

Reading for Pleasure

Contents

1. Introduction
2. How this resource links to the English national curriculum
3. Guidance for parents and carers
4. Guidance for learners
5. How will we know what we are doing is working – statements to help assess that reading for pleasure is developing
6. Helpful websites
7. Helping your Child with Reading booklet – tips for parents and carers
8. Reading Strategies: Suggested prompts – ideas to help develop the reading strategies mentioned in the guidance for parents and learners
9. Comprehension Chart – a useful chart to note down ideas and thoughts while reading
10. Book review – use this form to write book reviews or copy the headings onto lined paper, or use your own format.

1. Introduction

At the moment, there is the opportunity to spend more time reading – make the most of this and let books develop your knowledge and vocabulary and let them take you on virtual journeys in your imagination!

However, for some people reading is not enjoyable. This can be for many reasons. For example, it may be difficult or it may seem to have no purpose and there are other seemingly more exciting things to do. This resource has been produced to help learners develop a love of reading, through using certain strategies to help make reading easier and purposeful. Parents and carers can support their children through practising these strategies and making reading a shared experience.

For those who already enjoy reading, the strategies suggested here can help with reading a wider range of books, and tackle more complex texts.

It would be great to hear from you and know what you are reading. Please contact me on the email address below with any questions, comments or to submit book reviews for inclusion on the Hackney Learning Trust website.

Happy reading!

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Reading for Pleasure

2. How this resource links to the English national curriculum

English has a pre-eminent place in education and in society. A high-quality education in English will teach pupils to speak and write fluently so that they can communicate their ideas and emotions to others and through their reading and listening, others can communicate with them. Through reading in particular, pupils have a chance to develop culturally, emotionally, intellectually, socially and spiritually. Literature, especially, plays a key role in such development. Reading also enables pupils both to acquire knowledge and to build on what they already know. All the skills of language are essential to participating fully as a member of society; pupils, therefore, who do not learn to speak, read and write fluently and confidently are effectively disenfranchised.

Reading and reading for enjoyment

The overarching aim for English in the national curriculum is to promote high standards of language and literacy by equipping pupils with a strong command of the spoken and written word, and to develop their love of literature through widespread reading for enjoyment.

The national curriculum identifies the importance of pupils being able to:

- read easily, fluently and with good understanding
- develop the habit of reading widely and often, for both pleasure and information

And it aims to ensure that pupils:

- acquire a wide vocabulary, an understanding of grammar and knowledge of linguistic conventions for reading, writing and spoken language
- appreciate our rich and varied literary heritage
- write clearly, accurately and coherently, adapting their language and style in and for a range of contexts, purposes and audiences
- use discussion in order to learn; they should be able to elaborate and explain clearly their understanding and ideas

Reading for Pleasure

3. Guidance for Parents and Carers

Helping your children with reading can sometimes seem daunting, especially when they are at Secondary school – you may no longer feel that they need to read with or to you, and it can be difficult to find books that interest them.

A leaflet giving advice on how to support your child with their reading is attached, and a document with some prompts for each of the four reading strategies, Predict, Question, Clarify and Summarise, and a Comprehension Chart for your child to note down their thoughts as they read.

Using these strategies will really help your child to understand and engage with what they are reading. It will also make it easier for them to talk and write about what they have read, which as you can see from the national curriculum aims above is just as important as completing the reading.

You can either read along with your child, taking it in turns to read sections and making predictions, asking questions etc. as you go – and in this way you can model your thinking as you wonder what will happen next or question why something happened – just as you do when you read your own books.

Alternatively, your child can read and jot down any questions etc. on the attached record sheet and discuss them with you after they have read sections of a book on their own.

Both these approaches will encourage discussion and explanation of ideas, and it may be worthwhile trying to use both. Using the strategies often will make them come naturally to your children when they read any text in any subject.

There are many websites offering free books to read online and some are mentioned below. There are also reviews of books on sites such as Amazon, which can help your child to decide if a book is of interest and suitable for them. It is also important to read newspapers, articles and blogs online

To encourage your child to write about what they have read and share their experience – we all love telling people about our greatest last read – it would be great if they could complete a book review for us to share on the website. The attached form can be used or they can write in their own format.

Finally, it is important to remember the ‘enjoyment’ in reading for enjoyment! Do not make reading a chore or a task that must be completed– if you can be involved in your child’s reading and interested in the books they are reading it will become a pleasure to talk about them and they will want to read.

Reading for Pleasure

4. Guidance for Learners

There are so many reasons why you should read and want to read!

Of course it helps if you can read easily, fluently and with good understanding and if you can develop the habit of reading widely and often, for both pleasure and information. It will help you to develop a wide vocabulary, an understanding of grammar and knowledge of linguistic conventions for reading, writing and spoken language and appreciate our rich and varied literary heritage. All of this will help you not only at school but in your working lives. It is also wonderful to become engrossed in a good book and be transported to other lands, times and cultures!

You may already own books that you haven't yet read, and there are many books available online, some of which are free. There are some websites suggested below.

It is very useful to use the following strategies to help you understand what you read. These can be used when you read all texts in all subjects and whether they are fiction or non-fiction.

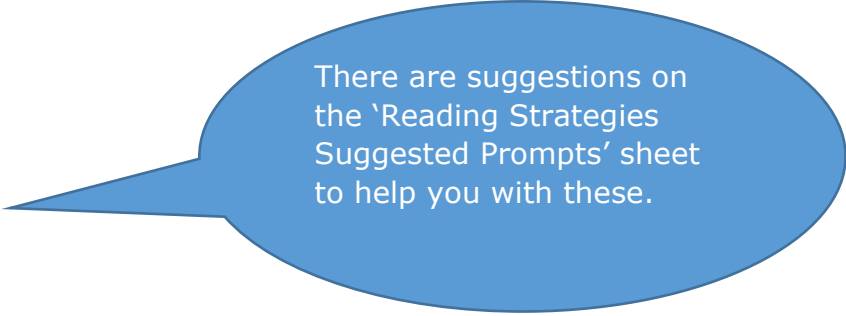
The strategies are:

Prediction

Questioning

Clarification

Summarising



There are suggestions on the 'Reading Strategies Suggested Prompts' sheet to help you with these.

You can use these at any point when you are reading; you can make predictions before you start reading by looking at the cover of a book and the blurb or you can predict what will happen next at any point; you can also ask questions, clarify words you don't know or parts of the text that are tricky and you can summarise paragraphs, chapters or the whole book.

If you can read at the same time as someone else, e.g. a parent, carer or brother or sister then you can help each other out by answering questions together or working out how to pronounce a new word or what it means. Or you can use the Comprehension Chart to jot your ideas down and then ask someone to help you after you have read a part of a book.

If you are not sure what to read, there are lots of reviews online, on authors' websites and Amazon.

It would be great if you could complete book reviews and send them in to be shared on our website for other children to read. It's so nice to share your thoughts about a book you have loved reading.

You can use the attached book review form or write the review in your own format.

"The more you **read**
the more **things** you know.
The more that you **learn**
the more **places** you'll go."
-Dr. Seuss

Reading for Pleasure

5.

How will we know what we are doing is working?

Parents/ Carers

You will know your child is developing a love of reading when you can say,

- *My child is reading more books*
- *My child talks to me about the books they are reading, including about the language, plot, and characters*
- *My child reads and understands different types of fiction for example adventure stories, sci-fi and suspense stories, poems, short stories and plays*
- *My child reads and understands a range of non-fiction including information texts, newspapers, blogs and websites*
- *My child reads a range of different authors from different periods and from different countries*

Learners

You will know you are developing a love of reading when you can say,

- *I enjoy reading every day*
- *I can discuss the language, plot, and characters from a book*
- *I read and understand different types of fiction for example adventure stories, sci-fi and suspense stories, poems, short stories and plays*
- *I read and understand a range of non-fiction including information texts, newspapers, blogs and websites*
- *I read a range of different authors from different periods and from different countries*

Reading for Pleasure

6. Useful websites:

<https://hackney.gov.uk/hackney-central-library> You can also access thousands of e-books, audiobooks, newspapers and magazines for free through our digital library. Just use your Hackney libraries membership. Not a member? [Join for free now](#).

https://www.amazon.co.uk/b?node=21173577031&pf_rd_r=VQAH95PKNEYE9PKRM6QM&pf_rd_p=a5618163-2ef6-466e-b112-a4e9a5f8ffa3 Enjoy a selection of free Kindle Books for you and your family. 'On this page, we give an overview of some of the Kindle Books that are currently available for free download. This selection includes public domain titles as well as Kindle Books which publishers are providing for free download for a limited time. Start reading now on any tablet or smartphone with the [free Kindle Reading App](#). Conditions apply.*'

<https://tompalmer.co.uk/> *"Tom Palmer is a true reading hero and has been responsible for motivating many thousands of young people to get into books"* **Booktrust** There are free resources to accompany Tom's books and also free chapters to read.

You can also search the internet for your favourite author's website; remember to try out and read books by a range of authors.