



The Reading Champion Handbook

Congratulations on becoming a Summerhill School Reading Champion! You were selected for this role because you have a high level of ability in reading- in fact, you are one of our most able readers in the school! As a Reading Champion, you will support the school in helping other students become better readers. Having good reading skills has many benefits and is one of the biggest factors in influencing students' GCSE grades.

Make a difference

Support the school

Develop confidence



Your main role as a Reading Champion will be to listen to a Year 7 or Year 8 student read each week during DEAR time. You will be supporting students who are still developing their skill in reading and sometimes need a little bit of support. By listening to them read, asking questions and giving positive feedback, you will help build their skills, self-esteem and, hopefully, their love of reading!

Reading during DEAR time

Each session will involve three stages:

5 minutes: catch up on what has happened in school over the past week and review what you read in your previous session. If it is a new book, you could ask some of the 'before reading' questions in this booklet. In the first session, this time will be used to introduce yourself and get to know your reading buddy.

15 minutes: listen to the student read from their book. During this time, you might occasionally ask questions about the meaning of words or pronunciations.

5 minutes: discuss and ask the student questions about what they have just read and the book as a whole. If they have finished the book, you could ask some of the 'after reading' questions in this booklet.

The 7 Ps of reading aloud

Use the criteria below to support your reader and give them constructive feedback on what went well and what they could improve. You could even give them a score out of ten for each one if you wished to.

Pace

It is important to take your time when reading aloud and not rush through too quickly.

Pause

Look out for the punctuation! Commas, full stops and some other types of punctuation mean take a breath and pause!

Personality

The best readers bring their reading to life by using tone, expression, different voices and variety.

Pitch

One way to breath life into your reading aloud is to vary the pitch of your voice in the right places. In other words, don't read in a boring, monotone voice!

Posture

Sit up straight, shoulders back, free your airwaves. Hold the book tilted in front of you so you are not reading to your shoes!

Projection

Try to read at the appropriate volume for the person or people listening. In class, this means reading with a higher volume but in a one to one situation you just have to be audible and clear.

Pronunciation

Try to pronounce every word clearly and correctly. Check words you are unfamiliar with and don't worry if you get it wrong!

Questions to ask

Before they read the book, ask:

- Why did you select this book?
- What makes you think this book is going to be interesting?
- What do you think the book is going to be about?
- Does this book remind you of anything else you've already read or seen?
- What kind of characters do you think will be in the book?
- What do you think is going to happen?

While they are reading a book, try asking:

- Will you catch me up on the story? What's happened so far?
- What do you think will happen next?
- If you were that character, what would you have done differently in that situation?
- If the book was a TV show, which actors would you cast in it?
- Where is the book set?
- If the main character in that story lived next door, would you be friends?
- What does the place look like in your head as you read? Would you want to visit there?

- Did you learn any new words or facts so far?

After they have finished reading a book, ask questions like:

- What was your favourite part of the book? Why?
- Who was your favourite character? Why?
- What was the most interesting thing you learned from the book?
- Why do you think the author wrote this book?
- Would you have ended the book differently? Did it end the way you thought it would?
- Did the problem of the book's plot get solved?
- If you could change one thing in the book, what would it be?

Responsibilities

As well as having excellent reading skills, you were chosen for this role because you are trustworthy, punctual and have a great attitude to learning. As a Reading Champion, you will be a role model to other students, so always aim to be punctual, supportive and positive when working with them. Form tutors and staff will support you when working with other students.

