

Comprehension Mega-Skills Session Guide

Session Plan: (One 45-minute session per extract)

Objective

- To explore and use the full range of Reading Mega-Skills (comprehension strategies) available to help us understand what we are reading
- To actively participate in a discussion about the extract

Resources

IWB or computers/Reading Journals (Exercise books)/ Pens or pencils/copy of the book if possible







Session Overview:

- Gather together 5 minutes
 Introduce the session and the story/extract
 Reflect on previous story/extract
 Discuss the reading mega-skills
- On line activity around 20 minutes
 Select the extract for this session
 Using 'The Master' for guidance work through the reading Mega-Skill activities
- Thinking Together Time around 20 minutes
 Discuss extract as a group reviewing the Mega-Skills and how they have been applied to bring understanding to the piece



Gather together – 5 minutes

Take a few minutes to explain to pupils the purpose of the sessions and introduce them to the extract they will be reading today. (If relevant connect to the previous extract).

- Have any of the pupils read the book? If so what can they remember about the book? How much did they enjoy it?
- If pupils are not familiar with it what do they think the book might be about? If you have the book available make predictions from the cover and blurb
- Explain to pupils that they will be working through a series of 4 reading Mega-Skills, which are comprehension strategies in the form of online activities, to help them develop their reading

- comprehension as they explore the story
- Let them know they will have time to discuss, as a group, what they have understood from the extract after the online activity

Online Activity – around 20 minutes

- Login, select a story and today's extract. Click on 'The Master' character icon then read/listen to the passage. Click on one of the Mega-Skill icons to get started suggested order: Think Aloud, Question, Word Check, Summarise
- At any time you can click on 'The Master' for guidance about what to do or to remind you what a skill is about. In initial sessions click on 'The Master' or encourage pupils to do so, as he explains and models the skills. As the pupils become familiar with the skills and their purpose it will become less necessary to do this, but the support is always available. There is also an additional audio feature you can click on the blue microphone icon to hear the extract read out loud
- Encourage learners to record any ideas, questions or thoughts they would like to discuss later, in their reading journals

Independent work – sometime learners are set up to access the online sessions independently

- If working independently learners should complete as many of the Mega-Skills as possible within
 the session time-frame. With time, as they get to know the different strategies and understand
 their purpose, they should be able to complete each activity confidently, without the support of
 the 'The Master' (more independently) and increase their speed
- If learners manage to complete all the skills in the time given, early finishers can use their reading journals to make notes, mind maps, raise more questions, think about vocabulary they have identified in the Tricky Words mini-skill until the allocated session time ends

Thinking Together Time - around 20 minutes Discussion Focus:

The aim of the discussion time is to facilitate conversations between the learners about what they've understood, giving them the opportunity to draw on their own experiences and express their own thoughts – reading for pleasure is everything!

- Learners should explore and develop their ideas about the story/what happened/why did it happen/what might happen next/which characters do they like/not like/why. Avoid giving ideas and answers, encourage learners to express their own ideas and develop these ideas with the group. Encourage all learners to contribute.
- Learners can share the discussion questions they have noted down in their journals during the online session
- What do your learners think might happen next in the story?
- Which are their favourite Mega-Skills and why? How many of the Mega-Skills did they manage to complete? Were some easier than others? Opportunity to discuss the comprehension strategies used