

## All you need to teach comprehension strategies!

The Comprehension strategies box is a set of six boxes suitable for learners aged 6-11+. Each box contains a set of full-colour, differentiated literacy cards that are designed to provide a comprehensive teaching tool to support the teaching and learning of nine different comprehension strategies.


## Each box contains $\mathbf{1 6 2}$ cards:

- cards for nine different comprehension strategies;
- three different cards with three differentiated reading levels for each strategy, with a different text on the front and back; and
- six copies of each different card suitable for small group work.


## Colour Coding

The cards are colour coded to identify the nine different strategies in the box. The same colours carry across all box levels for easy identification. The coloured sections cover the following comprehension strategies in the following order:


## Differentiation

The first card in each strategy is provided at the easiest reading level. The two different texts on the front and back of the card are at the same suggested Lexile range. These are numbered 1 A and 1 B in each box.

The second card in each strategy is at a higher level of reading. The two different texts on the front and back of the card are at the same level. These are numbered 2 A and 2 B in each box.

The third card in each box is at the highest level of reading. The two different texts on the front and back of the card are at the same level. These are numbered $3 A$ and $3 B$ in each box.
Suggested Lexile levels are stated on the scope and sequence cards at the front of each box.

## The Texts

The texts utilise high-interest topics to motivate and engage learners. They include both fiction and non-fiction texts within the following genres:

## - Fiction and Poetry

science fiction, horror/supernatural, mystery, fable, fairy tale, fantasy, folk tale, adventure, humour, limerick, ballad, play, myth, legend, other narratives including poems

## - Non-fiction

report, review, procedure, exposition, explanation, discussion, description, retrieval chart, letter, email, biography, interview, poster


## How to use the Comprehension strategies box

## Choose

Choose a comprehension strategy.

## Assess

Use the assessment text and corresponding activity pages to assess how well the learner has understood the strategy.

## Practise

Assign cards, depending on the reading level of each learner, and have them complete the relevant activity pages.

## Identify

Use the placement test to see which cards are suitable for your learners.

## Model

Use the modelling text and teaching notes to introduce and demonstrate the strategy.

## Benefits

a. Small group and independent work are easy to implement with six copies of each card - that's 162 cards in total!
b. Differentiate easily with three reading levels that are organised by suggested Lexiles.
c. Support provided through an extensive Teacher guide and activity book.
d. Bonus digital download of full-colour strategy posters for reference.

## How to use the cards

Educators should familiarise themselves with the information in the Teacher guide before using the cards, additional resources and activity book to teach a strategy.
Educators may select any comprehension strategy to teach at any time. However, it should be noted that the strategy of synthesising can be quite difficult and, as a consequence, has been placed at the back of each box.


Recommended procedure for using the resource

1. The educator first uses the modelling text and teaching notes to introduce and demonstrate a particular comprehension strategy. This is predominantly an oral activity.
2. The educator uses the sharing text and works through this with the class using the teaching notes provided. These will be very similar to the way in which the modelling text was used to ensure the correct steps are used to learn the strategy. Learners may work with each other to practise this strategy together.
3. The educator selects a particular card (1,2 or 3 ) depending on the reading level of the learner (and after using the placement tests), and the learner uses the corresponding resource sheets in the activity book to practise using the strategy to comprehend a text. There are two texts on each card, so learners can practise the strategy using more than one text, if the educator desires. It is best to check the activity book before assigning cards, as certain texts require questions to be answered before reading.
4. The educator uses the assessment text in the Teacher guide and the corresponding activity sheets to assess how well the learner has learned the comprehension strategy.

## Note 1:

The suggested Lexile levels for the modelling, sharing and assessment texts are levelled at the middle range for each box level. This is because the educator and/or a peer will be working with learner when using both the modelling and sharing texts to learn and practise the strategy.

## Note 1:

If educators feel learners have grasped the strategy easily and do not need any extra practice, the texts on the cards and corresponding activity pages may be used as a form of assessment.

## About the scope and sequence cards

The first three cards in each box provide a scope and sequence chart of information about the texts. This allows educators to quickly select text genres and strategies for classroom use.

The scope and sequence cards are colour coded to match the text cards in the box.

The title of the text and the text genre are given.

The strategy to which the text card is linked is given.

The card number is given.


The suggested Lexile level is given.

## Things That Fly

Birds fly. Wings grew.
Bats fly. Night is new.
Planes fly. They have a crew.
Bees fly. They see the dew.
Brooms fly. Witches do too.
Ducks fly. They quack at you.
Seeds fly. Flowers are few.
Clouds fly. The sky is grey and blue.
Butterflies fly. Caterpillars chew.
Balloons fly. What a view! Jets fly. They are fast and true.

Flags fly. The wind blew.
Rockets fly. Smoke grew.
Ghosts fly. They say 'boo'!
Pigeons fly. They coo.
Kites fly. The string needs glue.
Mum is mad. The shoes flew.
Why did she throw them? I do not have a clue.

Dragons fly. They spit and spew.


## Predicting

Box 1 samples from the Activity Book.

## Things That Fly - 1

## Before Reading

1. Look at the picture. Write a sentence to tell what you think the story is about.
2. Read the title. Write a sentence to tell what you think the story is about.

$\qquad$

3. What do you already kno sentences.
$\qquad$
$\qquad$
$\qquad$
4. What words do you think

$\qquad$
$\qquad$
$\qquad$

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Predicting

## Things That Fly - 2

## During Reading

5. Read each pair of sentences then stop. Write words to finish the second sentences.

Birds fly. Wings grew.
Bats fly. Night is $\qquad$
Planes fly. They have a crew.
Bees fly. They see the $\qquad$
Brooms fly. Witches do too.
Ducks fly. They $\qquad$
Seeds fly. Flowers are few.
Clouds fly. The sky is grey and $\qquad$
6. Read the sentences. Write the word that is missing.

Butterflies fly. Caterpillars chew.
Balloons
What a view!

## After Reading

7. Read the line.

I like to fly. What do you do?
Write what you think your best friend will say. How will they answer the question?
$\qquad$
$\qquad$
$\qquad$

[^0]Box 1 Scope and sequence samples

|  |  |  | Scope and Sequence |  |  | Card Number <br> Card 1A | Title | Genre <br> Recount | Suggested Lexile Level <br> 10L-200L | Word Count 147 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  |  |  |  | Questioning |  | Twinkle Toes |  |  |  |
|  |  | Title |  |  | Questioning | Card 1B | Look After Your Head | Poster | 10L-200L | 88 |
| Strategy | Card Number |  | Genre | Suggested <br> Lexile Level | Word <br> Count | Card 2A | Armour | Information | 210L-400L | 93 |
| Predicting | Card 1A | Things That Fly | Poem | 10L-200L | 116 Questioning | Card 2B | Make a Party Hat | Procedure | 210L-400L | 100 |
| Predicing | Card 1B | The Wolf and the Crane | Fable | 10L-200L | 116 Questioning | Card 3A | The Invisibility Cloak | Fantasy | 410L-600L | 146 |
| Predicting | Card 2A | A Speedy Surprise | Science fiction | 210L-400L | 122 Questioning | Card 3B | A Germ-rree Holiday | Science fiction | 410L-600L | 119 |
| Predicting | Card 2B | The Wax Wings | Myth | 210L-400L | 117 Questioning | Modelling Text | Puss in Boots | Fairy tale | 210L-400L | 149 |
| Prediciting | Card 3A | How Do Birds Fly? | Explanation | 410L-600L | 135 |  |  |  |  |  |
| Prediciting | Card 3B | Make a Rainbow Pull Kite | Procedure | 410L-600L | 118 Q Questioning | Sharing Text | How Shoes are Made | Explanation | 210L-400L | 117 |
| Prediciing | Modelling Text | The Hot Air Balloon Adventure | e Recount | 210L-400L | 109 Questioning | Assessment | The Clothes Line | Description | 210L-400L | 104 |
| Prediciting | Sharing Text | Kooky Kites | Information | 210L-400L | 133 | Card 1A | A Scary Sound Story | Horrorl Supermatural | 10L-200L | 110 |
| Prediciting | Assessment | Winged Willow | Fantasy | 210L-400L | 161 Clarify | Card 18 | Nice Noises and Not-so-nice Noises | Retrieval chart | 10L-200L | 49 |
| Visualising | Card 1A | I Don't Like Summer! | Exposition | 10L-200L | $83 \quad$ Clarifying | Card 2A How | How the Dogs Lost Their Voice | es Legend | 210L-400L | 150 |
| Visualising | Card 1B | Blake | Description/ Poem | 10L-200L | 82. | Card 2B | Sound | Information | 210L-400L | 99 |
| Visualising | Card 2A | The Spider and the Sun | Folk tale | 210L-400L | 192 Clarifying | Card 3A | The Tortoise and the Geese | Folk tale | 410L-600 | 143 |
| Visualising | Card 2B | Hot Sauce | Humour | 210L-400L | 110 Cl\|larifing | Card 3B | Ripped at the Seams Review | v Review | 410L-600 | 103 |
| Visualising | Card 3A | Chilli Peppers | Retrieval chart | 410L-600L | 134 | Scope and Sequence |  |  | 210L-400L | 142 |
| Visualising | Card 3B | Daring Dragon | Book review | 410L-600L | 119 |  |  |  | 210L-400L | 113 |
| Visualising | Modelling Text | The Figure in the Fiery Mist | $\begin{gathered} \text { Mysteryl } \\ \text { Supernatural } \end{gathered}$ | 210L-400L | 118 Scop |  |  |  | 210L-400L | 141 |
| Visualising | Sharing Text |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 10L-200L | 122 |
| Visualising | Assessment |  | Strategy $\quad$ Card Number |  | Title |  | Genre |  | ${ }^{\text {e }}$ | 10L-200L | 114 |
| $\begin{array}{\|c\|} \hline \text { Making } \\ \text { Connections } \\ \hline \end{array}$ | Card 1A |  |  |  | Suggested Lexile Level | Word Count |  | 210L-400L | 138 |  |
| $\begin{array}{\|c\|} \hline \text { Making } \\ \text { Connections } \\ \hline \end{array}$ | Card 1B |  |  |  | 210L-400L |  |  | 128 |  |  |
| $\begin{gathered} \text { Making } \\ \text { Connections } \end{gathered}$ | Card 2A | Determining Importance | Card 1A | Tomorrow's Takeaway |  | Science fiction | 10L-200L | 88 | 410L-600L | 116 |
| (tarking $\begin{gathered}\text { Makion } \\ \text { Connections }\end{gathered}$ | Card 2B | Determining Importance | Card 1B | Popping Popcorn |  |  |  | 83 iy | 410L-600L | 152 |
| $\begin{gathered} \text { Mainections } \\ \hline \text { Connections } \\ \hline \end{gathered}$ | Card 3A |  |  |  |  |  | Explanation | 10L-200L | 83 | 210L-400 | 141 |
| $\begin{array}{\|c\|} \hline \text { Making } \\ \text { Connections } \end{array}$ | Card 3B | Determining Importance | Card 2A | Hot Cheese Snack |  | Procedure | 210L-400L | 88 ew | 210L-400L | 136 |
| Making | Modelling Text |  |  |  |  | 88 |  | 210L-400L | 136 |  |
| Connections Making Connections | $\underset{\text { Sharing Text }}{ }$ | Determining Importance | Card 2B | The Princess and the Pea |  |  | Fairy tale | 210L-400L | 156 | Mm.Ed pulushmy mwwpim edicom |  |
| $\begin{array}{\|c\|} \hline \text { Mulitecting } \\ \text { Connections } \\ \hline \end{array}$ | Assessment | Determining Importance | Card 3A | You Are What You Eat |  | Play | 410L-600L | 173 |  |  |
|  |  | Determining Importance | Card 3B | Greedy Gus |  | Humour/Poem | 410L-600L | 104 |  |  |
|  |  | Determining Importance | Modelling Text | Food Talk |  | Email | 210L-400L | 147 |  |  |
|  |  | Determining Importance | Sharing Text | Pasta This ... Pasta That |  | Description | 210L-400L | 116 |  |  |
|  |  | Determining Importance | Assessment | Scary Foods |  | Poster | 210L-400L | 124 |  |  |
|  |  | Inferring | Card 1A | Seeds and Needs |  | Recount | 10L-200L | 93 |  |  |
|  |  | Inferring | Card 1B | Sunflowers |  | Report | 10L-200L | 71 |  |  |
|  |  | Inferring | Card 2A | The Wishing Tree |  | Book review | 210L-400L | 128 |  |  |
|  |  | Inferring | Card 2B | A Plant out of a Pot |  | Horror | 210L-400L | 172 |  |  |
|  |  | Inferring | Card 3A | The Sky-high Tree |  | Fantasy | 410L-600L | 153 |  |  |
|  |  | Inferring | Card 3B | The Legend of the Mulberry Tree |  | Legend | 410L-600L | 171 |  |  |
|  |  | Inferring | Modelling Text | Adventures in the Veggie Patch |  | Adventure | 210L-400L | 135 |  |  |
|  |  | Inferring | Sharing Text | Mr Potato Head |  | Biography | 210L-400L | 136 |  |  |
|  |  | Inferring | Assessment | The Bundle of Sticks |  | Fable | 210L-400L | 133 |  |  |
|  |  | Synthesising | Card 1A | What's Next? |  | Recount | 10L-200L | 116 |  |  |
|  |  | Synthesising | Card 1B | Believe in Magic |  | Exposition | 10L-200L | 102 |  |  |
|  |  | Synthesising | Card 2A | A Magical Place |  | Letter | 210L-400L | 112 |  |  |
|  |  | Synthesising | Card 2B | This is the Spell ... |  | Humour | 210L-400L | 112 |  |  |
|  |  | Synthesising | Card 3A | Magic Me |  | Poem | 410L-600L | 132 |  |  |
|  |  | Synthesising | Card 3B | Magic or Science? |  | Science experiment | 410L-600L | 104 |  |  |
|  |  | Synthesising | Modelling Text | Vanishing Act |  | Mystery/Poem | 210L-400L | 99 |  |  |
|  |  | Synthesising | Sharing Text | The Magic Soup Pot |  | Fairy tale | 210L-400L | 167 |  |  |
|  |  | Synthesising | Assessment | Rupert Replies |  | Interview | 210L-400L | 117 |  |  |

# The Nightingale 



Once, there was a rich man who caught a nightingale. He wanted to keep it in a cage.

The nightingale spoke to him. 'Please release me! If you do, l'll give you some advice that may prove useful one day.'

So the rich man freed him. The nightingale gave this advice. 'Don't be sorry for what you can't get back. Never trust useless words.'

The rich man listened to the advice. Then he tried to grab the nightingale. The nightingale flew out of reach. Then he said, 'You shouldn't have freed me. I have a big gem hidden beneath my wing. If you'd found it, you would have been very rich.'

The rich man leaped up, trying to catch the nightingale again.
'Now I know you're a greedy and silly man', said the nightingale. 'You were sorry for something that can't be brought back. You believed my useless words. I am just a tiny bird. How could I hide a big gem under my wing?'

The nightingale flew away, free and content.

Questioning

## The Nightingale - 2

6. Why do you think the rich man wanted to keep the nightingale?
7. What two pieces of advice did the nightingale give the rich man?
$\qquad$
$\qquad$

Box 2 samples from the Activity Book.

8. What did the nightingale s
9. Why did the rich man try t freed it?

## After Reading

10. Do you think the rich man Yes or no? Explain your an
$\qquad$
$\qquad$
$\qquad$
11. What do you think about $h$ $\cdots \times$. $\times$ +


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## Questioning

## The Nightingale - 1

## Before Reading

1. The answer is 'There is a man and a bird in a garden.

Write a question about the picture that matches the answer. Use What or Who and?
$\qquad$
$\qquad$
2. The answer is 'The title tells me the text is about a nightingale.'

Write a question that matches the answer.
Use What and?
$\qquad$
$\qquad$
3. Why do you think the text is called The Nightingale?
$\qquad$
$\qquad$

## During Reading

4. What does the word 'release' mean?
$\qquad$
$\qquad$
5. Write another hard word in the text.

Write a question about it.
$\qquad$
$\qquad$

| Strategy | Card Number |
| :---: | :---: |
| Predicting | Card 1A |
| Predicting | Card 1B |
| Predicting | Card 2A |
| Predicting | Card 2B |
| Predicting | Card 3A |
| Predicting | Card 3B |
| Predicting | Modelling Text |
| Predicting | Sharing Text |
| Predicting | Assessment |
| Visualising | Card 1A |
| Visualising | Card 1B |
| Visualising | Card 2A |
| Visualising | Card 2B |
| Visualising | Card 3A |
| Visualising | Card 3B |
| Visualising | Modelling Text |
| Visualising | Sharing Text |
| Visualising | Assessment |
| Making Connections | Card 1A |
| Making Connections | Card 1B |
| Making Connections | Card 2A |
| Making Connections | Card 2B |
| Making Connections | Card 3A |
| Making Connections | Card 3B |
| Making Connections | Modelling Text |
| Making Connections | Sharing Text |
| Making Connections | Assessment |

Box 4 sample card.
Making Connections

## The Jolly Trolley

There once was a large metal shopping trolley. It wiggled and wobbled and acted most oddly. It moved this way and that with a mind of its own. It cruised the aisles making creaks and groans. There once was a large metal shopping trolley. It acted like a clown at the circus-very jolly. It moved through the sections collecting its bounty Mowing down shoppers like a galloping Mountie.
 There once was a large metal shopping trolley Full of fruit and vegetables including cauli. It jiggled them around like jelly in a bowl Leaving bruises and parts instead of wholes. There once was a large metal shopping trolley That held food and bags and an umbrella for Molly. It spun its wheels like a revolving top And, when it became tired, came to a stop.

Its borrower was happy because this escape was at an end.

What can I make with squashed fruit and vegetables-a smoothie blend?

Perhaps next time this trolley will behave
 As its supposed to and not like a naughty knave!

## Making Connections

Box 3 samples from the Activity Book.

## The Jolly Trolley - 2

## Text to Text

4. (a) What kind of text is this?
(b) Write the name of another poem you have read or written.
(c) How is it the same or different to this poem?
$\qquad$
$\qquad$

5. (a) Write the title of another one. (It does not have to
(b) Write how the text is diff
$\qquad$

## Text to World

6. Complete the sentence.

This text reminds me of som It was ...
$\qquad$
$\qquad$
7. Find two clues in the text tha in the real world. Copy the te -
$\qquad$


## Making Connections

## The Jolly Trolley - 1

## Text to Self

1. The text is about a trolley in a supermarket that is wobbly and won't go the way it's supposed to.
Write or draw about a time you, or someone in your family, had an experience with a 'wandering' shopping trolley.
$\square$
2. Think of another machine or object you know that sometimes seems to go all over the place.
Draw and label a diagram of it and write about how it acts oddly.


$\qquad$
3. How would you feel if you had to use a shopping trolley like this one?
$\qquad$

Box 3 Scope and sequence sample cards
Scope and Sequence


Summarising

## The Song of the Humpback Whale



In 1967, whale biologist, Roger Payne, submerged a microphone in the ocean. He had the suspicion that whales were having conversations under water. Much to his delight, he discovered the haunting songs of the humpback whale! He recorded these sounds on an album under the name Songs of the Humpback Whale and it is still the best-selling nature record of all time.

Since then, much research has been done on the songs of the humpback whale. Both males and females produce sounds, varying from grunts, groans and moans, but only the males deliver complex melodies. The reason for their singing has not yet been established, but it seems that their songs are only sung close to the breeding grounds. Some theories suggest that these humpbacks use their songs to assess their rivals' size and fitness. Humpbacks from the same region tend to sing the same song, only with slight adaptations, so they will also be able to identify if the other whale is a threat or not. It is also very possible that the males use their singing talents to impress the females.

Interestingly, the humpbacks change their tune every few years. Research studies have found that a song starts out as a simple tune and then evolves in complexity until it grows too complex or the whales simply get bored of it. A group of whales then pick a new tune and off it goes again.

These songs can last up to 20 minutes and can be heard from almost 32 kilometres away. It appears that the males stop singing when there are ships or other activity close by. Research has shown that the singing stops until after 30 minutes of the ship passing by.

There is still so much to learn about these songs from the humpback whales. Whilst researchers and scientists scratch their heads to solve the mysteries surrounding the songs of the humpback whales, the songsters of the sea continue their vocal acrobatics underwater.

## Summarising

The Song of the Humpback Whale - 2
6. Complete the table by summarising the second-last paragraph.

| 20 minutes | 32 kilometres | 30 minutes |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |

Box 4 samples from the Activity Book.

7. What is one difference betwee in the text?
8. How will a humpback whale be same region? Tick the correct

All the whales from the same r The whale will sing the same so It doesn't matter what region a
9. Why did Roger Payne submerg sentence from the text.


Rewrite this in your own words

$\qquad$


## Summarising

## The Song of the Humpback Whale - 1

1. Write a sentence or two to tell who or what the text is about.
2. List three possible reasons why the humpback whales sing.
.
.
$\qquad$

3. Which two sentences in the first paragraph are the most important? Copy them below.
$\qquad$
$\qquad$
$\qquad$
4. Read and tick the sentences that are important to the text.

These songs can last up to 20 minutes and can be heard from almost 32 kilometres away.
Both males and females produce sounds, varying from grunts, groans and moans, but only the males deliver complex melodies.
Whilst researchers and scientists scratch their heads to solve the mysteries surrounding the songs of the humpback whales, the songsters of the sea continue their vocal acrobatics underwater.
5. Write a sentence to tell why the whales change their tune every once in a while.

|  |  |  | $\begin{aligned} & \mathbb{N} \\ & \substack{0 \\ 0 \\ 0} \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \stackrel{\sim}{N} \\ & \stackrel{\rightharpoonup}{0} \\ & \underset{0}{0} \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { x } \\ & \text { m } \\ & \text { D } \\ & 0 \end{aligned}$ | $\left\|\begin{array}{l} m \\ m \\ \underline{0} \\ \underline{0} \end{array}\right\|$ |  |  |  | $\begin{aligned} & \$ \\ & \frac{\$}{0} \\ & \frac{d}{0} \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \underline{@} \\ & \stackrel{\rightharpoonup}{\mathrm{~J}} \\ & 0 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { a } \\ & \text { 氩 } \end{aligned}$ | m <br> 를 |  |  |  |  |  | $\begin{aligned} & \leq \\ & \frac{\square}{c} \\ & 0 \end{aligned}$ | ロ $\stackrel{0}{0}$ 0 | a 㐫 0 | $\begin{aligned} & \text { M } \\ & \stackrel{\rightharpoonup}{0} \\ & 0 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { 区 } \\ & \stackrel{y}{0} \\ & \stackrel{\rightharpoonup}{0} \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \infty \\ & \stackrel{\infty}{\omega} \\ & \frac{0}{\omega} \\ & 0 \end{aligned}$ |  |  |  | ， |
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| $\begin{aligned} & \text { 命} \\ & \stackrel{\rightharpoonup}{\circ} \\ & \text { ¢ } \end{aligned}$ |  |  |  | 은 흥 은 |  | 은 <br> 흔 <br> 은 | 응 흥 은 |  | $\begin{aligned} & \frac{0}{2} \\ & \frac{0}{0} \\ & \frac{\overline{0}}{2} \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \frac{0}{5} \\ & \frac{5}{5} \\ & \frac{5}{5} \\ & 5 \end{aligned}$ |  | $\begin{aligned} & \frac{0}{5} \\ & \frac{5}{5} \\ & \frac{5}{9} \\ & \frac{5}{5} \end{aligned}$ |  |  | $\begin{aligned} & \frac{9}{5} \\ & \frac{5}{5} \\ & \frac{5}{3} \\ & \frac{3}{5} \end{aligned}$ |  | $\begin{aligned} & \frac{0}{0} \\ & \frac{5}{5} \\ & \frac{5}{5} \\ & \frac{5}{5} \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \frac{0}{2} \\ & \frac{.5}{50} \\ & \frac{9}{5} \\ & \frac{5}{5} \end{aligned}$ |  | $\left.\begin{gathered} 0 \\ \hline \end{gathered} \frac{0}{0} \right\rvert\,$ |  | $\begin{aligned} \frac{0}{2} \\ \hline \end{aligned}$ |  |  |  | － |  |  |

## A New Life in New York

I was nine years old when my family moved to New York from our country town in Busselton, Western Australia. The two places were opposites to say the least. Our old house was nestled nicely across from the ocean front, with the pinky-golden sun setting nightly over the water. Each night it was like looking at a perfectly framed painting through our large floor-to-ceiling windows at the front of our house. The fresh air would blow through the house and into my bedroom as I lay in bed at night. It would gently brush over my face and lull me to sleep.


Then we arrived in New York and were greeted with a temperature of $-4^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$. My parents had rented a three-bedroom apartment in Midtown on the 12th floor. The surrounding streets were filled with the sounds of blaring sirens, honking cars and people shouting and laughing. The air felt heavy and grimy, filled with smells wafting from hot dog stands and pizza parlours. Steam seemed to rise from beneath the ground, like a hundred little chimneys. I had never seen or experienced anything like it.

I felt so out of place, like I had arrived on a totally different planet to the one I was used to. New York was like its own little world. I thought that the people were so different. Everyone was in a rush in New York-they spoke fast and they moved fast. I was so unsure of who I was in this new city.

I remember the first time I met my best friend Casey. She lives in the same apartment building as my family and I, except she is on the 14th floor. She approached me in the foyer of the building as I was leaving for my first day of school. Her hair was bright red and straight as an arrow, with a heavy fringe and half tied up like a volcano spewing lava on top of her head. I thought she was so cool, and couldn't believe she was walking up to me. The way she spoke was as straight as her hair. 'You aren't wearing that to school, are you?' I had my best UGG® boots on with leggings and a jumper so I didn't see what the problem was. Before I knew it, she was putting a pair of black shoes on me that she had whipped out of her backpack, and wrapped a stylish scarf around my neck. She still fixes my outfits to this day, although I am a more experienced New Yorker now. I no longer feel like an alien, and this once-strange world has become my own.

Visualising

## A New Life in New York - 2

3. To help readers visualise what is happening in the text, writers use descriptive words such as adjectives or adverbs.
(a) Copy text clues (words or phrases) from the text that help you visualise each object, character, setting or action.
(b) Draw what you visualise for each text clue.


Box 5 samples from the Activity Book.


Visualising

## A New Life in New York - 1

Visualising involves making mental images of events or descriptions in the text as we read. The words, phrases and sentences written by the author help us visualise. Visualising is like creating images on a blank movie screen.

1. What do you already know about New York that can help you make a picture in your head? Write some ideas.
$\qquad$
$\qquad$
$\qquad$
2. Draw a picture of the narrator looking out of the window in Busselton, compared to the view from the apartment building in New York. Base your illustration on any knowledge you already had about New York and the images you visualised when you read the recount.


View from Busselton house


View from New York apartment


## Nemesis

Agent Nemesis boarded the bustling train, quickly located a vacant compartment, slid the bronze door closed, then perched on the threadbare seat, feeling overwhelmed and apprehensive ... although she was well-trained, this was her first independent mission, and it involved meeting with the ultra-experienced, highly-regarded Agent Hephaestus. Nemesis's final training session as a recruit had been intense, learning unusual forms of martial arts, including aikido, and had concluded yesterday with a stern warning about the hazards of poisoned paper: if you even just skimmed it with your fingertips, your final view before slumping into
 oblivion would be your vibrant crimson skin ... this espionage game was terrifyingly ruthless!

Nemesis quivered and mentally revised the description of super-agent Hephaestus given by the agency-fairhaired, with a newspaper-wrapped bouquet of midnight black arum lilies. As she was pondering this, the door squealed open, revealing a blonde female carrying lilies, who murmured the predetermined cryptic statement ('Nekhbet was the goddess of vultures and oversaw the oldest oracle in Ancient Egypt') just as a second figure strode in: a slender man with a flaxen mohawk, also carrying an armful of lilies. Without delay, he too uttered the same secret sentence.

The pair glowered at each other as Nemesis's heart palpitated uncontrollably ... which one was the imposter? She battled to regain her composure and abruptly remembered something-a second phrase the master spy had given her to use during this mission if a situation like this occurred ... whichever agent responded instantaneously to it was likely to be Hephaestus. So Nemesis stammered that she felt dehydrated, and wondered if either of them had something to drink.

Without hesitation, the woman nimbly plunged her hand into her oversized leather knapsack and tossed a labelled plastic bottle containing a vivid liquid to Nemesis, who neatly caught it just as the male spectacularly leapt into impressive and decisive superspy action, frantically and energetically endeavouring to propel the bottle away with a forcible spin kick ... before he was expertly and adeptly restrained in a proficient taekwondo joint lock by the first agent.

The man shrieked, struggling ineffectually against his masterful opponent, screaming in agony and yelling that Nemesis was an absolute imbecile to have touched the bottle label. Nemesis was confounded, then realisation dawned ... with sickening fear and trepidation flooding her veins, she turned over her palms, which were horribly reminiscent of the colour of overripe cranberries.

## Determining Importance

Box 6 samples from the Activity Book.

## Nemesis - 2

5. Cross out the information below that is NOT the most important in the text. After each one, briefly explain the reason for your decision.
(a) Nemesis's hands were bright red at the end of the story.
(b) The male agent screamed in agony.
(c) Both agents who entered the compartment matched the description of Hephaestus.
(d) If you touched poison paper, your skin would turn a vibrant crimson colour.

(e) The bottle was made of plastic
(f) The secret sentence was about
6. What other unimportant but intere have included in the story? Write s
$\qquad$
$\qquad$
7. Were there other pieces of import seen in this story? Write some idea

$\qquad$
$\qquad$
$\qquad$
8. Write one or two sentences to tell important information about the ' $v$

$\qquad$
$\qquad$
$\qquad$

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## Determining Importance

## Nemesis - 1

1. Use a dictionary or other resources to find out and write a meaning for the word nemesis and a sentence about the goddess Nemesis.
$\qquad$
$\qquad$
2. What did you already know about the word nemesis or the name Nemesis? Write some ideas below.
$\qquad$
$\qquad$

3. Underline the sentence or sentence fragments from the story that give the most important information about what the text is about.
(a) ... although she was well-trained, this was her first independent mission, and it involved meeting with the ultra-experienced, highly-regarded Agent Hephaestus.
(b) ... slid the bronze door closed, then perched on the threadbare seat ...
(c) ... and had concluded yesterday with a stern warning about the hazards of poisoned paper: if you even just skimmed it with your fingertips, your final view before slumping into oblivion would be your vibrant crimson skin ... this espionage game was terrifyingly ruthless!
(d) The pair glowered at each other as Nemesis's heart palpitated uncontrollably ... which one was the imposter?
4. In the table below, write key information about the two agents Nemesis encountered. Describe their physical state as well as aspects of their character and behaviour. You can use words from the text along with your own.

| Agent 1 | Agent 2 |
| :--- | :--- |
|  |  |

[^1]| Strategy | Card Number | Title | Genre | Suggested Lexile Level | Word Count |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Predicting | Card 1A | The Carriage Clock | Poem | 1010L-1200L | 233 |
| Predicting | Card 1B | Time Traveller Party | Email | 1010L-1200L | 354 |
| Predicting | Card 2A | Go Back In Time ... Make Your Own Archimedes' Screw | Procedure | 1210L-1400 L | 393 |
| Predicting | Card 2B | Doctor Who-TV Time Lord | Information | 1210L-1400L | 367 |
| Predicting | Card 3A | Tick Tock-Medieval Movie Dazzles and Delights | Review | 1410L-1600L | 398 |
| Predicting | Card 3B | The Dark Rainbow | Horror | 1410L-1600 L | 453 |
| Predicting | Modelling Text | Urashima Taro, the Fisherman | Folk tale | 1210L-1400L | 431 |
| Predicting | Sharing Text | The Strange Tale of Rudolph Fentz | Explanation | 1210L-1400L | 422 |
| Predicting | Assessment | Charlie and the Time Machine | Science fiction | 1210L-1400L | 354 |
| Visualising | Card 1A | Titanic Survivor Account | Recount | 1010L-1200L | 462 |
| Visualising | Card 1B | The Ballad of Anne Bonny | Ballad | 1010L-1200L | 275 |
| Visualising | Card 2A | Delphine the Mermaid | Fantasy | 1210L-1400L | 386 |
| Visualising | Card 2B | Robert Ballard | Biography | 1210L-1400L | 407 |
| Visualising | Card 3A | Sea Reptiles of the Cretaceous | Information | 1410L-1600L | 300 |
| Visualising | Card 3B | The Kraken | Narrative | 1410L-1600L | 449 |



## THE <br> COMPREHENSION STRATEGIES

## BOX

The Comprehension strategies box is a set of six boxes suitable for learners aged 6-11+. Each box contains a set of full-colour, differentiated literacy cards designed to support the teaching and learning of nine different comprehension strategies. These well-researched and proven strategies - predicting, visualising, making connections, questioning, clarifying, summarising, determining importance, inferring and synthesising - are compiled to help educators unlock their learners' reading abilities.

## Which box is right for you?

To support you finding the most suitable level for your classroom, we have levelling charts for common grading systems, including suggested Lexile levels and suggested reading ages.

| Box | Lexile <br> levels | Approximate <br> reading ages* |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1 | 10L-600L | $5.0-6.4$ |
| 2 | $210 \mathrm{~L}-800 \mathrm{~L}$ | $6.4-8.0$ |
| 3 | $410 \mathrm{~L}-100 \mathrm{~L}$ | $8.0-9.4$ |
| 4 | $610 \mathrm{~L}-1200 \mathrm{~L}$ | $9.4-11.0$ |
| 5 | $810 \mathrm{~L}-1400 \mathrm{~L}$ | $11.0-12.4$ |
| 6 | 1010L-1600L | $12.4-14.0$ |
|  |  | *median ages listed |

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