

PiXL Reading



Reading Challenges

“Reading is like joy: you can exist without it, but why would you want to?”

MARCUS SEDGWICK

PiXL Reading

Why is reading important?

Reading is important for your education, but also for the world beyond school and in your wider life.

These are just some of the many benefits:

- Reading and writing skills: vocabulary, spelling and grammar
- Achievement in many of your subjects, including maths
- Knowledge and understanding of the world and other people
- Understanding of emotions
- Development of our sense of 'self'

Through books, we can explore places, experiences and opportunities that we may not otherwise have. We can "walk in another's shoes", exploring different cultures, time periods and ways of life.



PiXL Reading Challenge

Tips for reading

We hope you enjoy exploring a range of different writers, text types, genres, time periods and subject matter as part of the challenges in this booklet. It is designed to help you broaden your reading experience, to try new text types you may not have explored before.

Make time!

Make time in your schedule for reading so that you don't get distracted by anything else – turn your phone off and avoid being in the same room if the television is on!

Get comfy!

Find somewhere comfortable, and preferably quiet, to read. This may be a bedroom, library or local park. It may be useful to let others in your house know what you are doing first.

Find what inspires you!

If you're not enjoying reading something, try another text! Although sometimes we have to read something specific, these challenges are about exploring different text types, topics, writing styles etc so that you can find new things that interest you.

Keep an open mind!

You may think you don't like poetry, but it may be that you find, for example, a poet you like, by taking on the challenges in this booklet.



Reading Challenges

Below you will see a selection of reading challenges to help you explore a range of different texts for different purposes. You may wish to keep a reading journal alongside this, to note down any questions or responses to what you've read. As you complete each challenge, colour in the box. Good luck!

Choose a scene from a novel or play you have recently read that you feel would make a great film scene. Story-board your chosen scene on paper, or create a video using a technique such as stop motion.

Choose three genres and select a book to read from each: crime, science-fiction, adventure, comedy, gothic. Consider which genre you preferred and what features it had that others didn't.

After reading a text you've really enjoyed, choose a creative 'follow-up' challenge:

- write an alternative ending
- write a short story about one of the minor characters
- rewrite a scene that could have gone a different way

Read a book someone has recommended to you. When you have finished, discuss what you thought about the story.

Read a text (play script or novel) and then watch the film version. Discuss how the two compare with someone who has done the same.

Read the instructions to make/do something. It could be a model, a craft project or board game.

Consider five topics you've studied in different subjects this year and find articles or books to read around each one over the summer. Document what you've learned and note down any questions you have to research further/ask a teacher.

Create something delicious by reading a new recipe from a cookbook or online recipe website.

Read a play text of your choice. When you have finished, consider what you notice about the way plays are written.

At least twice a week, read a newspaper article, either online or from the paper itself. Consider whether the writer was trying to present a particular point of view.

Read an abridged or full version of a classic text. For example: Alice in Wonderland, Sherlock Holmes, The Secret Garden, The Lion The Witch and The Wardrobe, Watership Down, Frankenstein, Wuthering Heights.

Read three poems by the same author. You could do this every week and compare the topics they explore and how they write. You could start with Carol Ann Duffy or Simon Armitage.

“What does reading do? It extends my mind. It allows me to feel more strongly. And it also does a magical thing of taking me out of myself and into a broader world. So it helps all of us become bigger than we seem to be.” DAVID ALMOND



Weekly Reading Streak

Use the table below to record your reading for the week and then answer the questions at the bottom of the page.

	Wk 1	Wk 2	Wk 3	Wk 4	Wk 5	Wk 6
Read a non-fiction article from a magazine, newspaper or website about a topic of your choice.						
Read 2-3 poems by the same poet and consider whether there are any similarities between them.						
Read a recipe to help you make something delicious. You could use a cookbook, or a website such as www.cookingonabootstrap.com						
Read a text to help you find out how to do something. It may be to do with a hobby you have, or it could be to help you with home learning tasks.						
Read something just because you enjoy it! It could be a novel you're reading or it could be about a games console/hobby/band you're interested in.						

What did you learn through your reading this week?

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Consider the non-fiction texts you read this week. Did the writer present their opinion or did they remain impartial? How did they do this?

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What did you enjoy about your reading this week?

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Was there anything you didn't enjoy so much this week? Why do you think this was?

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After reflecting on your reading, what do think you'd like to explore more next week?

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**“Why read in particular?
I think it’s because it gives you
three magical powers - the
powers of creativity, empathy
and intelligence.”** CRESSIDA COWELL



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Reading Log

DATE	TEXT TITLE (BOOK/POEM/ARTICLE/PLAY)	WRITER'S NAME	RATING

“All books, in all genres, offer a portal to a different world or a different place with different characters. So why not see if you can find a destination that inspires you and set off on your own adventure.”

BEX HOGAN



“Reading is magic – and magic is for everyone.”

CRESSIDA COWELL



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