

# What is reading comprehension?

Making meaning from texts

# How can I do this?

- Understanding the text
- Engaging with the text
- Critically evaluating the text
- Look at clues on the page + knowledge in your head!

# What happened to the turtle?

- 1. The river was narrow. A beaver hit the log that a turtle was sitting on and the log flipped over from the shock. The turtle was very surprised by the event.
- 2. The river was narrow. A beaver hit the log that a turtle was sitting beside and the log flipped over from the shock. The turtle was very surprised by the event.

Sleepy Tom was late for school again.

- What do we know about the person in this sentence?
- Why was he sleepy?
- How do we know that he is often late for school?

John had got up early to learn his spellings. He was very tired and decided to take a break. When he opened his eyes again the first thing he noticed was the clock on the chair. It was an hour later and nearly time for school. He picked up his two books and put them in a bag. He started pedalling to school as fast as he could. However, John ran over some broken bottles and had to walk the rest of the way. By the time he had crossed the bridge and arrived at class, the test was over.

- What was John trying to learn?
- How many books did John pick up?
- How did John travel to school?
- What did John do when he decided to take a break?

Billy was crying. His whole day was spoilt. All his hard work had been broken by the wave. His mother came to stop him crying. But she accidentally trod on the only tower that was left. Billy cried even more. "Never mind," said his mother, "You can always build another one tomorrow." Billy stopped crying and went home for his tea.

- What is the most crucial word in this passage? Why?
- How do we know where this is taking place?
- Why is Billy crying?
- What has spoilt his day?
- What work has he been doing?
- Why was only one tower left?
- Why is it easy to build one tomorrow?
- Why did Billy stop crying?
- What time was it?

Now it's your turn to generate your own literal and inferential questions (ones where you have to use your own thoughts on as well as using the text!)

Read the following passage and with a partner write some questions on your white boards.

# Debbie

Debbie went out for the afternoon with her friend Michael. It was a warm day so they bought some ice cream from a stall. Michael had some drink in his bag, which they shared. The orange juice was very refreshing.

Debbie put on her swimming costume, but the water was too cold to paddle in, so they made sandcastles instead. They played all afternoon and didn't notice how late it was. Then Debbie spotted the clock on the pier. If she was late for dinner her parents would be angry.

They quickly packed up their things. Debbie changed and wrapped her swimming costume in her towel. She put the bundle in her backpack. Then they set off home, pedalling as fast as they could. Debbie was very tired when she got home, but she was just in time for dinner.