



## Literacy



This next section has some handy tips about Literacy.

### Tips

- ▶ Make the best use of technology as in our previous section
- ▶ Use the add-ons and apps that may support your child and literacy
- ▶ There are many videos on YouTube and segments on BBC Bitesize which can support learning
- ▶ Listening and reading can benefit comprehension. When reading, consider using Whispersync with Kindle as an app on all devices and PC or on Kindle itself. Amazon and Audible provide free books for teenagers, some of these also have free audio. There is sometimes a cost. Check whether the Audible book is free and not abridged.
- ▶ For writing, use the dictation facilities as outlined in our tech support page.

BBC Bitesize has a section on the Scottish Curriculum for Literacy and had developed activities for Secondary Schools in Scotland:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize>

Go to the site and click on the appropriate age group for your child.

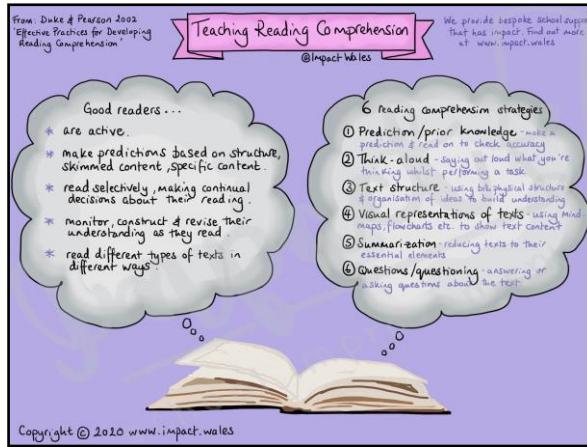
If you are finding that difficult. You can go to the 2nd level activities:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/levels/zr48q6f>

Education Scotland and E-Sgoil have provided some activities for Maths in Scotland Learns:

<https://education.gov.scot/improvement/scotland-learns/numeracy-and-mathematics-activities/>

Young people can sign-up directly for E-Sgoil free provision at: <https://glowscotland.sharepoint.com/sites/NationalOfferStudySupportAdmin/ SitePages/e-Sgoil-Webinars.aspx>



## Close Reading

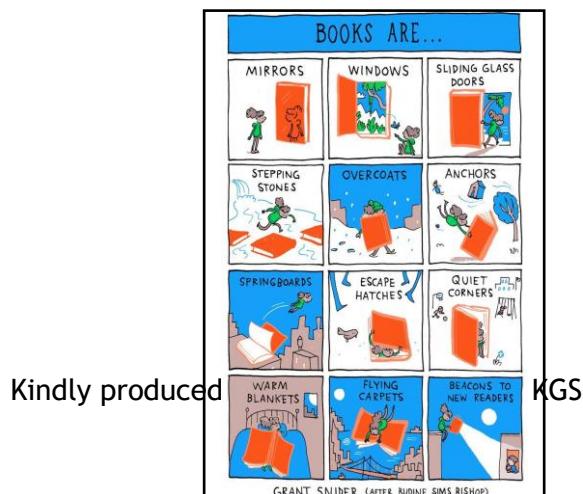
Close Reading used to be called comprehension.

Your child will be asked to read a passage and then answer questions on that passage.

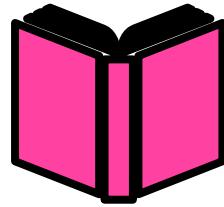
Here is a method for doing that which will help your child to answer the questions.

When you are doing close reading you should do the following:

1. Read the passage carefully;
2. Read the passage again and then read the questions;
3. Answer all the questions in order;
4. If you get stuck on a question, write the number down and leave two or three lines, and move on to the next question.
5. Try to use your own words unless you are asked to quote from the passage and use what the writer said;
6. Look at how many marks you will get for each question: if a question has 3 marks, it will be looking for an answer with three pieces of information;
7. You can use sentences for this, however it may be easier for you to use bullet points;
8. A 6-8 mark question will usually need you give your opinion or to sum up what the passage is about, so that should be a short paragraph. |



## Figures of Speech (figurative language)



Figures of speech are used by many writers so that we can understand what they are trying to say and imagine it.

The main figures of speech are;

Technique	Examples
Simile - a descriptive technique that compares one thing with another, usually using 'as' or 'like'.	The trees stood as tall as towers.
Metaphor - a descriptive technique that names a person, thing or action as something else.	The circus was a magnet for the children.
Hyperbole - a use of obvious exaggeration for rhetorical effect.	The sun scorched through the day.
Personification - a metaphor attributing human feelings to an object.	The sun smiled at the hills, ready to begin a new day.
Onomatopoeia - words that sound a little like they mean.	The autumn leaves and twigs cracked and crunched underfoot.
Oxymoron - a phrase combining two or more contradictory terms.	There was a deafening silence
Emotive language - language intended to create an emotional response.	A heart-breaking aroma of death filled the air as he surveyed the devastation and destruction that had befallen them all.

Here are a couple of video links to show you some ways this is used.

There is a short quiz at the end of the first video which you could try with your child and see who wins!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rW4DtZGxjq0>

And some examples from the movies

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=17eY2MoS-bc>

Figures of speech are often used in close reading exercises and in the books your child will be asked to read.

## Spelling and Grammar

Spelling and grammar are issues for some children.

There are various reasons for this and these can include text speak, not reading a lot and writing words as they sound.



If your child is having difficulty with spelling and grammar, don't worry.

They may just need to revise some spellings or grammar rules and or phonics.

Some tips to help your child at home:

- ▶ Proof reading: sometimes after your child has completed piece of work, it is a good idea to read the work out loud. This can often show up unintentional mistakes in spelling and grammar;
- ▶ Use COPS - Look for C (capital letters), O (omissions), P (punctuation), and capital S (spelling) mistakes. So you would start looking for C (capital letters) and then go back and check for the others in order;
- ▶ Play educational games that focus on spelling and grammar e.g. Sumdog

Some things we can do in the virtual environment and at school;

- ▶ Revise spelling and grammar rules;
- ▶ Monitor across subjects over a period of time - because other people may be making the same errors;
- ▶ Provide word banks or vocabulary lists or glossaries for specific worksheets and subjects.
- ▶ For students with dyslexia, offer various services including customised iPad, dyslexia colour jotter and/or a coloured overlay

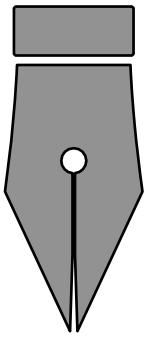
Some apps and programs have spellchecking and support correction and proofreading.

If you think your child may have dyslexia or dyscalculia, you can contact the ASN department or Mrs Campbell PT ASN

[gw14campbellemma4@glow.sch.uk](mailto:gw14campbellemma4@glow.sch.uk)

or get more information from *Dyslexia Scotland*

<https://www.dyslexiascotland.org.uk>



## Handwriting

Handwriting is an important skill. We don't use handwriting very often these days because most of the writing is on mobile devices or computers.

However, your child will still need to write so that they can read it, you can read it and the teacher can read it. Most exams are still written exams and a few students will be given the opportunity to use ICT in exams. Handwriting helps with exams as exam papers are now scanned in and marking is done from the image; this is easier with clear handwriting.

When we are working at school, at home or using the virtual classroom, we tend to recommend that your child uses ICT as much as possible.

Some tips to help your child at home:

- ▶ Encourage your child to practice writing neatly and clearly. One way of doing this could be to encourage them to write up the class notes as a revision exercise;
- ▶ Get them to practice their typing skills online using *Dance Mat Typing* or *Typing Club*
- ▶ If they want to write rather than type in the virtual classroom, take a photo of what they have written and upload it to the class app.

Some things we can do in the virtual environment and at school;

- ▶ Talk with class teachers to identify any support your child may need;
- ▶ Improve access to technology appropriate for your child;
- ▶ Encourage practice of typing skills.

### Useful websites:

Dance Mat Typing;

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zf2f9j6/articles/z3c6tfr>

Typing Club:

<https://www.typingclub.com>

Handwriting for Adults:

<https://www.buzzfeed.com/michelleno/handwriting-for-adults>

## Reading

In this section so far we have looked at literacy issues and how we can help children at home in school, and in the virtual environment.

One thing that we can do is encourage our children to read more.

Reading helps our understanding of the world around us and gives us more vocabulary. Many of our students don't like reading, it's not something that they do at home and they don't like to practice it at school. They especially don't like reading out loud and this is a confidence issue.

In the beginning of this section we looked at where students could find books, not necessarily what might be considered as a normal book; but using digital books, audible books and reading on the Internet.

Reading can be done using all these things and can include reading magazines, fanzines, graphic novels, comic books, online blogs, reviews of their favourite shows and music, newspapers online and on devices, recipe books etc.(This is not an exhaustive list)

Some tips to help your child at home:

- ▶ I try to encourage reading of any kind at home oh. You may wish to set aside some time for reading each day;
- ▶ Helping a child of you reading as an everyday activity may help them to read more And for enjoyment. Reading with them or at the same time as them can also be encouraging;
- ▶ Help them to broaden their vocabulary with a Word of the day or silliest word of the day or sports word of the day;
- ▶ Encourage the use of a dictionary or thesaurus when they come across unfamiliar words.

Some things we can do in the virtual environment and at school:

- ▶ Teach them/revise a range of reading strategies to be employed at various stages on for different types of reading;
- ▶ Provide targeted reading interventions if required
- ▶ Highlight the different contexts for reading
- ▶ Encourage the use of the library.

