

Reading At
The Bishops' C of E and RC Primary
School



A guide to developing fluency,
comprehension and a love of reading

Reading for pleasure

At the Bishops' we value reading for pleasure as well as purpose. Books provide us all with a chance to escape into a different world, grow our understanding of a particular interest and rest from other pressures. As such we encourage children on occasions to read for pleasure and NOT be questioned every time they read to or with an adult.

Reading to your child

Key Stage 2 children still enjoy being read to (even in Year 6!). This time spent 1:1 with children doesn't have to be long but is highly beneficial to developing many different skills. Many of our children rate it as one of their favourite things to do with their parents/carers.

Reading to your child opens up books which may be too difficult for them to read independently, providing them with ideas for their own writing and a love of story. It also allows fluency and expression to be modelled to them.

Comprehension

Understanding what we have read is essential to our enjoyment of reading along with developing our understanding of the world around us and the vocabulary people use. We are committed to developing comprehension alongside fluency. The questions in the following section aim to assist you in developing your child's understanding, and engagement with, the text.

We try to ask open questions which children respond to in sentences, reasoning their thoughts when appropriate. As well as literal questions - recalling facts, or locating answers which are clearly stated in the text - we ask questions to develop higher order skills that require children to think beyond the literal.

Questions to develop comprehension:

This is by no means an exhaustive list. When listening to your child read you could select 1 or 2 of these to focus on. This focus can then be reflected in your comment in the reading record.

Before reading:

- Looking at the title, cover, illustrations what do you think this book is about? What will happen in this book?
- What makes you think that?
- Do you think it will be like any other book you've read? If so which one and why?
- What has happened in the story so far?
 - Where does the story take place?
 - When did it take place?
 - Who are the key characters?

During reading:

- What did he/she/it look like? (Look for adjectives)
- What do you think is happening here?
- What does _____ mean? (Develop vocabulary)
- Why has the author changed paragraphs?
- Why do....? E.g. Why do people need to look after their teeth? Why do Jane and Jack have to be back before 8pm?
- How would you have felt if you were the character?
- What do you predict will happen next?
- How do you think the story will end?
- How does the layout help us? E.g. Headings, subtitles, captions, paragraphs, chapters.
- Why did the character?
- What does the author think about...? How do you know?
- Do you agree with's opinion?
- What has made The character sad/angry/frustrated etc?
- You could also look for: adverbs, similes, speech marks, alliteration, how settings or characters are brought to life.
- Children may have other literary features that they have been learning about in school and can identify, developing their awareness of how they can be used to good effect.

After reading:

- Were your predictions correct?
- If there was a problem, was it solved? How did the character try to solve it?
- Did any of the characters change through the story?
- Did our opinion change (about characters, events, the topic discussed) through the book?
- Did you enjoy the book?
- Which was your favourite part and why? (use evidence from the book)
- If you could change one part of the story what would you change and why?
- Who would you recommend this book to?
- Is there a character in the story who reminds you of someone you know? Why do you think that?
- Does this book remind you of another book you have read? How are they similar/different?

For fun:

Children could write a book review, act out part of the story, create an illustration from the descriptions in the book, write to the author.

Writing in the Reading Record

The reading record provides a useful link between school and home, enabling us all - including your child - to celebrate successes with their reading, share the areas discussed in each reading session and see the variety of material your child is reading. You may like to add the books you have read together as well.

The following comments may help in recording your discussions:

- Mary was totally absorbed in this story and enjoyed reading for pleasure.
- Well done John, you used your phonics to decode (sound out) the difficult words independently.
- Joe read enthusiastically and understood the text. We discussed the meaning of: (note some vocabulary).
- Confused 'b' and 'd' was/saw but self-corrected when he realised the sentence didn't make sense. Well done.
- Sarah identified adjectives and adverbs used to describe the monster and created an illustration from the description.
- David made an excellent prediction and reasoned his thoughts. We shall see what happens next!
- We looked at the author's use of paragraphs. Well done Hannah for identifying change of speaker and the new paragraph.
- Jim found this book challenging, we read a few pages together.
- Fay and I looked for speech marks and talked about where they were used. She re-read p8 with a range of voice for the different characters.
- Wow Max! An excellent recall of the story so far.
- Fluent and confident, showing enthusiasm and enjoyment for reading.
- I am delighted; James' reading confidence is coming on in leaps and bounds.
- We really enjoyed the poems in this book. Katy especially enjoyed the poems with alliteration.

A healthy reading diet

Everybody has their favourite author or genre but it is important that children have a varied reading diet to develop as rounded readers. We try to encourage children to read broadly and may suggest books if they are struggling to find something different to read.

All children should be reading a variety of:

- Poetry
- Non-fiction
- Using encyclopaedias, dictionaries, thesaurus'
- A range of fiction:
 - Classic books
 - Fantasy/Science fiction
 - Stories set in other countries or different time periods
 - Stories from everyday settings
 - Myths/legends
 - Traditional stories/Fairy tales
- Newspapers (E.g. First News, Newsround website), magazines, comics
- Audio books are a fantastic resource and open up a world of books to reluctant readers or those who would struggle to read the book independently.

A few reading suggestions for different year groups (please note these are suggestions and not a list to be worked through!):

The following website may also be helpful in finding a new title:

<http://www.booktrust.org.uk/books/children/#/d/books/bookfinder/>

Year 3

Cool	Michael Morpurgo
The Butterfly Lion	Michael Morpurgo
Kensuke's Kingdom	Michael Morpurgo
Billy the Kid	Michael Morpurgo
The Twits	Roald Dahl
Charlie and Chocolate Factory	Roald Dahl
Matilda	Roald Dahl
Danny The Champion of the World	Roald Dahl
James and the Giant Peach	Roald Dahl
Fantastic Mr Fox	Roald Dahl
The BFG	Roald Dahl
The Sheep Pig	Dick King-Smith
Bill's New Frock	Anne Fine
The Hundred Mile an Hour Dog	Jeremy Strong
Return of the Hundred Mile an Hour Dog	Jeremy Strong
The Naughtiest Girl in the School	Enid Blyton
Secret Seven series	Enid Blyton
Famous Five series	Enid Blyton
Animal Ark series	Lucy Daniels
Horrid Henry series	Francesca Henry's
Charlotte's Web	E B White
Flat Stanley	Jeff Brown
Fungus the Bogeyman	Raymond Briggs
Mystery Winklesea	Helen Cresswell
The Indian in the Cupboard	Lynne Reid Banks
Mr Majeika	Humphrey Carpenter
Please Mrs Butler	Allan Ahlberg
The Ghastly Mc Nasty series	Lyn Gardner
The Sam Pig Story Book	Alison Uttley
Railway Cat	Phyllis Arkle
Amazing Grace	Mary Hoffman & Caroline Binch
The True Story of the Three Little Pigs	Jon Scieszka & Lane Smith
Diary of a Killer Cat	Anne Fine

Year 4

A Caribbean Dozen	John Agard & Grace Nicholls
Alice's Adventures in Wonderland	Lewis Carroll
Mufaro's Beautiful Daughters	John Steptoe
Beowulf	Kevin Crossley-Holland
The Firework-Maker's Daughter	Philip Pullman
The Dragon's Child	Jenny Nimmo

The Ghost Blades	Anthony Masters
Sara, Plain and Tall	Patricia MacLachlan
Smart Girls	Robert Leeson
Brother Eagle, Sister Sky	Susan Jeffers & Chief Seattle
Robi Dobi	Madhur Jaffrey
The Reluctant Dragon	Kenneth Grahame
Flow	Pippa Goodhart
Dragon Poems	John Foster & Korky Paul
The Crazy Shoe Shuffle	Gillian Cross
The Sea Piper	Helen Cresswell
The Chocolate Touch	Patrick Skene Catling
Spacebaby	Henrietta Branford
Gregory Cool	Caroline Binch
A Pot of Gold	Jill Bennett
Fog Hounds Wind Cat Sea Mice	Joan Aiken
The Clothes Horse	Allan Ahlberg
It Was A Dark and Stormy Night	Allan Ahlberg
The Dancing Bear	Michael Morpurgo
The Demon Headmaster	Gillian Cross
Dog So Small	Phillipa Pearce
Emil and the Detectives	Erich Kastner
The Iron Man	Ted Hughes
The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe	C S Lewis
Little House on the Prairie	Laura Ingalls Wilder
Mrs Frisby and the Rats of Nimh	Robert C O'Brien
Stig of the Dump	Clive King
Swallows and Amazons	Arthur Ransome
A Child's Garden of Verse	Robert Louis Stevenson
Greek Myths for Young Children	Marcia Williams
The Orchard Book of Creation Stories	Margaret Mayo & Louise Brierley
Small Change Stuart	Lissa Evans
Archie Greene and the Magician's Secret	D.D. Everest
The Roman Mysteries Series	Caroline Lawrence

Year 5

Water Wings	Morris Gleitzman
Blabbermouth	Morris Gleitzman
Belly Flop	Morris Gleitzman
The Diddakoi	Rumer Godden
Stormbreaker	Anthony Horowitz
Walter and Me	Michael Morpurgo
Friend or Foe	Michael Morpurgo
Mister Monday	Garth Nix
Aquila	Andrew Norris
Harry and the Wrinklies	Alan Temperley
Double Act	Jacqueline Wilson
Northern Lights	Philip Pullman
A Christmas Carol	Charles Dickens
Dragon Rider	Cornelia Funke

Journey To Jo'burg	Beverly Naidoo
Journey to the River Sea	Eva Ibbotson
The Owl Service	Alan Garner
Pig Heart Boy	Malorie Blackman
Tom's Midnight Garden	Philippa Pearce
Watership Down	Richard Adams
The Wizard of Earthsea	Ursula K Le Guin
Wolves of Willoughby Chase	Joan Aiken
Where the Red Fern Grows	Wilson Rawls
Little Women	Louisa May Alcott
The Secret Garden	Frances Hodgson-Burnett
Artemis Fowl	Eoin Colfer
The Wind in the Willows	Kenneth Grahame
Anne of Green Gables	L M Montgomery
Black Beauty	Anna Sewell
The Secret Hen House Theatre	Helen Peters
Roof Toppers	Katherine Rundell
Vicky Angel	Jacqueline Wilson
The Other Side of Truth	Beverley Naidoo
Harry Potter series	J K Rowling
Laura Marlin Mystery Series	Lauren St. John

Year 6

Carrie's War	Nina Bawden
When Hitler Stole Pink Rabbit	Judith Kerr
The Secret Hen House Theatre	Helen Peters
The Diamond of Drury Lane	Julia Golding
Framed	Frank Cottrell Boyce
Homecoming	Cynthia Voigt
Listen to the Moon	Michael Morpurgo
The Secret Diary of Adrian Mole Aged 13 ¾	Sue Townsend
Treasure Island	Robert Louis Stevenson
Mortal Engines	Philip Reeve
Clockwork	Philip Pullman
Dragon Keeper	Carole Wilkinson
Percy Jackson series	Rick Riordan
Peter Pan	J M Barrie
Wizard of Oz	F Baum
Robinson Crusoe	Daniel Defoe
Oliver Twist	Charles Dickens
Jungle Book	Rudyard Kipling
The Railway Children	E Nesbit
The Borrowers	M Norton
The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn	Mark Twain
Alex Rider series	Anthony Horowitz
My Story series	Various authors
Anne Frank: The Diary of a Young Girl	Ed. Otto H Frank
Boy Overboard	Morris Gleitzman
Secret Breakers series	H L Denis