



# The Redmile Reader



## Summer Term

### Special Edition

In this special edition of the *Redmile Reader*, I hope to celebrate the wonderful reading community we have here at Redmile and share some of the bookish things that our children were up to, as well as provide some suggested books, activities and ideas to keep encouraging a love of reading throughout 'lock-down' and beyond!

### Library Opening Hours

Unfortunately, local libraries and mobile libraries are not open until further notice.

Luckily, several places are offering free eBooks during this time (read on for more information on this).

## World Book Day 2020

I really hope everybody enjoyed our community World Book Day! Everyone looked so fantastic; it's wonderful to see so many more original characters coming through as our reading repertoires continue to grow. The potato characters looked amazing! Thank you families for coming to join our reading community for the afternoon, and I hope you enjoyed cosying up together with a book at our Reading Café!



## Authors sending personal messages

We have been so lucky to have had personalised messages from so many of our favourite authors: SF Said (*Phoenix; Varjak Paw*), Abi Elphinstone (*Sky Song; The Dream Snatcher; Ever Dark*), Andy Shepherd (*The Boy Who Grew Dragons*), Stewart Foster (*The Bubble Boy*)... Some of them have even taken the time to send personalised cards and signed books to us to enjoy!

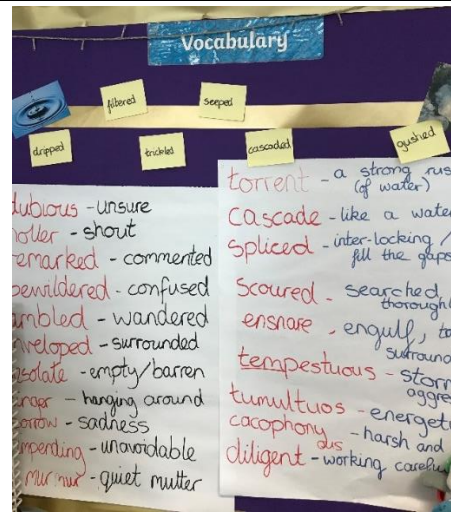


## Developing Vocabulary through Reading

Has your child ever asked, "What does this mean?"

Books are bursting with a range of new, rich vocabulary. The wider the range of genres and authors your child reads, the wider the language they are exposed to.

Encourage your child to use some interesting words used by authors, find out the meaning of the words in a dictionary or online and practise using them in a sentence or piece of writing of their own.



## Questions to Ask when Reading

In addition to decoding fluently (working out what a word actually says), it is SO important that children understand what they read and think deeply about a text.

Here are some points you could raise in discussion with your child to try to encourage them to think about the books they read. I am sure you will think of many more:

- What did the character just do? Why do you think they did that?
- What do you think the character is like? (Older children: Can you find clues in the text to support your answer?)
- Why do you think the author chose to use this particular word? How would the sentence be different if they had used a different word?
  - If you were the character, what would you do differently?
  - Did you find any new words you could use in your own writing?
  - (Non-fiction) Why did the author set the writing out like this?
    - Did the book surprise you?
- Did the characters seem real? Did you feel sympathy for the characters?
- Did the book take you to new places? Were they real places or imaginary lands? Did you learn anything about the setting from reading the book?
  - Did they want to go on reading more after the book had ended?

## What are You Reading?

It's been lovely seeing so many of you making the most of this time at home to read!



### What are YOU reading?

Have you read a book you'd love to recommend in the newsletter?  
Please pass your recommendation onto Mr Cope in Class 3.

## Your View on our Reading Community

Thank you for taking the time to complete our Reading for Pleasure survey. Here are some of the highlights from the responses we had:

93% of children choose to read for pleasure at home and it was fantastic to hear that 96% of families read with their children throughout the week, with over 34% of parents doing so every day.

93% of families discuss reading for pleasure at home, and over 89% of parents commenting that their children see them as passionate readers.

### **Do you feel that Redmile School encourages reading for pleasure?**

This feedback was extremely useful for us. We are always looking for ways to promote and celebrate reading. The vast majority of the feedback was very positive:

*"I believe Redmile school strongly encourages reading for pleasure."*

*"My child has thoroughly enjoyed the books that are read during class and the activities surrounding these."*

*"The school does a fantastic job! My child is an avid reader and is encouraged by the school and at home."*

*"I like the fact that children are able to choose the books they read, and are able to bring in books from home for reading time."*

*"Books such as Harry Potter and books written by Enid Blyton have encouraged my children to enjoy reading. Magical stories that capture their imagination without being too difficult."*

We are going to use the feedback to enhance and refine our promotion of reading throughout the school:

1. More support with reading for pleasure and reading comprehension at home.

I will be hosting reading workshops throughout the year to help support children at home with both reading for pleasure and reading comprehension. More details and dates for these will be announced soon. The first of these will be held this academic year, so may be uploaded onto Seesaw during our home learning.

2. Develop home-school communication regarding reading across the school  
Younger children currently use their Reading Records to communicate and record their reading regularly. Older children do not use these in order to develop their independent reading for pleasure. This is something I will look into to set up ready for the new school year.

3. More rewards given for reading

This is something our school will try to improve straight away. It is important that these 'rewards' provide intrinsic motivation to generate lifelong readers, not just short-term goals and certificates. We have sent out the first of many book challenges (20 in 2020) to encourage children read a variety of books/genres.

Thank you again for everyone that took the time to respond to our Reading survey – we really value the feedback we receive.

Happy reading!

## Book Suggestions

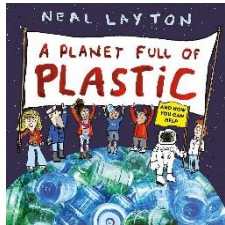


**'Greta and the Giants'** by Zoë Tucker and Zoe Persico

**Aimed at Class 1.**

Greta and the Giants re-tells the story of Greta's journey from humble beginnings to her mission to save the world from climate crisis.

A lovely story, with beautiful illustrations, that I think will prove extremely popular in many households.



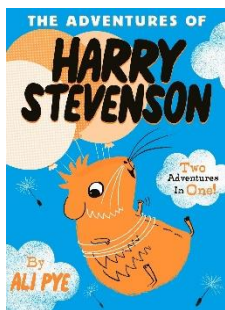
**'A Planet Full of Plastic'** by Neal Layton

**Aimed at Class 1/2.**

Another ever-present issue in the world is plastic pollution.

This engaging book, which is full of interesting pictures and facts, helps introduce the problem we have with plastic and ways that we all can help to tackle it.

Neal Layton's book could serve as an excellent discussion starter about plastic pollution and may encourage families to consider if they are too reliant on it.



**'The Adventures of Harry Stevenson'** by Ali Pye

**Aimed at Class 2.**

Harry Stevenson is just your average guinea pig: all he concerns himself with is: what his next meal will be, how often he can sleep and when his next meal will come!

Our unsuspecting protagonist does not realise, however, how his family's upcoming house move will turn his life upside down!

Cue Harry embarking on multiple silly adventures that sees him achieve things no ordinary guinea pig has done before!



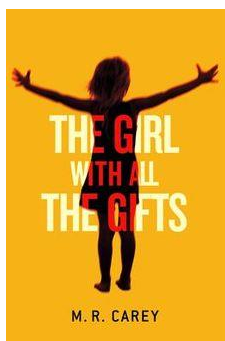
**'Shadows of Winterspell'** by Amy Wilson

**Aimed at Class 3.**

Deep in the forest, magic is waiting...

Stella lives on the outskirts of the forest - a forest thought to be haunted and concealing secrets. She feels a pull to it, but her nan, who happens to be a ghost, forbids her from entering.

When Stella enrolls at the local school, she begins to discover more about her past that was once concealed from her, but with more secrets revealed, the danger to her life, and the continued existence of the Winterspell forest, is increasingly threatened. Can Stella make the right decisions to help save the forest and, more importantly, save herself?



**'The Girl with all the Gifts'** by M.R. Carey

**Aimed at grown-ups!**

I won't tell you who – or what – Melanie is, but this book asks serious questions to the reader about what it means to be human, and, most importantly, whether being human automatically makes you one of the 'good guys'.

This book is utterly gripping, terrifying, and beautiful at the same time. M. R. Carey's description and world-building is sensational – something you will no doubt find yourself lost in.

This book is for fans of Stephen King and Neil Gaiman. Strap in! You will not be able to put it down.

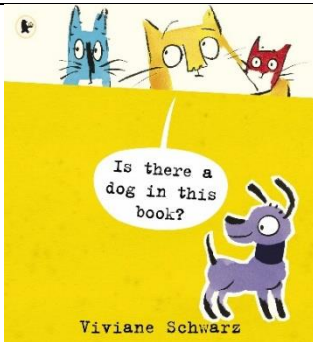
P.S. There is a prequel/sequel (I'm deliberately not telling you which one) called The Boy on the Bridge. Read The Girl with All the Gifts first!



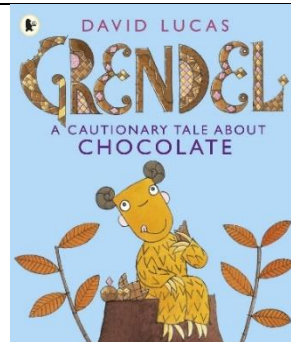
# Top Ten Story Times to Enjoy

Follow the link to hear our favourite story-time read alouds for 3-7 year olds!

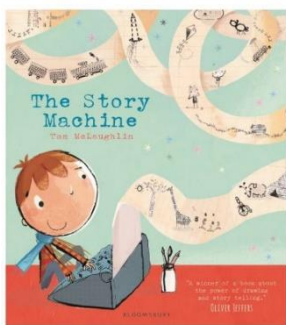
*Snuggle up together and enjoy...*



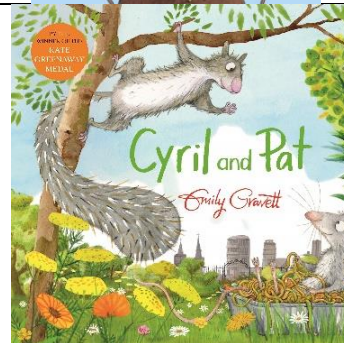
Viviane Schwartz reading her book, [Is There a Dog in this Book?](#)



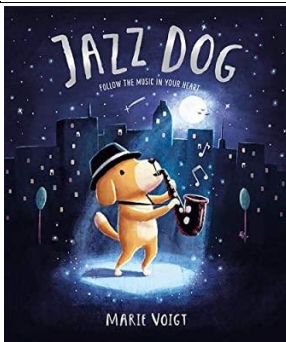
David Lucas reading his book, [Grendel: A Cautionary Tale about Chocolate](#)



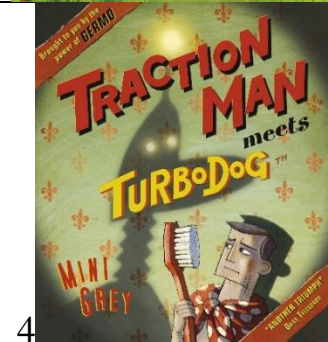
Tom McLaughlin reading his books, [The Story Machine](#)



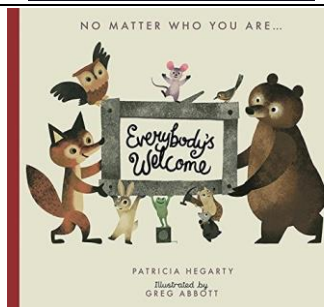
Emily Gravett reading her story, [Cyril and Pat](#)



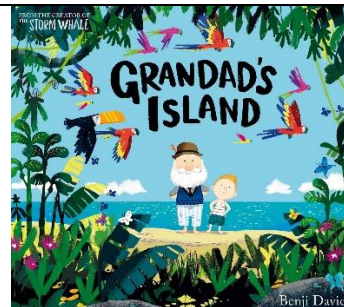
Robbie Williams reading [Jazz Dog](#) by Marie Voigt



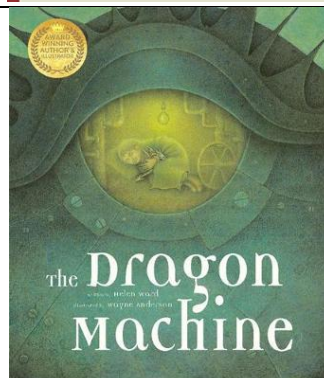
Mini Grey reading her book, [Traction Man Meets Turbo Dog](#)



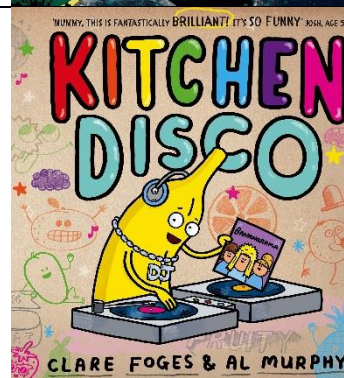
Ewan McGregor reading [Everybody's Welcome](#) by Patricia Hegarty



Benji Davies reading his story, [Grandad's Island](#)



A reading of [The Dragon Machine](#) by Helen Ward



George Ezra reading [Kitchen Disco](#) by Clare Foges

There are many more stories shared on the [Book Trust Story Time](#) website.

Visit the [CBeebies Bedtime Stories](#) site to watch many more brilliant stories being read aloud.

# Reading and Writing Activities

I have tried to hunt down the best reading and writing online activities for you all to enjoy, although this is changing all of the time! Please keep your eyes on Seesaw as we will share any activities and competitions we find. 😊



## Reading

### Authorfy: Free Audio Books

During school closures, there is a limited amount of children's books available for free!

### Toppsta

There are plenty of places on the web where children can find reading suggestions that will help them to develop their own taste in reading. The Toppsta website has lists of recommendations for various ages, and many reviews written by children. It provides an online form for pupils to submit their own reviews.

[toppsta.com](http://toppsta.com)



[readon.myon.co.uk](http://readon.myon.co.uk)

A screenshot of the myON website banner. The banner features the myON logo in the top left corner. The main text reads 'Life is Better When We Read Together'. Below this is a colorful illustration of a giraffe, a cat, and a green alien-like creature. To the right of the illustration, there is a 'Start reading!' button and a 'Learn more' link. The text below the link describes the benefits of myON, including access to thousands of enhanced digital books and features like Accelerated Reader quizzes and the Projects tool.

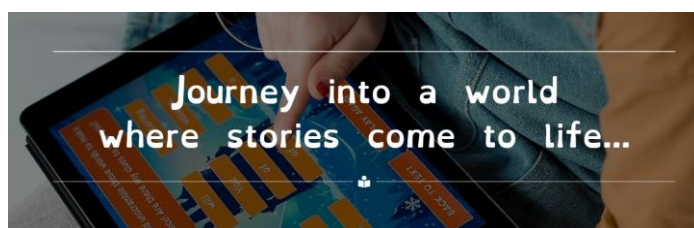
### Free online reading books - myON

This site give access to over 7000 books to read online. All come with narration so some children might enjoy reading along, or there's the option to switch off narration. Comes with built-in dictionaries; all sorts of potential!

### Reading Realm: Live lessons and resources

Visit the Reading Realm for resources, links to stories and live lessons!

[thereadingrealm.co.uk](http://thereadingrealm.co.uk)





## Oxford Owl

During the school closures, Oxford Owl are offering free online books for 3-11 years olds.

<https://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/for-home/find-a-book/library-page/>

## Oliver Jeffers: Stay at Home Story Time

Every weekday at 6pm live on Instagram, or watch the videos any time on the website.

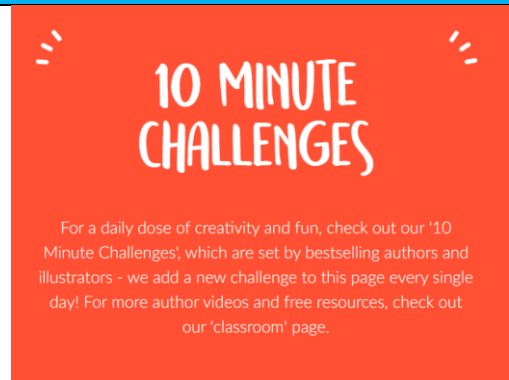
<https://www.oliverjeffers.com/abookaday>



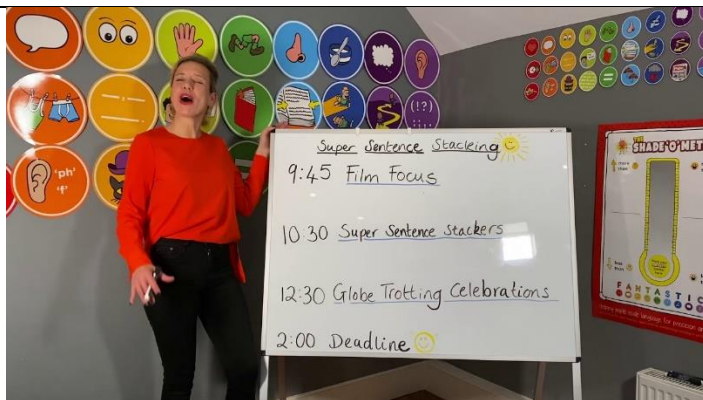
## Writing

### Authorfy

A wonderful way to link reading with writing. Videos for writing ideas straight from authors themselves! There will be a 10 minute creative writing challenge set every day during the school closures.



<https://authorfy.com/10minutechallenges/>



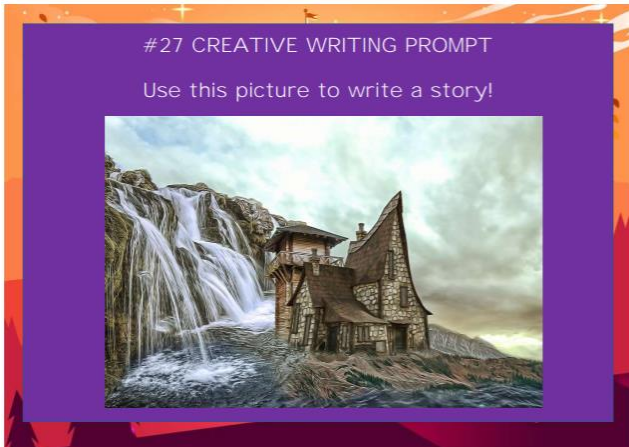
Visit [YouTube](#) or [The Training Space](#)

### Super Sentence Stacking with Jane Considine

Jane is so engaging and has some brilliant ideas on how to help children develop (or 'stack') their sentences! Jane Considine is behind some of the writing strategies we teach in school, namely the FANTASTICs and BOOMTASTICs.

## Vocab Lab – Free i-Pad App

An amazing and free iPad app to support pupils to expand their vocabulary! The app has 100 common words and 600 alternative word choices! Perfect to have at hand if your child is doing some writing to help them to 'power-up' their word choices.



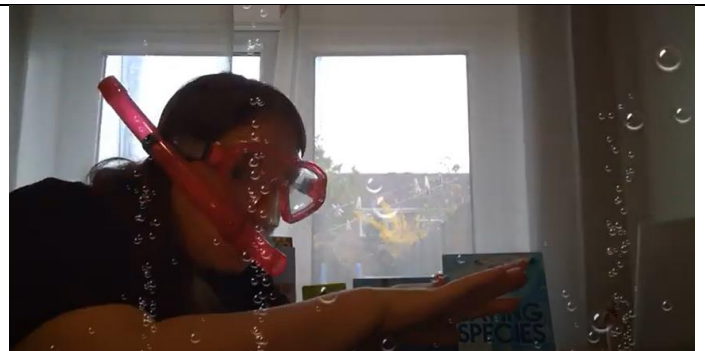
## Reading Realm: Creative Writing Prompts

Get the online learning packs and prompts:

<https://thereadingrealm.co.uk/2020/03/17/free-reading-realm-home-learning-pack-3-creative-writing-prompts/>

## Reading Rocks at Home: Book-based Learning

Look at a book as a stimulus with Heather, then complete some of the suggested ideas together, incorporating different curriculum subjects.



[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCa\\_o5urs5li8qm4oau6bLJg](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCa_o5urs5li8qm4oau6bLJg)

