

ENGLISH · Y6 / GRADE 6

Y6 SATs Reading

How to use the text, not just read it

About the Reading paper

The 'go back to the text' rule

The four question types

Type	Example	Strategy
Retrieval (1-2 marks each)	'Find and copy a word that means brave.'	Scan the relevant paragraph; copy EXACTLY

Type	Example	Strategy
Inference (2-3 marks each)	'Why was the character feeling nervous?'	Find evidence; quote OR paraphrase + explain
Vocabulary (1 mark each)	'What does the word "sombre" mean here?'	Re-read the sentence; pick from context
Structure / language (2-3 marks each)	'How does the author build tension?'	Quote a phrase; explain the effect

Retrieval questions — the trap

Inference questions — the format

Vocabulary questions — context wins



Structure & language questions — the trap

Pacing — 60 minutes for 3 texts

Time per text — recommended

Text	Difficulty	Recommended time	Notes
Text 1	Easiest, shortest	15 minutes	Don't rush — get every mark
Text 2	Medium	20 minutes	Most marks live here
Text 3	Hardest	22 minutes	Inference-heavy — quote evidence
Review buffer	—	3 minutes	Re-check tricky answers

Reading paper strategy

- Skim-read each text BEFORE answering questions
- GO BACK to the text for every question (except instant-recall ones)



- Underline question-type words ('one word', 'a phrase', 'two reasons')
- For inference, give evidence AND explanation
- Don't answer from memory if you can re-check the text
- Keep one finger on the text and one on the question paper
- For 'find and copy', copy EXACTLY — even capitalisation
- If a question is worth 3 marks, give 3 distinct points
- Don't spend 5 minutes on a 1-mark question

