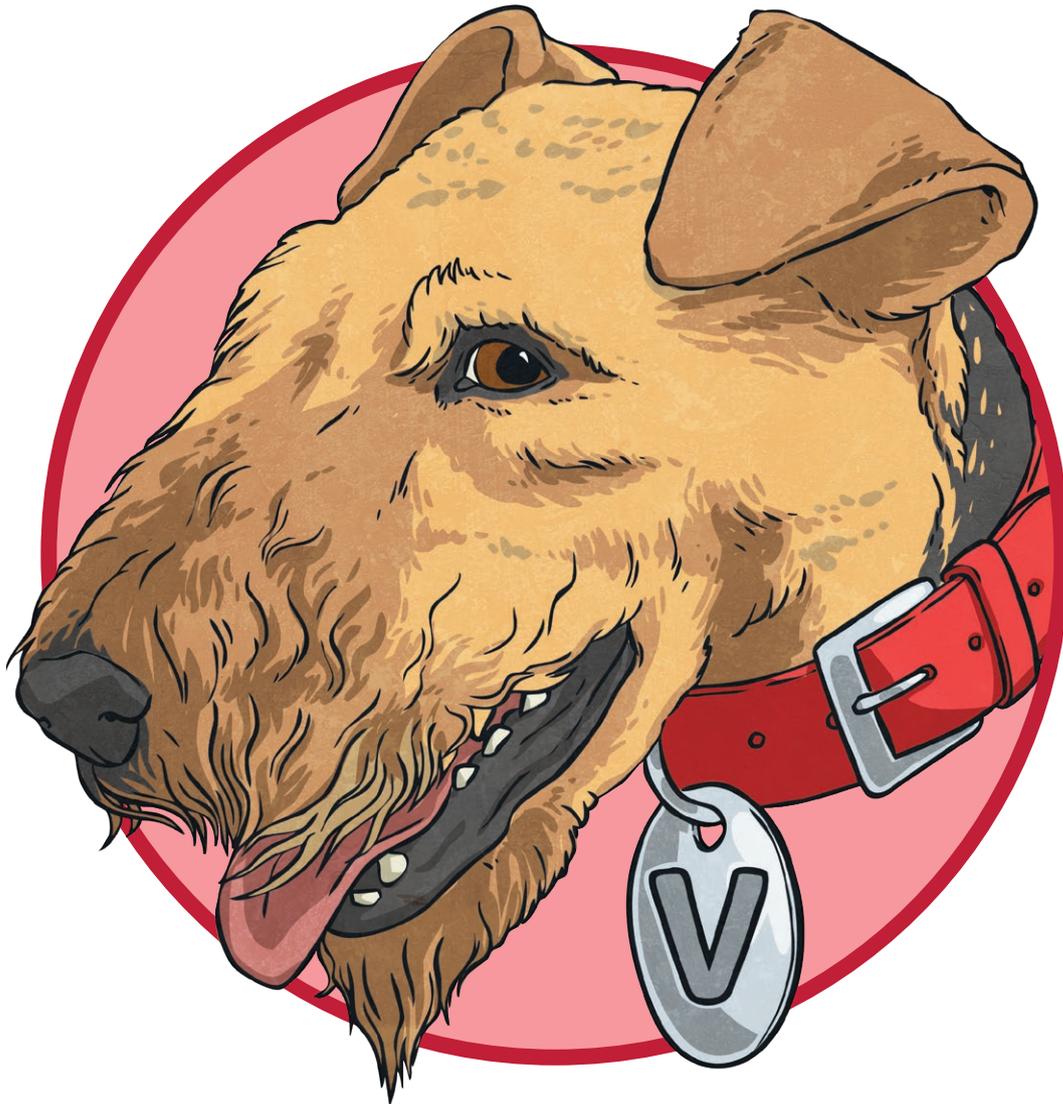


# Year 6 SATs

## Reading Revision & Practice Booklet: Vocabulary Victor



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

# Who is Vocabulary Victor?



Vocabulary Victor is the clever canine who helps with reading content domain **2a**:

Give/explain the meaning of words in context.

This means that he is there to help you to work out the **meaning** of words you don't know.

He helps you to do this by looking at the words or phrases you're unsure of in **context**. This means using the text so far, using the sentences around the word and using what you already know about the plot to figure out what the word must mean.

## What sort of questions might Vocabulary Victor ask?

Vocabulary Victor will always ask questions which relate to the meaning of words within the text. He has been known to ask:

- Which word is the **closest in meaning** to a given word?
- Can you **define** a given word or phrase to explain what it means in this sentence?
- Can you choose an **alternative phrase** that means the same thing as a given word or phrase?
- Can you **find and copy** a word or group of words from a paragraph that are closest in meaning to a given phrase?
- Are you able to give **multiple answers** which all share the same meaning?
- Can you choose the best description from the **multiple choices** offered to match given description?



# Two Little Ducks

Ecstatically, Jeff jumped from his seat almost faster than the speed of light. Like rockets launching into space, he thrust his hands into the air and an enormous sound seemed to explode with such fury that it was as if it had accelerated from his feet.

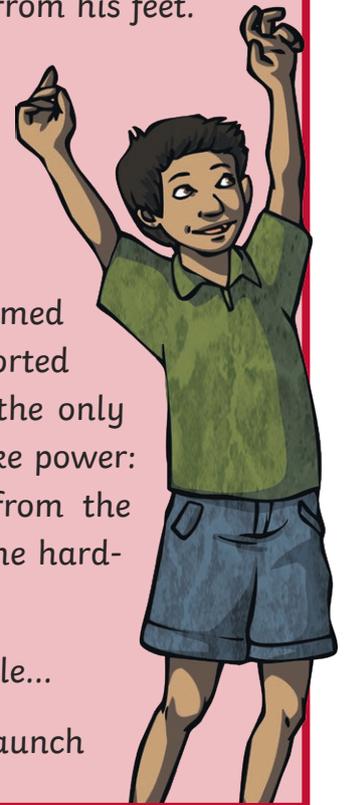
“YESSSSSSSSS!”

Jeff wafted the flimsy, dotted card that he'd been using to keep track of the numbers high above his head. It danced merrily in the air, seemingly, as proud as Jeff of their shared victory.

Two little ducks: that's all Jeff had been waiting for, for what had seemed like hours. Anxiously, his forehead had dripped and his face had contorted with concentration and tension when his dabber had hovered over the only vacant square. Upon the stage had stood a familiar figure with godlike power: the power to decide which number would be chosen at random from the spinning container. She had been all that stood between Jeff and some hard-earned winnings.

Two little ducks, thought Jeff to himself, almost praying. Just two little...

And, as the hall erupted with sound of 'quack, quack', Jeff truly did launch



Let's have a go at answering a Vocabulary Victor question, step by step:

1. Find and underline the quoted sentence in the original text.
2. Re-read the sentence in context. What do you think the word means?
3. Look at the options in the question. Try replacing the word with all of the different alternatives. Do any make sense?
4. Check the number of answers you need to give and clearly mark the answer in the way you are asked to.

Now, using these top tips, have a go at answering some on your own.

...it was as if it had **accelerated** from his feet.

Which word is closest in meaning to **accelerated**? Tick **one**.

balanced

sped

collided

trembled



...his face had **contorted** with concentration and tension...

What does **contorted** mean in this sentence? Tick **one**.

to show sadness

to twist out of shape

to become redder and redder

to display a serene smile

2

Look at the paragraph beginning: **Two little ducks: that's all Jeff...**

**Find** and **copy one** word from this paragraph that is closest in meaning to 'empty'.

\_\_\_\_\_

3

**It danced merrily in the air, seemingly as proud as Jeff of their shared victory.**

**Find** and **copy two** different words from the sentence above which show that the dotted card appeared to have positive feelings.

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

4

**And, as the hall erupted with sound of 'quack, quack', Jeff truly did launch into space: he was over the moon.**

Choose the best words to match the meaning of the sentence above. Circle both of your choices.

As the hall became    ,

Jeff

5

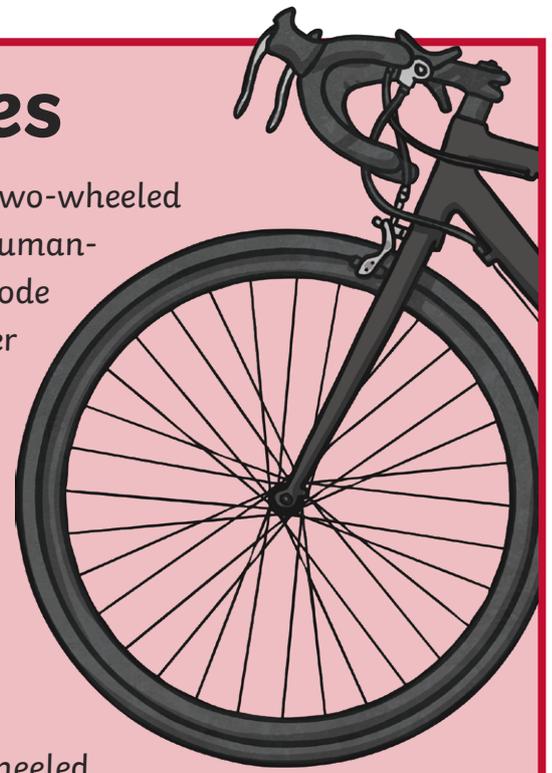
# The History of Bicycles

The bicycle, commonly referred to as the bike, is a two-wheeled vehicle invented in late 19th century Europe. Whether human-powered or motor-powered, the bicycle is the preferred mode of transport by millions of cyclists worldwide, with over one billion bicycles now in existence – far exceeding the number of cars currently in circulation.

First appearing in English print in the year 1868, the word 'bicycle' comes from the French word first used to describe an unidentified two-wheeled vehicle. However, the modern bicycle so familiar to us has its roots in many more unusual two-wheeled vehicles.

The Dandy horse was the first human-powered, two-wheeled mode of transport and was invented by Baron Karl von Drais in 1817. Unlike the modern metallic frames commonly seen today, the rider of the Dandy horse would sit astride a wooden frame, pushing the vehicle along with their feet while steering using a small wheel.

In the early 1860s, French mechanics Pierre Michaux and Pierre Lallement added new technical elements, such as pedals, to the bicycle – enlarging the front wheel to create a vehicle which was mass-produced as the velocipede.



**...enlarging the front wheel to create a vehicle which was mass-produced as the velocipede.**

Choose the best words to match the meaning of the sentence above. Circle both of your choices.

Before    of the velocipede were made, the front wheel of the bicycle was

1

Look at the paragraph beginning: **First appearing in English print...**

**Find and copy one** word from this paragraph that is closest in meaning to 'unknown'.

\_\_\_\_\_

2

The bicycle, **commonly referred to** as the bike...

What does **commonly referred to** mean?

---

---

3

Whether human-powered or motor-powered, the bicycle is the **preferred** mode of transport by millions of cyclists worldwide.

Which word is closest in meaning to **preferred**? Tick **one**.

maintained

unique

dreaded

favoured

4

French mechanics Pierre Michaux and Pierre Lallement added new **technical elements**...

What does **technical elements** mean in this sentence? Tick **one**.

practical aspects

difficult mistakes

scientific simplicity

French workmen

5

# Stripy Messengers, Swollen Branches: A Spring Cinquain

Eager senses search for welcome signs.

The floral scent of renewal, surfing on a breeze.

A buzzing herald of bees; the year's first busy foray.

Pink blossom uncurling, swelling branches with colour.

My cheeks blushing at the first warm kiss of Spring.



**Eager** senses search for welcome signs.

Which word is closest in meaning to **eager**? Tick **one**.

peculiar

overwhelmed

yearning

disinterested

1

The floral scent of **renewal**, surfing on a breeze.

What does **renewal** mean?

---

---

2

**Find** and **copy one** word from the poem that is closest in meaning to 'a sudden occurrence'.

\_\_\_\_\_

3

A buzzing **herald** of bees...

What does **herald** mean in this sentence? Tick **one**.

the promise of an end

unusual and unexpected events

a sign something will happen

an individual's quest

4

**Find** and **copy** a group of words which tell you that the smell of flowers is lingering in the air.

\_\_\_\_\_

5

## Extended Response Challenge

Can you use evidence from the text and two acceptable points to score all three marks on this challenge question?

This poem is about the arrival of springtime. Read the poem carefully.

Using evidence from the text to support your answer, explain **two** different reactions that the poet has to spring's arrival.



\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

# Answers

## Two Little Ducks

1. ...it was as if it had **accelerated** from his feet.

Which word is closest in meaning to **accelerated**? Tick **one**.

balanced

**sped**

collided

trembled

2. ...his face had **contorted** with concentration and tension...

What does **contorted** mean in this sentence? Tick **one**.

to show sadness

**to twist out of shape**

to become redder and redder

to display a serene smile

3. Look at the paragraph beginning: **Two little ducks: that's all Jeff...**

**Find** and **copy one** word from this paragraph that is closest in meaning to 'empty'.

**vacant**

4. **It danced merrily in the air, seemingly as proud as Jeff of their shared victory.**

**Find** and **copy two** different words from the sentence above which show that the dotted card appeared to have positive feelings.

**merrily**

**proud**

5. **And, as the hall erupted with sound of 'quack, quack', Jeff truly did launch into space: he was over the moon.**

Choose the best words to match the meaning of the sentence above. Circle both of your choices.

As the hall became    ,  
Jeff

## The History of Bicycles

1. **...enlarging the front wheel to create a vehicle which was mass produced as the velocipede.**

Choose the best words to match the meaning of the sentence above. Circle both of your choices.

Before    of the velocipede were made, the front wheel of the bicycle was

2. Look at the paragraph beginning: **First appearing in English print...**

**Find and copy one** word from this paragraph that is closest in meaning to 'unknown'.  
**unidentified**

3. The bicycle, **commonly referred to** as the bike...

What does **commonly referred to** mean?

**Accept any answer which correctly defines the phrase 'commonly referred to' but in the child's own words, such as:**

- **Commonly referred to means that something is regularly called something;**
- **It means when lots of people use a different name instead of an item's real name.**

4. Whether human-powered or motor-powered, the bicycle is the **preferred** mode of transport by millions of cyclists worldwide.

Which word is closest in meaning to **preferred**? Tick **one**.

maintained

unique

dreaded

**favoured**

5. French mechanics Pierre Michaux and Pierre Lallement added new **technical elements**...

What does **technical elements** mean in this sentence? Tick **one**.

**practical aspects**

difficult mistakes

scientific simplicity

French workmen

### **Stripy Messengers, Swollen Branches: A Spring Cinquain**

1. **Eager** senses search for welcome signs.

Which word is closest in meaning to **eager**? Tick **one**.

peculiar

overwhelmed

**yearning**

disinterested

2. The floral scent of **renewal**, surfing on a breeze.

What does **renewal** mean?

**Accept any answer which correctly defines 'renewal' in the child's own words, such as:**

- **Renewal means when something begins again;**
- **It means something that had stopped but is now starting back up**

3. **Find** and **copy one** word from the poem that is closest in meaning to 'a sudden occurrence'.

**foray**

4. A buzzing **herald** of bees...

What does **herald** mean in this sentence? Tick **one**.

the promise of an end

unusual and unexpected events

**a sign something will happen**

an individual's quest

5. Find and copy a group of words which tell you that the smell of flowers is lingering in the air.

**surfing on a breeze**

## **Extended Response Challenge**

Acceptable points:

**AP1.** Overdue/welcome/the poet is desperately searching for it.

**AP2.** The poet sees spring as a busy time.

**AP3.** Warm/thawed/the poet is warming up again after winter.

**AP4.** The poet blushes.

**AP5.** The poet sees the arrival of spring as a welcome embrace.

Award 3 marks for two acceptable points, at least one with evidence, e.g.

- The poet reacts eagerly to spring because the poem says that 'eager senses' are searching. The poet also blushes when spring arrives. [AP1 + evidence and AP4]
- The poet sees spring as a busy time because it states that it is the 'year's first busy foray'. The poet also seems to welcome the warm embrace and 'first warm kiss' of spring with a 'blush'. [AP2 + evidence and AP5 + evidence]

Award 2 marks for either two acceptable points, or one acceptable point with evidence, e.g.

- The poet must like to welcome spring because it says eager senses search for it. [AP1 + evidence]
- The poet searches for spring and then blushes when it arrives. [AP1 and AP4]

Award 1 mark for one acceptable point, e.g.

- The poet blushes when spring arrives. [AP5]
- The poet thinks that spring is very busy. [AP2]