

ENGLISH

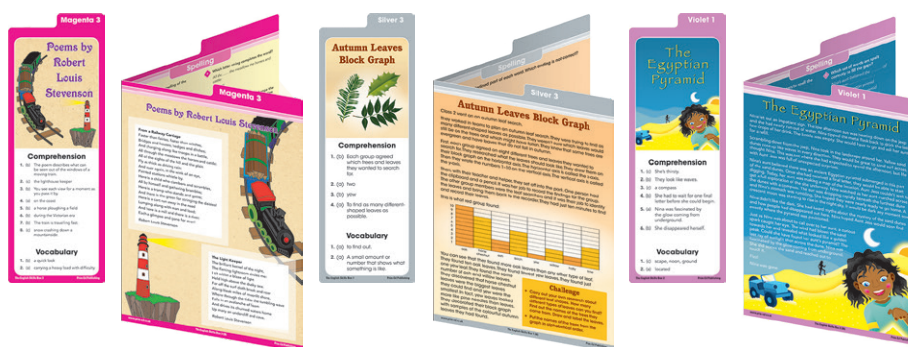
# The English Skills Box



An exciting range of graded texts to support, match and challenge pupil needs in comprehension and vocabulary skills, from Prim-Ed

## AT A GLANCE

- 75 comprehension cards and 75 child-friendly answer cards
- Rich test texts with SATs style focused questions
- Teacher Guide with card-by-card notes and answers
- Free downloadable progress tracking resources



REVIEWED BY: JOHN DABELL

Having everything in one place makes life easier. That's why I love the new English Skills Boxes from Prim-Ed, because they are self-contained toolkits for the teaching, learning and assessment of comprehension, vocabulary, spelling, grammar and punctuation.

There are three boxes, with age appropriate and finely-tuned activities covering Years 2-6 that aim to bolster reading for meaning and pleasure. Each offers 75 graded texts and activities in 15 colour sets aligned to book bands that increase in sophistication, complexity and length.

Within each colour set children progress through five cards, which include a delightfully rich range of illustrated fiction, non-fiction, rhyme and poetry texts. All the questions are multiple-choice and there are dedicated vocabulary and spelling sections too. The cards within each colour set can be completed in any order, so there is plenty of flexibility, and each text has a cross-curricular challenge and bonus question at the end. Colours themselves can be used in sequence, or strategically selected to match identified needs. The follow-up activities on each card have been diligently crafted so they develop specific skills.

There are lots of ways to use the cards, too. They can be productively employed across a whole class, used for directed reading with small groups, or given for pupils to work on by themselves. When used for independent work, the boxes require little teacher support, as children can simply choose a card and mark it when they have finished using the answer cards provided, before moving on to the next.

Each box comes with a comprehensive Teacher Guide, which explains everything you need to know to make the most of what's on offer. Coverage maps make it easy to see at a glance which content domain for reading is assessed with which card.

When children have completed three card sets they take a progress test, written in the style of SATs, to review their knowledge and understanding. These are downloadable, and tracking sheets for teachers and pupils are also available, along with pupil answer recording sheets.

These time-saving boxes are ready to go and require very little setting up or planning. They are engaging, inspiring, consistent and connected resources for helping children enjoy the reading process.

## Teach Reading & Writing

### VERDICT

- ✓ Highly creative texts with bags of relevant and purposeful activities
- ✓ Brilliantly graded for solid skills progression
- ✓ Supports a consistent approach to the teaching of reading
- ✓ Extremely flexible, allowing teachers plenty of scope to find the right fit
- ✓ Supports formative and summative assessment
- ✓ Develops thinking skills, test technique and confidence

### UPGRADE IF...

You are looking for self-contained toolkits that will help children really read, focus on skills mastery and can produce substantial and sustained improvements in English comprehension and GaPS.