

HIAS HOME LEARNING RESOURCE

# A menu of reading response ideas

KS2

HIAS English team  
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Final version

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# The importance of 'just reading'

How much and how often children read really matters. During this challenging time of school closures, 'just reading' is one of the best ways to keep children learning and growing.

Once children have mastered decoding through their phonics work, reading as much and as widely as possible will ensure that they continue to develop, not just academically, but emotionally too. And the best way to improve reading is the most enjoyable – reading! As the reading scientist Mark Seidenberg puts it, “The serious way to improve reading – how well we comprehend a text and, yes, speed and efficiency – is this: Read. As much as possible. Mostly new stuff.”

Encourage children to read themselves and parents to read to children using our range of weblinks to free books online. In addition, encourage parents to follow one of the weblinks to free audio books or authors reading live given in our 'Home Learning' tab. Encourage children to read stories, non-fiction and poetry – we have given links to all. Encourage parents to listen to their child reading aloud, even if they are in Key Stage 2. Enjoy talking about the books they read and discuss unfamiliar words. Reading aloud will help children to build their fluency, so that when they read silently the voice in their head is fluent too.

Reading response tasks are an important part of reflecting on reading. Allow children to be creative in how they present these. This document gives a Menu of Ideas for reading responses. Children could be given choice over time or a different one each week.

Explore the front cover. What might the text be about? What do we see and notice that might help us predict the key themes of the book?



Read, read and read some more. Spend time together sharing, discussing and enjoying books. The more you read, the more fluent you become.



Write a new blurb for a book that has been read. How would you summarise it for the reader without giving too much away...?



Why not draw a new front cover for a book that you have read? What would you include on the cover? Would you give it a new title?



Draw and label a character from the book you are reading: think about their feelings, physical description and personality. What have you learnt about the character from the story so far?



Enjoy reading some poetry together. Remember to read with expression and rhythm. Try writing your own spring poem.



Why not try reading a variety of non-fiction texts: magazines; newspapers; instruction manuals; recipe books...



Why not read some non-fiction and create a fact page?



Read with expression. How might the character be speaking based on the punctuation or their current predicament? Have some fun with it!



Explore picture books. Discuss the pictures and enjoy creating stories.

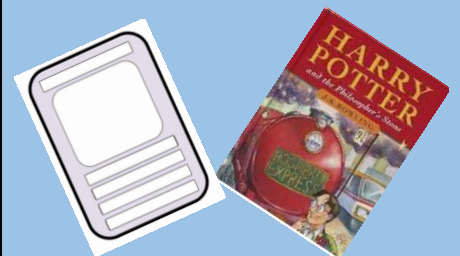


Play 'Reading Tag' or 'Pass the Book'.

On a given word or signal you change the person who is reading. Adults - vary how much you read depending on how fluently your child is reading the words.



Design character 'Top Trump' cards for different characters in different books. What are their characteristics and qualities? What strengths and weaknesses do the characters have? Then have a game, which character would win?



# HIAS English Team

The HIAS English team offer a wide range of high-quality services to support schools in improving outcomes for learners, including courses, bespoke consultancy and in-house training.

**During the current school closures, we are still offering school support in a variety of ways such as video conferencing, phone calls and bespoke creation of resources remotely. Coming soon will be teacher training via virtual classrooms. We would be happy to discuss your needs.**

For further details referring to English, please contact:

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For further details on the full range of services available please contact us using the following details:

Tel: 01962 874820 or email: [hias.enquiries@hants.gov.uk](mailto:hias.enquiries@hants.gov.uk)