

Understanding Language // Year 5-6



Question Types and Inference

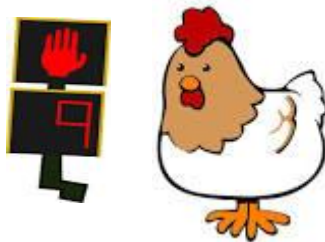
When a child is reading a text or reading book, use the *questioning pyramid* or *inference bookmark* to prompt yourself to make sure you are asking a range of different questions. Questions about 'the here and now' (at the bottom of the pyramid) will be easier for children to answer, but at this age make sure you include questions at the top of the pyramid, for example:

- *When* do you think the story is set?
- *Why* did the characters act the way they did?
- *How* are the characters feeling?

Idioms

Use the picture cards supplied. First put them face up on the table, and see how many of them the child has heard before. To help the child reflect, you can use the idiom in context, e.g. 'The teacher asks the class whether they are finding the work difficult, one child says 'It's a piece of cake!'. What does the child mean?

Play a pairs game matching the idioms to their meanings.



Jokes

Look at a joke book (or at the many jokes websites online) and have fun telling each other jokes. See if the child laughs at the correct meaning! If it doesn't ruin the joke, explain why it's funny. E.g. 'What's black and white and red/read all over' – what could 'red' mean – colour and past tense of 'read'.