



Helping your child succeed

English Language and English Literature

“Endeavouring to unhasp the casement”



Aims of the workshop

- To provide information about the five-year curriculum
- To promote Accelerated Reader and to provide information about accessing this at home
- To suggest a range of strategies to help your child to make rapid progress in English, including vocabulary practice.



Is there a place for English in 2021?

Humans beat machines in the following areas:

1. Critical thinking
2. Creativity
3. Complex Problem Solving (Forbes data 2014)

All of these areas are fundamental to the study of English.

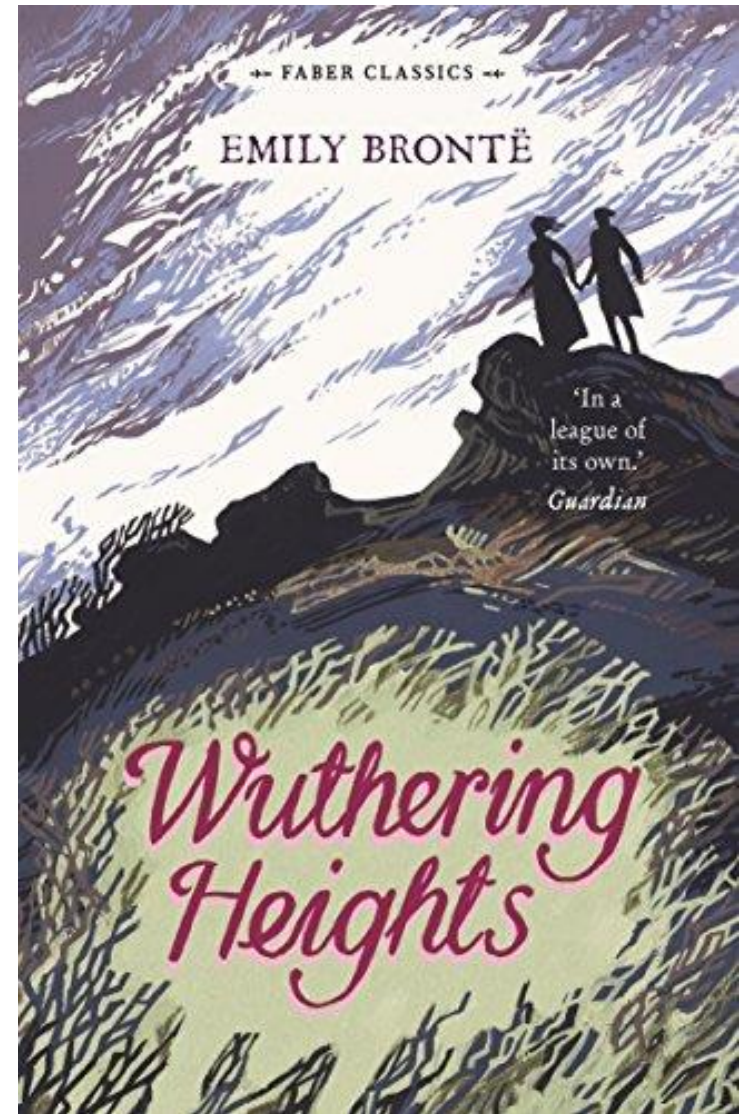
Sample GCSE English Language unseen extract

This time, I remembered I was lying in the oak closet, and I heard distinctly the gusty wind, and the driving of the snow; I heard, also, the fir bough repeat its teasing sound, and ascribed it to the right cause: but it annoyed me so much, that I resolved to silence it, if possible; and, I thought, I rose and endeavoured to **unhasp the casement.**

The hook was soldered into the staple: a circumstance observed by me when awake, but forgotten. 'I must stop it, nevertheless!' I muttered, knocking my knuckles through the glass, and stretching an arm out to seize the importunate branch; instead of which, my fingers closed on the fingers of a little, ice-cold hand! The intense horror of nightmare came over me: I tried to draw back my arm, but the hand clung to it, and a most melancholy voice sobbed, 'Let me in—let me in!'

'Who are you?' I asked, struggling, meanwhile, to disengage myself.

'Catherine Linton,' it replied, shiveringly (why did I think of *Linton*? I had read *Earnshaw* twenty times for Linton) 'I'm come home: I'd lost my way on the moor!'





Changes to GCSEs

The average age of the reading materials on GCSE papers is 15 years and 7 months. However, the average Reading Age of a GCSE pupil is 10 years 7 months (*based on National Data from TeachingTimes)

If pupils cannot read the questions, they cannot answer them.

All Language Arts, Humanities and Science papers require longer, well-structured answers.

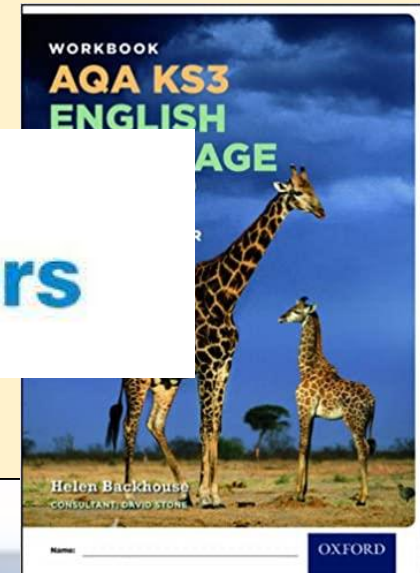
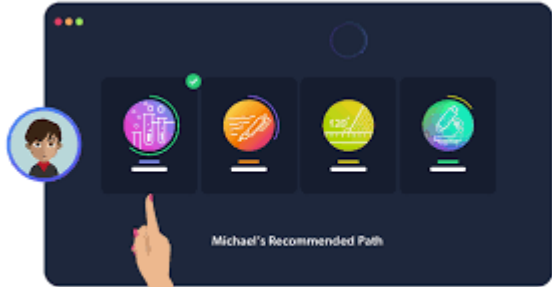
We endeavour for all pupils to have a reading age of 13 by the end of Year 9.



How we support your child in school



Accelerated
Renaissance



Weekly Writing Challenge

Ingredients you need to include this week:

- Pronouns
We / Our / Your
- Imagine if...
- A statistic
- In your second paragraph, every sentence must begin with the same word or phrase

Vocabulary

The adjective:
Paramount (supreme)

The verb:
Treasured



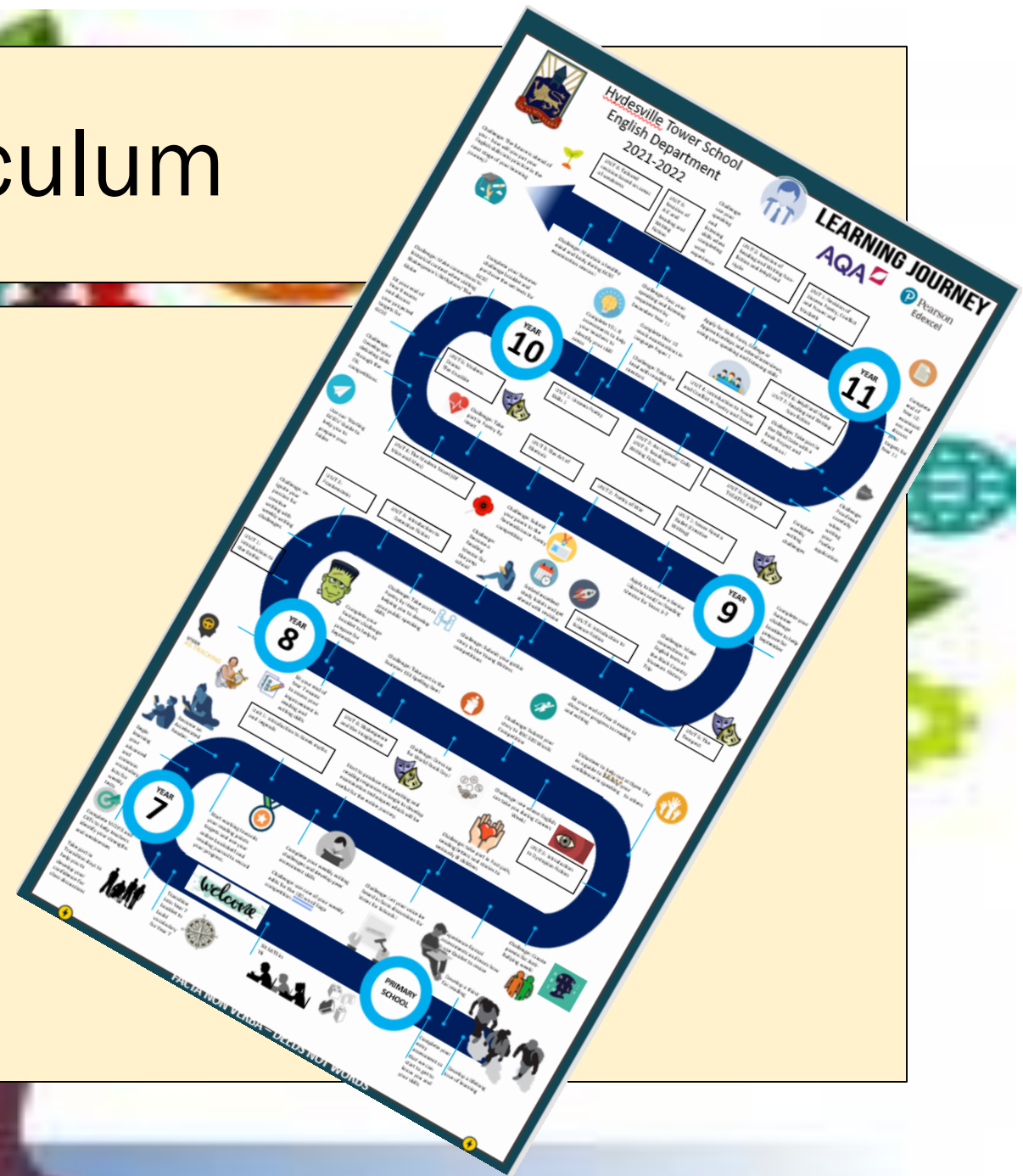
Technical Accuracy

Don't forget to:

- Punctuate your sentences accurately e.g. a capital letter at the beginning
- Use paragraphs
- Spell accurately



Our five year curriculum



Active reading at Hydesville Tower School!

Active readers develop these good habits:

1. Skimming the text to gain an overview of the topic. Can you summarise what you have learned at the end of each page?
2. Scanning the text, looking for specific information.
3. Read with a ruler to ensure fluency.
4. Circle or underline unfamiliar vocabulary – then check meanings in a dictionary!
5. Pay attention to the punctuation as you read.





Why do we take Reading Ages seriously?

- Students who are unable to maintain a reasonable reading rate struggle to read fluently and easily. This slower rate of reading is often an indication that they are spending too much time and thought decoding each word, and not enough effort is able to be directed to comprehending the text.
- By contrast, students who can read fairly quickly are able to maintain fluency and can more readily comprehend what they are reading. This makes it easier to deduce logical and inferred meaning from the text, and apply their knowledge of what they are reading to other concepts.
- Put simply, a student who is reading text which is geared to a reading age above their skill level will struggle to understand what they are reading. Getting reading age *right* is important for students at any level.



GCSE PE (Unit 2) Specimen Paper AQA

“Many performance enhancing drugs (PEDs) are not allowed in sport. However, some performers still take them because of the positive effect that they have on their bodies. Taking PEDs can also cause negative side effects. Complete Table 2 to identify one positive effect of anabolic agents on the performer’s body and one possible negative side effect of diuretics on the performer’s body.” (2 marks)

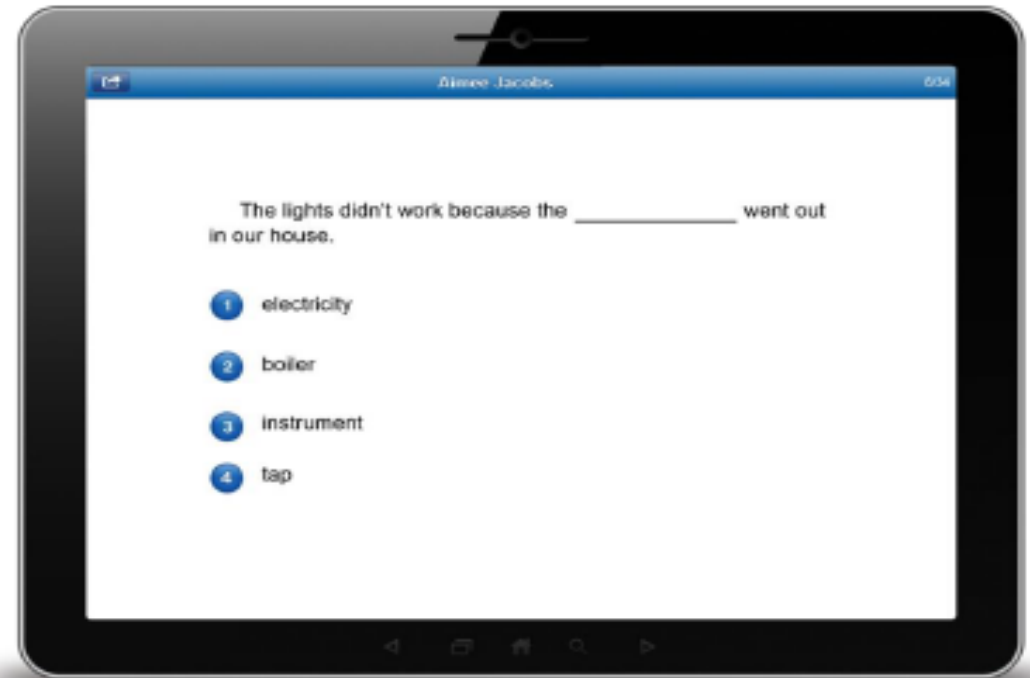
*Flesch-Kincaid Readability 43.0 (Difficult to read – College Level)



Accelerated Reader

Star Reading

- 20 minute computer-adaptive test used to assess reading ability.
- Tracks reading growth.
- Provides students with a personalised reading range called the ZPD, and teachers with data to monitor student progress.



Zone of Proximal Development (ZPD)

A range of book levels recommended for each student based on their reading ability
The student has free rein to choose books from within their entire ZPD range



Book Level

Can range between 0.2-13.5, calculated using

two main factors:

- average sentence length
- vocabulary difficulty

Interest Level relates to content and appropriateness

LY = lower years, approx. age 5-8 (KS1)

MY = middle years, approx. age 9-13 (KS2/3)

UY = upper years, approx. age 14+ (KS4)

Points based on word count

- awarded on a pro rata basis according to quiz success

●	0.0 - 1.9
●	2.0 - 2.9
●	3.0 - 3.9
●	4.0 - 4.9
●	5.0 - 5.9
●	6.0 +

Quiz No 203031
Holes

Sachar, Louis

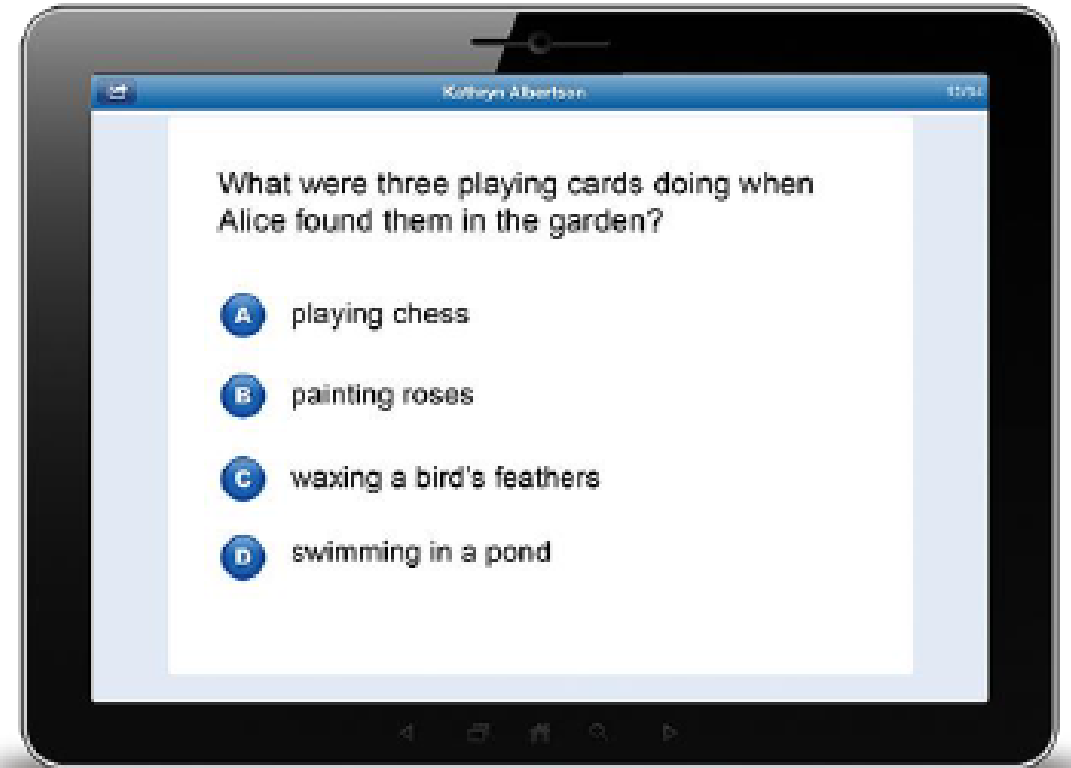
BL: 4.6

Points: 7.0

UY

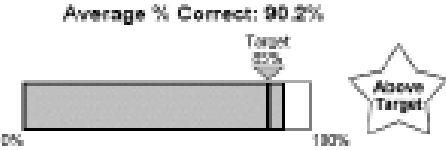
Renaissance Accelerated Reader

- A database of over 27,000 book quizzes
- Measures comprehension
- All quizzed books have a Book Level
 - An estimate of the reading difficulty of the text
 - Based on average sentence length and the difficulty of words
 - Ranges between Book Levels 0.2-13.5



Teachers monitor pupils' progress

- Accelerated Reader provides instant feedback and tracks all scores
- Teachers monitor quiz results and provide encouragement & guidance
- Students aim to average 85% or above on their comprehension quizzes. This indicates good comprehension and will lead to greater progress in reading ability

Accelerated Reader		Reading Practice TOPS Report	
		Reprint for Annie Fernandez	
		Printed 07 August 2009 15:07:18	
School: Renaissance Learning Test School		Year: 7	
Class: Year 7		Teacher: M R Mellard	
What I Read		How I Did	
Eco-Wolf and the Three Pigs: Seriously Silly Stories by Anholt Laurence		Correct: 10 of 10 Percentage Correct: 100% ●●●●●●●●●● <i>Awesome, Annie!</i>	
ATOS BL #: 3.9		Points Earned: 0.5 of 0.5	
Quiz Number: 203587		FNF: Fiction	
Quiz Date: 12/05/2009 13:17		Word Count: 1,618	
Interest Level: Lower Years (LY)			
TWI: Read Independently			
My Progress in 2008 - 2009			
01/06/2008 - 12/05/2009 (77% Complete)			
Average % Correct: 90.2%		Points Earned: 53.6	
		No Target Set	
Average ATOS BL: 3.2		Marking Period Totals	
No Target Set		Quizzes Passed: 111	
		Quizzes Taken: 111	
		Words Read: 158,976	

Home Connect™

- Parents can track their children's reading from home using the website Home Connect
- Add email addresses and receive instant feedback on quiz results
- The Bookshelf shows all books read and quizzed on by the student for Accelerated Reader

The screenshot displays the Renaissance Home Connect™ user interface. At the top, it shows the user's name 'Sara Ashman' and options for 'Email Setup' and 'Log Out'. Below the navigation bar, there are tabs for 'reading' and 'maths'. The main content area is divided into several sections:

- Accelerated Reader**: A sub-section header.
- Reading Practice Quizzes** and **Vocabulary Practice Quizzes**: Navigation options.
- My Overall Progress**: A summary section for the 'Current Marking Period'. It includes:
 - Quizzes**: 90% average % correct, with a target of 85 and a 'Home Target' star.
 - Points**: 9.0 score of target.
 - ATOS Book Level**: 6.0 average level.
 - Summary: Quizzes Passed/Failed 2/1, Word Count 85,000.
- My Last Quiz**: A section for the most recent quiz, dated 'Today 10/11/2014'.
- My Bookshelf**: A section titled 'My Reading Practice Quizzes' showing a grid of book covers. Visible titles include 'SPY', 'CLASS', 'THE HALL', and 'THE HALL'.

AR BookFinder™

- AR BookFinder is a search engine for all books with Accelerated Reader quizzes
- It can be accessed through Home Connect
- Quick Search to see if a book has an AR quiz
- Use Advanced Search to check using various book criteria such as book level or topic



The screenshot displays the AR BookFinder website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the logo and links for Home, Support, About Us, and Help. Below this, there are tabs for Quick Search, Advanced Search, and Collections. A search bar is present with a search button. The main content area shows search results for 'Story of a Winky Kid' by Kinsey, Jeff. The results are listed in a table-like format with columns for book cover, title, author, and a brief description. The first result is 'Story of a Winky Kid' with a rating of 4 stars. The second result is 'Story of a Winky Kid: The Third Wheel' with a rating of 4 stars. The third result is 'Story of a Winky Kid: Cable Fever' with a rating of 4 stars. The fourth result is 'Story of a Winky Kid: Dog Days' with a rating of 4 stars. On the left side, there is a sidebar with a search bar and a list of categories including Fiction, Non-Fiction, and Reference.



Popular Choices

Diary of a Wimpy Kid

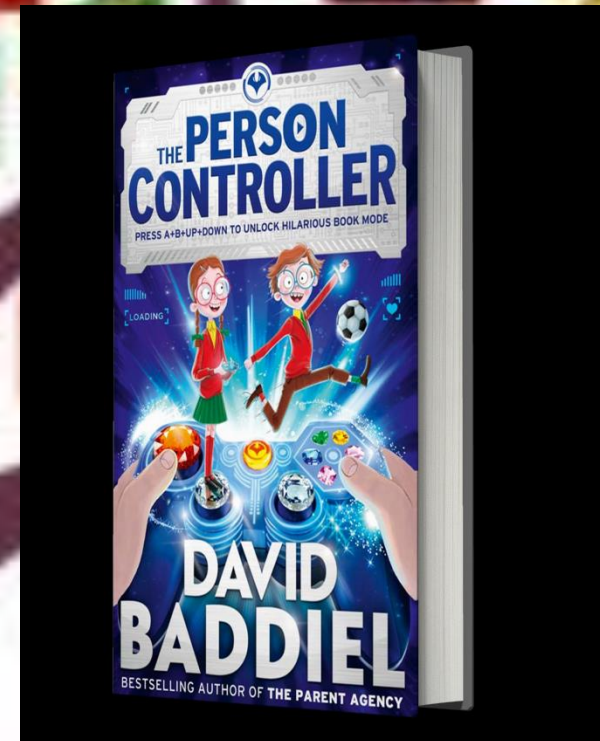
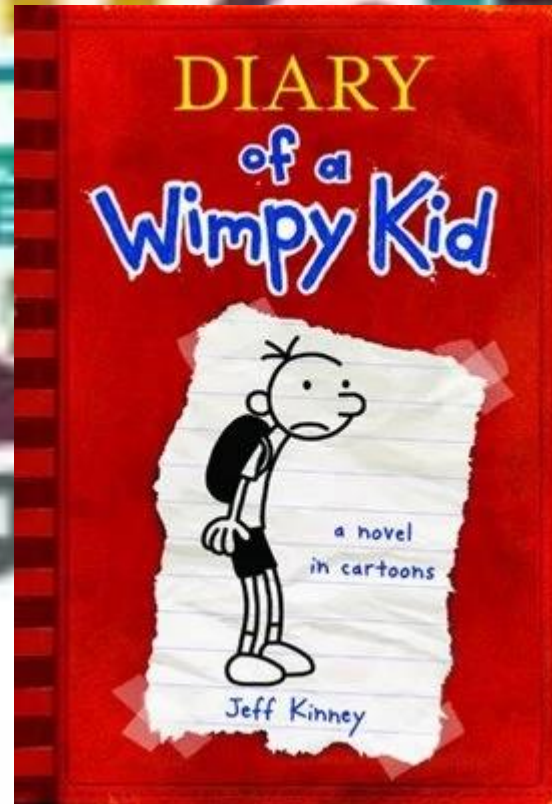
Book Level: 5.2

The Person Controller

Book Level: 4.7

Percy Jackson Series

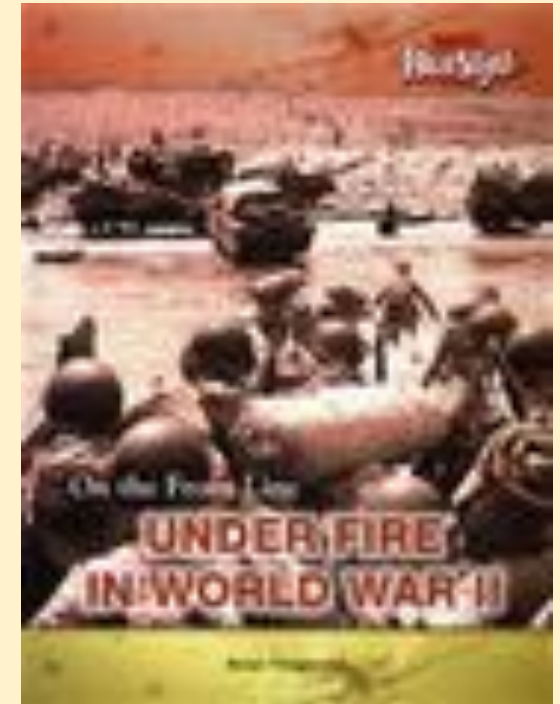
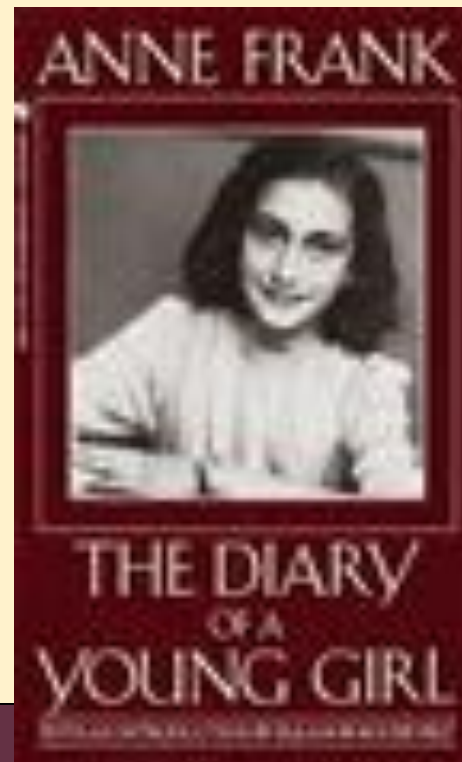
Book Level: 5.6





What about non-fiction?

- How-to books
- Reasonable text to picture ratio
- Biographies
- Travel Writing
- BBC News





What we do to improve a child's reading age:

- Exposure to different genres
- Exposure to different time periods
- Exposure to new vocabulary – they have to understand it in context.
- Exposure to exam-style questions

- Accelerated Reader club three times per week.



Vocabulary Instruction

- GCSE writing tests pupils' ability to use a range of ambitious vocabulary
- Latin and Greek root words are more complex and three-syllable adjectives are encouraged in lessons.
- Pupils need to learn 6-8 new words a day, that is 2000-3000 new words per year.

Vocabulary Instruction

Choosing Words to Teach

Tier III

Tier III words are low-frequency words and are limited to a specific "domain". They often pertain to a specific content area. These words are best learned within the context of the lesson or subject matter.

Examples: atom, molecule, metamorphic, sedimentary, continent

Tier II

Tier II words are high-frequency words that occur across contexts. These words are used by mature language users and are more common in writing than in everyday speech. Tier II words are important for students to know to enhance comprehension of a selected text. Tier II words the best words for targeted explicit vocabulary instruction.

Examples: hilarious, endure, despise, arrange, compare, contrast

Tier I

Tier I words are the words we use everyday in our speech. These words are typically learned through conversation. These are common words that rarely require direct instruction.

Examples: come, see, happy, table





Tier Two Words

- These words can be used in a variety of contexts:

Approach

Conduct

Approximate

Derive

Retain

Generate

Acquire

The more often pupils use these words, the more they will be able to apply them in context, building up a web of word knowledge



And finally...

- Encourage your child to develop the habit of proof-reading their own writing – do they know where this is on the Ipad?
- Encourage a ‘digital curfew’, after which time, they can read before going to sleep.
- Encourage your child to use a wide vocabulary and ‘magpie’ new words they have heard. Ask them about the meanings.
- Check in on AR Home Connect to find out how many quizzes your child has passed in the last month.