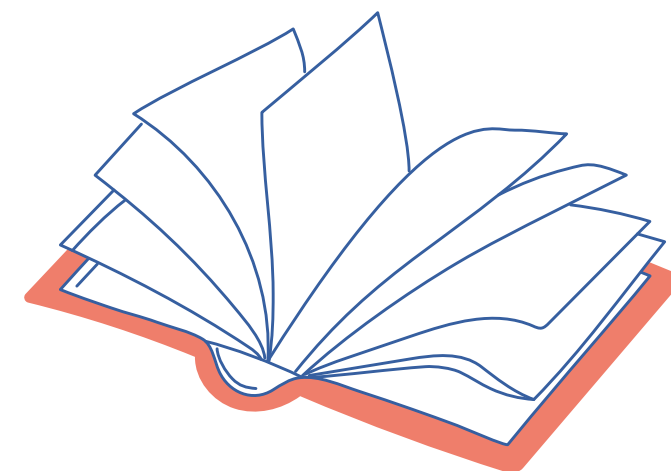


# Supporting Reading Through Book Chat



- Reading with your child and talking to them about reading does not need to end with primary school.
- You may not read the same book together (although you could) but setting some time aside as family reading time, or making conversations about reading part of family life can be beneficial to students no matter their age.

- Talk or 'book chat' encourages active reading that will allow students to think about their book more deeply.
- It can also provide a bonding experience as you discuss ideas, thoughts and feelings the book may bring up. This is highlighted wonderfully in this video, by children's author Tom Palmer: [Click here to watch.](#)
- Reading with TRUST can help keep these conversations positive:



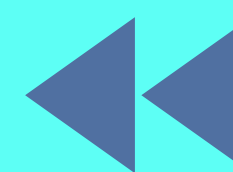
**T**

Take turns to talk about books. Ask questions, but be willing to share your own reading experiences with them too.



**R**

Regularly recap what has happened in the story so far. Retelling the story will help to consolidate understanding and provide the opportunity to clarify misunderstandings. For non-fiction, you can ask about what they have learned.



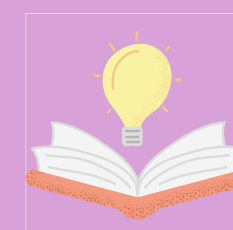
**U**

Use lots of encouragement and praise to keep them engaged.



**S**

Share your knowledge and experience with them. Can you fill in any background knowledge or make any connections to past experiences that link to the book?



**T**

Tune-in and be interested. The conversation does not always need to be academic. Notice what grabs your child's attention and interest. Allow them to read whatever interests them. Having the choice to choose their own reading material is fundamental to seeing themselves as readers.



For any further support or individual advice please get in touch and ask to speak to the school librarian.

Listen to this document:





# SO YOU HAVE A RELUCTANT READER...?

## Tips and tricks for encouraging your child to read.

### GENERAL TIPS AND TRICKS



**Let them have a choice over their reading material.** Discouraging a child from reading something they have chosen themselves is a quick way to turn them off reading. Letting them make their own choices will help them see reading as something joyful and aligned with their interests.



**Sneak in reading.** Point out an interesting news article or blog, have them read a recipe or turn on the subtitles on the TV. They'll be reading without even noticing it!



**Try a 'phone-free' 30 minutes/ hour.** Set aside some time for all of the family to turn off their phones/ devices/ tv/ games consoles. They may turn to books out of boredom (especially if they see you doing the same thing!)



**Use technology as an incentive.** Maybe they would prefer to read eBooks using an e-reader or their phone (e-readers are great as there are less distractions from other apps, but make use of what you have.) We have a dedicated eBook platform at school with over 1000 eBooks to choose from.



**Make use of social media.** Introduce them to BookTube, a group of youtubers (often teens themselves) who talk about books. There are similar accounts on TikTok. Many authors are also on Twitter. Students could post book reviews or tweet a question to an author. Many will respond and this personal interaction can be a great motivator.



**If you have younger children, ask your older (reluctant reader) child to read to them.** This is a big confidence booster and helps sibling bonding.



**Teens can also read to grandparents.** This is a particularly great way to connect over Lockdown.



**Read to pets.** Ask your child to read to the dog for 10 minutes a day. Animals are great, non-judgemental listeners. This is especially useful if your child lacks confidence.



**Offer encouragement and be enthusiastic about what they are reading.** Ask them to describe a character or read aloud an exciting bit. You could even read a teen/YA book yourself; the quick paced, plot-driven nature of many of these books mean they are relatively easy reads, perfect for the end of a busy day.



**Model reading yourself.** Let them see you reading for pleasure and talk about what you read and how you choose books.  
You could also seek out **public reading role models**. Marcus Rashford for example, often tweets about books and reading.



**Visit the library together** and give them time to browse. If they seem disinterested, spend some time browsing yourself, with nothing else to do they will often do the same!



**Take them to a bookshop and allow them to pick out a book of their choice.** The visually appealing marketing and layout of books in bookshops can attract even reluctant readers.



**You could offer reading incentives.** Some parents run their own summer reading challenge and promise a trip out if their child reads a certain number of books or pages. The reward doesn't necessarily need to be this big, and we would not encourage it all the time (as you don't want them to see reading as something they only do for a reward) but it can be useful during school holidays or when a 'breakthrough' is needed.



**Gentle encouragement works best.**



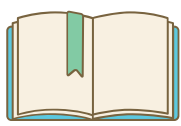
# SO YOU HAVE A RELUCTANT READER...?

## Tips and tricks for encouraging your child to read.

### FINDING BOOKS THEY WANT TO READ



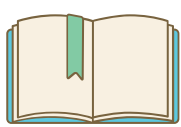
**Find books with a connection to something they love.** We have themed booklists for students interested in Sports or Gaming. If they are interested in Youtube, try the Zoella book club. We also have booklists based around subject interests: Maths, Science, Technology, PE, Music... Whatever their interest there will be a book to match. Contact the librarian if you want any support.



**Ask for a 'Recommended Reads' list** or search through the reading lists on our library website. There are booklists to cover all age ranges. From different genres, to hobbies and current events, there are a number of booklists that will help students find a book they will enjoy. Sometimes the sheer number of books available can be daunting, narrowing them down like this helps them make a selection.



**Re-read an old favourite.** If your child has fell out of love with reading, encourage them to pick up and old favourite. This will remind them what they enjoy about reading.



**Try different formats.** All reading is helpful so try **graphic novels**. There are a number of graphic novels of popular teen books such as Stormbreaker by Horowitz; the Recruit by Muchamore or Percy Jackson by Riordan. They may be interested in Marvel comics, Manga or the Pheonix comics. Research shows comics and graphic novels are just as beneficial for literacy as standard books.



Likewise, it is **fine for them to read highly illustrated books** like Diary of a Wimpy Kid if that is what sparks their interest. Once you have got them reading, then you can encourage them to broaden out into other books. Get in touch if you want suggestions for branching out into new books.



**Try audiobooks.** Libraries have free downloadable audiobooks. Many teens like the idea of being able to do something active while listening to a book. By listening to a book your teen will still pick up new vocabulary, hear complex sentence structures and engage with stories.

You can also listen to audiobooks as a family. Sharing a story together is a great way to bond and maybe it is something you can do if you're planning a car trip/ journey?



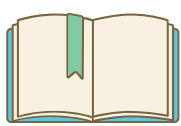
**Try Barrington Stoke books.** These are produced with tinted pages, special fonts and spacing, thicker paper and editing to reduce comprehension barriers and/or difficulties resulting from dyslexia. They are appealing and written by current teen authors (I recommend them widely to all students as they are great accessible stories for anyone.) They are often also short, giving a sense of accomplishment when you finish them.



**Biographies and autobiographies** linked to their interests can be a good hook in. They often contain inspirational messages too!



**Non-fiction books** linked to a child's interests are a great way to spark a desire to read. Some readers will prefer to only read non-fiction.



Try **magazines** related to their interests. Whether this is cinema, sports, crafts or something else. A couple of our favourites are Aquila for younger years - this covers a different topic each month- and Teen Breathe - a magazine about mental health and wellbeing for older teens.



Seek out **books that also have a movie or TV show.** Read the book and then watch the movie together. You could talk about the differences.



If you think your child is ready for it, you might **select a 'grittier' book.** Verbally make a bit of a fuss about it, and question whether they are old enough for it. Tell them they maybe need to wait until they are older as 'there is some language or blood/ violence.' Put reverse psychology to work and they'll soon be begging to read it. You can then 'give in' and let them read the book.

23<sup>rd</sup> April 2021

Dear Parent/ carer,

We use a programme in the Academy called Accelerated Reader. This is designed to support and monitor students' independent reading practice. Students take a termly reading test to determine their reading age. They then select a book to read that matches their current ability and are asked to read independently for twenty minutes a day.

When a student finishes reading a book, they log in to Accelerated Reader to complete a short quiz on the book. The quizzes are designed to monitor students' comprehension and check they have understood what they have read. Students in KS3 typically read a minimum of two books over a half term and complete their quizzes as part of their English homework.

Tutors and other staff across the Academy periodically check in with students to discuss their reading with them and to offer further support where required.

We are also offering parents and carers the opportunity to view information about their child's reading practice from home. This is being made available via a website called Renaissance Home Connect. This allows you to log in, see what books your child has been reading, how they are performing on their quizzes and what progress they are making. You can also set up email alerts to notify you any time your child takes a quiz.

You can log in to Home Connect from this website or scanning the QR code below:

<https://Ukhosted7.renlearn.co.uk/2174704/HomeConnect>



The username and password will be the same as those your child uses to log into Accelerated Reader. If you are unsure of these details, please contact Miss Ling, the school librarian.

More information about using Home Connect can be found attached to this letter. Regular information about supporting reading at home is also shared in student Knowledge Organisers and via the Academy newsletter.

If you have any questions, or would like any further support, please contact the school librarian or your child's English teacher.

Yours sincerely,

Miss D Ling

Librarian

#### OPEN Academy

Principal: Jon Ford BSc (Hons), FRSA

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**W** [www.open-academy.org.uk](http://www.open-academy.org.uk)



Learning Excellence





# Home Connect: How can I see what my child is reading and the progress they are making?

Go to <https://Ukhosted7.renlearn.co.uk/2174704/HomeConnect>  
Log in with your child's Accelerated Reader username and password.  
You will be taken to the screen below.



The screenshot shows the Renaissance Home Connect Accelerated Reader interface. Callout boxes provide the following information:

- View activity over a term (current marking period) or the whole school year.** Points to the 'Current Marking Period' dropdown menu.
- Set up email alerts to be notified any time your child takes a quiz.** Points to the 'Email Setup' link in the top right.
- Details about a student's most recent quiz.** Points to the 'My Last Quiz' section, which displays details for 'The Mystery of the Pantomime Cat' by Enid Blyton, including a 100% score and 6.0 points.
- Click to view all the books your child has read and quizzed on.** Points to the 'View My Bookshelf' button.
- Search for other books your child may enjoy.** Points to the 'Find Books' section with the AR BookFinder logo.

The main dashboard displays 'My Overall Progress' for the period 04/01/2021 - 21/02/2021 (77% Complete). It includes three progress bars: Quizzes (100% average % correct, target 85, Above Target), Points (13.0, 66% of target, target 13.5, 0.5 Points to Target), and ATOS Book Level (4.5 average level, target 4.8, Below Target). It also shows 'Reader Certifications' (None achieved) and 'Quizzes Passed/Taken: 2/2 Word Count: 90,9'.

## Quizzes

This shows your child's average quiz score over a term or school year. All students are set a target of 85%. Meeting this target is a good indicator that a student has understood what they have read. Scores under 85% suggest that further support may be required, or that the book was too difficult at this time.

## Points

Each book has its own points score based on how long it is (word count). Pupils earn a percentage of the points for the book based on their quiz score. Pupils are set a termly points target based on their ability and the results of their STAR Reader test. Pupils who read for 20 minutes a day should meet their target by the end of a term.

## Book Level (ZPD)

This shows the average book level of the books your child has been reading. Each pupil has a personal target based on their ability and the results of their STAR Reader test. Pupil choice is important to develop a love of reading, so we encourage flexibility and allow students to read outside of their book level some of the time. To make the best progress, pupils should read a book in their level around 66% of the time.