



Guided Reading Plan for Week

Put the skills you have learnt into practise with the two comprehensions we have set for this week.

Today there is a poem called
Duck's Ditty by Kenneth Graham

Ducks' Ditty

All along the backwater,
Through the rushes tall,
Ducks are a-dabbling,
Up tails all!

Ducks' tails, drakes' tails,
Yellow feet a-quiver,
Yellow bills all out of sight
Busy in the river!

Slushy green undergrowth
Where the roach swim –
Here we keep our larder*,
Cool and full and dim.

Everyone for what he likes!
We like to be
Heads down, tails up,
Dabbling free!

High in the blue above
Swifts whirl and call –
We are down a-dabbling,
Up tails all!

Questions

- 1 Tick the definition which best fits 'dabbling' as it is used in the poem.

[1 mark]

Taking part in a new activity.	
Flapping their wings to take off from the water.	
Putting their beaks in the water and moving them around.	

- 2 'Here we keep our larder'

Which of these words or phrases means the same as 'larder'?

butter food store cutlery eggs

[1 mark]

- 3 Name **three** of the different animals that appear in the poem.

_____ [1 mark]

- 4 Decide whether each statement about the poem is true or false.

[1 mark]

	True	False
The ducks are on the river.		
The swifts dabble with the ducks.		
The ducks' heads go under the water when they dabble.		
The roach keep out of the undergrowth.		

5 What does the word '*dim*' suggest about the light under the water?

[1 mark]

6 What is the '*blue above*' referred to in the poem?

[1 mark]

7 What do you think the ducks are doing when they're dabbling?
What makes you think this?

[2 marks]

8 What do you notice about the final line of the **first and fifth verses**?

[1 mark]

9 Why do you think the poet chose to use the word '*whirl*' to describe how the swifts fly?

[1 mark]

10 'Everyone for what he likes!
We like to be'

Why do you think the poet has used italics for '*we*' in this line?



[3 marks]

Teaching assessment

1	Taking part in a new activity.	
	Flapping their wings to take off from the water.	
	Putting their beaks in the water and moving them around.	✓

1 mark (Content Domain 2a)

2 food store

1 mark (Content Domain 2a)

3 Any three from: ducks, drakes, roach (accept fish), swifts (accept birds)

1 mark (Content domain 2b)

4		True	False
	The ducks are on the river.	✓	
	The swifts dabble with the ducks.		✓
	The ducks' heads go under the water when they dabble.	✓	
	The roach keep out of the undergrowth.		✓

1 mark for all four correct (Content Domain 2c)

5 **Expected standard:** Pupils should infer that '*dim*' suggests that there isn't much light under the water. Some pupils may express this as being difficult to see. This question requires pupils to understand the meaning of the word '*dim*' and to be able to visualise what this could look like.

1 mark (Content Domain 2d)

6 **Expected standard:** Pupils should infer that the '*blue above*' refers to the sky.

1 mark (Content Domain 2d)

7 **Expected standard:** Pupils should infer that the ducks are searching for food.

1 mark (Content Domain 2d)

Extension: Pupils should locate and copy the phrase '*Here we keep our larder*' as evidence that the ducks are collecting food.

1 additional mark (Content Domain 2d)

8 **Expected standard:** Pupils should notice that the final line of both stanzas are identical. It is not sufficient for pupils to say that both lines end with an exclamation mark.

1 mark (Content Domain 2g)

9 **Expected standard:** Pupils should explain that '*whirl*' means to move round and round quickly. Swifts fly quickly and in looping movements so the choice of this word fits the movement of swifts accurately. **1 mark** (Content Domain 2g)

10 **Expected standard:** Pupils should explain that by using italics the poet has drawn attention to the word '*we*'. Some pupils may express this as making it stand out. **1 mark** (Content Domain 2f)

Extension: Some pupils may be able to explain that by making the word '*we*' stand out the poet ensures that the reader is left in no doubt that the ducks enjoy dabbling. Some pupils may further note that this is done again in the final stanza where there is a contrast with what the swifts like. This further makes clear that the ducks are happy to be down in the river dabbling. **Up to 2 additional marks** (Content Domain 2f)