



# Setting Up a Reading Programme!

(Lesson one of two)

## WHY READ? Brainstorm Ideas

Here are a few ideas - discuss these and try to provoke reasonable argument. What else can your classes come up with?

<b>POPULAR</b>	<b>IMPORTANT</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Good way to escape to different places (WHERE?).</li> <li>• Can be entertaining, thrilling, funny (WHAT ELSE?).</li> <li>• Interesting to learn about other people, places, times (WHAT ELSE?).</li> <li>• Cheaper than Playstation!</li> <li>• You can put a book down and do something else, but you'll miss a film!</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>WHAT ELSE?</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reading helps us to learn about different things (WHAT THINGS?).</li> <li>• Reading skills help our other English skills to develop (WHAT OTHER? WHY?).</li> <li>• Good readers tend to be better in other subjects (TRUE? FALSE? WHY?).</li> <li>• Reading Skills = Communication Skills which are essential today (WHY?).</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>WHAT ELSE?</b></p>

**(Ask students to copy table into books)**

## Class Task: My Perfect Book

(Leading into an expressive writing and/or visual task)

Focus is to allow students to give feedback as to what they want from a book while also showing them different aspects of one.

- Brainstorm thoughts on what a student would like to be able to read in his or her book if they had to.
- Focus on bold and melodramatic ideas, situations and characters – comic book almost.
- Focus on adjectives to describe the following literary elements; explain each aspect of a book with class to ensure understanding.
- Try to build a picture of what might happen in the book's plot.

## **My Perfect Book!**

**TITLE:** Death in The Sky!

**PLOT:** Plane crash over the Kalahari Desert! Sabotage is suspected. The survivors need to work together to stay alive but one of them is up to no good...

**CHARACTERS:**

**Main:** Kevin Angel. Strong, silent-type. Square jaw, sandy hair and deep, icy cold blue eyes. Built like a steel rock. Troubled childhood (hence the quiet nature!), got bullied when young and so therefore sticks up for the 'little man'!

**Minor:** Damion Darstardly. Sniveling, weasel-type coward. Greasy black hair that flops on his head. Eyes glint with mischief. Thin pencil moustache tries to hide (unsuccessfully) his bucked teeth! Enjoys causing trouble for no particular reason.

**SETTING:**

**Main:** Crowded plane flying high over the Kalahari Desert. Uncomfortable, sweaty, rundown passengers. Nerves frayed, ready to snap!

**Minor:** The Kalahari Desert (once the plane crashes!). Searing heat. Feet sizzle like water on a hotplate. Chaos all around!

**MESSAGES (THEMES):** Bullies are just misunderstood!? The consequences of opening things you aren't meant to...

**STYLE (GENRE):** Comedy/Thriller!



- Brainstorm ideas like these on the board with help from students. Direct ideas so that the kids' thoughts aren't too warped! Emphasise to students as you go the different aspects (character, setting, themes...) of this type of literature.
- Get students to either: improve on the brainstormed idea and adapt its elements into a short descriptive piece of imaginative expressive writing, or extend their imaginations and ask for a whole new idea for a book.

Shared reading of ideas upon completion but this activity can be extended as far or as short as you want (see visual examples).

