Reading Comprehension Cheat Sheet

Want to help your child improve their reading comprehension at home? This cheat sheet gives you tons of methods you can use, a full seven-day plan and a progress tracker, all in a digestible format.

DAY 1

Read a short story to your child, then read it together with them. After you've read it together, ask them to summarize the story.

DAY 2

Set aside 10 minutes of focused reading for your child in a quiet, comfortable and distraction-free environment. Ask them questions about what they read afterwards.

DAY 3

Set aside another 10-minute reading spell, then afterwards, give your child a task to write a summary of what they read.

DAY 4

Set aside a 20-minute reading spell with no distractions.

Give your child a worksheet to complete that's focused on an area that they are currently working on, like a main idea worksheet or character traits worksheet

DAY 5

Set aside a 20-minute reading spell with no distractions and give your child a piece of text they should finish in that time.

Ask questions before, during and after their piece of text focused on predictions, understanding and any questions they have.

DAY 6

Set aside a 30-minute reading spell with no distractions.

Take your child through some sentence frames to help them accurately articulate what they've read to you.

DAY 7

Set aside a 30-minute reading spell with no distractions.

Measure how much your child has read within this time and assess whether or not they're reading at a speed expected of their grade level.

Brighterly

Quick-fire question stems

Question stems can help your child organize and articulate their thoughts about a passage of text they've read. Here are some of the most useful question stems and some example questions you can ask.

Question stem	Question example
What does this text mean?	What is the deeper meaning of this book and its themes?
What are the characters like?	What do you think this character is feeling and why?
What might happen next?	Based on what you've already read, what do you think is going to happen next?
What is the text synopsis?	Can you summarize this story, including all of the key events and actions?
What is the turning point?	What are the main events of the story and where do you see it shift?
How have the characters developed?	How has [character] developed, and how have you seen this?

Retell organizer

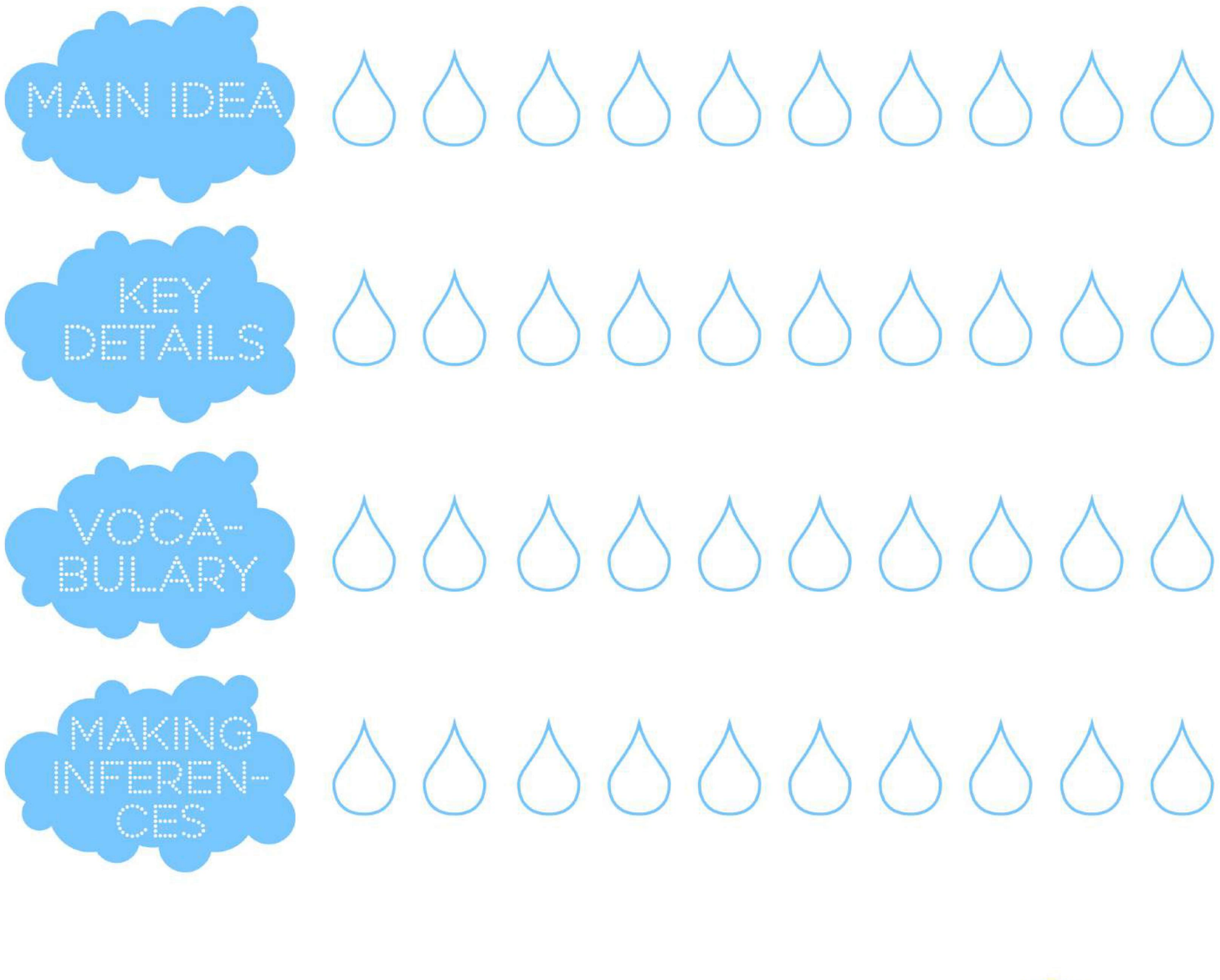
Retelling a story is one of the most powerful ways children can show and improve their reading comprehension. Use this easy organizer to help your child retell a story.

Characters	Setting	Conflict
Who are the main characters? How have they developed throughout the story? Who is the protagonist? What are they feeling?	What is the main setting of this story? Does it change throughout? If so, why? Does the setting have a deeper meaning?	What are the moments of conflict in this story? How do they change or advance the plot?
Plot	**Resolution**	**Main idea**
Summarize the plot, step by step What were the key events in the story?	What was the story's resolution? How did the characters reach it?	What is the main idea of this story? How is it represented? What should readers take away from this story?

Track your reading comprehension progress

Color one segment after each reading session.

Week of _____



How to rate progress

- 💧 Needs a lot of help
- 💧💧 Some support needed
- 💧💧💧 Mostly independent
- 💧💧💧💧 Confident
- 💧💧💧💧💧 Mastered