

# Introduction

The Reading Comprehension Card Set is a collection of 60 progressively difficult stories. The set includes non-fiction and fiction stories to engage students with varied interests and learning styles and expose them to different genres. The non-fiction stories are based on content areas of maths, science, and social studies for year five students. The stories include five multiple-choice questions for students to answer after reading the stories orally or silently.

The set is designed to provide supplemental activities to a reading programme and can be used in a language learning station, whole-class activity, or independent work. Cards are sequentially numbered to encourage independent practice and self-pacing.

The cards are levelled in progression of reading ability to allow teachers to challenge students at individual reading levels. The table of contents indicates the AL (Attainment Level) and TYG (Targeted Year Group) of each card. Teachers are encouraged to evaluate the cards and adjust the levels according to their own observations.

Each card includes a short story and photograph to aid reading comprehension. Use the story cards individually or photocopy them for small-group or whole-class reading activities.

Five multiple-choice comprehension questions are listed on the reverse side of each story card. The questions focus on subjects including: main idea, cause and effect, sequencing, predicting outcomes, making inferences, context clues, and drawing conclusions.

Use the student answer-sheet template card to track answers and scores. Make enough copies of the answer sheet for students to work independently. The answer sheet includes an area for students to create their own 5W questions (who, what, when, where, and why) to extend comprehension skills. These questions will vary and should be marked subjectively. Use a wet-erase marker with the story cards for individual quick-response answers.

Note: For multiple uses of each card, always use a wet-erase marker. To ensure that your marker doesn't leave a permanent mark, test it on the corner of a card. Use a damp cloth to remove marks. Cards will warp if saturated with water.

Use the answer key for a quick reference when marking. Record and track students' progress on each story using the record sheets. Make copies of this sheet to use with multiple classes. Do not store the answer key and record sheets in the box of cards that students can easily access. The recorded data is a great discussion tool during parent-teacher meetings.

Table of Contents		Fiction	Content Area	TYG	AL
Card	Title	Non-Fiction			
1	The Thunderbolt	Fiction		5	3
2	Predator Protection	Non-Fiction	Science	5	3
3	Off the Grid	Fiction		5	3
4	Counting Countless Crayons	Non-Fiction	Maths	5	3
5	At the Beach	Fiction		5	3
6	Rivers	Non-Fiction	Soc. St.	5	3
7	Out at Sea	Fiction		5	3
8	Anchors	Non-Fiction	Science	5	3
9	Careful	Fiction		5	3
10	Next	Non-Fiction	Maths	5	3
11	Innovation	Fiction		5	3
12	Louis Braille	Non-Fiction	Soc. St.	5	3
13	Show and Tell	Fiction		5	3
14	What type of animal are you?	Non-Fiction	Science	5	3
15	On the Bus	Fiction		5	3
16	Raffle Tickets	Non-Fiction	Maths	5	3
17	After School in Sherwood Forest	Fiction		5	3
18	The Bicycle	Non-Fiction	Soc. St.	5	3
19	A Long Walk	Fiction		5	3
20	Big Eyes, Long Tail, Sharp Claws and Teeth	Non-Fiction	Science	5	3
21	Feeding the Ducks	Fiction		5	3
22	Playgrounds and Perimeters	Non-Fiction	Maths	5	3
23	False Alarm	Fiction		5	3
24	A Globe of the World	Non-Fiction	Soc. St.	5	3
25	Special Sandwiches	Fiction		5	3
26	Amphibians	Non-Fiction	Science	5	3
27	Literary Luncheons	Fiction		5	3
28	Beat your time!	Non-Fiction	Maths	5	3
29	The Tree	Fiction		5	3
30	Forever Flying	Non-Fiction	Soc. St.	5	3

Table of Contents		Fiction	Content Area	TYG	AL
Card	Title	Non-Fiction			
31	The Baseball Coach	Fiction		5	3
32	How do you think?	Non-Fiction	Science	5	3
33	The Good Life	Fiction		5	3
34	Race to the Finish	Non-Fiction	Maths	5	3
35	Feeling Sick	Fiction		5	3
36	Technology Through the Ages	Non-Fiction	Soc. St.	5	3
37	The Lemonade Stand	Fiction		5	3
38	Eclipses	Non-Fiction	Science	5	3
39	Books and Friends	Fiction		5	3
40	Rachels Strawberry Party	Non-Fiction	Maths	5	3
41	The Life Jacket	Fiction		5	4
42	Ponce De Leon	Non-Fiction	Soc. St.	5	4
43	The Stable Hand	Fiction		5	4
44	Weathering the Wind and Water	Non-Fiction	Science	5	4
45	Marmot Madness	Fiction		5	4
46	Boys vs. Girls	Non-Fiction	Maths	5	4
47	The Pilot	Fiction		5	4
48	Keep Up on Current Events	Non-Fiction	Soc. St.	5	4
49	The Call of the Open Road	Fiction		5	4
50	Save the Planet	Non-Fiction	Science	5	4
51	My Father, the Wag	Fiction		5	4
52	The Serious Joker	Non-Fiction	Maths	5	4
53	Memories	Fiction		5	4
54	Imports and Exports	Non-Fiction	Soc. St.	5	4
55	The Game	Fiction		5	4
56	A Delicate Balance	Non-Fiction	Science	5	4
57	The Blizzard	Fiction		5	4
58	Summer Trips	Non-Fiction	Maths	5	4
59	My Quiet Town	Fiction		5	4
60	Major Mountain Ranges	Non-Fiction	Soc. St.	5	4

# The Thunderbolt

1A

**T**he Thunderbolt is the stuff of **legend** in my family, but I was never tall enough to ride it. You had to be as tall as the cardboard red deer, and I was only rabbit-height. As the years went by, I grew to badger-height, then as tall as the brown bear, but still the red deer towered over me. My mother was tall enough; my father was tall enough; my brother grew tall enough. He laughed at me, and said that he knew the Thunderbolt's secret.

I was still only brown bear tall when we moved away. The **silhouette** of the Thunderbolt against the sky was the last thing I saw out of the back window. It wasn't fair that I hadn't learned its secret! But though life isn't fair, it is filled with roller coasters, and I got to ride my share of great ones. One day I found myself back in my old hometown. There was the old Thunderbolt, looking its age. Its highest hills were

nothing special—or so I thought.

The Thunderbolt still had its secret. From the fence you couldn't see that long **descent** that thundered into a canyon. What a surprise! The Thunderbolt was old, but it was great—great because of the secret only those of us tall enough to ride the Thunderbolt know.



# The Thunderbolt

## Comprehension Questions

1B

1. What was the secret of the Thunderbolt?
  - a. The ride was more exciting than it looked.
  - b. The ride was only for tall people.
  - c. The ride was a Big Wheel.
2. How did the narrator feel at the end of the story?
  - a. disappointed that the ride was so old and small
  - b. excited that the ride was better than expected
  - c. happy finally to be tall enough to ride
3. The word **descent** means
  - a. going from bad to worse.
  - b. kindly, well-behaved.
  - c. the act of moving from top to bottom.
4. What are the cardboard animal heights from shortest to tallest?
  - a. brown bear, red deer, badger, rabbit
  - b. rabbit, badger, brown bear, red deer
  - c. badger, rabbit, brown bear, red deer
5. How tall did riders need to be to ride the Thunderbolt?
  - a. as tall as a brown bear
  - b. five feet tall
  - c. as tall as the sign said