**Teri Prendible, Reydon Primary School – Reader profile**

**When did you first become a reader?**

I’ve been a reader my entire life- my mom and dad would read to me very often as a child, and by the time I was in senior kindergarten (age 6 in Canada) I was writing pages and pages of stories and illustrating them. When I was 3, I had memorised many of the Berenstein Bear books- my mom and dad used to read them to me nightly, and it got to the point where I could recite them from heart… the pages may have been upside down, but I would take pride in “Reading” them the book.

**What were some of your favourite books when growing up?**

Well, I loved the Berenstain Bears as a young, young child. I read “The Saddle Club” series as a pre-teen- I had horses myself. I fell in love with the Harry Potter series when it came out, and would be at the midnight releases. I read a lot of novels by Lurlene McDaniel as a 13-14 year old, which were always quite sad but gripping. I also loved *A Little Princess* by Frances Hodgson Burnett; I was given the book as a gift from my babysitter at the time, who I have a very close relationship with (even still), and it was gorgeous and pink and velvet… I still have that copy at my parents’ house, and I’ve bought a new one to share with the children in my class.

**What kind of a reader are you now?**

Embarrassingly, a bit of an infrequent reader. I try to do my best, but as we all know, things get on top of us and the last thing we think about in our personal lives is reading for pleasure. However, I am trying to change that, especially in the currently climate.

**What book(s) are you currently reading?**

I am currently reading “Black Summer” by M.W. Craven. I read the first book in his “Washington Poe” (the main character) series a few months ago, it was called “The Puppet Show”. They are crime/detective novels set in Cumbria, and his writing style, I find, very gripping but still easy enough to read.
I have been trying to work my way through the Outlander series by Diana Gabaldon, which is an historical/fantasy series set between Scotland and America, but the novels are huge, so I need to restart the 4th one when I feel up to the task.

**Who would be in your top ten of children’s authors?**

From a Key Stage 2 perspective, JK Rowling without a doubt, Michelle Paver (Wolf Brother series- it is so gripping for children) and CS Lewis.

**How do you encourage ‘reluctant’ readers to read?**

By sharing stories about reading, trying to tap into their interests. Knowing plenty of books and recommending them helps. When we did our class surveys and got input into what the children might like to read, and read blurbs etc., the boys became so much more hungry to read because we had books they wanted. I also shared one of my own books with my most reluctant boy reader, and he was SO excited to be able to take a book of mine home. He carried it proudly every day, and still emails me to tell me what is happening in the novel.

**What would you see as best practice in a primary / secondary school to encourage children to read widely and for enjoyment?**

Listen to the children, and experience stories with them. Our last class reader I hadn’t actually read before, but it came highly recommended, so we were all experiencing it and having discussions for the first time at the same time. I forgot, as a teacher, what it feels like to not know the “expected” answer, and just found myself enjoying the novel with the children. When the children see you do it, they do it. So, when I was gripped and wanted to read more, they did too. If we want to model what a “good reader looks like”, we need to show them, and one of the best ways to do that is for it to be a fresh novel you perhaps haven’t read.