

Improving Your Reading Skills with...



Rex Retriever



What Does **Rex Retriever** Do?

Rex Retriever helps with content domain **1b**:

Identify/explain key aspects of fiction and non-fiction texts, such as characters, events, titles and information.

This means that he is there to help you to answer questions by **finding the answer in the text**.

Rex might ask you what the characters are called, what they do, what the name of the chapter is or what you have learned about a particular topic.



When Have We Seen Rex Retriever?

The kind of questions that Rex Retriever helps with appear quite a lot in SATs papers. Here are some recent examples:

4 Give **two** jobs that the worker ants do.

1. _____
2. _____

1 Who might be interested in reading this poster?

10 Tick **two** good points about plastics.

Plastics can be...

- Tick **two**.
- nice to smell.
 - any shape.
 - grown.
 - eaten.
 - many colours.

12 Tick to show what jesters and servants did in the castle. The first one has been done for you.

	Jesters	Servants
gardening		✓
cleaning		
dancing		
juggling		
cooking		

20 Draw **three** lines to describe oceans, lakes and rivers.

oceans ●

● bodies of fresh water

lakes ●

● moving fresh water

rivers ●

● large areas of salt water

Click on the image of each question to find out more.

The '5Ws' Question

2 The Little Princess reminds Tony Ross of someone. Who is it?

3 What was Molly doing on Tuesday?

6 Where did Molly look for the octopus?

Write down **one** place.

6 At the end of the story, Bella was happy. Why?

1 Who might be interested in reading this poster?

5 Why was Molly always too busy to tidy up?

9 Explain why Fox became interested in Heron Feather when he heard his song.

10 What is the child holding on to?

12 What happens when people see the shadow?

A lot of questions asked by Rex Retriever will begin with:
Who? What? Where? When? Why?
Find the answer in the text and write it on the line.

The 'Tick It' Question

19 What was Monster worried about when they were floating over the sea?

Tick **one**.

- how to find the way home
- how to get down again
- how to find more food
- how to learn to swim

8 What could Frog see on the horizon?

Tick **one**.

- a boat
- the sun
- an island
- a beach

2 What does the queen ant do?

Tick **one**.

- keeps the nest clean
- lays eggs
- moves eggs
- finds food

11 How did Fox trick Heron Feather into picking him up?

Tick **one**.

- He prepared to pounce.
- He lay on the path.
- He bounded ahead.
- He hid in a bush.

10 Tick **two** good points about plastics.

Plastics can be...

Tick **two**.

- nice to smell.
- any shape.
- grown.
- eaten.
- many colours.

This type of question will ask you something and give you some possible answers.

Read through all of the answer options and tick the correct answer.

Always check **how many** answers the question wants you to tick.

The 'Give Two' Question

3 Give **two** things that the instructors at Sea Spray Pool are trained to teach.

1. _____
2. _____

4 Give **two** jobs that the worker ants do.

1. _____
2. _____

4 **Find** and **copy two** things children have to take when they go to the lessons.

1. _____
2. _____

19 The text tells us about rivers in England.

Name **two** of them.

1. _____
2. _____

12 Give **two** problems with landfill sites.

1. _____
2. _____

16 Give **two** places where you could find water in nature.

1. _____
2. _____

13 What are most plastics made from today?

Give **two** things.

1. _____
2. _____

For this type of question, you need to give **two different answers**.

You will find both of these answers in the text.

The 'Draw Lines' Question

7 Draw lines to match these characters to the help they gave the blackbird.

fox	frightened the king
ants	scared the chickens
river	terrified the elephants

20 Draw **three** lines to describe oceans, lakes and rivers.

oceans	bodies of fresh water
lakes	moving fresh water
rivers	large areas of salt water

For this type of question, you will need to use the information in the text to match one thing to the fact which matches it.

What can you do if you draw a line but change your mind?

The 'Fill in the Table' Question

- 12 Tick to show what jesters and servants did in the castle. The first one has been done for you.

	Jesters	Servants
gardening		✓
cleaning		
dancing		
juggling		
cooking		

- 6 Put ticks in the table to show which sentences are **true** and which are **false**.

Sentence	True	False
The lessons are only for good swimmers.		
A six-year-old could take part in the lessons.		
Children can sign up on their own.		
There is a party at the end of the course.		

- 5 Complete the table with the names of the writers and the characters they write about.

Character	Writer
	Francesca Simon
Dr Xargle	
Mr Toffy	

For this type of question, you will need to use the information in the text to fill in the missing information in a table.

This could be ticking whether something is true or false, deciding if the statement applies to one person or another or adding facts based on what you have read.



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What Might **Rex Retriever** Ask?

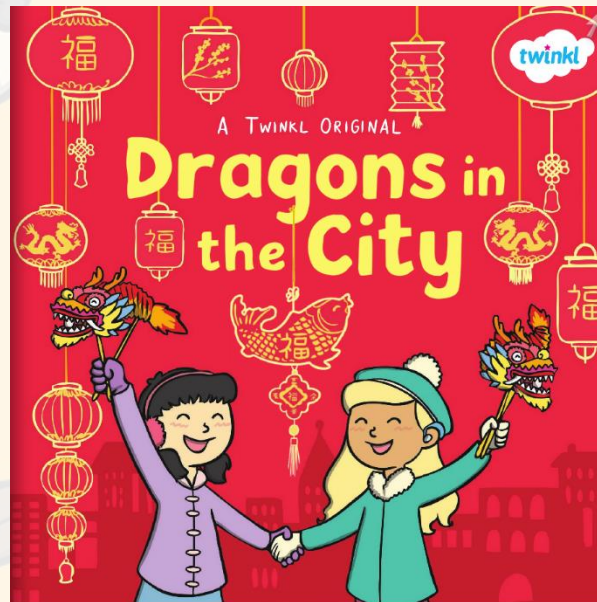
Rex Retriever might ask questions like these:

- Where is the story set?
- Who is the main character in the story?
- How is the dilemma resolved?
- Tell me one fact you have found out in this text about...
- Where in this book could I look if I wanted to know more about...?
- Which part of the story did you like the most? Why

Let's Explore **Rex Retriever** Questions Together

Read the extract from *Dragons in the City* and answer the questions as a class.

Click on the image to read the text.



Read the rest of the *Dragons in the City* story [here](#).

Let's Explore Rex Retriever Questions Together

Read the extract from *Dragons in the City* and answer the questions as a class.

Why were the family having a special dinner?

Give **two** people who were sat around the table.

- 1.
- 2.

Put ticks in the table to show which sentences are **true** and which are **false**.

Statement	True	False
The family were celebrating a birthday.		
There were five people sat around the table.		
This was Bo's favourite time of year.		
The family were gathered for a reunion dinner.		

This was Bo's favourite time of year. Everyone was here! Mum, Dad, Bo, Leo, Gran, Cousin Evie, Uncle Charlie, Auntie Mei and Uncle Jian were all squeezed around the table.

All of Bo's family had gathered together for a reunion dinner. They were celebrating a very special and exciting occasion...

Chinese New Year!



Click [here](#) to go back.

Summing Up **Rex Retriever**

Prove your understanding of what Rex Retriever does by answering the following questions:

- What does Rex Retriever help you to do?
- What sort of question might Rex Retriever ask?
- What is the trickiest thing about Rex Retriever questions?





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