

PROMOTE READING

- Talk up AR achievements.
- Encourage reading in your sessions.
- Share your book passions.

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Literacy News

AUTUMN TERM, PART 2

005:27TH NOVEMBER

Literacy in English

A series looking at how we at Northern House address literacy in each subject area. This week we look at the Reading strand in English.

*“Look thou be true; do not give dalliance
Too much the rein: the strongest oaths are straw
To the fire i' the blood: be more abstemious,
Or else, good night your vow! “
(Prospero: Act IV, Scene I, The Tempest)*

English teachers have always been regarded at the experts when it comes to literacy. Whilst this tends to hold some truth, it is not a natural reality as the English curriculum has its own agenda, generally removed from basic literacy, and certainly requiring students to have secure, age expected skills. *The Tempest* is a common KS3 text in UK schools, but even those with secure adult literacy may struggle to comprehend the meaning. This means we have to work just as hard to ensure we deliver good literacy lessons as any other subject specialist.

And, herein lies the rub, as they say. In English, focus is on reading, writing and oral communication.

In Reading

The curriculum requires study of a diverse range of

texts and close reading practice and assessment. To enable this, taught literacy skills within Northern House include:

- Starting at phonic level, especially in the Primary classes, including rime and syllable familiarity to build to whole word skills.

- Word recognition & vocabulary development. This will include teaching spellings, using higher quality synonyms and learning to use technical terms such as the parts of speech.

- To be an independent reader, one needs to have a 95%+ word recognition level, thus even the most able of our students are still at the instructional and the majority (those with below 90% recognition) are frustrated readers, who cannot be expected to have good comprehension of texts expected to be studied at their key stage level. Thus we access material by using lower level texts, selected excerpts or alternative texts (such as video) to allow pupils to *read*

Shakespeare and other writers from our literary heritage.

Key Points

- ◆ As English Teachers, we recognise the importance of explicit literacy instruction.
- ◆ We show our students how good readers read.
- ◆ We give students structured opportunities to apply comprehension strategies.
- ◆ We provide opportunities to build students' knowledge of content area vocabulary.
- ◆ We address weak word recognition or fluency when necessary.
- ◆ We establish a classroom environment with a wide range of texts.
- ◆ We use data, such as baseline tests and AR progress, to support our choices of text used in the classroom.

COMING SOON

Bookbuzz Book Week

8th – 15th December

What Will You Read?

Every Lesson A Literacy Lesson

Accelerated Reader Updates

Independent reading is the level at which a reader has adequate background knowledge for the topic, and can access text very quickly and with very few errors. Think of independent reading as the highest level you would ask a child to read without help. This requires 95% word recognition.

25 November 2017					
Accelerated Reader Quiz League Top 10					
		Quizzes	100.00%	Accuracy average	Points earned
1 st	Jay	7	4	94.30%	22.2
2 nd	Deano	5	3	94.00%	11.8
3 rd	Tristan	18	12	88.30%	11.3
	Theo	6	1	65.00%	7.7
	George	3	0	70.00%	6.7
	Alex	6	3	88.30%	4.6
	Reece	9	5	82.20%	3.5
	Tyler H	4	1	85.00%	3.4
	Jack	6	3	83.30%	2.5
	Denham	2	2	100.00%	2.0
Totals		93	46	81.42%	89.4
			49.46		
Weekly School Pass Rate = 87.1% (-1%)					

WORD RACE				
27 th November 2017				
	Quizzes		Word Count	
	Passed	Taken	2017-18	This week
Jay	7	7	154,991	37,171
Deano	5	5	77,773	
Tristan	16	18	56,893	
Theo	4	6	51,859	
George	2	3	49,068	
Alex	6	6	40,232	9,190
Tyler H	4	4	25,423	
Phoenix	2	2	12,918	
Denham	2	2	12,808	6,319
Antonio	1	1	12,651	
Jack P	6	6	11,685	2,465
Aaron	2	3	10,419	
Callum	2	2	8,913	
Harvey R	2	2	8,367	
Harvey C	1	1	6,087	
Jacob Q	2	2	5,786	
Joshua PT	2	2	2,723	
Reece	8	9	2,116	463
Thomas	1	2	1,969	
Connor H	1	1	1,876	1,876
Isaac	2	2	1,558	
Armani	1	1	554	
Bradley	2	2	290	
Totals	81 (+14)	93	556,959	59,299
Northern House: Words Read				
556,959				

Frustration!

How many times have you been frustrated when a carefully planned lesson went awry at the moment you thought you had a pupil on track? It was all going so well, through the starter and settling activities, and your usually positive student seemed excited about doing the activity later in the lesson... They seemed fine, reading the instruction, while you were helping another student. Then, without a word, the pupil got up and walked out. For no apparent reason. Frustrating, right?

This is a really common problem in many schools, but the reason in the majority of cases is simple. It is all about what is called the frustration reading level, and some pupils will encounter it in every lesson of their school day. Here at

Northern House, we are fortunate to know our pupils' reading levels in detail, which will usually avoid this issue occurring, but there are times, especially with new pupils, when we can all slip up. So, here's a quick guide.

- Frustration reading levels include text for which a reader does not have adequate background level for a topic and/or cannot meet criteria for instructional levels of accuracy and rate.
- Frustration generally starts if a reader cannot recognize at least 90% of the words used.
- Think of frustration levels as those levels that require extensive or even moderate support. To get a sense of frustration level text, think

in the context of trying to read text in another language, one where you know a fair amount of vocabulary. How well would you get on reading a technical manual in this language?

- Would working at "frustration level" help you to make progress? What might happen to your motivation for learning? Now, think about the fact that many children read at frustration level for most of their day. It is a tribute to the resiliency of children that they forge onward!
- At Northern House we are doing well in this area, but let's ensure we continue to work hard to ensure the best access to learning for our students.

EVENTS

This Week
Literacy Audit begins.

Friday options

Remind pupils they can do book quizzes or borrow texts for the weekend.

Coming Soon

December

8th—15th

Book Week & author visit.

CPD: AR REMINDERS

- Log in at the school portal.
- Star Reading reports provide you with basic reading information. Search my class to find your group.
- Accelerated Reader will provide data on book quiz performance and word count. It also shows progress towards reading targets that have now been set.
- All training and information is in the staff drive, under 1.Northern House 2017 > literacy.

Riddles

What two words, when combined, have the most letters?

Which word written in capitals is the same forwards, backwards and upside-down?

KEYWORDS

ZPD

The range of reading to target for the most effective improvement in reading.

Book Bands

Colour coded classification of books to guide readers.

STAR Reading

The baseline testing to provide analysis of pupil strengths and weaknesses in reading.

Instructional reading is the highest level at which a reader is not independent, but has adequate background knowledge for a topic, and can access text quickly and with no or few errors. Think of independent level as the highest level you would ask a child to read with only a small amount of assistance. The vast majority of text that a child reads during the school day should not exceed this level. 90-95% word recognition required.

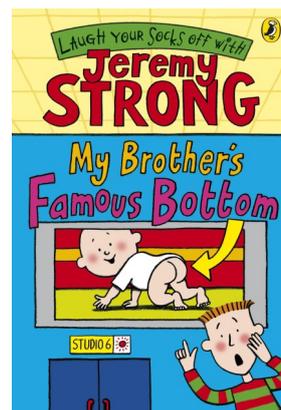
Recommended Reads: My Brother's Famous Bottom

'That's the one!' she cried. 'That's the bottom I'm after. Darling, you have the most gorgeous bottom!'

The pupils in Primary are currently loving Jeremy Strong's work. His first book was published in 1978. He has been a consistently popular children's author ever since. Here's a sample of text to give you an idea of the challenge level.

"Mr Tugg is always complaining. Dad and Mr Tugg don't get on very well, especially since Granny ran off with Mr Tugg's dad. She did and, yes, Lancelot is Mr Tugg's dad. They eloped in a hot-air balloon and got married. I mean – she's sixty-five, and Lancelot is even older! Mr Tugg is quite short and he's almost bald except for a little bristly moustache that wriggles like a caterpillar when he's cross. He has a kind of warning system for when he's angry (which is often). First he goes red, then deep red, then purple and finally he turns white-hot. It's very impressive."

Recommended by: Pupil popularity



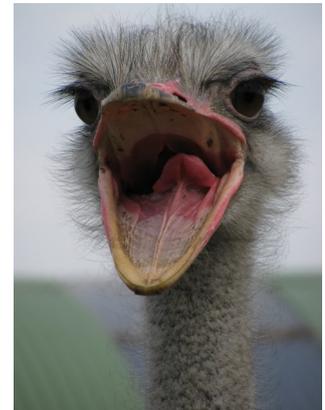


How To Learn Spellings



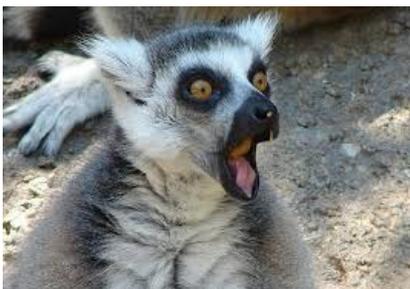
LOOK

SAY



COVER

WRITE



CHECK