



wildernschool

Supporting your child with reading

“Why read in particular?”

I think it’s because it gives you magical powers -
The powers of creativity, empathy and intelligence.”

Cressida Cowell



Every Student Matters, Every Moment Counts.

‘Reading is the heart of education. The knowledge of almost every subject in school flows from reading.’
Cyndi Giorgis

The 'Cycle of Positive Influence'

1. Students take part in an activity such as reading/ story telling.

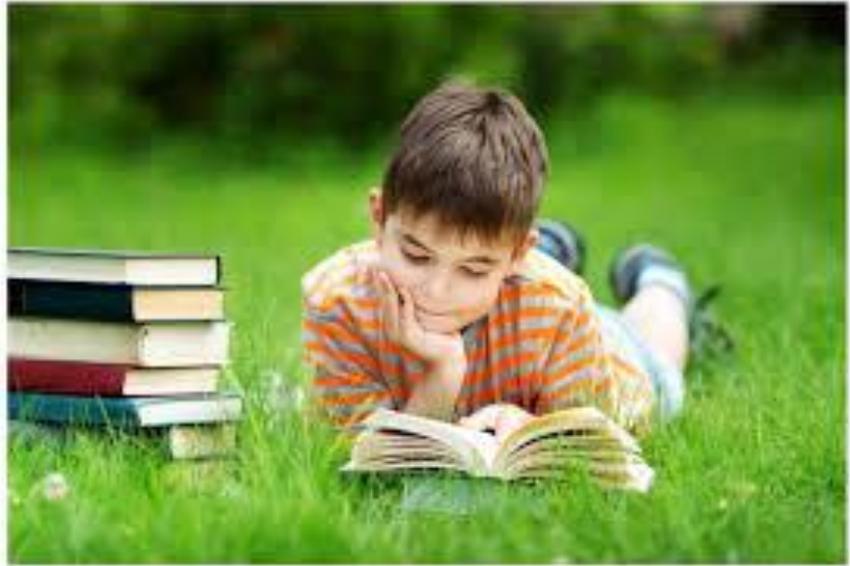
4. This then needs to be positively reinforced for the cycle to continue and for the student to remain positive.



2. If this experience was a positive one, then they may be motivated through factors such as enjoyment or connection with the other person involved.

3. Students are then more likely to develop positive attitudes towards reading.

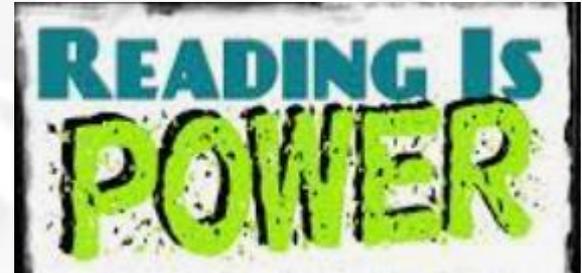
“My child used to love reading!”



Every Student Matters, Every Moment Counts.

How can you help your child to feel positively about reading?

- Discuss reading in a positive way and share your own experiences or any texts you've enjoyed.
- Audio books
- Praise
- Text selection



- 'If you read for 15 minutes, you can...'

Whilst this may work for some young people, it is unlikely to lead to reading being seen as an enjoyable activity.

Model a love of reading

Create a themes reading nook

Read a book before watching the film version together

Use audio books

Read to them

Get cooking!

Ask questions

Use magazines and newspapers



How can you support your child's reading at home?

“Reading for pleasure increased during the 2020-2021 lockdowns” National Literacy Trust

- Sharing your experiences about why reading is important for life and work, whilst being mindful not to add to any negative feelings, can help children to see that everyone struggles with certain things but it's worth persevering.
- Encourage them to be proactive in their wider reading.

• Take an interest in what they're reading and studying at school

The importance of listening to texts

Sharing stories as a family can be enjoyable for everyone.

Reading aloud and sharing stories together can break through the normal routine of the day and can provide a much-needed pause, as well as creating a magical connection leading to conversations and inside jokes.

“Reading to our kids teaches them to think, make connections, and communicate. Reading aloud doesn’t just open windows. It flings wide the doors of opportunities...” Sarah Mackenzie

Finding texts for your child

Where to look:

- School and community libraries not only offer free access to books, but they often also have audio books and e-books that your child could borrow.
- Book shops provide a chance for your child to browse and purchase books with support from staff, if they wish. Some book shops will have review cards with some of their top-picks too.
- Audio books can be purchased from devices such as phones, as well as on CDs or borrowed from a library.

How to choose:

- You could look at fiction books related to topics they are interested in, or encourage them to read about it online.
- If they've enjoyed a book before, encourage them to read another text by the same author.
- If you are browsing in a shop/library/online, you could read the back of the books (blurbs) and a page from the start to help decide whether this feels like something they'd like to read more of.
- Be mindful about your child's reading level so that they can access the vocabulary the text contains.

(For some students who struggle with reading, books from Barrington Stoke publishers and the OUP Super Readable Rollercoasters may be worth exploring).

Book marks...

You could use the prompts below to help you start a discussion about an extract or whole text. You could read the text with your child (either one of you reading, or taking it in turns) or you could read the text independently from each other and use these prompts to start a discussion afterwards.

Before you read

Predict

Make predictions before you read something together. This could be based on what will happen next in a story, what an article could be about based on the headline or what clues the book cover can give about the narrative.

- ✓ *What do you think the cover suggests about the story?*
- ✓ *What do you think will happen next in the story?*
- ✓ *What does the headline suggest the article might be about?*
- ✓ *What do you think you will learn/find out?*

Discuss relevant knowledge and experiences

Discussing any knowledge or experience they have about a topic may help them to understand a text better or to make connections. For example, if you are reading a text about dinosaurs, you could ask what they can recall about dinosaurs, it can even be about Jurassic Park!

- ✓ *What do you already know about...?*
- ✓ *Do you remember the time we read/watched/visited...?*



Reading Challenges

<p>Choose a scene from a novel or play you have recently read that you feel would make a great film scene. Storyboard your chosen scene on paper, or create a video using a technique such as stop motion.</p>	<p>Choose three genres and select a book to read from each: crime, science-fiction, adventure, comedy, gothic. Consider which genre you preferred and what features it had that others didn't.</p>	<p>After reading a text you've really enjoyed, choose a creative 'follow-up' challenge:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• write an alternative ending• write a short story about one of the minor characters• rewrite a scene that could have gone a different way.
<p>Read the instructions to make/do something. It could be a model, a craft project or board game.</p>	<p>Read a text (play script or novel) and then watch the film version. Discuss how the two compare with someone who has done the same.</p>	<p>Read an abridged or full version of a classic text. For example: Alice in Wonderland, Sherlock Holmes, The Secret Garden, The Lion The Witch and The Wardrobe, Watership Down, Frankenstein, Wuthering Heights.</p>
<p>Read a book someone has recommended to you. When you have finished, discuss what you thought about the story.</p>	<p>Consider five topics you've studied in different subjects this year and find articles or books to read around each one over the summer. Document what you've learned and note down any questions you have to research further/ask a teacher.</p>	<p>Read a play text of your choice. When you have finished, consider what you notice about the way plays are written.</p>
<p>Create something delicious by reading a new recipe from a cookbook or online recipe website.</p>	<p>At least twice a week, read a newspaper article, either online or from the paper itself. Consider whether the writer was trying to present a particular point of view.</p>	<p>Read three poems by the same author. You could do this every week and compare the topics they explore and how they write. You could start with Carol Ann Duffy or Simon Armitage.</p>

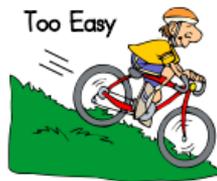


Getting the level of challenge right

Complex books challenge you to do research and to fill in the blanks as you read.

Tips for stretching your readers

1. BEFORE READING: Preview & Build Anticipation
2. BEFORE READING: Set Purpose
3. DURING READING: Synthesize Along the Way
4. DURING READING: Ask Questions
5. AFTER READING: Explain



A book is too easy when

- I know all the words,
- I make no mistakes when I read it,
- I've read it a lot of times, and/or
- I have it memorized.



A book is too hard when

- there are a lot of words I don't know,
- I can't figure out the words I don't know,
- the topic is not familiar to me, and/or
- it does not make sense to me.



A book is "just right" when

- I know most of the words,
- I can figure out words I don't know,
- the topic is familiar to me,
- I am interested in what I'm reading, and/or
- I can understand what I'm reading.

Ways to challenge more able readers

Quality texts

Ask questions

Develop a dialogue

Suggest different ways to respond to what they are reading

Pause and summarise

It's okay to stop



Reflect

Have a look around our library - what text might your child like?

What support might they need?

What questions could you ask?

Can you find any of your favourite books?

