

Chapter 2

Literal questioning

Introduction

Literal information is found on the page and tells the reader 'who', 'what' and 'where' information (and sometimes 'when' information). The meaning is obvious to the reader and does not require interpretation.

Literal questioning is the simplest and most direct of the three question types to answer. Literal questions ask the reader to link the key words in the questions with the same words in the text to answer the questions. Once children understand this, they are able to formulate and answer their own literal questions with ease.

Poster notes

PC Page always right there! (page 27)

Once children are familiar with summarising and retelling, they are ready to learn how to ask and answer literal questions from pictures and text. The poster offers an analogy and guide for the children to follow that helps them to grasp the concept of literal information and helps them to identify and apply literal thinking. Explain to them that PC Page's job is to patrol the images and sentences in a book and write down everything she sees. She notes down what happens 'right there' in front of her – what is happening, where it is happening and who is involved.

The poster serves as a useful classroom prompt throughout Chapter 2.

In this chapter

	About the section	About the comprehension activity
'Who' questions page 28	Children ask and answer literal questions that focus on who the characters are.	Children ask and answer 'who' questions from <i>Alvie Eats Soup</i> by Ross Collins.
'What' questions page 32	Children answer literal questions about what characters are doing.	Children ask and answer 'what' questions from <i>Fairytale News</i> by Colin and Jacqui Hawkins.
'Where' questions page 36	Children focus on where the characters are using text and pictures.	Children use a map from <i>Fairytale News</i> provides the setting for a 'where' comprehension.
'Who', 'what' and 'where' questions page 40	Children consolidate 'who', 'what' and 'where' by looking at them all together.	Children use a picnic photograph to locate a combination of 'who', 'what' and 'where' information.