Progression of Literal Understanding and Retrieval



Skill	Reception	Year 1	Year 2
Literal Understanding and Retrieval	Children recall key facts from a story which has been read to them. They use visual literacy to: find information from a picture; point to information on the page in order to locate the answer which can be found easily in the text e.g. what was Red Riding Hood taking to her grandmother? What was Humpty Dumpty sitting on? Can you find out what Winnie the Pooh likes to eat best? Show me how you know. They can: recognise and read their name; recognise, point to, or find and read aloud words and phrases they have learned.	In addition to using visual literacy, children learn to: use their growing phonic knowledge and vocabulary knowledge to recognise words and phrases which locate information found explicitly in the text; They are learning to: talk about the title and how it relates to the events in the text; explain key facts about what is read to them from a variety of texts, including poems, non-fiction and stories e.g. key characters, places and events; retrieve answers to simple literal who, what, where, when, which, who and how questions.	Children begin to scan for keywords in the text order to locate answers; begin to analyse the wording of a question in order to choose what to look for e.g. What did the princess do first when she arrived at the castle? Key words: first, princess, castle; sometimes can find answers where the question word does not match the text word; They learn to: navigate different paragraphs of information texts, locating the most suitable paragraph e.g. by reading subheadings or using other visual information, in order to retrieve solutions; recognise simple recurring literary language; locate and discuss favourite words and phrases; read (and recite) a repertoire of poems including classical poetry; draw on vocabulary-knowledge to understand texts and solve problems; check the text makes sense as they read.

Skill	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6 >
Literal Understanding and Retrieval	Children are becoming more familiar with retrieving facts and information where question words and text language vary (i.e. where the literal answer is somewhat 'hidden' in the vocabulary used); they scan for alternative synonyms or phrases. They can: check the accuracy of what they are retrieving by reading around the words or phrases they find; locate and discuss words and phrases they find interesting; ask questions which improve their own understanding.	Children develop their reading retrieval skills, working across a wider range of text types with growing familiarity; they work with texts of increasing length, to retrieve information across the whole text as well as at a local level; Children can skim a whole text first to select which paragraph or section of text an answer may be located in; they then scan the paragraph or section to retrieve the information they need, using the text to support their answer where necessary.	Children can: discuss their understanding and explore the meaning of words in context; ask questions which develop their understanding; retrieve key details and begin to find quotations from a whole text; They are learning to locate the author or poet's viewpoint, either where it is explicitly stated, or when it can be retrieved through using similar words and phrases; understand some challenging vocabulary and its meaning within context, sometimes supported by using a dictionary or thesaurus.	During text-discussion, children can maintain focus on the subject, using notes when necessary; independently locate information and provide reasoned justifications for their views; routinely find accurate quotations from a whole text; retrieve and summarise details to support opinions and predictions; using skimming, scanning and text-marking to support answers to questions which require analysis e.g. of mood /setting /characters and to support their own viewpoint.