

Case Study

School name: Blackburn The Redeemer C.E.P.

Teacher: Mrs Hodgson

Year packs trialled: Y5 and Y6

About your school:

At The Redeemer we have 421 pupils on role. We are a two form entry school, so larger than average.

Your role:

Year 6 teacher

How did you use *Cracking Comprehension*?

After researching and considering a range of comprehension materials, I selected *Cracking Comprehension*. Initially it was trial and error, the children and I learned how best to use the resource together. We use it mainly as suggested in the teacher's book. I have found the breakdown of activities really useful and a good guide; we adapt the structure depending on the needs of the children and the difficulty of the text.

“We began by using the resource in Year 6 but once I'd expressed how impressed I was, it was introduced in Year 5 too.”

What did you think of the *Cracking Comprehension* resources?

I have enjoyed using the resource and more importantly, the children have enjoyed it. I now feel much more confident in the teaching of specific skills and raising attainment in reading.

Cracking Comprehension has opened the children up to a wide range of genres, and the texts used are varied, challenging and engaging. Children have been inspired to read other texts by the authors and sought out the books to read fully after the extracts have grabbed their attention. All children were able to access the resource and I observed a great increase in their confidence.

Cracking Comprehension is extremely visual and interactive; it suits the needs of a wide range of learners as it is visual, auditory and kinaesthetic. We have especially enjoyed the 'moving into writing' activities, as we have explored the text and the writing produced has been of a high quality.

Cracking Comprehension scaffolds the children's learning, the independent tasks allow the children to apply the skills they have learned in previous sessions and it also involves lots of modelling and teaching rather than just reading and answering questions.

The listening part of the activity encourages children to apply skills that they would not otherwise use in a comprehension session; strategies are rehearsed and therefore have become embedded.

CRACKING COMPREHENSION

How has it impacted on teaching comprehension in your school?

We feel that *Cracking Comprehension* has had a massive impact on the teaching of comprehension. There are numerous other commercial comprehension resources available on the educational market, however very few actually teach the appropriate and necessary reading skills. We felt this was an area where many teachers lacked confidence and therefore needed extra support.

What did pupils say?

'*Cracking Comprehension* helped me so much because you can copy and paste the evidence and discuss the answer.'

'*Cracking Comprehension* has helped me because I can understand it more than a normal book.'

What did teachers say?

'I really like how *Cracking Comprehension* gives you so many different choices of learning so that you can choose your favourite way of making comprehension fun, enjoyable and unique for all who use it.'

'With all the tools it makes education easy. It saves time and makes comprehension better for all.'

'Not only does the *Cracking Comprehension* resource improve children's reading, equally importantly, it supports the teachers.'

How effective do you think *Cracking Comprehension* has been in your school?

Cracking Comprehension has resulted in all children in Year 6, (56 pupils) achieving a minimum of 100 on the scaled score and an average scaled score for the cohort of 109.1.

As a school, for the last 7 years we have consistently achieved very good results (and extremely good progress) in KS2 SATs, however reading has always been the weakest of these results. Consequently, for a few years we have been looking at new ways to teach comprehension effectively. Last year we used *Cracking Comprehension* as a direct tool to teach comprehension skills. Initially, the children found the questions difficult, however because of the style of the lessons – interactive fun and with a pace determined by the teachers – the children soon began to find that they were successful in developing their inference and deduction skills.

Would you recommend *Cracking Comprehension* to other schools?

I have already recommended *Cracking Comprehension* to a number of other schools, because we have seen substantial evidence of its effectiveness for Years 5 and 6.

“With all the tools it makes education easy. It saves time and makes comprehension better for all.”