

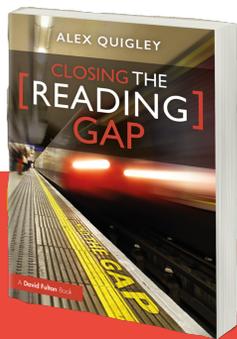
# Closing the Reading Gap (in the time of Coronavirus)

research  **ED**Home

Alex Quigley

[@huntingenglish](https://twitter.com/huntingenglish)

[www.theconfidentteacher.com](http://www.theconfidentteacher.com)



CLOSING THE READING GAP **ALEX QUIGLEY**



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"ONCE YOU  
LEARN TO  
READ,  
YOU WILL BE  
FOREVER FREE"

- Frederick Douglass -



**‘When Children are Not Read  
to at Home: The Million  
Word Gap’, Logan et al.  
(2019)**

**CLOSING THE READING GAP** ALEX QUIGLEY

Quiz question: How many disadvantaged children in the UK do not own a single book at home?

A. 1 in 28

B. 1 in 18

C. 1 in 11

D. 1 in 8

**'Book Ownership and Reading Outcomes',  
National Literacy Trust (2018)**

Quiz question: What percentage of 15-year old pupils have a reading age of 12 or under?

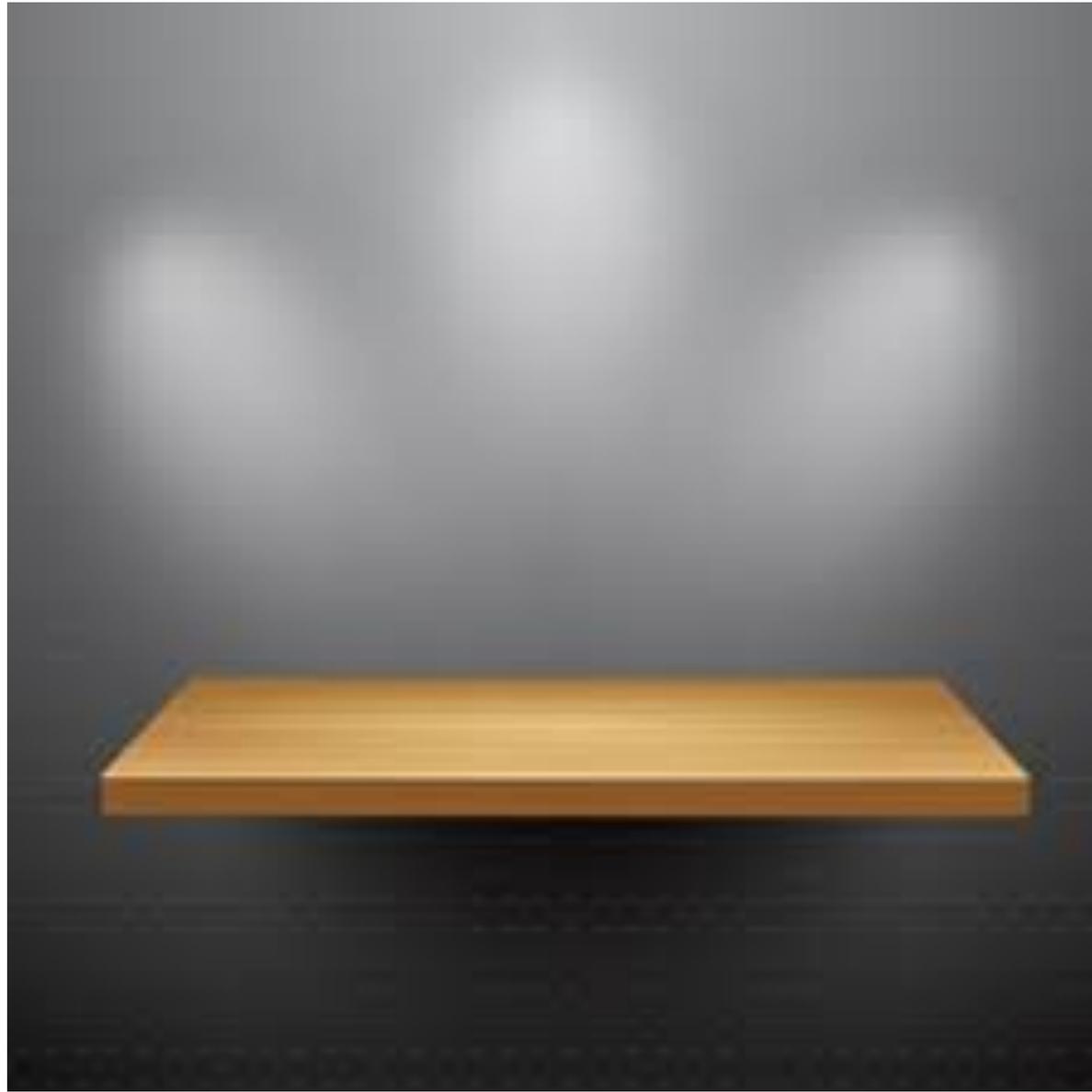
A. 25%

B. 17.5%

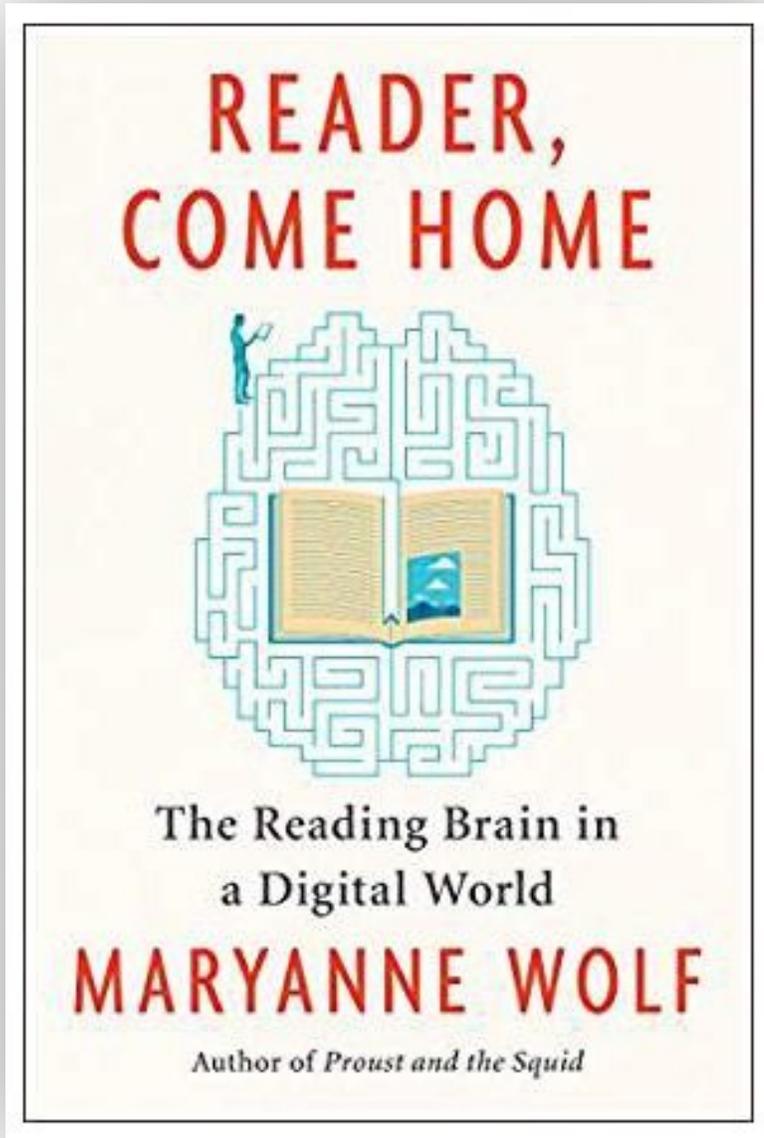
C. 10%

D. 5%

**'Read all about it' report – GL Assessment (2020)**



CLOSING THE READING GAP **ALEX QUIGLEY**

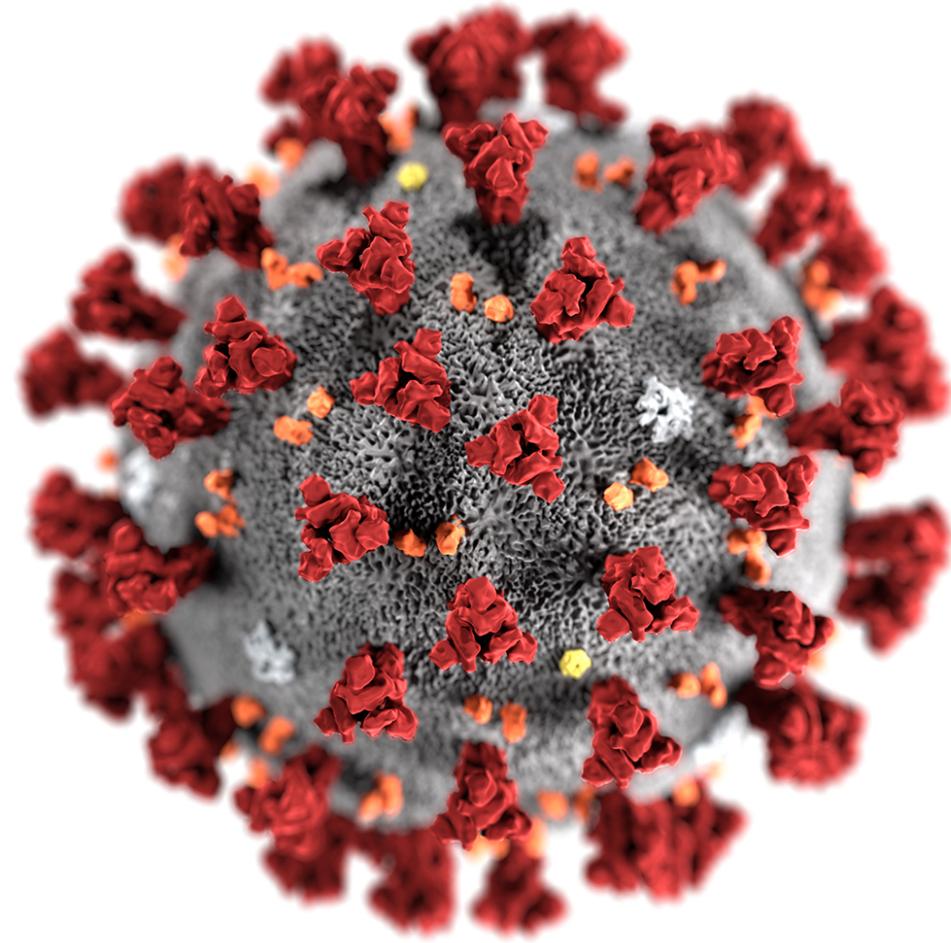


**“What concerns me as a scientist is whether expert readers like us, after multiple hours (and years) of daily screen reading, are subtly changing the allocation of attention to key processes when reading longer, more complex texts.”**

Professor Maryanne Wolf



**'Don't throw away your printed books: A meta-analysis on the effects of reading media on reading comprehension.' Delgado et al. (2018)**



CLOSING THE READING GAP **ALEX QUIGLEY**

## Summer learning loss... but worse?

“On average, 19% of students’ pathways from their 1st to 8th grade test-score occur during summers. We show that—even if all inequality in school-year learning rates could be eliminated, students would still end school with very different achievement due to SLL alone.”

**Atteberry & McEachin (2019) School's Out: The Role of Summers in Understanding Achievement Disparities'**

[STEP  
1]

Train teachers to be expert in how pupils 'learn to read' and go on to 'read to learn'.



[STEP  
2]

Develop and teach a coherent and cumulative 'reading rich' curriculum.



[STEP  
3]

Teach with a focus on reading access, practice, and enhancing reading ability.



[STEP  
4]

Teach, model and scaffold pupils' reading so that they become strategic and knowledgeable readers.



[STEP  
5]

Nurture pupils' motivation to read with purpose and for pleasure.



[STEP  
6]

Foster a reading culture within, and beyond, the school gates.



# Brexit-Boris will die legendäre BBC zerschlagen

Der britische Premierminister Boris Johnson (55) sorgt wieder für Schlagzeilen. Nach einem Bericht der englischen Tageszeitung 'Sunday Times' plant Brexit-Boris die Zerschlagung der größten öffentlichen Rundfunkanstalt der Welt: der legendären BBC (British Broadcasting Corporation)!

Demnach erklärte ein Offizieller der Tageszeitung, dass der Briten-Premier, "sehr lautstark" eine Reform fordert.

Sein Plan: Die Pflichtgebühren für ein Fernsehgerät in Großbritannien (pro Haushalt rund 185 Euro im Jahr) abschaffen und durch ein "Netflix-Abo-System" zu ersetzen.

# Brexit-Boris wants to smash the legendary BBC

The British Prime Minister Boris Johnson (55) makes headlines again. According to a report by the English daily "Sunday Times" Brexit-Boris plans to dismantle the world's largest public broadcaster: the legendary BBC (British Broadcasting Corporation)!

According to an official of the daily newspaper, the British prime minister is "very vocal" on calls for reform.

His plan: abolish the mandatory fees for television in the UK (around €185 per household per year) and replace it with a "Netflix subscription system".

**Evaluate  
task**

**Skim the  
text**

**Scan  
proper  
nouns**

**Activate  
prior  
knowledge**

**Re-read**

**Link nouns**

**Predict meanings**

**Build schema**

**Explore  
unfamiliar  
word parts**

**Evaluate  
meaning of  
punctuation**

**Clarify  
and  
question**

**Summarise  
text meaning**



CLOSING THE READING GAP ALEX QUIGLEY

- ✓ **Gist**
- ✓ **Analysis**
- ✓ **Synthesis**
- ✓ **Elaboration**

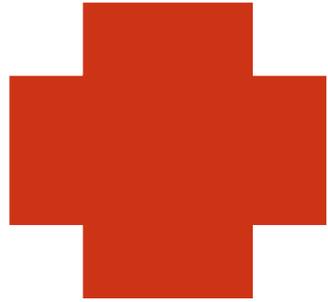


## Reading strategically and ‘poor comprehenders’

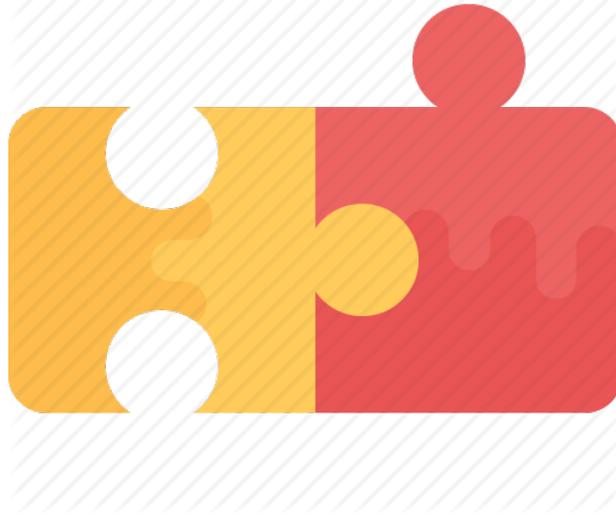
**“They do not see reading as an active, constructive process: It is only when their incorrect answer and therefore inadequate understanding is brought to their attention and they are required to search for some information, that these children make such links.”**

**‘Comprehension Skills and Inference-Making Ability: Issues of Causality’,  
by K. Cain and J. V. Oakhill**

**Knowledge**



**strategy**



**Skilled  
reading**



# Mr Men books 'harder to read than Roald Dahl'

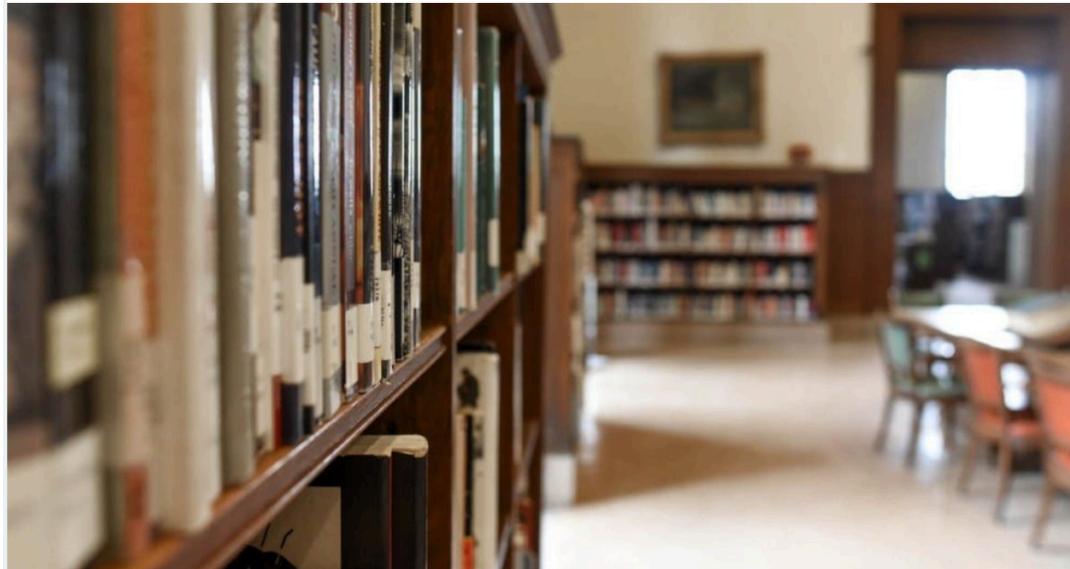
Roger Hargreaves' books have 'more complicated words'



By Richard Vaughan

Wednesday, 27th February 2019, 1:25 pm

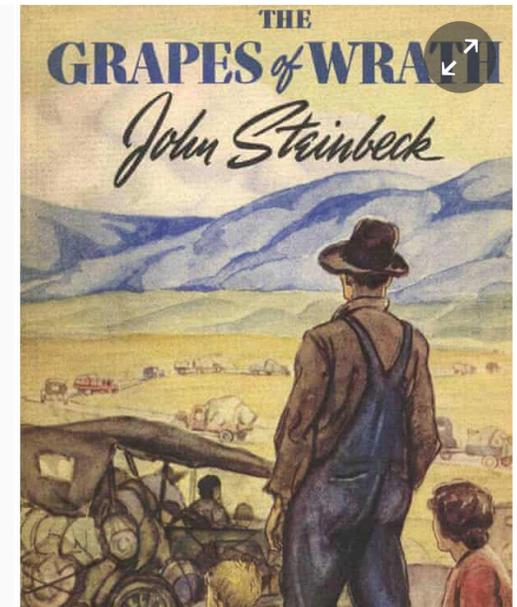
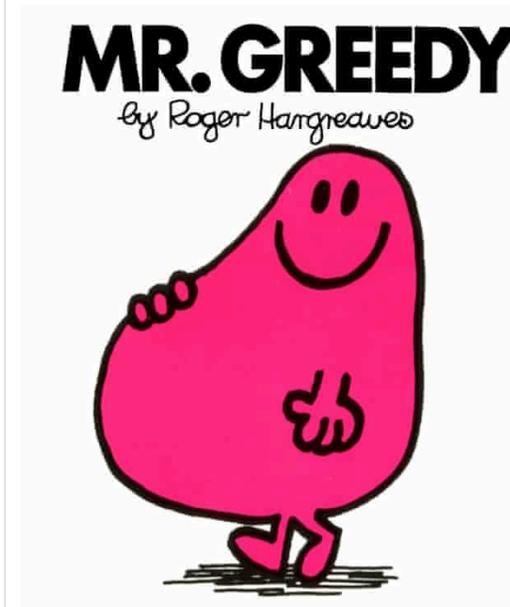
Updated Friday, 6th September 2019, 3:17 pm



This article is more than 11 months old

# Study finds Mr Greedy rivals Grapes of Wrath in reading complexity

Analysis for teaching resources body determines that Roger Hargreaves' use of unusual words and long sentences raises demands on the reader



▲ Hard to swallow ... Mr Greedy v The Grapes of Wrath

One of them is a Pulitzer prize-winning epic running to more than 500 pages and 1.1 million words. The other is a children's street corner story...

## CLOSING THE READING GAP

# THE ARDUOUS EIGHT

Text length.  
e.g. longer texts including a  
broad range of information

**[8]**

**[1]**

Background knowledge – the sheer range  
of necessary knowledge and related ideas  
in a given passage or whole text.

The scaffolds present, or  
absent, in a given text  
e.g. key word glossary.

**[7]**

**[2]**

Range and complexity  
of vocabulary  
(including word length).

The generic elements of  
the text e.g. a biographical  
account in history.

**[6]**

Text difficulty can be  
mediated by...

**[3]**

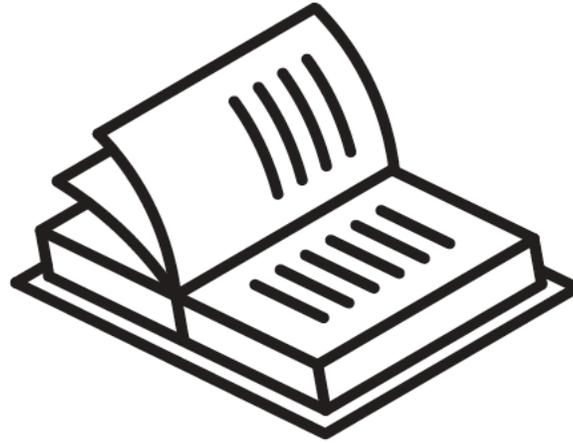
Use of abstract  
imagery and  
metaphorical language.

Narrative or  
whole-text structures.

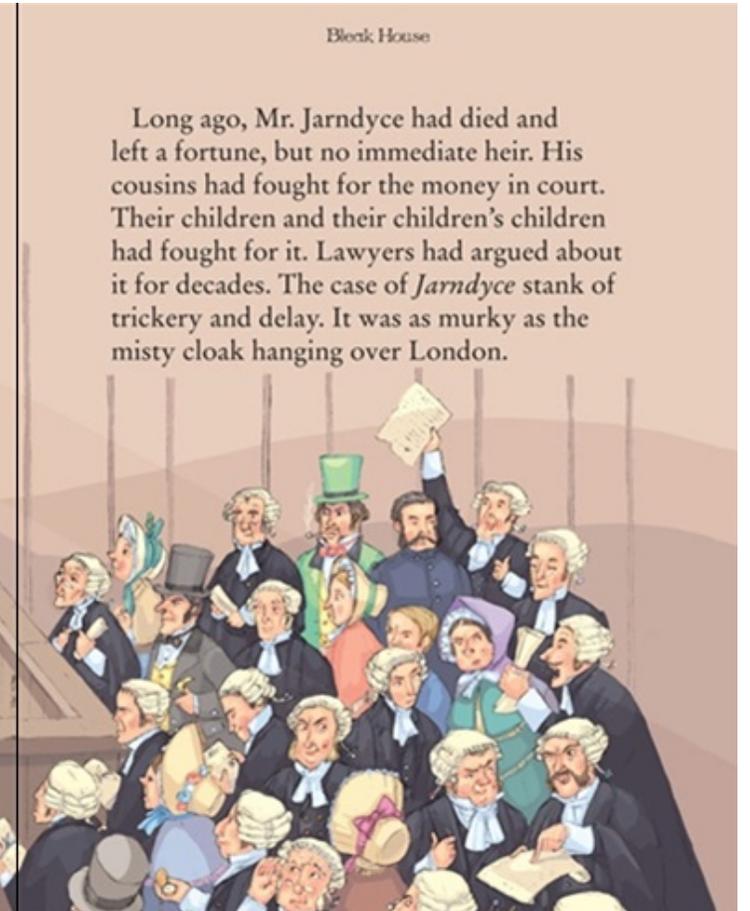
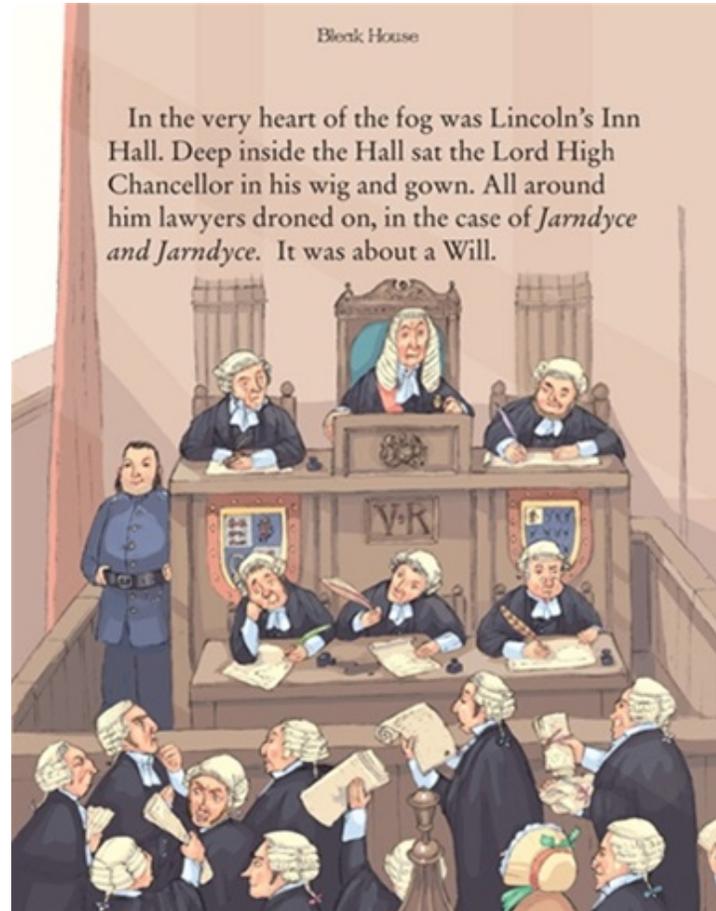
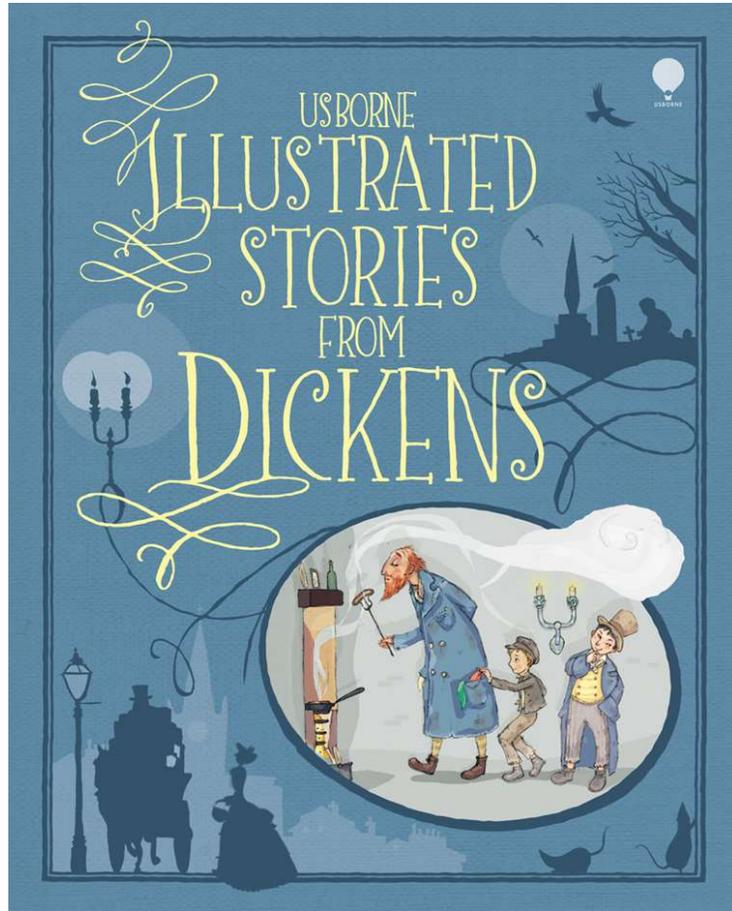
**[5]**

**[4]**

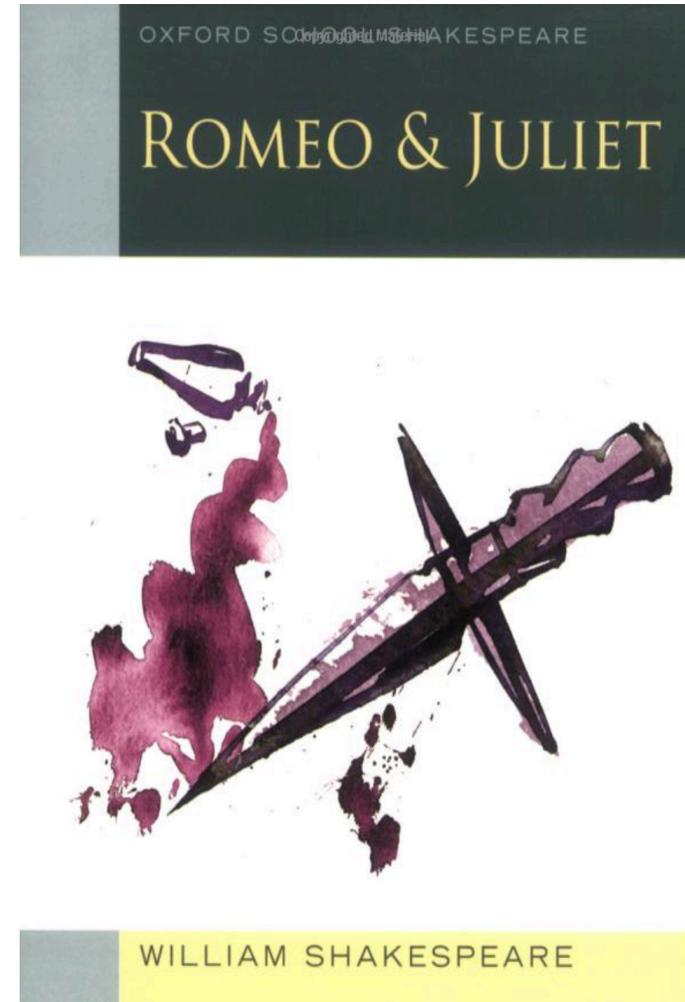
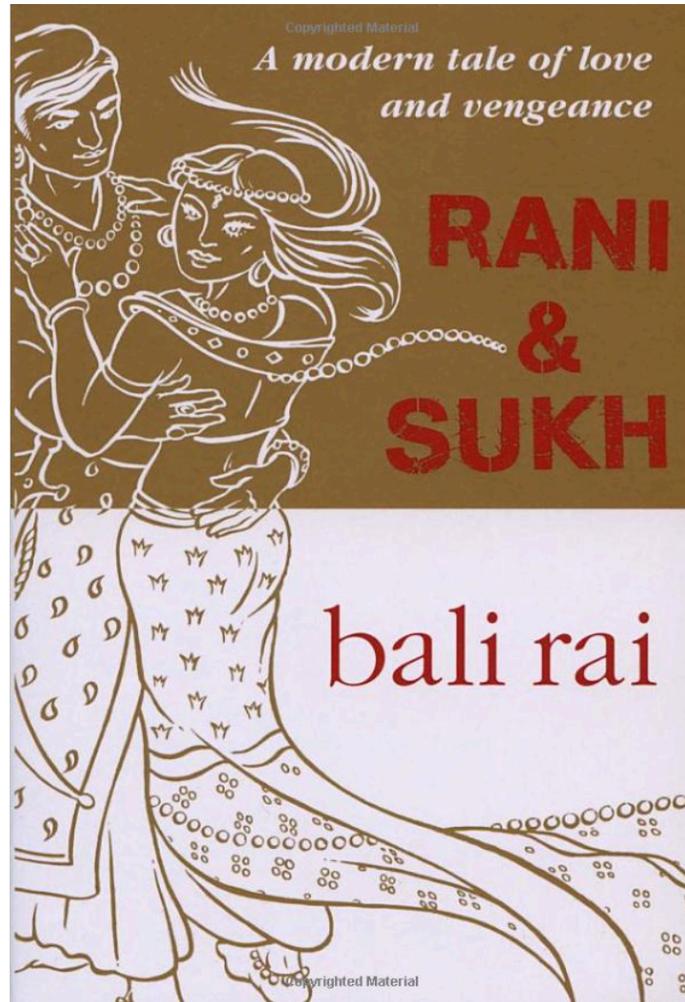
Sentence length  
and syntax.



# Key Stage Two and 'Pre-complex texts'

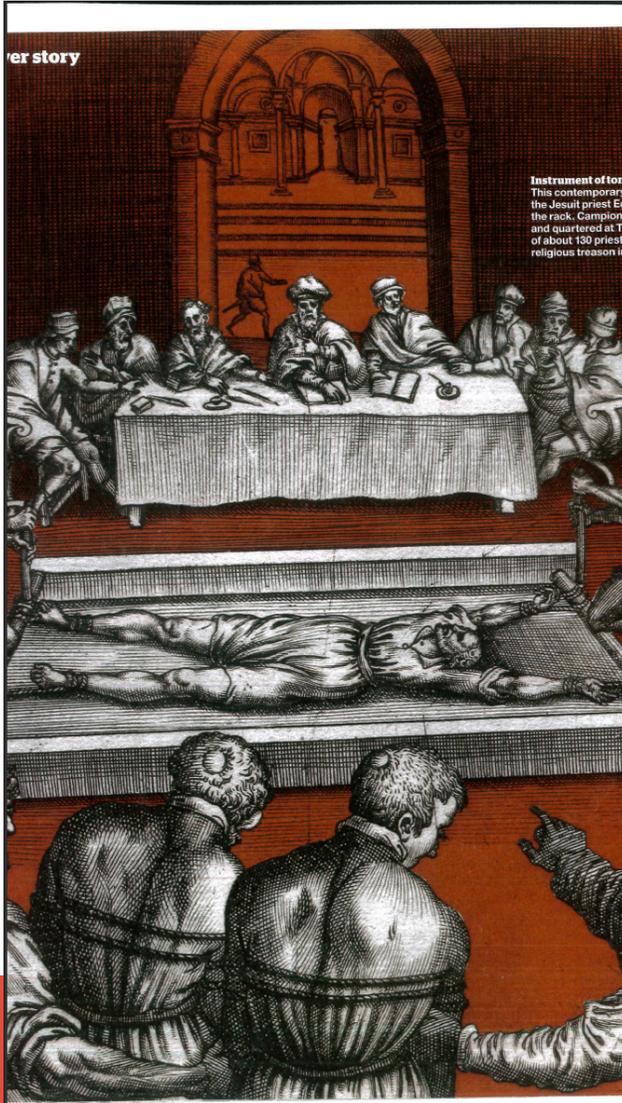


# Key Stage Three and 'Pre-complex texts'



# Key Stage Three and 'Pre-complex texts'

er story



**Instrument of tort**  
This contempone the Jesuit priest Ed the rack. Campion and quartered at T of about 130 priest religious treason in

ver story

## Places to visit

Catholic ingenuity in architecture around the country

### Rushton Triangular Lodge, Northamptonshire

english-heritage.org.uk

A monument to the Trinity, a symbol of recusant resistance, a testament to the ego of Sir Thomas Tresham: this 1590s "warreners' lodge" is one of the strangest buildings in Britain. Mystical inscriptions and devices abound. Within a short distance are the priest-hole and oratory of Rushton

hall (now a hotel), and the haunting, unfinished Lyveden New Bield (National Trust), which was Tresham's cross-shaped tribute to the Passion.

### Bar Convent, York, North Yorkshire

bar-convent.org.uk

England's oldest living convent celebrates the Catholic heritage of the north of England as well as the life of the order's founder, Mary Ward (1585–1645). Highlights of the museum, which is anticipating major renovations, are an altar disguised as a bedstead (pictured) and a relic of Margaret Clitherow, the butcher's wife from York who was "pressed" to death in 1586 for refusing to plead to the charge of priest-harboring.



riests often awelled etween entres of lass disguised s pedians, his striped estment could e concealed s a bundle of bbons in a odlar's pack



### Harvington Hall, Worcestershire

harvingtonhall.com

The former home of the recusant Humphrey Pakington, Harvington boasts the finest surviving set of hides (one pictured above) in England. They include a priest-hole accessed via a hinged timber beam in the library, and a false chimney, blackened for effect. They were probably devised by Nicholas "Little John" Owen, an Oxford carpenter, who served the English mission and died after interrogation in the Tower in 1606.

### Baddesley Clinton, Warwickshire

nationaltrust.org.uk

It was in the sewer-hide of this Catholic safe house that, on 19 October 1591, seven priests are thought to have hidden, ankle-deep in water for four hours, as the queen's officials "tore madly" through the house above them. "The zeal and courage of Catholics is never more in evidence than at times like this," wrote the Jesuit Superior, Henry Garnet, in admiration of his doughty hostess Anne Vaux, alias 'the virgin'.

### Tower of London

hrp.org.uk/toweroflondon

Few inmates were as lucky as the Jesuit John Gerard, whose escape from the Cradle Tower in 1597 is as vividly related in his *Autobiography* as the grim scenes of torture that preceded it. Replicas of torture devices can be seen in the Tower, as well as poignant prisoner graffiti (below), etched into the walls by men devoid of hope, if not of faith.



in the world, whose succession and multitude must overreach all the practices of England – cheerfully to carry the cross that you shall lay upon us and never to despair your recovery while we have a man left to enjoy your Tyburn, or to be racked with your torments, or to be consumed with your prisons. The expense is reckoned, the enterprise begun; it is of God, it cannot be withstood. So the faith was planted, so it must be restored."

Campion was one of about 130 priests executed for religious treason in Elizabeth's reign. A further 60 of their lay supporters were also put to death. Torture was used more than in any other English reign. Margaret Ward, destined for the gallows for organising the escape of a priest, protested that "the queen herself, if she had the bowels of a woman, would have done as much if she had known the ill-treatment he underwent". But it was the heart and stomach of a king that were required for England's defence.

### Assassination attempts

With no named successor, and a Catholic heir presumptive – Mary, Queen of Scots – waiting, wings clipped but ready to soar, Elizabeth I was vulnerable to conspiracy. The security of the realm depended entirely on her personal survival in an age that saw brother rulers taken by bullet and blade. The assassination in 1584 of William of Orange, the Dutch Protestant figurehead shot in the chest by a Catholic fanatic chasing the bounty of Philip II of Spain, was particularly alarming. The following year, parliament passed a statute licensing the revenge killing of assassins, or witting beneficiaries of assassins, in the event of a successful attempt on the queen's life.

The threat from Spain, the papacy, the French house of Guise and the agents of Mary, Queen of Scots was very real and seemingly unceasing. From the sanctuary of exile, William Allen agitated for an invasion of England and frequently exaggerated the extent of home support. Only fear made Catholics obey the queen, he assured the pope in 1585, "which fear will be removed when they see the force from without". The priests, he added, would direct the consciences and actions of Catholics "when the time comes".

In reality, there were very few Elizabethans willing to perpetrate what would now be called an act of terror. But there was a vast grey area that encompassed all kinds of suspicious activity – communication with the queen's enemies, the handling of tracts critical of the regime, the non-disclosure of sensitive information, the sheltering and funding of priests who turned out to be subversive. Even the quiescent majority was feared for what it might do if there was ever a confrontation between Elizabeth I and the pope.

When asked the "bloody questions", framed to extract ultimate allegiances, Catholics proved as adept as their queen at the "answer answerless". Spies and agent provocateurs were thrown into the field, moles were placed in embassies and recusant houses were searched for priests and "popish trash". The queen's agents were sometimes overzealous, sometimes downright immoral, in their pursuit of national security. "There is less danger in fearing too much than too little," advised the queen's spy-master, Francis Walsingham.

In 1588, when the Spanish Armada beat menacingly towards the English Channel, the "most obstinate and noted" recusants were rounded up and imprisoned. Sir Thomas Tresham begged for a chance to prove his



**Pain of death** This copper engraving from 1583 shows the execution of two Catholic priests (through hanging and disembowlement) in Ireland

## "England's victory in 1588 was celebrated as the triumph of Christ over Antichrist"

"true English heart" and fight for his queen. He vigorously disputed the claim that "while we lived, her Majesty should not be in security, nor the realm freed from invasion".

Nevertheless, the Spaniards sailing aboard the *Rosario* were told to expect support from at least a third of England's population. Elizabeth's Privy Council was "certain" that an invasion would "never" have been attempted, "but upon hope" of internal assistance. It may have been a false hope, built on a house of cards by émigrés desperate to see the old faith restored at home, but for as long as it was held, and acted upon, by backers powerful enough to do damage, Tresham and

the rest, whether "faithfullest true English subjects" or not, were indeed a security risk. England's victory in 1588 was celebrated as the triumph of Christ over Antichrist, the true church over the false, freedom over tyranny. Elizabeth I was hailed as Gloriana, the Virgin Queen who "brought up, even under her wing, a nation that was almost begotten and born under her, that never shouted any other Ave than for her name". There was no place for rosaries in this predestined, Protestant version of English history.

Even Philip II, usually so sure of his status as the special one, was momentarily confounded by the mysteries of God's will. He soon rallied, however, and there were more failed armadas.

At every whisper of invasion, the screw was turned on those 'bad members' known to be recusants. In 1593, the 'statute of confinement' ruled that recusants could not travel beyond five miles of their home without a licence.

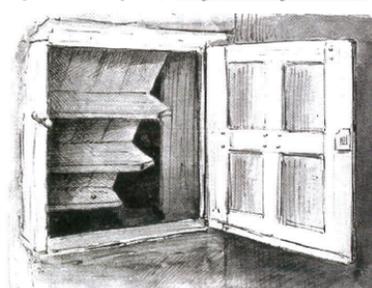
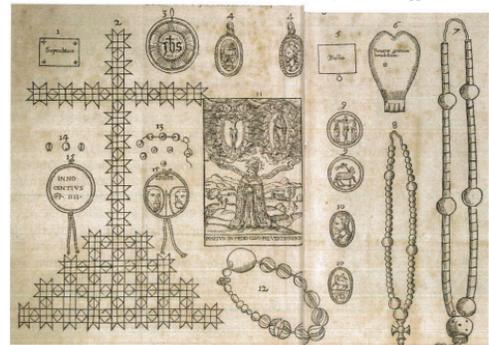
Observance could be patchy and enforcement slack. Anti-Catholicism was nearly always more passionate in the abstract than it was on the ground, but it still must have been alienating and psychologically draining to be spied on, searched, and branded an "unnatural subject" at every critical juncture. Tresham likened it to being "drenched in a sea of shameless slanders".

Tresham outlived Queen Elizabeth by two years. His hope for a measure of toleration under James VI and I did not materialise and, having paid a total of £7,717 in recusancy penalties, he died on 11 September 1605 a disappointed man. The following month, his wife's nephew, 'Robin' Catesby, tried to recruit his son, Francis, into the Gunpowder Plot. Francis Tresham was arrested on 12 November and died before he could face trial. On, or soon after 28 November 1605, the family papers were bundled up in a sheet and immured at Rushton Hall. They lay there, undisturbed, for over two centuries, until, in 1828, the builders came in. ■

Jessie Childs is an author and historian who won the Elizabeth Longford Prize for Historical Biography for her 2006 book *Henry VIII's Last Victim: The Life and Times of Henry Howard, Earl of Surrey* (Jonathan Cape)

### DISCOVER MORE

- **BOOKS**
- **God's Traitors: Terror and Faith in Elizabethan England** by Jessie Childs (The Bodley Head, 2014)
- **The Watchers: A Secret History of the Reign of Elizabeth I** by Stephen Alford (Allen Lane, 2012)
- **Church Papists: Catholicism, Conformity and Confessional Polemic in Early Modern England** by Alexandra Walsham (Boydell Press, 1993)



**Identification guide** Issued in 1579 to help officials identify banned devotional objects, the guide, left, shows items including rosaries, crucifixes and Agnus Deis that might be brought into England ABOVE: A cupboard-cum-priesthole at Salford Prior Hall

BBC History Magazine

BBC History Magazine

# Key Stage Two/Three and 'Pre-complex texts'

**DK EYEWITNESS**

# PERIODIC TABLE

Discover the chemical elements and learn about their properties and uses

**Aquamarine**  
One of the chief sources of beryllium is beryl, a naturally occurring mineral made from beryllium, aluminium, silicon, and oxygen. Beryl can take on many different colours depending on the impurities present. Aquamarine is a type of blue beryl gemstone: the presence of iron makes it blue.

**FREE POSTER INSIDE**

The six alkaline earth metals sit to the right of the alkali metals.

## Alkaline Earth Metals

A slightly less reactive bunch than their group one neighbours, the group two elements are called "alkaline" because they form alkaline solutions on reacting with water. Soft and shiny when pure, they are called "earth metals" because many of them were discovered in their raw form in Earth's crust. First purified in the 19th century, all alkaline earth metals are solid at room temperature. Each element in this group burns with a distinctive colour.

**Aquamarine raw crystal**

A single hexagonal mirror measures about 1.3 m (4.2 ft) in diameter.

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## Beryllium

**4 Be** Once called "glucinium", meaning "sweet" (because of the sweet-tasting compounds made of this element), beryllium was eventually named after the mineral beryl. A toxic and radioactive element, beryllium can be a health hazard. This metal has many applications when alloyed with other elements, including its use in making missiles and satellites.

**James Webb Space Telescope**  
NASA's James Webb Space Telescope is an Earth-orbiting telescope set for launch in 2019. It will be used to observe the Universe and to collect data about our Solar System, planets around other stars, and even the Big Bang – the event that gave birth to the Universe. Light from distant parts of space will be collected by an array of mirrors made of gold-plated beryllium. This element makes the mirrors strong and lightweight.

## Magnesium

**12 Mg** This light metal is very reactive, including with oxygen in the air. When it burns, it produces a bright, white glow that is so intense it can damage the eyes of anyone looking directly at the burning metal. Magnesium is used in flares and fireworks.

**Laboratory sample of pure magnesium**

Shiny, grey crystals

**Magnesite**  
This magnesium mineral is a good source of the compound magnesium oxide, which can be used as a material for lining furnaces because of its very high melting point and resistance to heat.

Translucent, crystalline form

Brittle mineral

**These car rims are made of a magnesium-aluminium alloy for high strength and quality.**

Custom-made car rims

**Finding magnesium**  
In 1755, the Scottish physician and chemist Joseph Black experimented on a compound called magnesium carbonate that led him to recognize magnesium as an element. In the same set of experiments, Black also identified the gas carbon dioxide.

**Tummy settler**  
Magnesium carbonate is a common ingredient in medication used to ease heartburn and other stomach ailments. The carbonate reacts with excess acid in the stomach, turning it into water and releasing carbon dioxide gas in the process. This gas can also make you burp.

Medication cup helps measure the required dosage

**Magnesium alloys**  
Alloys containing magnesium have the advantage of being both strong and lightweight. For that reason, several of them are used in the manufacture of high-performance machinery. One such alloy is called Mag-Thor: a mixture of magnesium, thorium, and other elements, it is used to build aircraft engines.

Yellowing leaves are a sign of magnesium deficiency.

**Chlorophyll**  
A green-coloured compound found in leaves, chlorophyll converts sunlight into the energy that plants need for growth. This process is called photosynthesis. At the centre of each chlorophyll molecule is a magnesium atom. Without magnesium, plants would not be able to carry out photosynthesis.

CLOSING THE READING GAP ALEX QUIGLEY

# CLOSING THE READING GAP

## THE ARDUOUS EIGHT

Text length.  
e.g. longer texts including a  
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**DUCKSTERS**  
Education Site

History Biography Geography Science Games

## French Revolution Reign of Terror

[History](#) >> [French Revolution](#)

The Reign of Terror was a dark and violent period of time during the French Revolution. Radicals took control of the revolutionary government. They arrested and executed anyone who they suspected might not be loyal to the revolution.

**Leading up to the Terror**

The French Revolution had begun four years earlier with the Storming of the Bastille. Since then, the government had been in a constant state of change. By 1793, the revolutionary government was in crisis. France was being attacked by foreign countries on all sides and civil war was breaking out in many regions. Radicals led by Maximilien Robespierre took over the government and started the Reign of Terror.

How long did it last?

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Super Strength



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## Reign of Terror

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

*This article is about the Reign of Terror in the French Revolution. For other uses, see [Reign of Terror \(disambiguation\)](#). "The Terror" redirects here. For other uses, see [The Terror \(disambiguation\)](#).*

あ → A This article **may be expanded with text translated from the corresponding article in French.** (*May 2018*) [Click \[show\]](#) for important translation instructions.

The **Reign of Terror**, or commonly **The Terror** (French: *la Terreur*), refers to a period of the **French Revolution** when, following the creation of the **First French Republic**, a series of **massacres** and numerous public **executions** took place in response to revolutionary fervour, **anti-clerical** sentiment, and spurious accusations of **treason** by **Maximilien Robespierre** and the **Committee of Public Safety**.

There is disagreement among historians over when exactly "the Terror" started. Some consider it to have begun only in 1793, giving the date as either 5 September,<sup>[1]</sup> June<sup>[2]</sup> or March, when the **Revolutionary Tribunal** came into existence. Others, however, cite the earlier time of the **September Massacres** in 1792, or even July 1789, when the first killing of the revolution occurred.<sup>[a]</sup> There is a consensus that it ended with the fall of **Maximilien Robespierre** in July 1794<sup>[1][2]</sup> and resulting **Thermidorian Reaction**.<sup>[3]</sup> By then, 16,594 official death sentences had been dispensed throughout France since June 1793, of which 2,639 were in Paris alone.<sup>[2][4]</sup>

**Contents** [hide]

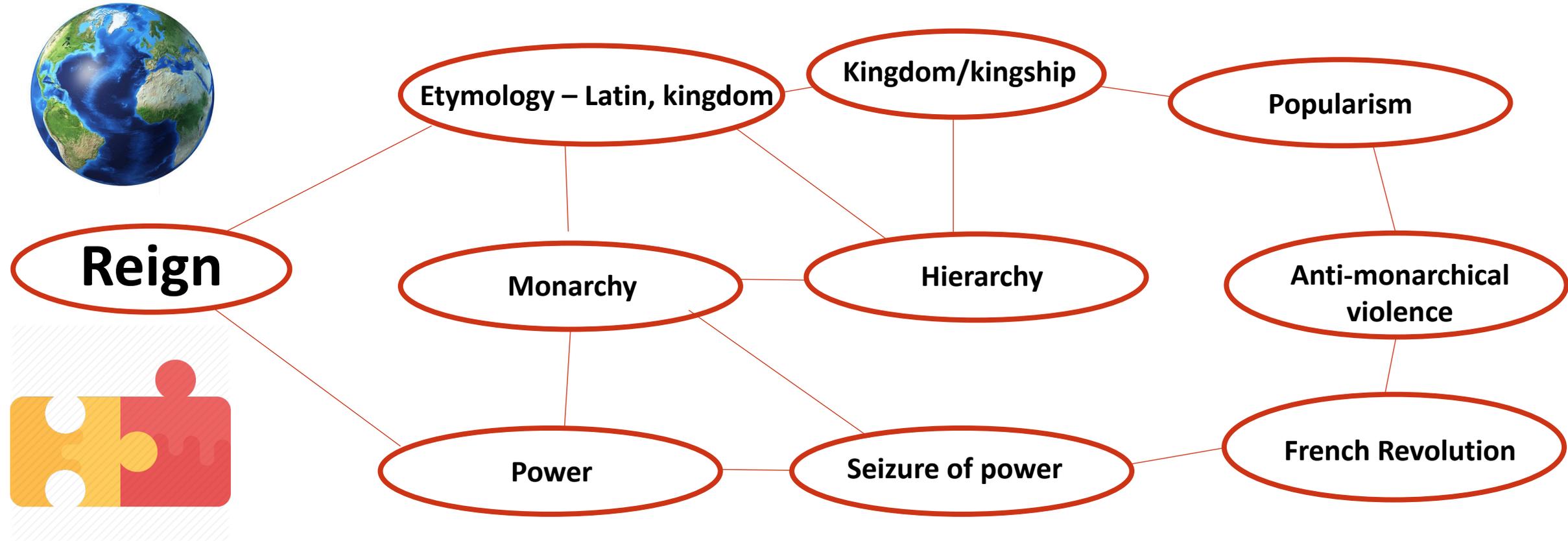
- [Barère and Robespierre glorify "terror"](#)
- [Influences](#)
  - [Enlightenment thought](#)



Nine *émigrés* are executed by guillotine, 1793



# Powerful knowledge and reading

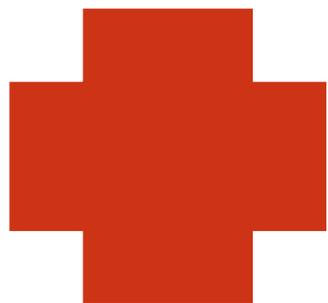


## Reading requires knowledge of the world...

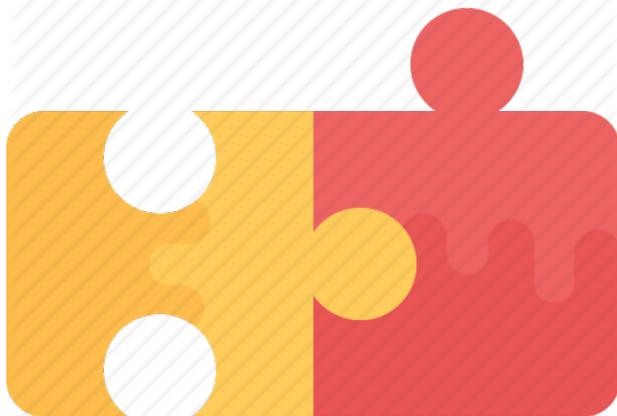
**“To grasp the words on a page we have to know a lot of information that isn’t set down on a page.”**

**‘Cultural literacy: What every American needs to know’,  
Professor E. D. Hirsch**

**Knowledge**



**strategy**

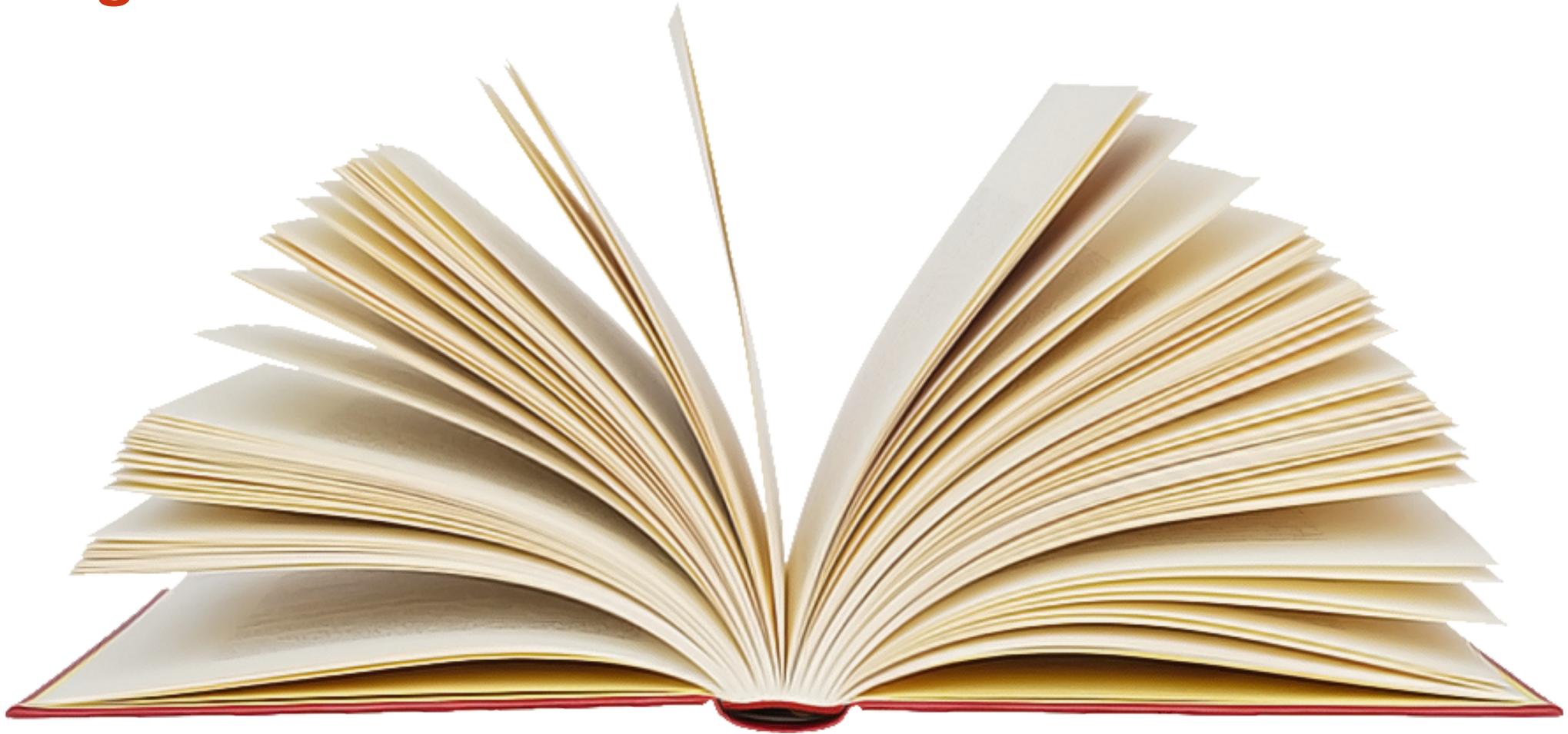


**Skilled  
reading**



**CLOSING THE READING GAP** ALEX QUIGLEY

# Reading culture



CLOSING THE READING GAP ALEX QUIGLEY

# Simple solutions to complex challenges?



“Book-gifting is unlikely to be effective on its own. But providing more structured support, ideas, and activities with carefully chosen books *can* be effective. Such approaches do not necessarily require regular or intensive attendance at courses or workshops if they provide comprehensive instructional materials and resources.”

**‘Working with Parents’ guidance Report,  
EEF (2019)**

# Priorities?

Early and systematic assessment of reading

Development of a reading culture for both pleasure and purpose

Reading interventions for pupils below age-related expectations

Sequenced design of a cumulative reading curriculum

Explicit teaching of reading strategies  
e.g. reciprocal reading

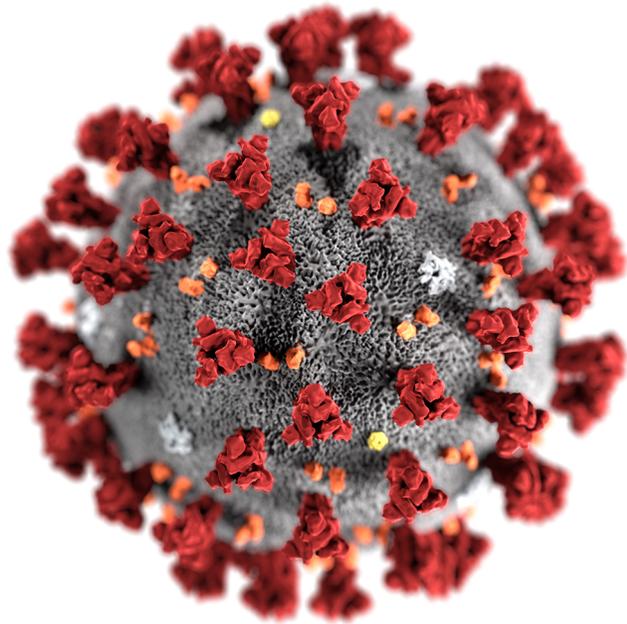
Organised vocabulary instruction

Supporting home reading / prioritising reading in homework

Development of 'reading in the disciplines'

Development of a variety of whole-class reading approaches

Priorities?



This is  
the one

# Resources



Launching young readers!

## Reading Rockets



### 10 THINGS EVERY TEACHER SHOULD KNOW ABOUT READING COMPREHENSION

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# THE CONFIDENT TEACHER

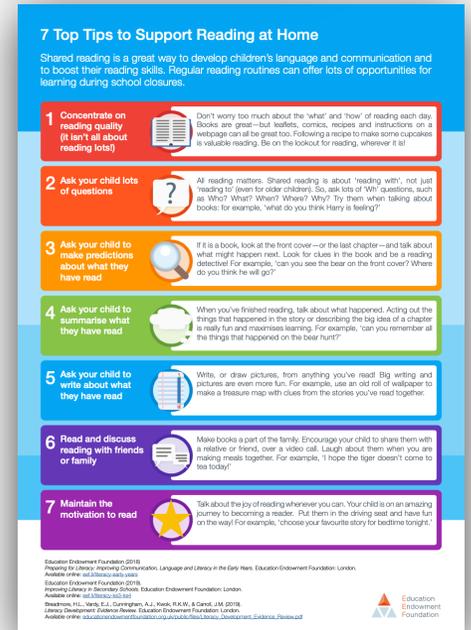
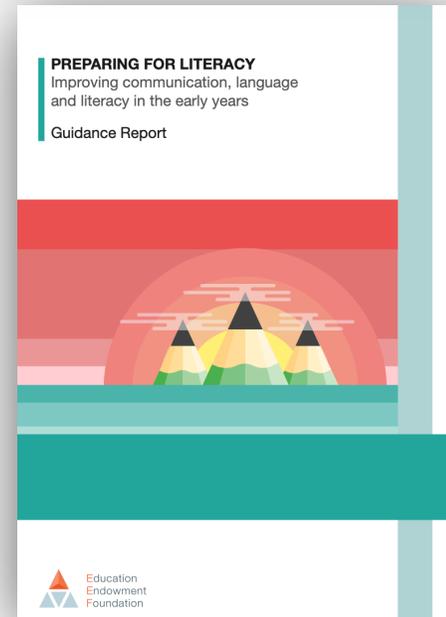
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## CLOSING THE GAP RESOURCES

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Below are the free resources created to accompany my 'Closing the Gap' series:

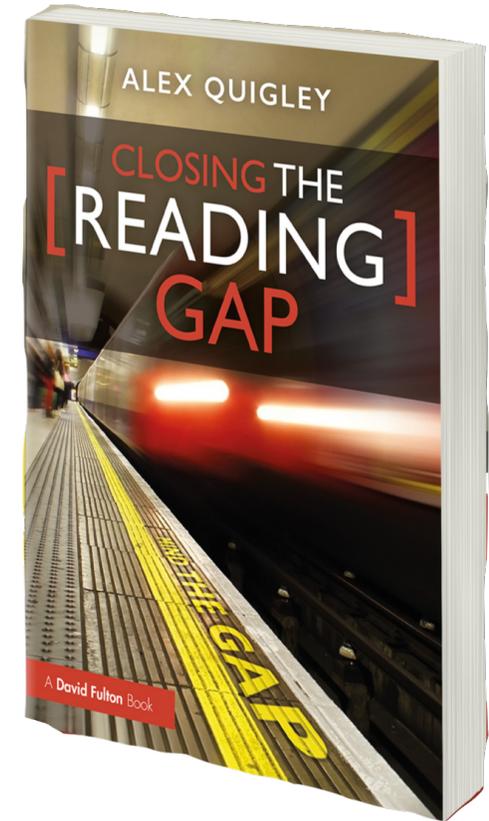


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