



St Christopher's

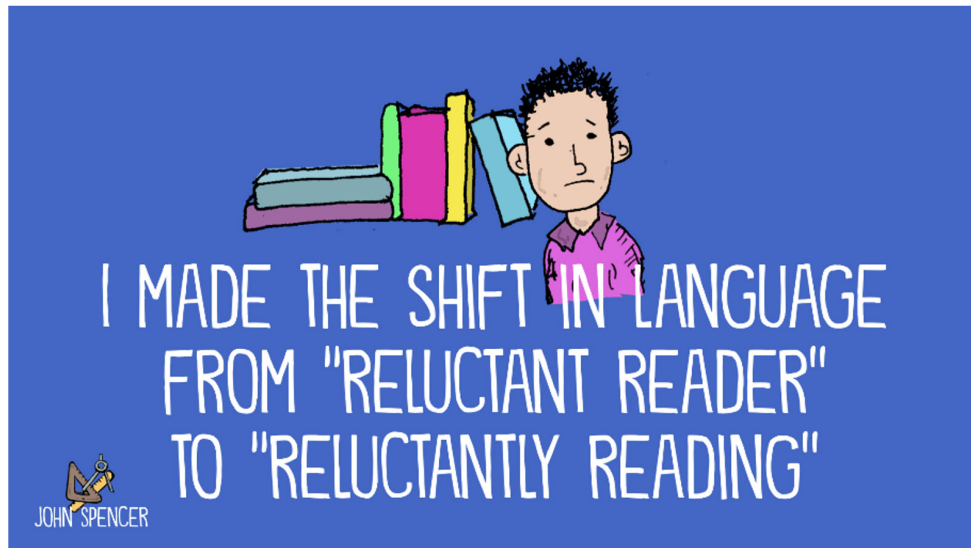
Reading Bulletin - Half Term 2

November 2022

'The reading and writing of Standard English, alongside proficient language development, is the key to unlocking the rest of the academic curriculum. Pupils who struggle to read struggle in all subjects and the wonders of a knowledge-rich curriculum passes them by unread.'

Ofsted Reading Framework 2021

The theme of this half term's reading bulletin is 'reluctant reading'.



**Try any of these top tips to engage our pupils to embrace reading.
Got a great idea? Share it with us!**

Visualisation works very well for reading

Children are very used to screens to support their interest. It's all about teaching them that they have the most portable screen in their heads – their imagination! Read to your class as you turn off the lights and add some atmospheric music in the background. Get children to put their heads on the table, eyes shut and visualise the images to match the words.

Get them up and moving

As you read to them get them to act out the movement of the piece or characters involved. This is less manic than a role-play and gets them concentrating on the main themes or repeating patterns in the text. Don't let the children have a copy of the text or book, this way the actions are less thought out and will be more fun.

Make it a game!

When reading as a whole class, get readers to stop at a random point and pick someone else to read the next bit. This involves all learners and makes sure they are all paying attention to what is going on.

Take the role of reading yourself

Show the children the passion and fun that can be had in a book. Do the voices, act the roles. Cry when you want to and laugh. Show the children in your class that books are more than just words, they are emotions.

Book tasting (more applicable to English or choosing a form time read)

Set up a room with table cloths, paper plates, drinks and menus. Each seat has a paper plate with a different book on (five per table) and the menu describes a bit of each book. Pupils read a book for 5-10 minutes and then swap. They have a score card where they rate each book. You can use this to decide the book to read for the class or let pupils allow to choose which book to read.

Speed (reading) date

Much like hosting a book tasting event except it's set up like speed dating instead. Each table has a book and pupils read for five minutes before they move. It's amazing the interest you can spark in a book if you make the pupils finish when they are in the middle of reading. For this reason be strict with the time and have a buzzer to add to the atmosphere. This works just as well for information gathering, source skills or research into a topic!

Classroom libraries

Each classroom needs to show that reading is a priority and that they also invest in reading. Each class could have a reading library specific to that room. Imagine a whole school library and each room is a different section of it. Your category could be linked to your subject or an area of fiction (or both!). Make sure it has new books and invest in good one. Local bookshops and charity shops are great places to source this. Having access to resources and having books of their own has an impact on children's attainment.

[Source: 12 Tips To Engage Reluctant Readers – TeacherToolkit]

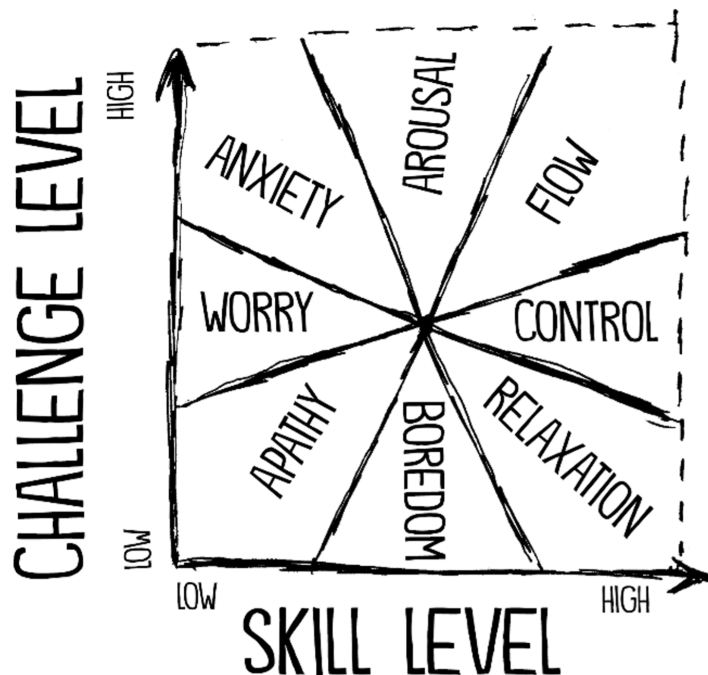
Flow Theory: our ultimate goal

Empowered readers have the ability to enter a state of flow when they reading, where they hyper-focus and tune out all distractions.

In Flow Theory, pupils need to have a match between their perceived skill level and the inherent challenge of the task. This requires a sense of personal control or agency over the task.

As teachers, we can empower pupils to select the reading material and to choose what strategy they use. However, the reading still needs to be accessible for pupils. While we don't need to align the reading perfectly to reading levels, pupils can experience anxiety if the reading process is too challenge.

If a task is too easy, a pupil might experience apathy or boredom but if a task seems too hard, they will be anxious.



Want to know more?

Try this 5 minute video on 'Flow Theory'...the ultimate goal for reading!



FLOW THEORY
IN LESS THAN FIVE MINUTES (I PROMISE)

Check out our Library resources:

[Recommended Reading for KS3](#)

[Challenging Reading for KS3](#)

[A Guide to Support Reading at Home for Parents](#)