

Options for Reading, Listening and Talking

<p>Read a book. Simply reading and enjoying a book of your child's choice is very valuable. You can also share books you enjoyed yourself as a child.</p>	<p>Listen to a book. Listening to a skilled reader read aloud can help children in many ways – it can help in understanding the meanings of words, to develop their understanding of what high quality spoken reading sounds like, and add more to the excitement of a story. Children love hearing stories in class, so reading to your child is an excellent way to continue this at home.</p>	<p>Listen to an audiobook Audiobooks, like reading aloud to your child, can really bring a book to life. Fife libraries allow you to borrow e-books and audiobooks: information is here If you are finding hard to find resources there are also some online stories and poems suggested on the webpage.</p>	<p>Read a graphic novel Reading a graphic novel can bring stories to life in a different way, and can inspire readers who haven't been as keen on "traditional books". There is a huge range – from modern adventures like <i>Alex Rider</i> to classics such as Dickens, Shakespeare and <i>The Odyssey</i>. A good range of these can be found at Fife libraries.</p>
<p>Talk about a story A good place to start with talking about a story is to find a cliffhanger in the story, and stop reading there. You can then share your ideas for what is going to happen next and why – this is fun but also develops important literacy skills of prediction, inference, understanding motivation and justifying your ideas. Another good question is "Why did [this character] do this?" This helps us think about motivation and to also develop of inference skills.</p>	<p>Map out a story Some books start with a map at the front, showing where the various settings of the book are. Try making a map for a book you are reading – it may be something you add to and change as you work your way through the book. It can be a map of a huge area, such as the space between Earth and Eos 5 in <i>Orion Lost</i>, or somewhere much smaller, like the house where The Borrowers live under the floorboard. Try adding notes to your map as you discover more.</p>	<p>Draw part of your story Many children love to illustrate their own stories, but it can be fun to act as an illustrator – find a description of a character or location that inspires you, and try drawing it. You can add notes and comments to your drawing, or do several versions as your character moves through the story. How do you imagine their expressions changing as events unfold? This requires close reading skills and attention. You can also try drawing while listening to an audiobook – sometimes it can help you to stay focussed on the story.</p>	<p>Become a word thief All good writers love to take ideas from everything they read, and making your own word hoard is a brilliant way to collect great words and phrases for future use. Find a notebook, or make your own from scrap paper. As you read or listen, keep it nearby so that you can jot down words and phrases you like. You can also add words and phrases you don't understand, with a question mark, and then investigate what they mean, adding that to your word hoard as well.</p>
<p>Read poetry Poetry is a great option if you are looking for something different. Lots of poems are packed full of great language features, such as rhyme, alliteration, similes, metaphors, word play and puns. Reading a poem every day is a great way to think about different ways to play with language and sound.</p>			