

The Benefits of Listening to Good Readers Read



Whether sat around a campfire or tucked up in bed, being told a good story is a tradition that goes back generations. In part, it's what makes us human.

A good story, told well stokes the fire of our imagination and sets our creativity free. A story shared from the heart can unite a community and strengthen an individual. Stories help us to understand ourselves and empathise with others.

A good story, told well helps children build a strong visual narrative and secure important sequencing skills. It helps them to connect with the stories they hear on an emotional level and improves their understanding.

The journey we take when learning to read and write is one that should be filled with excitement and wonder. We can enhance and enrich that journey by helping children engage with the spoken word, in the knowledge that it will encourage readers to pick up a book and writers to pick up a pen.

A friend once said to me that in life we should enjoy the journey and not just the destination. I admit, this is not always an easy path to take. But if we can adopt this mindset, it makes the journey we take that much easier and a whole lot more satisfying.

The journey we take to become a lover of literature, begins with listening. It is a journey worth taking and one we must embrace and enjoy.

We must never underestimate the powerful role listening has to play on our road to becoming a lover of language and literature, and we must never view listening and speaking as being the poor cousin to reading and writing. It is, after all, how our journey to become literate begins.

When reading aloud to children, it is important that we provide opportunities to discuss what we are reading and for us to pass on our passion for the written word.

If what you are reading moves you... tell them.

If what you are reading makes you wonder about the world or question what the future holds... tell them.

If a word or a sentence makes you pause for thought or excites you, makes you gasp or giggle... tell them.

AND TELL THEM WHY.

This will help children develop the art of storytelling and improve their Emotional Dexterity, so important when supporting a child as they endeavour to understand text deeply. This is essential if we wish them to become a lifelong lover of reading and for them to fall in love with the English language.



The Art of Storytelling

What Might We Focus On?

To read well we must read fluently. To not do so impedes our Working Memory and makes it difficult to make connections within the text which underpin our ability to understand (and ultimately enjoy) what is being read.

When considering this important aspect of reading, especially when we are sharing a story or poem with others out loud, we ought to focus on the three main strands of **Reading Fluency** and consider carefully the **6 Ps**:

Reading Fluency

★ Accuracy

The ability to decode.

★ Automaticity

Whole word recognition.

★ Fluency for Meaning

Elements which underpin understanding and bring text to life.

The 6 Ps

How can we bring text to life and infuse it with meaning when reading out loud?



Pitch



Power



Pace



Punctuation



Pause



Passion

Feel free to use these icons in your classroom.

This will help promote discussion around what it means to be a good reader when reading aloud and improve our understanding of what is being read.

I discuss this in detail during my Guided Reading and Reading Intervention CPD.



Pitch



Power



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Passion