Progression: Text, Vocabulary and Question Types

Unlocking Fluency contains a clear progression in three areas: the text children will read, the vocabulary they will encounter and questions they will answer in the final part of the lesson.

Year	Text Progression	Vocabulary Progression	Question Progression
Y2	50-70 words; familiar themes; mostly simple sentences.	Concrete nouns, common verbs, simple Tier 2 vocabulary.	Retrieval, sequencing, basic inference.
Y3	60-80 words; wider experiences; emerging complex sentences.	Prefixes, suffixes, subject vocabulary, context clues.	Retrieval across sentences, vocabulary in context, justified inference.
Y4	80-100 words; abstract ideas; organised paragraphs.	Figurative language, technical vocabulary.	Inference with evidence, language explanation, structure.
Y5	100-120 words; viewpoints and symbolism.	Abstract nouns, idioms, morphology.	Themes, motives, summarising, authorial choice.
Y6	120-140 words; complex themes and structures.	Connotation, nuance, evaluative vocabulary.	Analysis, evaluation, comparison, prediction.

Text Progression

The text progression focuses on text types, word counts (as suggested by Christopher Such's research in *Primary Reading Simplified*), Lexile level, grammar and punctuation development, vocabulary range, and sentence construction according to year-group progression.

Vocabulary Progression

Vocabulary teaching within the reading fluency programme focuses on the explicit instruction of Tier 2 words. Vocabulary is selected from taught texts and sequenced to move from concrete and everyday language towards more abstract and conceptual understanding across the primary phase. Teaching of the vocabulary supports automaticity and comprehension.

Tier 1 (Concrete / Everyday)	Words referring to objects, actions or experiences that can be seen, touched or easily imagined. Often supported by direct experience.
Tier 2 (Academic / General)	Words that occur across texts and subjects but are uncommon in everyday speech. They are vital for comprehension and expression.
Tier 3 (Abstract / Conceptual)	Tier 3 vocabulary refers to subject specific or technical words that pupils encounter mainly within a particular area of study. These words are explicitly taught and revisited, not assumed.

Question Progression

Question progression within Unlocking Fluency matches the Reading National Curriculum showing how pupils' understanding and analysis of texts deepen each year. It highlights the increasing language complexity and expectation for evidence-based responses as pupils progress through the year groups.