

**CRACKING  
COMPREHENSION**

# **Cracking Comprehension**

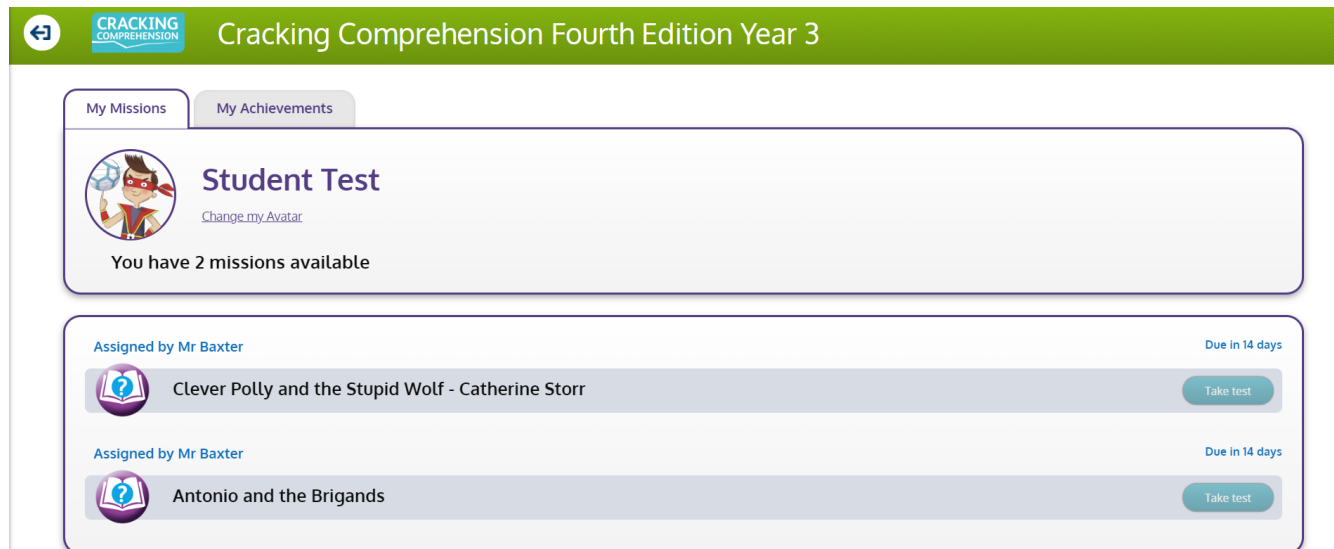
**Fourth edition**

**Parent and Pupil Guide**

# What is *Cracking Comprehension*?

***Cracking Comprehension* is an easy-to-use and effective resource to help children practise and improve their reading comprehension skills across a range of text types and genres. Teachers can assign quizzes for children to practise key skills at school or as homework.**

***Cracking Comprehension* features a huge range of text extracts covering fiction, non-fiction, poetry and playscripts, including texts from some of the most popular children's authors. The questions linked to each extract cover essential comprehension skills that are part of the National Curriculum for English.**



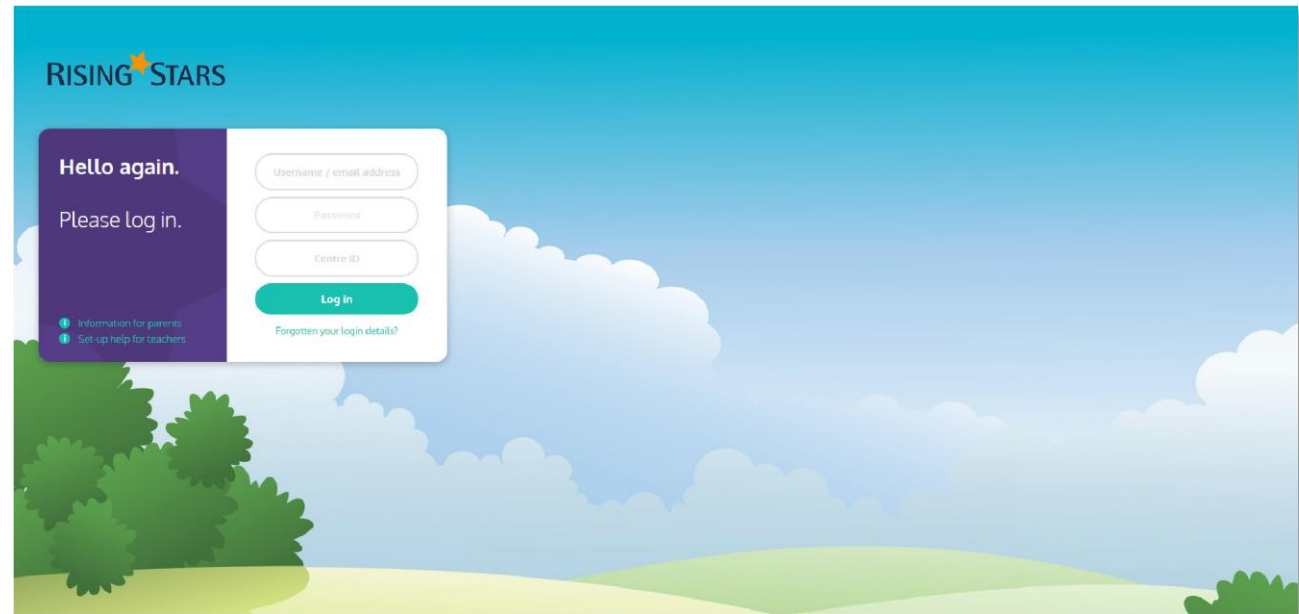
The screenshot displays the user interface for 'Cracking Comprehension Fourth Edition Year 3'. At the top, there is a green navigation bar with a back arrow, the 'CRACKING COMPREHENSION' logo, and the title 'Cracking Comprehension Fourth Edition Year 3'. Below this, there are two tabs: 'My Missions' (active) and 'My Achievements'. The main content area shows a student profile with an avatar of a boy with a red mask and a blue book, the title 'Student Test', and a link to 'Change my Avatar'. Below the profile, it states 'You have 2 missions available'. There are two mission cards listed below. The first card is titled 'Clever Polly and the Stupid Wolf - Catherine Storr', assigned by 'Mr Baxter', and is due in 14 days. It has a 'Take test' button. The second card is titled 'Antonio and the Brigands', also assigned by 'Mr Baxter' and due in 14 days, with a 'Take test' button.

# Get started with *Cracking Comprehension*

***Cracking Comprehension* can be accessed from any computer, tablet or phone connected to the internet. Your child's school can give you direct access to *Cracking Comprehension* by providing you with a unique URL link.**

**Alternatively, pupils can log in via: [my.risingstars-uk.com](https://my.risingstars-uk.com) and enter the school's unique centre ID and their own login details, provided by your school.**

**If you have any problems with the login process, please contact your child's school.**



# How to use *Cracking Comprehension*

## 1. Completing the quizzes

Each text in *Cracking Comprehension* has 10 questions, designed to test knowledge and understanding of different elements of the National Curriculum.

- The text on the left of the split-screen can be expanded to fill the screen, so it can be read in full before completing the questions.
- The arrow buttons at the bottom of the screen can be used to navigate between questions. If a question has not been answered, the question number will show in red. Once a question is completed, it will turn green.

The quiz cannot be marked until all questions have been answered.

- After completing question 10, click on the tick icon to see the results and review the answers. Don't close the quiz window before submitting, or your answers will not be registered in My Achievements.
- Quizzes in years 1 and 2 have audio to accompany the text.

The screenshot shows the 'The Gunpowder Plot' quiz interface. On the left, there is a text box with the following content:

**The Gunpowder Plot**

Four hundred years ago, Catholics and Protestants living in England did not get on. King James I was on the throne. He was a Protestant. He did not let Catholics practise their religion.

In 1605 one Catholic, Robert Catesby, got a group of friends together. They wanted to kill the king. They plotted to blow up the Houses of Parliament.

One of the plotters, Guy Fawkes, sneaked into the cellars under the Houses of Parliament. His job was to set light to some gunpowder and blow up the building. Before he could do this, the king's guards captured him.

The next day, news spread that the king had survived a plot to kill him. Londoners lit bonfires to celebrate.

Today, we still celebrate the fact that the Gunpowder Plot failed. Every year on November the 5th we let off fireworks, build bonfires and set light to models of Guy Fawkes.

At the bottom of the text box is an audio player with a progress bar at 0:00 / 1:16 and a download icon.

On the right, there is a question: "What do we do today to celebrate the fact that the Gunpowder Plot failed?" with four multiple-choice options:

- 1)  We have parties.
- 2)  We sing songs.
- 3)  We let off fireworks.
- 4)  We eats lots of food.

At the bottom of the screen, there is a navigation bar showing "Question : 9 of 10" and a row of question numbers 2 through 10. Question 9 is highlighted in green, and question 10 is highlighted in red. There are also navigation arrows and a tick icon on the right.



## 2. Question types

*Cracking Comprehension* includes a range of question types. Many are multiple choice, which are answered by selecting one or more options. Make sure you select the right number of options or you won't be able to submit your answers at the end of the quiz.

Other question types include:

- **Table ticks:** These questions ask you to categorize information in different columns e.g. true or false. Simply select the correct options in the table.
- **Line connector:** If you're asked to link different boxes, e.g. matching words to their meanings, click on one box in the left hand column followed by the other in the right-hand column to make the link. You have to click on all the boxes to complete the question.

**Looking After Your New Cat**

Read the sentences below and choose whether they are 'True' or 'False' based on the text.

	True	False
You should spend time playing with your cat.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
You should feed your cat three times a day.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
You don't need to give your cat a bed.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
You should brush your cat.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

**Text content:**  
Settling in: Keep your cat indoors for two weeks. She needs to get used to her new home before she goes outside. Your cat also needs to get used to you. Spend time every day picking her up, stroking her and playing with her.  
Sleeping: You can give your cat her own bed, but she may not use it. Most cats like to choose where they sleep!  
Feeding: Feed your cat twice a day. Make sure your cat always has fresh water to drink. As a treat, you could give her a saucer of special lactose-free cat milk.  
Brushing: Brush your cat once a week. This will keep her fur shiny and free of tangles. If your cat

**Dolphin Boy**  
Michael Morpurgo

Number these events 1 to 4 to show the order in

Jim ran up the hill to the school.	4
Jim saw a dolphin.	2
Jim was walking along the beach.	1
Jim knelt down beside the dolphin.	3

**Text content:**  
He was walking along the beach one morning when he saw something lying in the sand amongst the seaweed. It looked like a big log at first, but it wasn't.  
It was moving.  
It had a tail and a head.  
It was a dolphin!  
Jim knelt in the sand beside him. The boy and the dolphin looked into each other's eyes. Jim knew then exactly what he had to do.  
"Don't worry," he said. "I'll fetch help. I'll be back soon, I promise."  
He ran all the way up the hill to the school as fast as he could go. Everyone was in the playground.

- **Sorting:** If you are asked to sort information into different categories, e.g. ordering events, click on the answer option followed by the category. Each category is a different colour to make it easy to see how you have categorised your answers. Click on all the answers to complete the question.

- **Highlight word:** Double-click or click and drag to highlight the correct answer. On an iPad or tablet, hold your finger down to highlight a single word and hold and drag to highlight multiple words. Take care to only select what the question has asked for, e.g. do not select extra words.

- **Open text:** Some questions ask for a typed-in word, phrase or longer answer. Take care to spell the answer correctly, especially when finding and copying words from the text. Questions asking for longer written answers will be marked by a teacher.

**Edith Cavell**

Edith Cavell was a British nurse. In 1907, she went to Belgium to run a school for nurses.

In July 1914, the First World War broke out. The British, French and Russians were on one side in the war. They called themselves the allied forces. The Germans were on the other side.

In November 1914, the Germans invaded Belgium. Edith began hiding allied soldiers and helping them to escape. She knew she was putting herself in danger by doing this.

The German army arrested Edith Cavell in August 1915. By then, she had helped almost 200 soldiers to escape.

The Germans put Edith Cavell on trial and...

Look at the sentences from the text below and decide which ones show Edith Cavell was brave.

shows bravery    shows something else

Edith Cavell was a British nurse.

She knew she was putting herself in danger by doing this.

After the war, her body was returned to Britain and...

**Looking After Your New Cat**

**Settling in**  
Keep your cat indoors for two weeks. She needs to get used to her new home before she goes outside. Your cat also needs to get used to you. Spend time every day picking her up, stroking her and playing with her.

**Sleeping**  
You can give your cat her own bed, but she...

Look at the section headed **Feeding**. Double click the word that tells you milk is special for your cat.

"As a **treat**, you could give her a saucer of special lactose-free cat milk."

**Dolphin Boy**  
Michael Morpurgo

He was walking along the beach one morning when he saw something lying in the sand amongst the seaweed. It looked like a big log at first, but it wasn't.

It was moving.

It had a tail and a head.

It was a dolphin!

What is the name of the boy in the story?

## 3. Keeping track of your missions

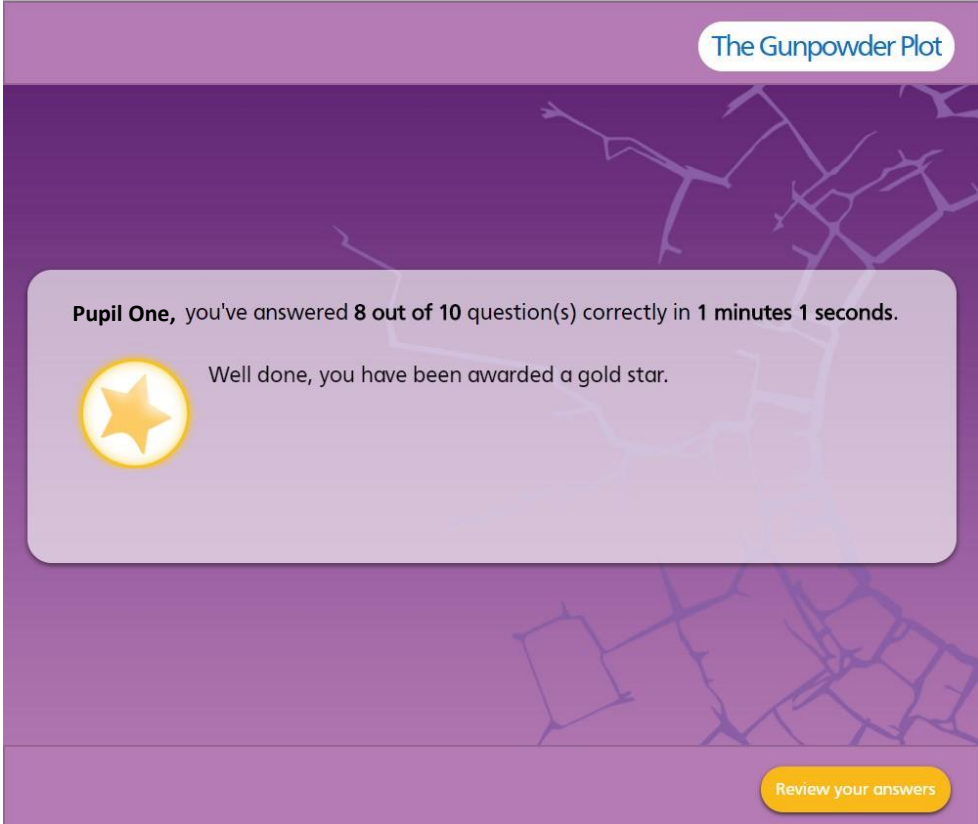
Teachers will assign quizzes to their pupils. Assigned quizzes will appear on the 'My Missions' screen (accessible from the 'My Achievements' button at top right of the screen) when you login to *Cracking Comprehension*. Note that if pupils have access to more than one year group, you must be in the right year group to find a quiz in 'My Missions'. Teachers will give a date for the quizzes to be completed by.

The screenshot shows the 'My Missions' screen of the 'Cracking Comprehension Fourth Edition Year 3' app. At the top, there is a green header with a back arrow, the 'CRACKING COMPREHENSION' logo, and the text 'Cracking Comprehension Fourth Edition Year 3'. Below the header, there are two tabs: 'My Missions' (which is active) and 'My Achievements'. The main content area features a user profile section with a cartoon superhero avatar, the text 'Student Test', a 'Change my Avatar' link, and the message 'You have 2 missions available'. Below this, there are two mission cards. Each card is assigned by 'Mr Baxter' and is due in 14 days. The first mission is 'Clever Polly and the Stupid Wolf - Catherine Storr' with a 'Take test' button. The second mission is 'Antonio and the Brigands' with a 'Take test' button.

## 4. Results and rewards

For each quiz they complete, pupils will receive bronze, silver or gold stars, based on the proportion of correct answers they scored. Note that some questions are worth more than one mark. At the end of the test, pupils can review their answers.

Some questions in Key Stage Two require open responses and will be marked by teachers – this is indicated in the question rubric. The result at the end of the quiz will show a teacher icon instead of a star, and the total mark will be those awarded so far. Once these questions have been marked, children can review their full mark and any teacher feedback by clicking on the corresponding quiz in ‘My Achievements’.



The screenshot shows a quiz results interface for 'The Gunpowder Plot'. At the top right, the title 'The Gunpowder Plot' is displayed in a light blue rounded rectangle. The main content area is a light purple rounded rectangle containing the text: 'Pupil One, you've answered 8 out of 10 question(s) correctly in 1 minutes 1 seconds.' Below this text is a gold star icon and the message: 'Well done, you have been awarded a gold star.' At the bottom right of the screen, there is a yellow button with the text 'Review your answers'.



## 5. Keeping track of achievements

Pupils can review their quizzes by clicking on 'My Achievements' at the top right of the screen. Pupils can personalise the 'My Achievements' page by choosing their own avatar.

You will be able to see every quiz that has been attempted (sorted by topic) and those still left to do.

Teachers can see how their pupils are doing individually and as a class through the teacher reporting dashboard.

The screenshot shows the 'My Achievements' page for a user named 'Student Test'. At the top, there is a green navigation bar with a back arrow, the 'CRACKING COMPREHENSION' logo, and the text 'Cracking Comprehension Fourth Edition Year 3'. Below the navigation bar, there are two tabs: 'My Missions' and 'My Achievements', with 'My Achievements' being the active tab. The main content area features a circular avatar of a superhero character, the name 'Student Test', and a link to 'Change my Avatar'. Below this, it says 'I've not taken any quizzes yet.' To the right of the avatar, there are three achievement icons: a bronze star with '0', a silver star with '0', and a gold star with '0'. Below the icons, the words 'BRONZE', 'SILVER', and 'GOLD' are written. At the bottom, there is a table with two columns: 'Topics' and 'My Achievements'. The 'My Achievements' column has a sub-header 'Click the stars to open your achievement'. The table has two rows: 'Fiction' and 'Non-Fiction'. The 'Fiction' row shows 14 empty star icons, with the first two rows of stars. The 'Non-Fiction' row shows 14 empty star icons in a single row.

Topics	My Achievements
Fiction	Click the stars to open your achievement ☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆ ☆☆
Non-Fiction	☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆

# CRACKING COMPREHENSION

## Cracking Comprehension Pupil Quizzes contents

Year 1	
Fiction	Frog and Toad by Arnold Lobel
	The Whale and the Fish based on Rudyard Kipling
	The Mice Have a Meeting based on Aesop's fable
	Chicken Licken based on a traditional folk tale
	Owl Babies by Martin Waddell
	Hansel and Gretel based on the fairy tale by Brothers Grimm
	Anansi and the Box of Stories based on a traditional story
	The Enormous Turnip by Aleksei Tolstoy
	The Tiger Who Came to Tea by Aleksei Tolstoy
	Amazing Grace by Mary Hoffman
	Cockatoos by Quentin Blake
	Dragon in the Cupboard by Karen Dolby
	Grandpa's Car by Ione Branton
	The Storm Outside by Ione Branton
On the Way Home by Jill Murphy	

Year 1	
Non-fiction	Your Senses
	How to Play Bouncing Jacks
	The Seasons
	The Moon
	Dealing with Rubbish
	Science Safety
	Childhood in the Past
	William Caxton
	The UK
	Pink Fudge
	The Tomato
	Giraffe Fact File
	Poetry
Bed in Summer by Robert Louis Stevenson	
Mad About Minibeasts by Giles Andreae	
Autumn Fires by Robert Louis Stevenson	
The Shark in the Dark by Peter Bentley	
Queue for the Zoo by Clare Bevan	
Fruit by Ione Branton	
The Bus by Ione Branton	
Staying In	

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## Cracking Comprehension Pupil Quizzes contents

Year 2	
Fiction	Dolphin Boy by Michael Morpurgo
	I Am Too Absolutely Small for School by Lauren Child
	The Poplar Tree by Flora Cooke
	Ali Baba and the Robbers <i>based on a traditional tale</i>
	Eddie's Kitchen by Sarah Garland
	Brother Rabbit by Joel Chandler Harris
	The Emperor's New Clothes by Hans Christian Anderson
	The Killer Cat's Christmas by Anne Fine
	The Tale of Peter Rabbit by Beatrix Potter
	A Real Princess by Hans Christian Anderson
	All the Way to Toytown by Enid Blyton
	Alice in Wonderland by Lewis Carroll
	The Bundle of Sticks <i>based on Aesop's fable</i>
	Mr Wobble the Waitress by Allan Ahlberg
	The Day the Crayons Quit by Drew Daywalt

Year 2	
Non-fiction	Looking After Your New Cat
	Eating Well
	Make a Drum
	Choosing Materials
	Climate
	The Gunpowder Plot
	The First Aeroplane
	Edith Cavell
	The Continents
	Dial 999
	Being Colour Blind
	Animal Migration
	Poetry
Sam Said by Gaby Morgan	
Us Two by A. A. Milne	
The New Year by Anonymous	
I Know an Old Lady Who Swallowed a Fly <i>a traditional song</i>	
Windy Nights by Robert Louis Stevenson	
My Best Ice Cream by Terry Jones	
The Tree and the Pool by Brian Patten	
A Good Play by Robert Louis Stevenson	

## Cracking Comprehension Pupil Quizzes contents

Year 3	
Fiction	Clever Polly and the Stupid Wolf by Catherine Storr
	The Velveteen Rabbit by Margery Williams
	Flat Stanley* by Jeff Brown
	Picasso Perkins* by Adèle Geras
	Strong Magic* by Heather Amery
	The Wonderful Wizard of Oz by Frank L. Baum
	The Wind in the Willows by Kenneth Grahame
	The Story of the Amulet by E. Nesbit
	Tweedledum and Tweedledee by Lewis Carroll
	The Selfish Giant by Oscar Wilde
	The Secret Garden by Frances Hodgson-Burnett
	Chester the Wordly Pig by Bill Peet
	The Hay Barn <i>an original story</i>
	Sheepdog in the Snow by Lucy Daniels

Year 3	
Non-fiction	Spice Island Biscuits
	Insects and Spiders
	How is Chocolate Made?
	Stonehenge
	The Water Cycle
	The Masai
	Christopher Wren
	How Scientists Work
	Sea Ice
	The Manatee
	What to Do When You Meet the Queen
	Meet the Maya
	Poetry
Cinderella by Roald Dahl	
The Magnificent Bull by The Dinka Tribe	
Hollyhock by Judith Green	
Jim* by Hilaire Belloc	
The Duel by Eugene Field	
The Little Boat by Kathy Henderson	
The Walrus and the Carpenter by Lewis Carroll	
The Arrow and the Song by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow	

\*These tests contain teacher-marked questions

## Cracking Comprehension Pupil Quizzes contents

Year 4	
Fiction	The Enchanted Wood by Enid Blyton
	Someday Angeline by Louis Sachar
	The Wicked Tricks of Till Owlgyglass by Michael Rosen
	The Great Escape by Natalie Haynes
	Tiger Wars by Steve Backshall
	Dumpling and the Three Feathers by Brothers Grimm
	The Snow Queen by Hans Christian Anderson
	The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn by Mark Twain
	Gulliver's Travels by Jonathan Swift
	How the Fox Came to Be Where It Is by Ted Hughes
	Kensuke's Kingdom* by Michael Morpurgo
	The Secret of Platform 13 by Eva Ibbotson
	Coraline by Neil Gaiman

Year 4	
Non-fiction	Writing Competition
	Sweet Peas
	The Flamingo
	Esperanto
	The Republic of Madagascar
	Captain James Cook*
	The Miracle Bar
	The Iguana
	Hopscotch*
	Poetry
The Shark by Roald Dahl	
The Day I Fell Down the Toilet by Steve Turner	
Dragon Dance by Max Fatchen	
From a Railway Carriage by Robert Louis Stevenson	
The Song of Mr Toad by Kenneth Grahame	
The Treasure Seekers by E. Nesbit	
My Shadow by Robert Louis Stevenson	

\*These tests contain teacher-marked questions

# CRACKING COMPREHENSION

## Cracking Comprehension Pupil Quizzes contents

Year 5	
Fiction	Black Beauty by Anna Sewell
	The Fisherman and his Soul* by Oscar Wilde
	The Mighty Monster Afang by William Elliot Griffis
	Eye of the Wolf by Daniel Pennac
	The Silver Sword by Ian Serraillier
	Tom's Midnight Garden* by Philippa Pearce
	Which Witch? by Eva Ibbotson
	The Jungle Book* by Rudyard Kipling
Non-fiction	Sunfish
	White Water Rafting
	The Autobiography of Charles Darwin*
	Zanzibar
	Waterski*
	Air Ambulance Rescue
	Charles Dickens: A Child's History of England
	Gorilla Rescue

Year 5	
Poetry	Colonel Fazackerley by Charles Causley
	Song of the Worms by Margaret Atwood
	The Rime of the Ancient Mariner by Samuel Taylor Coleridge
	Meg Merrilies by John Keats
	The Pied Piper by Robert Browning
	The Sea* by James Reeves
	What is Pink?* by Christina Rossetti
	Things Men Have Made by D. H. Lawrence
	The Highwayman by Alfred Noyes
	The Dragon-fly/The Eagle by Alfred, Lord Tennyson
Play scripts	Gone Fishing by Felice Arena and Phil Kettle
	Space Raiders by Simon Cheshire
	A Midsummer Night's Dream by William Shakespeare
	By the Fireside by Pam Connellson

\*These tests contain teacher-marked questions

## Cracking Comprehension Pupil Quizzes contents

Year 6	
Fiction	A Little Princess* by Frances Hodgson Burnett
	A Christmas Carol by Charles Dickens
	The Phoenix and the Carpet by E. Nesbit
	The Wind in the Willows by Kenneth Grahame
	Hitler's Canary by Sandi Toksvig
	The Fire Eaters by David Almond
	The Monkey Who Would Be King by Anthony Horowitz
	Mortal Engines* by Philip Reeve
	Scribbleboy by Philip Ridley
	Tom's Midnight Garden by Philippa Pearce
	A Wizard of Earthsea by Ursula K. Le Guin
	The Letter for the King by Tonke Dragt
	Wolf Brother by Michelle Paver

Year 6	
Non-fiction	Internet Safety
	World Records
	Evolution
	Leavers' Speech
	AI Debate*
	Football Report
	Plato's Cave
	Beyond Infinity
	Colour Blindness
	Secondary Interviews
Poetry	The Nightingale and the Glow-Worm by William Cowper
	The Wind and the Moon by George Macdonald
	Funeral Blues by W. H. Auden
	The Windmill* by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow
	The Pedalling Man by Russell Hoban
Play scripts	Romeo and Juliet by William Shakespeare
	As You Like It* by William Shakespeare

\*These tests contain teacher-marked questions