Closing the Reading Gap (in the time of Coronavirus)

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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)
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

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)
“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)
“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.”

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Step</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Train teachers to be expert in how pupils ‘learn to read’ and go on to ‘read to learn’.</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>Develop and teach a coherent and cumulative ‘reading rich’ curriculum.</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Teach with a focus on reading access, practice, and enhancing reading ability.</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Teach, model and scaffold pupils’ reading so that they become strategic and knowledgeable readers.</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>Nurture pupils’ motivation to read with purpose and for pleasure.</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>Foster a reading culture within, and beyond, the school gates.</td>
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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

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✓ 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.”

Knowledge + strategy = Skilled reading

CLOSING THE READING GAP  ALEX QUIGLEY
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

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

One of them is a Pulitzer prize-winning epic running to more than 500 pages which directly doubles for the first of seven titles in the series.
CLOSING THE READING GAP

THE ARDUOUS EIGHT

[8] Text length, e.g. longer texts including a broad range of information

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

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


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


Text difficulty can be mediated by...

[5] Narrative or whole-text structures.

Key Stage Two and ‘Pre-complex texts’

In the very heart of the fog was Lincoln’s Inn Hall. Deep inside the Hall sat the Lord High Chancellor in his wig and gown. All around him lawyers droned on, in the case of Jarndyce and Jarndyce. It was about a Will.

Long ago, Mr. Jarndyce had died and left a fortune, but no immediate heir. His cousins had fought for the money in court. Their children and their children’s children had fought for it. Lawyers had argued about it for decades. The case of Jarndyce stank of trickery and delay. It was as murky as the misty cloak hanging over London.
Key Stage Three and ‘Pre-complex texts’
Key Stage Three and ‘Pre-complex texts’

i

England’s victory in 1588 was celebrated as the triumph of Christ over Antichrist.

Robert Burton’s Anatomy of Melancholy, in which he described melancholy as a disease that led to a distorted perception of reality, described the Queen of England as a symbol of Christian virtue and the Devil as a symbol of corruption. Burton’s work was influential in shaping the public perception of the queen as a贤明的统治者 and the war as a struggle between good and evil.

The works of Shakespeare, such as his plays on the theme of good and evil, also played a role in shaping the public’s understanding of the war. His plays, such as Hamlet, explored the complexities of human nature and the struggle between good and evil, which resonated with the public’s perception of the war as a struggle between the forces of good (England) and evil (Spain).

The war was also significant in terms of its impact on the English language. The use of the term “Antichrist” in the war’s context became a part of the language, and its usage continued to influence the way the English language evolved over the centuries.
Key Stage Two/Three and ‘Pre-complex texts’

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.

Beryllium

Once called ‘glaucium’, meaning ‘swift’ (because of the swift-turning compounds made of this element), beryllium was eventually named after the mineral beryl. A toxic and reactive 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.

Magnesium

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

Manganese

This magnetic element is a key source of the compound manganous sulphate, which can be used as a catalyst for long periods. Because of its magnetic properties, it is also used in the manufacture of magnets and integrated circuits.
CLOSING THE READING GAP

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[8] Text length. e.g. longer texts including a broad range of information.
French Revolution
Reign of Terror

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.

Which superpower would you want if you were a Superhero?

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Powerful knowledge and reading

Reign

- Etymology – Latin, kingdom
- Monarchy
- Power
- Kingdom/kingship
- Hierarchy
- Seizure of power
- Popularism
- Anti-monarchical violence
- French Revolution

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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
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.”

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<tr>
<th>Priorities?</th>
<th>Early and systematic assessment of reading</th>
<th>Development of a reading culture for both pleasure and purpose</th>
<th>Reading interventions for pupils below age-related expectations</th>
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<td>Sequenced design of a cumulative reading curriculum</td>
<td>Explicit teaching of reading strategies e.g. reciprocal reading</td>
<td>Organised vocabulary instruction</td>
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<td>Supporting home reading / prioritising reading in homework</td>
<td>Development of ‘reading in the disciplines’</td>
<td>Development of a variety of whole-class reading approaches</td>
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Priorities?

This is the one

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