

Everyone knows the value of reading for pleasure. It builds empathy, helps with language skills and it has a massive impact on mental health and wellbeing, but most of all, if you find the right book it is fun. Finding the right book for the right child is a skill and an integral part of our job as school librarians. Sadly, we are aware that many children in North Lanarkshire have no access to books at home, and the Lockdown stopped access to physical books from school and public libraries. We have tried to find other ways to make reading possible through eBooks and audiobooks and sharing online resources. But we wanted to do more.

The School Librarians' Guide to Oz

Therefore, the North Lanarkshire school librarians have created a Read to Succeed P7/S1 transition project based on *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz*. This book is out of copyright and freely available to every child with access to a smartphone, tablet or PC. This provides an opportunity for a shared reading experience for all P7s in their new S1 cohort.

Commented [MS1]: Can we change So at the start of the second paragraph to Therefore?

But libraries are also about enquiry and wonder and providing a window on the world, so we have developed the reading experience further with a series of challenges and competitions to mirror the sort of activities that might take place in school library reading groups. We want to encourage children to link their reading to the real world, and let their imaginations run wild. Again, we are very aware of the limitations faced by every family, so we have tried to keep activities flexible and feasible within current constraints.

The project is available through a Glow blog, which is currently only available through North Lanarkshire's Glow.

<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/nl/schliboz/>

We would be grateful if our associated primaries could support and promote this transition project by sharing it with classes through your existing communication channels. We have created a Sway document that you might like to use as promotional material.

<https://sway.office.com/slvqohnXc4mECwyD>

How it works

Pupils read or listen to one chapter then look at the blog to find More to Explore, additional reading ideas and a challenge. Pupils select and complete a challenge and submit it to the Oz Glow Team.

Pupils should be aware that the school librarians may share their challenges more widely on Twitter but published with first names and initials only.

Read to Succeed

The Read to Succeed initiative was designed and is led by NLC School Librarians. So far, we have organised two highly successful reading tours thanks to funding from the Scottish Attainment Challenge in collaboration with Terry Cowan at North Lanarkshire Council's Learning Hub. As a result, every S1 child in North Lanarkshire has had the opportunity to meet an author, ask them questions and be inspired. Sadly, this year's event has had to be postponed due to Lockdown.

If you have any further questions about this project, please contact a member of the Read to Succeed Committee

Catriona Wright, Librarian, St Ambrose HS, Coatbridge (Chair)

Lee-Anne Connor, Librarian, Chryston High

Mary Costello, Librarian, Coatbridge High

Donna Luc, Librarian, Greenfaulds High, Cumbernauld

Irene Lumsden, Librarian, Calderhead High, Shotts

Lesley Ann MacDonald, Librarian, Caldervale High, Airdrie

Jennifer Macfadyen, Librarian, Our Lady's, Motherwell

Sharon McMichael, Librarian, St Maurice's HS, Westfield

Rhona Skea, Librarian, Cardinal Newman HS, Bellshill

Lindsey Smith, Librarian, Kilsyth Academy