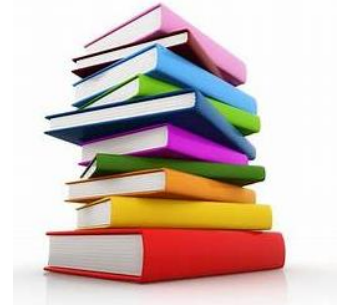




Reading Matters

“Reading is to the mind what exercise is to the mind.” Joseph Addison



Are you concerned about how much time out of school you have had this academic year? One way you can ensure you improve in all subjects is to read more! Our Reading Matters newsletter will show you why reading is important, and it will help you decide on which books you might enjoy reading. If you are a parent and would like to know how to encourage your child to read, please see Reading Matters Edition 2: May 2020. We also have some information about the importance of Literacy in the last section of this newsletter.

Did you know?

Read **20 minutes** a day and you will read 1,800,000 words per year.

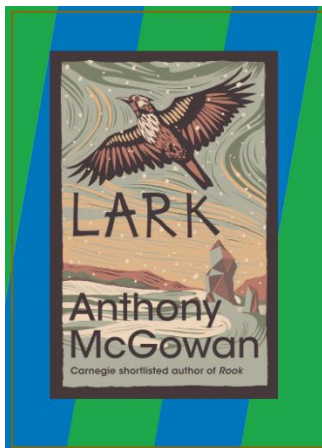
Children who read 1,000,000 words a year are in the top 2% of reading achievement

When children have a home library, as little as **20 books** of their own, they achieve **3 more years** of schooling than children who don't have any at home.

Reading for **6 minutes a day** reduces stress by 68%.

Reading Recommendations

CILIP Carnegie Medal 2020: *Lark* by Anthony McGowan (Barrington Stoke)



WINNER

CILIP CARNEGIE MEDAL 2020

Lark

Anthony McGowan

Barrington Stoke

#CKG20 #BestChildrensBooks



When Nicky and Kenny head for a trek across the moors to take their minds off of everything, a series of unforeseen circumstances leaves the brothers in a vulnerable and very dangerous position. There might even be a chance that this time they won't all make it out alive.

Anthony McGowan is the author of many critically

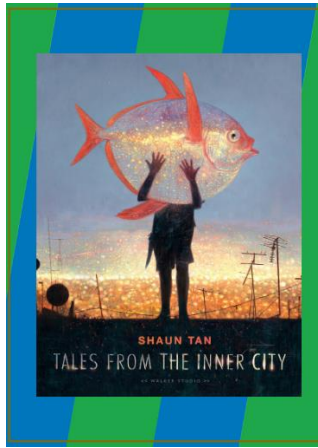
acclaimed YA novels and won the 2006 BookTrust Teenage Prize, the 2007 Catalyst Award and has been shortlisted for a raft of other major children's literature prizes, including the Carnegie Medal for *Rook* in 2018. McGowan was born in Manchester, attended school in Leeds and now lives in London.

“A painful though uplifting conclusion. The moment at which Nicky ... hears the “mad, ecstatic music” of a lark’s song is especially transporting” Imogen Russell Williams, *Guardian*

Suitable for Year 8 and above

CILIP Kate Greenaway Medal 2020: *Tales from the Inner City* written and illustrated by Shaun Tan (Walker Books)

A young girl's cat brightens the lives of everyone in the neighbourhood. A woman and her dog are separated by time and space, awaiting the day they will be reunited. A race of fish build a society parallel to our own. And a bunch of office managers suddenly turn into frogs but find that their new lives aren't so bad.



WINNER

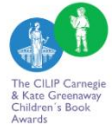
CILIP KATE GREENAWAY MEDAL 2020

Shaun Tan

Tales from the Inner City

Walker Books

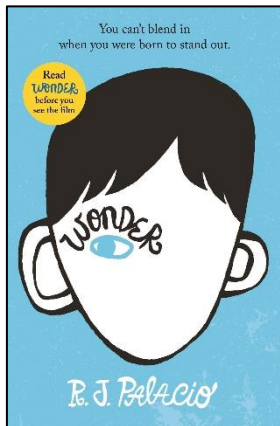
#CKG20 #BestChildrensBooks



Shaun Tan grew up in Perth and works as an artist, writer and filmmaker in Melbourne, best known for illustrated books that deal with social, political and historical subjects through dream-like imagery. Shaun has also worked as a theatre designer, a concept artist for Pixar and won an Academy Award for the short animated film *The Lost Thing*.

"When it comes to originality and genius, Tan is in a league of his own. This collection of stories and poems with an animal-in-the-city theme are intriguing, thought-provoking and at times baffling, asking as many questions as they answer, and the illustrations are sublime. One for quirky teens (or adults) who love art." *The Irish Independent*

'Wonder' by R. J. Palacio



Now an Oscar nominated film starring Julia Roberts, Owen Wilson and Jacob Tremblay.

'My name is August. I won't describe what I look like. Whatever you're thinking, it's probably worse.'

Auggie wants to be an ordinary ten-year-old. He does ordinary things - eating ice cream, playing on his

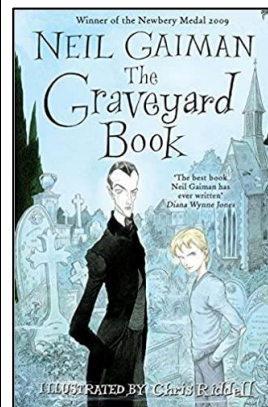
Xbox. He *feels* ordinary - inside. But ordinary kids don't make other ordinary kids run away screaming in playgrounds. Ordinary kids aren't stared at wherever they go.

Born with a terrible facial abnormality, Auggie has been home-schooled by his parents his whole life. Now, for the first time, he's being sent to a real school - and he's dreading it. All he wants is to be accepted - but can he convince his new classmates that he's just like them, underneath it all?

WONDER is a funny, frank, astonishingly moving debut to read in one sitting, pass on to others, and remember long after the final page

Suitable for Year 7 and above

'The Graveyard Book' by Neil Gaiman



Nobody Owens, known to his friends as Bod, is a perfectly normal boy. Well, he would be perfectly normal if he didn't live in a graveyard, being raised and educated by ghosts, with a solitary guardian who belongs to neither the world of the living nor the world of the dead.

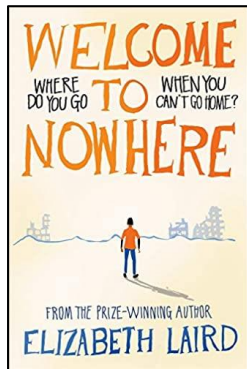
There are dangers and adventures for Bod in the graveyard: the strange and terrible menace of the Sleer; a gravestone entrance to a desert that leads to the city of ghouls; friendship with a witch, and so much more.

But it is in the land of the living that real danger lurks, for it is there that the man Jack lives and he has already killed Bod's family.

A deliciously dark masterwork by bestselling author Neil Gaiman, with illustrations by award-winning Dave McKean.

Suitable for Year 7 and above

'Welcome to Nowhere' by Elizabeth Laird



Welcome to Nowhere is a powerful and beautifully written story about the life of one family caught up in civil war by the award-winning author Elizabeth Laird, shortlisted for the Scottish Teen Book Award and winner of the UKLA Book Award.

Twelve-year-old Omar and his brothers and sisters were born and raised in the beautiful and bustling city of Bosra, Syria. Omar doesn't care about politics - all he wants is to grow up to become a successful businessman who will take the world by storm. But when his clever older brother, Musa, gets mixed up with some young political activists, everything changes . . .

Before long, bombs are falling, people are dying, and Omar and his family have no choice but to flee their home with only what they can carry. Yet no matter how far they run, the shadow of war follows them - until they have no other choice than to attempt the dangerous journey to escape their homeland altogether. But where do you go when you can't go home?

Suitable Year 8 and above

'I'm the King of the Castle' by Susan Hill



'I'm the King of the Castle' by Susan Hill is a chilling novel that explores the extremes of childhood cruelty, now published as a Penguin Essential for the first time.

'Some people are coming here today, now you will have a companion.'

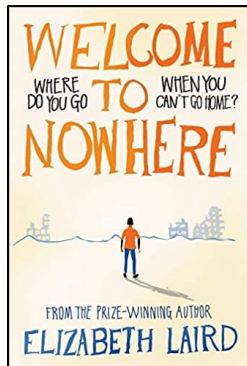
But young Edmund Hooper doesn't want anyone else in

Warings, the large and rambling Victorian house he shares with his widowed father. Nevertheless, Charles Kingshaw and his mother are soon installed and Hooper sets about subtly persecuting the fearful new arrival.

In the woods, Charles fights back but he knows that his rival will always win the affections of the adults - and that worse is still to come . . .

Suitable for Year 9 and above

'Welcome to Nowhere' by Elizabeth Laird



Welcome to Nowhere is a powerful and beautifully written story about the life of one family caught up in civil war by the award-winning author Elizabeth Laird, shortlisted for the Scottish Teen Book Award and winner of the UKLA Book Award.

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Suitable Year 8 and above

'The Hate U Give' by Angie Thomas



Stunning, vital wake-up call of a novel about racism, social inequality and not giving up told through the eyes of an incredible, unforgettable sixteen-year-old.

Winner of the Waterstones Children's Book Prize 2018

Winner of the Children's Book of the Year 2018 at the British Book Awards

#1 *New York Times* bestseller

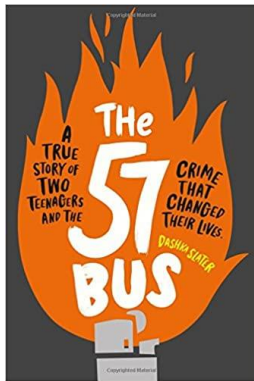
Now a major motion picture, starring Amandla Stenberg

Sixteen-year-old Starr lives in two worlds: the poor neighbourhood where she was born and raised and her posh high school in the suburbs. The uneasy balance between them is shattered when Starr is the only witness to the fatal shooting of her unarmed best friend, Khalil, by a police officer. Now what Starr says could destroy her community. It could also get her killed.

Inspired by the Black Lives Matter movement, this is a powerful and gripping YA novel about one girl's struggle for justice

Suitable for Key Stage 3 and 4

'The 57 Bus' by Dashka Slater



Winner of the Stonewall Young Adult Literature Award

One teenager in a skirt. One teenager with a lighter. One moment that changes both their lives forever.

Two teenagers growing up in Oakland, California. One, Sasha, was born male but

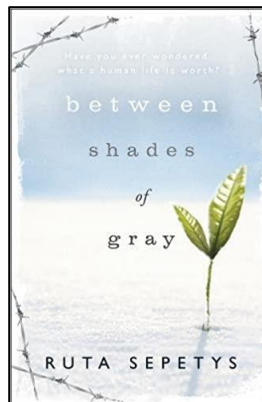
identifies as agender, wears skirts and attends a private school. The other, Richard, is an African American from a poor part of Oakland who attends a rough public school.

They have no reason to meet, except for eight minutes every day, they catch the same bus home. And one day, messing about, Richard spies Sasha napping. He flicks the flame of his lighter to Sasha's skirt, and Sasha wakes up in a ball of flame.

What happens next, as the victim, the perpetrator and the community struggle to come to terms with their sadness and shock, is a story of recovery, reconciliation, forgiveness and, above all, hope. It's about the power of being true to yourself, bravery and the good and bad in all of us. **And, remarkably, it's all true**

Suitable for Key Stage 4 pupils

'Between Shades of Gray' by Ruta Sepetys



The haunting and powerful Second World War novel by Ruta Sepetys that inspired the feature film, **ASHES IN THE SNOW, OUT NOW.**

One night fifteen-year-old Lina, her mother and young brother are hauled from their home by Soviet guards, thrown into cattle cars and sent away. They are being deported to Siberia.

An unimaginable and harrowing journey has begun. Lina doesn't know if she'll ever see her father or her friends again. But she refuses to give up hope.

Lina hopes for her family.

For her country.

For her future.

For love - first love, with the boy she barely knows but knows she does not want to lose . . .

Will hope keep Lina alive?

Set in 1941, *Between Shades of Gray*, is an extraordinary and haunting story based on first-hand family accounts and memories from survivors.

Suitable for Key Stage 3 and 4 pupils

Have you been to...

DRAKE The Bookshop

27 Silver Street, Stockton, TS18 1SX

Tel: 01642 909970

Email: books@drakethebookshop.co.uk

Website: www.drakethebookshop.co.uk

Reading Pharmacy for lockdown- tell DRAKE your last read or what books you enjoy and they will prescribe your next lockdown read:

<http://www.drakethebookshop.co.uk/index.php/component/virtuemart/drake-lockdown-reading-pharmacy?Itemid=546>

New, temporary opening times: Monday to Saturday 10:00am to 4:00pm. Thursday 10:00am to 1:00pm

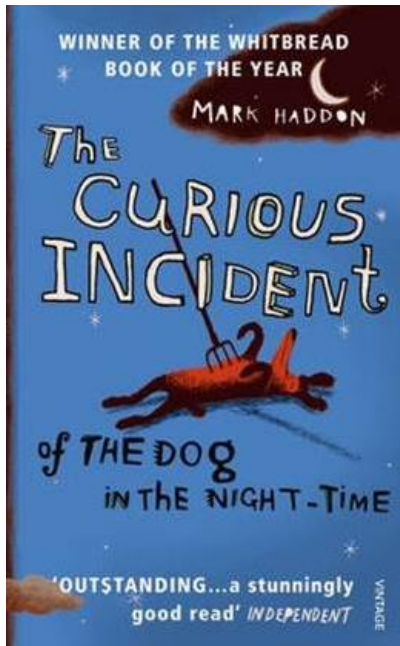


"Lovely bookshop, and warm, friendly staff. Lovely cosy area to sit and read with a coffee, and such a wide range of books."

Google Review, January 2020



We are reading...



Mrs Harrison has recently been reading: '*The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time*' by Mark Haddon

Seen through the eyes of Christopher, a mathematical genius and Sherlock Holmes fan, who also has Asperger's syndrome, this bestselling novel opens with the discovery of a murdered dog on the neighbour's lawn.

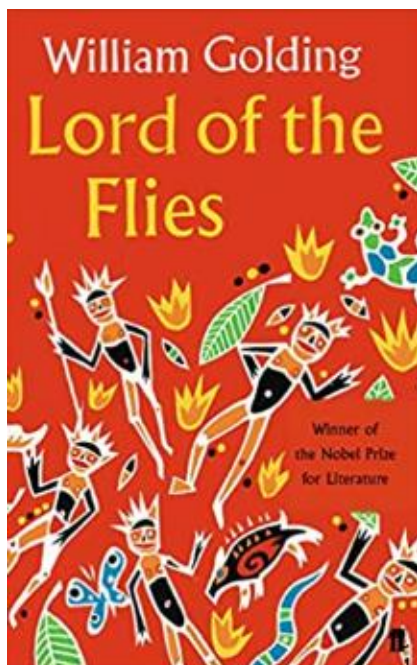
In his search to discover the identity of the killer, Christopher uncovers some disturbing information about his own family, which throws his ordered world into chaos, and he embarks on a journey to London to find the mother he thought was dead.

This funny, touching and compelling novel was the winner of the inaugural Booktrust Teenage Prize. A must-read for adults and children alike, it is an adventure story unlike any other.

Interest age: 13+ Reading age: 13+

'You might recognise this book from the Recommended Reading List on the last newsletter. It's a book I've had at home for a long time, but never got round to reading! I decided that sitting in the sunshine over May half term was the perfect time to start. My favourite part of this book was the perspective from which it's written; although the main plot is about finding out who committed a murder, you find out so much about the main character's life through his thoughts, feelings and relationships.'

This book is also on the BookTrust's 'Best Books for 12-14 Year Olds' list. You can see the full list here: <https://www.booktrust.org.uk/booklists/1/100-best-12-14/>



Mrs Harrison has also been reading: '*Lord of the Flies*' by William Golding

When a group of schoolboys are stranded on a desert island, what could go wrong?

A plane crashes. The only survivors are a group of schoolboys. By day, they discover fantastic wildlife and dazzling beaches, learning to survive; at night, they are haunted by nightmares of a primitive beast.

Differing leaders emerge, but as their terror of the island's mysteries and their own fears about survival overtake them, the boys become increasingly violent. Orphaned by society, it isn't long before their innocent childhood games devolve into a savage, murderous hunt.

Interest age: 13+ Reading age: 13+

'I absolutely loved reading this book when I was at school. so I decided to read it again at home. The schoolboy characters all have such distinct personalities, making it difficult for the group to have a harmonious life while they wait to be rescued. This book is a great reminder of the difficulties that teenagers face – whether stuck on a desert island or not!'

Authorfy

Sign up for a free account with **Authorfy** and you'll have access to online Author Masterclasses, complete with videos, resources, chapter readings, writing challenges and book extracts.



https://authorfy.com/masterclasses/?age=11%2B&masterclass_author=&keywords=

For a daily dose of creativity and fun, check out the '10 Minute Challenges' also set by bestselling authors and illustrators!

<https://authorfy.com/10minutechallenges/>

INTERVIEW A FAMILY MEMBER & WRITE A SHORT BIOGRAPHY ABOUT THEM	WRITE A DIARY ENTRY ABOUT YOUR DAY	AN ALIEN IS KNOCKING AT YOUR DOOR! WHAT DO YOU DO NEXT?	INVENT A NEW RECIPE (INCLUDE INGREDIENTS & INSTRUCTIONS)	A PORTAL OPENS UP IN FRONT OF YOU. YOU JUMP THROUGH. WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?
WRITE A STORY WITH AT LEAST 3 PROBLEMS IN IT	WRITE A BOOK OR FILM REVIEW & EXPLAIN WHAT YOU LIKED / DIDN'T LIKE	LOOK OUT OF THE WINDOW AND DESCRIBE WHAT YOU SEE	COMPLETE A WRITING CHALLENGE FROM AUTHORFY.COM	OPEN A BOOK. SELECT RANDOM WORDS & WRITE A POEM USING THOSE WORDS
AN ANIMAL STARTS TALKING TO YOU! WHAT MIGHT YOU SAY TO EACH OTHER?	DRAW YOUR OWN MONSTER OR CREATURE & TAKE IT ON AN ADVENTURE	<i>Daily writing prompts from Authorfy</i>	WRITE SOME FAN FICTION BASED ON CHARACTERS YOU LOVE	WRITE A SHORT STORY WHERE YOU TRAVEL TO THE PAST OR FUTURE
WRITE A LETTER TO YOUR FAVOURITE AUTHOR	YOU COME ACROSS A CLOSED DOOR. WHAT'S BEHIND IT?	WRITE A STORY OR POEM THAT STARTS WITH THE WORD 'HELLO'	KEEP A FOOD DIARY. CAN YOU DESCRIBE WHAT EACH FOOD TASTES LIKE?	WRITE A NONSENSE POEM IN 5 MINUTES (WITHOUT LIFTING YOUR PEN OFF THE PAPER!)
WRITE ABOUT YOUR FAVOURITE MEMORY	IMAGINE A HOUSEHOLD OBJECT COMES TO LIFE. WHAT WOULD IT SAY?	A LETTER BLOWS INTO YOUR BEDROOM WINDOW. WHAT DOES IT SAY?	WRITE ABOUT SOMETHING THAT IS IMPORTANT TO YOU	CREATE A SUPERHERO & SUPERVILLAIN. WHAT DO THEY BOTH WANT?

VISIT AUTHORFY.COM FOR FREE AUTHOR VIDEOS, RESOURCES & WRITING CHALLENGES

Home Learning and Reading

Audible are offering free children's audio books: <https://stories.audible.com/start-listen>

And a huge selection of books available for free online to read...

<https://readon.myon.co.uk/> (particularly for Y7 & Y8)

What other resources are available?

The Government have put together the best websites for online learning:



Online Books

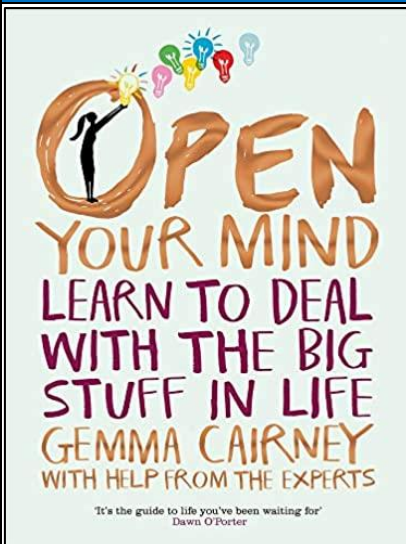
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-online-education-resources/coronavirus-covid-19-list-of-online-education-resources-for-home-education>

Resources, which can be used alongside tasks and lessons set by Our Lady and St Bede Catholic Academy:

<https://www.thenational.academy/online-classroom/>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize>

Non-Fiction Reading



'*Open Your Mind Learn to Deal with the Big Stuff in Life*' by Gemma Cairney with help from experts

Full of honest and practical advice from Gemma Cairney and a whole host of trained professionals and real people, *Open Your Mind* is the best friend of a book everyone needs. From stress, trauma and anxiety, to your place in the world and everything in between.

Includes chapters on:

Anxiety
Depression
Addiction
Politics
Our Natural World
Feminism
Money
And so much more!

Gemma Cairney is an important advocate for young people. Her personal insight and time as Radio 1's resident agony aunt on *The Surgery* makes her perfectly placed to offer advice to young people questioning what life's all about. Discover even more with *Open Your Heart: Learn to Love Your Life and Love Yourself*.

Maintaining Your Well-Being

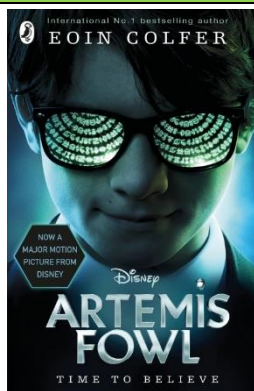
Tips for parents & carers: There are many ways that you can maintain your well-being for yourself and others that you are living with. Try these links for some ideas:

Coronavirus: wellbeing activity ideas for families <https://www.place2be.org.uk/our-services/parents-and-carers/coronavirus-wellbeing-activity-ideas-for-families/>

How to help your teenager with staying home during lockdown <https://www.barnardos.org.uk/blog/how-help-your-teenager-staying-home-during-lockdown/>

21 Things To Do During The Lockdown for older children & adults <https://www.readersdigest.co.in/better-living/story-21-things-to-do-during-the-21-day-lockdown-125352>

Artemis Fowl Creative Writing Competition



Inspired by the new film, *Artemis Fowl, Into Film, Disney+ and Puffin Books* are launching an exciting new creative writing competition. The competition gives you the chance to win a Fujifilm Instax Mini 9 Camera for yourself, plus an Artemis Fowl goody bag for yourself and each member of your school class.

Write a short story about waking up in a future world with new technology all around you.

- What will have changed?
- How will the day-to-day technology that we use be different?

Create your story and send it in for the chance of winning the Artemis Fowl book and prizes for you and the rest of your class to enjoy.

COMPETITION DETAILS

Simply produce a piece of creative writing explaining what the future world would be like.

TIPS FOR YOUR WRITING

- Write in the first person using 'I'
- Be as descriptive as possible
- Let your imagination run free
- No more than 300 words

Entry deadline: 13 July 2020 All entries must be submitted from a parent, teacher or guardian's (18+) email address to be eligible. Entries will be judged on their creativity and originality.

Please see: <https://www.intofilm.org/resources/1678>





Literacy is the Key to Learning

'Literacy is key to academic success across the curriculum'
Sir Kevain Collins, Chief Executive of the EEF

How can I help to develop my child's literacy skills?



During these unusual times, it can be worrying to think that your child is missing out, but it is true that important literacy skills can also be developed through family time. The family zone from the National Literacy Trust caters for young people from birth to age 14; enabling them to keep busy, while benefitting their reading, writing and language development.

Resources are also available for older pupils, designed to boost skills and beat the lockdown boredom. This area provides a range of challenges and informative videos to prompt writing, which will promote literacy and develop key life skills.

The resources include; free audiobooks, author exclusives, the chance to write a lockdown poem, sign up to the skills academy, write a comedy script, create a CV and send in to get immediate feedback from industry experts. There are also a range of links from The National Theatre to Young Minds

How can we encourage positive and long-term literacy habits during lockdown?

In his article, *Motivating Children to Read During Lockdown*, Alex Quigley provides 5 handy tips to foster reading motivation:

- Regular reading habits
- Reading choice
- Reading variety
- Reading talk
- Reading success

To read the article in Families Online:

<https://www.familiesonline.co.uk/families-magazines/east-kent/the-next-issue/motivating-children-to-read-during-lockdown>

You may also find the recent guidance from *the Educational Endowment Fund* useful. It highlights the importance of finding 'learning opportunities everywhere' and using the **Talk with TRUST** approach to support reading, writing and language development.

Reading for Pleasure Puts children ahead in the Classroom, Study Finds <https://cls.ucl.ac.uk/reading-for-pleasure-puts-children-ahead-in-the-classroom-study-finds/>

Helping Home Learning

Talk with TRUST

Learning opportunities are everywhere. You can make anything a learning experience for your child, just follow the TRUST ideas.

T Take turns to talk about what you are going to do



R Recap the plan as you are working



U Use lots of encouragement



S Share what you know to help your child



T Tune-in and be interested



The TRUST framework was adapted from 'High Quality Interactions' in the EEF's guidance report *Preparing for Literacy* [p.9]

Reading focus is different for pupils of different age ranges, as we know.

- In earlier years of secondary school, activities that support reading comprehension through shared book reading

- In later years of secondary school, independent reading and strategies that support independent learning.

You may use the following steps to support your child

1. Take turns to make plans and predictions before reading: *'I wonder if... what do you think?' 'You think... Oh, I thought...'*

3. Use encouragement and praise to keep children engaged in reading: *'What brilliant ideas...let's see what happens.'* *'You thought so carefully about... What might happen now?'*

2. Recap to check ideas and understanding as your child is reading: *'So, you think that...'* *'Did you expect...to happen?'* *'Why do you think that happened?'*

4. Share prior knowledge and past experiences that link to what is being read: *'Have you learnt about...at school?'* *'Do you remember when we watched...and found out about...'*

5. Tune-in and listen to your child – be curious about their interests: *'I didn't know you knew so much about...'* *'I love reading stories about...with you.'*

Hints and Tips

1 Concentrate on reading quality (it isn't all about reading lots!)



2 Ask your child lots of questions



3 Ask your child to make predictions about what they have read



4 Ask your child to summarise what they have read



5 Ask your child to write about what they have read



6 Read and discuss reading with friends or family



7 Maintain the motivation to read

