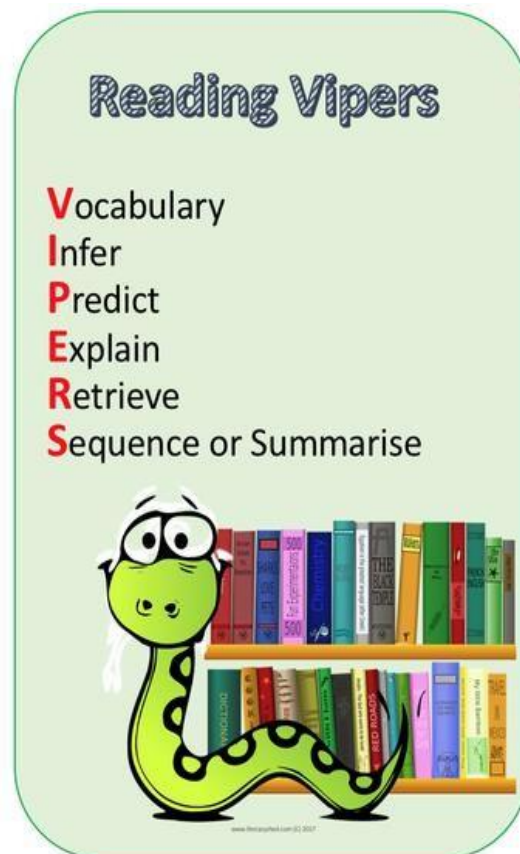
The Reading Vipers can be used by both KS1 and KS2 with a little adaption. The main difference being in the S.

Sequence- KS1

Summarise-KS2

In KS1, 'Explain'; is not one of the content domains, rather it asks children why they have come to a certain conclusion, to explain their preferences, thoughts and opinions about a text.

In KS2, the Explain section covers the additional content domains of 2F, 2G and 2H which are not present in KS1.



Key Stage 1

In Key Stage One children reading skills are taught and practiced using the VIPERS during whole class reading sessions.

KS1 Content Domain Reference	VIPER
1a draw on knowledge of vocabulary to understand texts	Vocabulary
1b identify/ explain key aspects of fiction and non-fiction, such as characters, events, titles and information.	Retrieve
1c identify and explain the sequences of events in texts	Sequence
1d make inferences from the text	Infer
1e predict what might happen on the basis of what has been read so far	Predict

Key Stage 2

In Key Stage Two children reading skills are taught and practiced using VIPERS during whole class reading sessions.

KS2 Content Domain Reference	VIPER
2a Give/explain the meaning of words in context	Vocabulary
2b retrieve and record information/ identify key details from fiction and non/fiction	Retrieve
2c summarise main ideas from more than one paragraph	Summarise
2d make inferences from the text/ explain and justify inferences with evidence from the text	Infer
2e predict what might happen from details stated or implied	Predict
2f identify/explain how information/ narrative content is related and contributes to meaning as a whole	Explain
2g identify/explain how meaning is enhanced through choice of words and phrases	Explain
2h make comparisons within a text	Explain



VIPERS Lesson Structure

VIPERS whole class reading sessions take place 5 x a week for 30-45 minutes. These are separate to but often complement English sessions, the books have been chosen and kept in Guided Reading boxes.

The question domains focused on in sessions will vary from session to session/class to class depending on the needs of the children but as a general rule time spent on each VIPER is based upon the English Reading Test Framework (2016) number of marks available for each content domain.

KS1 English Reading Test Framework (2024)

Content domain reference	Number of marks	Percentage of total mark
1a draw on knowledge of vocabulary to understand texts	1-8	3-20%
1b identify / explain key aspects of fiction and non-fiction texts, such as characters, events, titles and information	16-32	40-80%
1c identify and explain the sequence of events in texts	0-3	0-8%
1d make inferences from the text	4-14	10-35%
1e predict what might happen on the basis of what has been read so far	0-2	0-5%

In KS1 we base a lot of guided reading questions around the 'Retrieve' VIPER and balance the other VIPERS appropriately.



KS2 English Reading test Framework (2016)

National curriculum reference	Number of marks	Percentage of total mark
2a give / explain the meaning of words in context	5–10	10–20%
2b retrieve and record information / identify key details from fiction and non-fiction	8–25	16–50%
2c summarise main ideas from more than one paragraph	1–6	2–12%
2d make inferences from the text / explain and justify inferences with evidence from the text	8–25	16–50%
2e predict what might happen from details stated and implied	0–3	0–6%
2f identify / explain how information / narrative content is related and contributes to meaning as a whole	0–3	0–6%
2g identify / explain how meaning is enhanced through choice of words and phrases	0–3	0–6%
2h make comparisons within the text	0–3	0–6%

Whole Class Reading Lesson Structure

Most sessions will start with a couple of quick questions that will focus on the summarise domain. Pupils will then be hooked into the book by reading the book together. The class teacher will model reading, paying close attention to punctuation and intonation. Sometimes, the teacher will read aloud whilst pupils track the text. Other times, pupils will read aloud or will take on the parts of the characters. This gives the class teacher an opportunity to assess fluency and accuracy when reading. To check for pupil understanding, pupils will then work through a series of questions (each representing one of the reading domains), pupils may wish to revisit the text in order to answer these questions. Children will use the skimming and scanning/fastest finger first techniques that they have been taught, this will help them to quickly retrieve the necessary information.

Some questions only require oral feedback, children will be given time to discuss the question and/or text with a partner or in a group before discussing it as a whole class. During the written question segment of the lesson, children will access to peer support and/or adult support. Answers are either marked actively in that session or self- assessed by the pupil.

At St. Michael's CE Primary, we are working hard to ensure that children build a wide repertoire of vocabulary. When focusing on the 2a domain, we look at the etymology and morphology of the word. New vocabulary is displayed in each classroom.



Questions from the following domains: 2e, 2f, 2g & 2h, are sometimes worth 3 marks and therefore require further modelling and discussion.

THE PEE TECHNIQUE

When you are responding to a text you have read, this method of organising your paragraph will help you to make your ideas clear.

What's your point?

First make a simple statement about what the writer does:

Point

- The writer suggests that...
- The writer shows that...
- We can see from the text that...

Give evidence from the text to support your point

Evidence

- For example...
- I know this because the author says...
- This is shown when...

Explain how the writer's methods affect the reader

Explain how key words and techniques from the evidence help to get these effects.

Explanation

- The effect of this is...
- The author wants the reader to...
- It makes it appear that...

Recording and Assessment during VIPERS sessions

As mentioned earlier, some questions will require pupils to orally talk through their answers and ensure it is the best they can give before writing anything down. We also acknowledge it is good for children to also be able to formally record an answer. Children can do this in a variety of different ways such as discussing the answer first with peers and/or an adult and then writing their best answer, working individually and then editing their answer accordingly after discussion or orally discussing 1 or 2 of the questions and writing down the others working individually.

During VIPERS sessions, teaching staff may decide to focus on specific children, this may mean hearing them read individually whilst others are reading independently, in pairs or groups, discussing answers with those children and working one to one or within a group with them during a session whilst the others form an answer independently. Teachers can then assess these children based on NC expectations and how they are performing relating to the specific content domain. Assessment is used to plan the next VIPERS sessions.



Vocabulary

Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
Understand and recognize simple recurring literary language in stories and poetry	Understand what he/she reads independently by checking that the text makes sense to him/her, discussing his/her understanding of words	Maintain positive attitudes to reading and understanding of what he/she reads by using dictionaries to check the meaning of words that he/she has read	Understand what he/she reads by checking that the book makes sense to him/her, discussing his/her understanding and exploring the meaning of words in context	Understand what he/she reads by identifying how language, structure and presentation contribute to meaning
Discuss and clarify the meanings of words, linking new meanings to known vocabulary	Understand what he/she reads independently by identifying how language, structure, and presentation contribute to meaning to include paragraphs, headings, sub-headings, inverted commas to punctuate speech	Understand what he/she reads independently by checking that the text makes sense to him/her, discussing his/her understanding and explaining the meaning of words in context	Discuss and evaluate how authors use language, including figurative language, considering the impact on the reader	Discuss and evaluate how authors use language, including figurative language, considering the impact on the reader
		Maintain positive attitudes to reading and understanding of what he/she reads by discussing words and phrases that capture the reader's interest and imagination		
		Understand what he/she reads independently by identifying how language, structure, and presentation contribute to meaning, to include: paragraphs, use of pronouns for cohesion, inverted commas for speech, apostrophes to mark possession, fronted adverbials		

KS2 Reading Vipers

Vocabulary

Find and explain the meaning of words in context

Example questions

- 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.....

KS1 Reading Vipers

Vocabulary

Draw upon knowledge of vocabulary in order to understand the text.

Example questions

- What does the word mean in this sentence?
- Find and copy a word which means
- What does this word or phrase tell you about?
- Which word in this section do you think is the most important? Why?
- Which of the words best describes the character/setting/mood etc?
- Can you think of any other words the author could have used to describe this?
- Why do you think is repeated in this section?

Inference

Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
Make inferences on the basis of what is being said and done	Understand what he/she reads independently by drawing inferences such as inferring characters' feelings, thoughts and motives from their actions, and justifying inferences with evidence	Understand what he/she reads independently by drawing inferences such as inferring characters' feelings, thoughts and motives from their actions, and justifying inferences with evidence clearly taken from the text	Understand what he/she reads by drawing inferences such as inferring characters' feelings, thoughts and motives from their actions, and justifying inferences with evidence	Draw inferences such as inferring characters' feelings, thoughts and motives from their actions, and justifying inferences with evidence

KS2 Reading Vipers

Infer

Make and justify inferences using evidence from the text.

Example questions

- Find and copy a group of words which show that...
- How do these words make the reader feel? How does this paragraph suggest this?
- How do the descriptions of show that they are
- 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?

KS1 Reading Vipers

Infer

Make inferences from the text.

Example questions

- Why was..... feeling.....?
- Why did happen?
- Why did say
- Can you explain why.....?
- What do you think the author intended when they said.....?
- How does make you feel?

Prediction

Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
Make plausible predictions about what might happen on the basis of what has been read so far	Understand what he/she reads independently by predicting what might happen from details stated	Understand what he/she reads independently by predicting what might happen from details stated and implied	Understand what he/she reads in increasingly complex texts by predicting what might happen from details stated and implied	Predict what might happen from details stated and implied

KS2 Reading Vipers

Predict

Predict what might happen from the details given and implied.

Example questions

- 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? Yes, no or maybe? Explain your answer using evidence from the text.

KS1 Reading Vipers

Predict

Predict what you think will happen based on the information that you have been given.

Example questions

- Look at the book cover/blurb – what do you think this book will be about?
- What do you think will happen next? What makes you think this?
- How does the choice of character or setting affect what will happen next?
- What is happening? What do you think happened before? What do you think will happen after?
- What do you think the last paragraph suggests will happen next?

Explain

Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
Explain what has happened so far in what he/she has read	Checking that the text makes sense to them, discussing their understanding and explaining the meaning of words in context	Checking that the text makes sense to them, discussing their understanding and explaining the meaning of words in context	Maintain positive attitudes to reading and understanding of what he/she reads by making comparisons within a book	Explain and discuss his/her understanding of what he/she has read, including through formal presentations and debates, maintaining a focus on the topic and using notes where necessary
	Identifying how language, structure, and presentation contribute to meaning			

KS2 Reading Vipers

Explain

- Explain how content is related and contributes to the meaning as a whole.
- 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.

Example questions

- 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?

KS1 Reading Vipers

Explain

Explain your preferences, thoughts and opinions about the text.

Example questions

- Who is your favourite character? Why?
- Why do you think all the main characters are girls in this book?
- Would you like to live in this setting? Why/why not?
- Is there anything you would change about this story?
- Do you like this text? What do you like about it?

Retrieval

Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
Answering and asking questions	Understand what he/she reads independently by asking questions to improve his/her understanding of a text	Retrieve and record information from non-fiction over a wide range of subjects	Understand what he/she reads by asking questions to improve his/her understanding of complex texts	Ask questions to improve their understanding
	Retrieve and record information from non-fiction	Understand what he/she reads independently by asking questions to improve his/her understanding of text with increasing complexity	Retrieve, record and present information from non-fiction	

KS2 Reading Vipers

Retrieve

Retrieve and record information and identify key details from fiction and non-fiction.

Example questions

- 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?

KS1 Reading Vipers

Retrieve

Identify and explain the key features of fiction and non-fiction texts such as: characters, events, titles and information.

Example questions

- What kind of text is this?
- Who did.....?
- Where did.....?
- When did.....?
- What happened when.....?
- Why did happen?
- How did?
- How many.....?
- What happened to.....?

Sequence/Summarise

Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
Discussing the sequence of events in books and how items of information are related	Understand what he/she reads independently by identifying main ideas drawn from within one paragraph and summarise these	Understand what he/she reads independently by identifying main ideas drawn from more than one paragraph and summarise these	Summarise main ideas from more than one paragraph, identifying key details which support these.	Understand what he/she reads by summarising the main ideas drawn from more than one paragraph, identifying key details that support the main ideas and using quotations for illustration

KS2 Reading Vipers

Summarise

Summarise the main ideas from more than one paragraph

Example questions

- Can you number these events 1-5 in the order that they happened?
- What happened after
- What was the first thing that happened in the story?
- Can you summarise in a sentence the opening/middle/end of the story?
- In what order do these chapter headings come in the story?

KS1 Reading Vipers

Sequence

Sequence the key events in the story.

Example questions

- Can you number these events 1-5 in the order that they happened?
- What happened after
- What was the first thing that happened in the story?
- Can you summarise in a sentence the opening/middle/end of the story?
- In what order do these chapter headings come in the story?

Suggested planning grid:

Guided reading book and which section:

V			
I			
P			
E			
R			
S			
Assessment notes			
Next steps			



