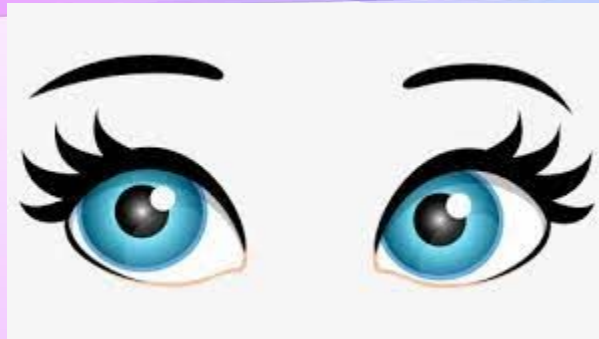# Scanning

While you are reading the extract the first time, try to remember where different pieces of information are. If you know roughly where to look, it will save you time in the test.

Retrieval

With retrieval questions, the answer is always in the text and you just need to find it.

Retrieval Questions with Rex

- Who are the characters in this text?
- When / where is this story set? How do you know?
- Which part of the story best describes the setting?
- What do you think is happening here?
- What might this mean?

Find and copy

I am a type of retrieval question.
Top tip: when you have found the word or phrase, you should underline or circle it so you can copy it carefully.

Summarise

Can you tell me what you have read? Summarise the main ideas, plot and themes. Can you use quotes from the text to support your ideas?

Summarising Questions with Sheba

- What is the main point in this paragraph?

- Sum up what has happened so far in X words or less.

- Which is the most important point in these paragraphs?

- Do any sections/paragraphs deal with the same themes?

Vocabulary & Language

You need to understand a wide range of vocabulary. You will sometimes be asked to look for a synonym, to choose a word that has a similar meaning or explain the effect of a particular word.

Vocabulary Questions with Victor

- What does this word/phrase/sentence tell you about the character/setting/mood?
- By writing in this way, what effect has the author created?
- What other words/phrases could the author have used here?
- How has the author made you feel by writing...?

Inference

Can you infer thoughts, feelings and motives? Use clues from the text to help you. What evidence do you have to support your thinking?

Inference Questions with Iggy

- What do you think.... means? Why do you think that?

- Why do you think...?

- How do you think....?

- Can you explain why....?

- What do these words mean and why do you think that the author chose them?

Prediction

Can you predict what will happen next, how the plot will develop or how a character will react? Use evidence from the text to make sure your prediction is plausible.

Prediction Questions with Pip

- Can you think of another story with a similar theme?

- Which stories have openings like this? Do you think that this story will develop the same way?

- Why did the author choose this setting? Will that influence the story?

Comparisons

Can you make links within and beyond the text?
Has an idea or theme been repeated?
Have you read or experienced something similar?

Compare, Contrast and Comment with Cassie

- What is similar/different about two characters?

- Explain why... did that.

- Describe different characters' reactions to the same event.

- Is this as good as...?

- Which... is better and why?

Structure & Author's Intent

Sometimes you need to think like an author. Why would the author use a particular word or sentence structure? What effect was the author hoping for?

Be an Author with Arlo
- What does the word... tell you about...?
- Find two ways that the author tells you...
  - What do you think the author meant by...?

- Which words do you think are most important? Why?
- Which words do you like the most? Why?
  - How has the author made you feel happy/sad/angry/frustrated?