

How to support your child with  
**reading** at home.



This workshop will help you with:

- types of questions to ask children when you are reading with them at home
- some ideas to support practising spelling at home
- some activities to take home

## Literal Questions

Questions asking us about what has actually taken place

To answer these questions we need to read the text very carefully and find the exact words that tell us the answer.

## DEDUCTIVE questions

Ones where the text does not **actually tell** us, but we can **work out** the answer directly from information the text gives us.

To answer them well we need to read the text very carefully and **work things out from the information we are given** (but not make things up of our own).

## INFERENTIAL questions

Ones where the text does not **actually tell** us, but we can **work out** the answer by considering the **hints and clues** in the text in the light of our own knowledge and experience. To answer it well we need to read the text very carefully and **draw conclusions of our own from the hints and clues we are given** (but not completely make things up, or jump to conclusions not supported by the text).

## Guided Reading



1. Which season is the story set in? How do you know?
2. Where is the story set?
3. How do the characters know each other?
4. What is the girl in the stripy hat feeling?
5. Who is the person in the dotty head scarf? Invent a name and detail about that character.
6. What do you think will happen in this story?

## Guided Reading

### Mr Twit



Mr Twit was one of these very hairy-faced men. The whole of his face except for his forehead, his eyes and his nose was covered with thick hair. The stuff even sprouted in revolting tufts out of his nostrils and ear-holes. Mr Twit felt that his hairiness made him look terrifically wise and grand. But in truth he was neither of these things. Mr Twit was a twit. He was born a twit. And now at the age of sixty, he was a bigger twit than ever.

1. Are there any words you do not understand? How can you find out what they mean?
2. Do you think the author intended you to like or dislike this character? How do you know?

Tom's exciting morning

Tom woke up early. He knew the taxi was just around the corner. He felt like it was Christmas morning but it was the middle of August. He grabbed his case and knocked on his parents' door eagerly. They shouted back, "It's nearly time Thomas, go and wake Olivia up!" Tom ran into his sister's room and jumped on the bed. They both grinned and chatted about the week ahead.

A little while later, the taxi was outside so Tom grabbed his sunglasses and cap. He chuckled to himself because it was very dark and cold outside! Tom and Olivia sprinted to the back seat of the taxi whilst Mum and Dad threw the suitcases into the boot. Then, Mum made sure Olivia was secure in her special booster seat. Mum also went back inside to get Buster the dog!

Olivia's face dropped and she poked her brother who also looked worried.

"Where are you taking Buster?!" they both said cautiously. Mum smiled,

"Just to grandmas. We're going to be gone for a while!" Their faces relaxed and they giggled at how silly they had been!

As they approached their destination, Olivia tapped her brother on the arm and pointed outside.

"They look like giant birds!" she said. Tom thought this was really funny and he laughed with his sister. Mum and Dad looked at their watches. Their faces dropped. They quickly got Olivia out of her seat and put her in her pram. Dad grabbed Tom's hand and they paid the man quickly.

"Come on guys!" Dad said sounding slightly worried.

Questions

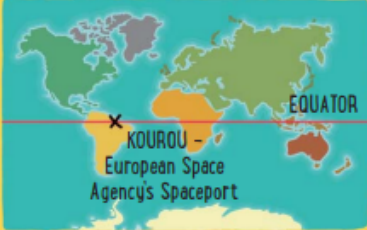
1. How do we know Tom felt excited in Paragraph One? Try and find all the clues.
2. Why do you think Tom chuckled to himself when he went outside in Paragraph Two?
3. Where do you think Tom is going? Explain why you think this.
4. Pretend you are Tom. Write down how you are feeling and what you are thinking as you travel in the taxi.
5. Why has Tom packed sunglasses?
6. Why do you think Olivia and Tom were worried when Mum went back into the house to get Buster?
7. What do you think Olivia was pointing to when she said "*they look like giant birds!*"?
8. What do you think happened when Mum and Dad looked at their watches in paragraph four?
9. Pretend you are Dad at the end of the passage. Write a few sentences explaining your thoughts and feelings.



## Guided Reading

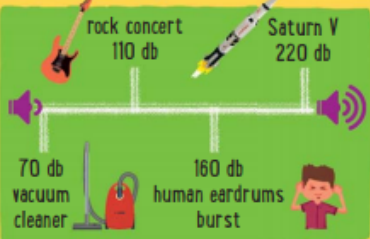
## THIS IS A BLAST!

So you've decided to build a rocket in your back garden.  
What do you need to think about?

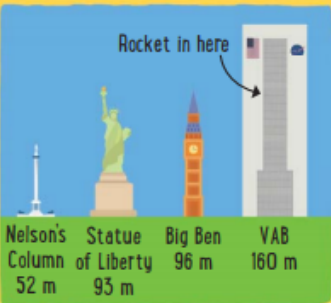


**1. LOCATION**  
It would be good if your garden was near the Equator. The Earth spins fastest there, so rockets get an extra 'push' as they take off.

**2. NOISE**  
It would help if no one were living next door: NASA's Saturn V made one of the loudest noises ever recorded - 220 db. This is loud enough to melt concrete.



**3. A LARGE SHED**  
You need to build (and store) your rocket somewhere. NASA's Vehicle Assembly Building (VAB) is the tallest single-story building in the world (160 m). It also contains the tallest doors (139 m).



Structure	Height (m)
Nelson's Column	52 m
Statue of Liberty	93 m
Big Ben	96 m
VAB	160 m

## Non-Fiction

1. What is the heading or main title of this page?
2. What are the sub headings?
3. Why has the author used sub headings?
4. Why are some words written in capitals?
5. What is the purpose of the pictures?
6. Are there words you do not understand? How can we find out what they mean?

## Guided Reading

The public-houses, with gas-lights burning inside, were already open. By degrees, other shops began to be unclosed, and a few scattered people were met with. Then, came straggling groups of labourers going to their work; then, men and women with fish-baskets on their heads; donkey-carts laden with vegetables; chaise-carts filled with livestock or whole carcasses of meat; milk-women with pails; an unbroken concourse of people trudging out with various supplies to the eastern suburbs of the town. As they approached the City, the noise and traffic gradually increased; when they threaded the streets between Shoreditch and Smithfield, it had swelled into a roar of sound and bustle.

1. What words do you not know?
  2. When do you think this story was set?
  3. Can you give examples from the text that support your view?
  4. The author has used the word threaded? What do they mean?
- What technique is the author using?

