



British Embassy School  
Ankara

# Reading at BESA

Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> January 2016

## Welcome

A reader lives a  
thousand lives before  
he dies,  
The man who never  
reads lives only one.  
~ George R. R. Martin



# AIMS

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- ◆ To discuss the importance of reading.
- ◆ To provide information about Accelerated Reader.
- ◆ To provide information on how best to support your child's reading at home
- ◆ To discuss the role of the library and the librarian.
- ◆ To answer any questions about reading.

# The Importance of reading

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## What the 'experts' say

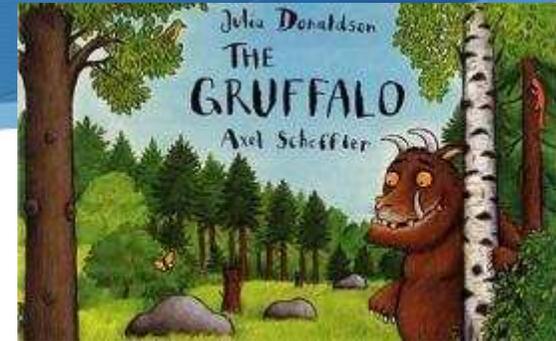
**Being read to by a parent/adult:**

**For younger children:**

- Language development – the single most important factor, backed up by numerous studies.
- Builds motivation, curiosity and memory.
- Increases vocabulary – ‘children from non-reading families hear as many as 30,000,000 fewer words before the age of four than their peers’.

<http://www.reachoutandread.org/why-we-work/importance-of-reading-aloud/>

- Encourages a positive attitude towards books and reading.
- Reading aloud is a proven technique to help children cope with stress or tragedy.
- Practises listening skills.



# The Importance of reading

## What the 'experts' say

JM

**Being read to by a parent/adult:**

**For older children:**

*“Reading aloud to your child, no matter what their age is the magic bullet for creating a lifelong reader”*

**All of the benefits for younger readers still apply, plus:**

- Children’s listening level is ahead of their reading level, therefore a more complicated plot can be read than they would attempt alone
- Vocabulary in books is much more sophisticated than in speech
- It is an effective way to grapple with difficult issues (e.g peer pressure – e.g. “Do you think that the character made the right choices?”, sadness, grief, war)
- It allows children to develop an awareness of people outside of their experience and thus develop empathy.
- Develops resilience (not immediate gratification)
- It lures children away from the ipad/electronic devices
- It gives parents the chance to read books that they didn’t read as a child or to revisit books that they loved

# The Importance of reading

## What the 'experts' say

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Reading for pleasure:

- In 2002, OECD research reported that reading enjoyment is more important for children's educational success than their family's socio-economic status.

Reading for pleasure has a positive impact on (amongst other benefits):

- reading attainment and writing ability
- text comprehension and grammar
- Breadth of vocabulary
- positive reading attitudes
- self-confidence as a reader
- pleasure in reading in later life
- general knowledge
- understanding of other cultures
- insight into human nature and decision making



# The effects of low literacy:

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It is impossible to overestimate the importance of reading in a child's life. The possession, or lack of, good reading skills has a huge impact on the achievements of children throughout their school lives, as **“success in primary school is virtually synonymous with success in reading, and those children who lack the ability to read as they move to secondary education inevitably face problems in every subject as a result.”** (Slavin et al., 2009, p.2) This clearly has consequent negative impacts on their outlooks as adults. A large body of evidence has described the serious short and long-term effects of literacy difficulties from the start of education into adulthood, and because “so much depends on being able to ‘read to learn’ the overall educational process of such children is often seriously hampered (and)... while some develop coping strategies and achieve remarkable success, others with severe literacy difficulties, including dyslexia, often become disaffected and disengage from education.”

# What do out students do in school?

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- Phonics – learning to read (Synthetic phonics)
- 1:1 reading at school to an adult (lower years)
- Silent reading (higher years)
- Group reading activities
- Star Reader and Accelerated reader
- Class Novels/stories (read by the class teachers)
- Weekly Library sessions (timetabled)
- Library open during break and lunch hours



# What more can be done to help our children achieve?



- Remember the first slides:

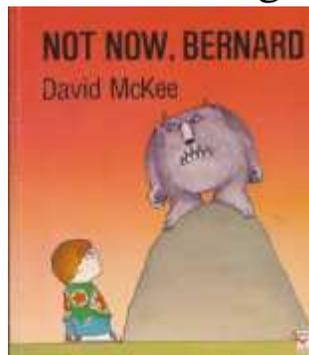
- In 2002, OECD research reported that reading enjoyment is more important for children's educational success than their family's socio-economic status.

Read, read, read!

Listen to your child read

Be a role model – be a reader in front of your child

Read to your child – encourage them to read for pleasure

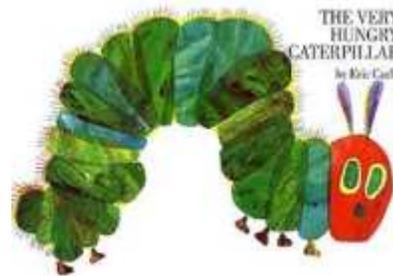
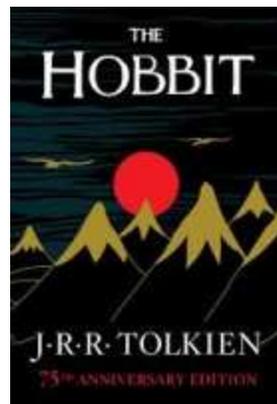
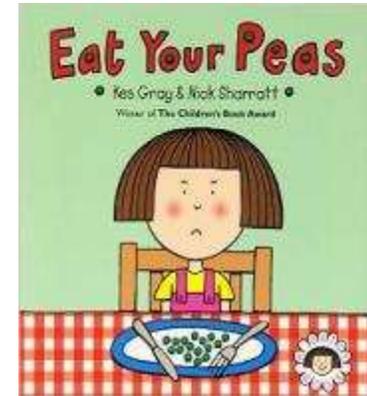
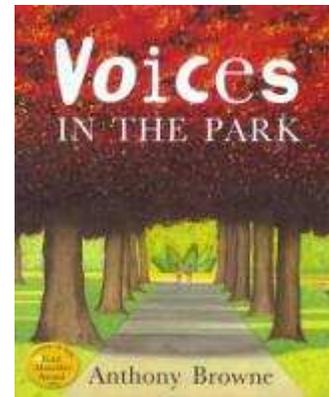
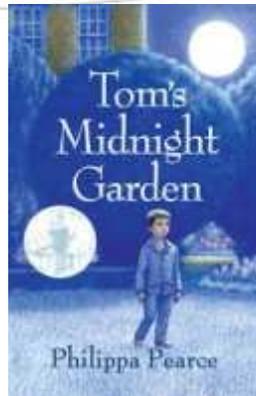
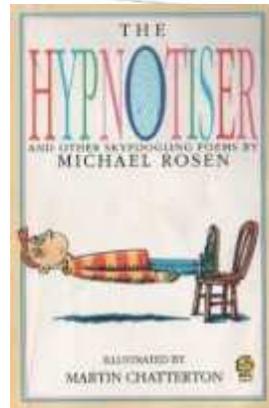


The Story Teller

# Which texts?

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Anything!



# Which language?

Reading to children

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- **Read in the language(s) that YOU are more confident with**
- **Read regularly to your child in your mother tongue**
- **Talk about the books that you have read in your mother tongue**
- **After reading English stories, ask your child to explain the stories they are reading either in English or in their mother tongue**



# What age should I read to my child?

All ages if they enjoy it...

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**Year 1** *I like being read to by an adult because it's nice.*

**Year 2** *I like being read to by an adult because it is good fun*

**Year 3** *I like being read to by an adult because it makes me feel sleepy.*

**Year 4** *I like being read to by an adult because I like all of the voices for the different people in the stories*

# What age should I read to my child?

All ages if they enjoy it...

What the children say:

## **Year 5**

- *When an adult reads to me I like it because your reading gets better and it's relaxing. Kaan Y Year 5*
- *When an adult reads to me I like it because at night I can really concentrate on the words and I can close my eyes and listen and after I can go to sleep. Carmen*
- *When an adult reads to me I like it because my Big Writing improves. Kaan B*
- *When an adult reads to me I like it because I learn new words and I am so excited when they read it with expression. I always think what's going to happen next and I dream about it. I love my parents when they read me books. Doga*

# What age should I read to my child?

All ages if they enjoy it...

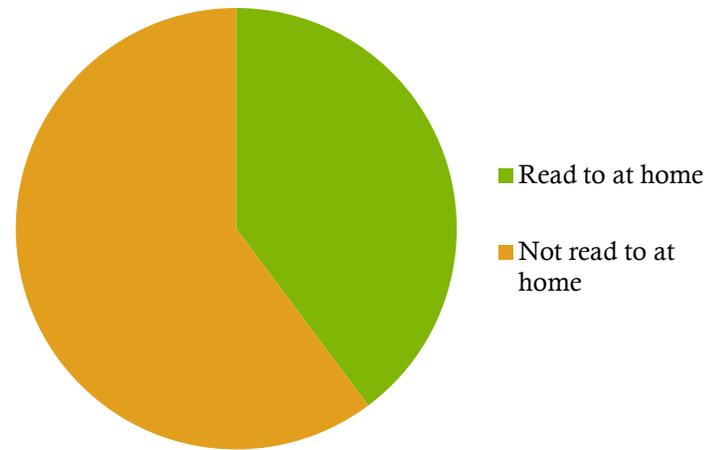
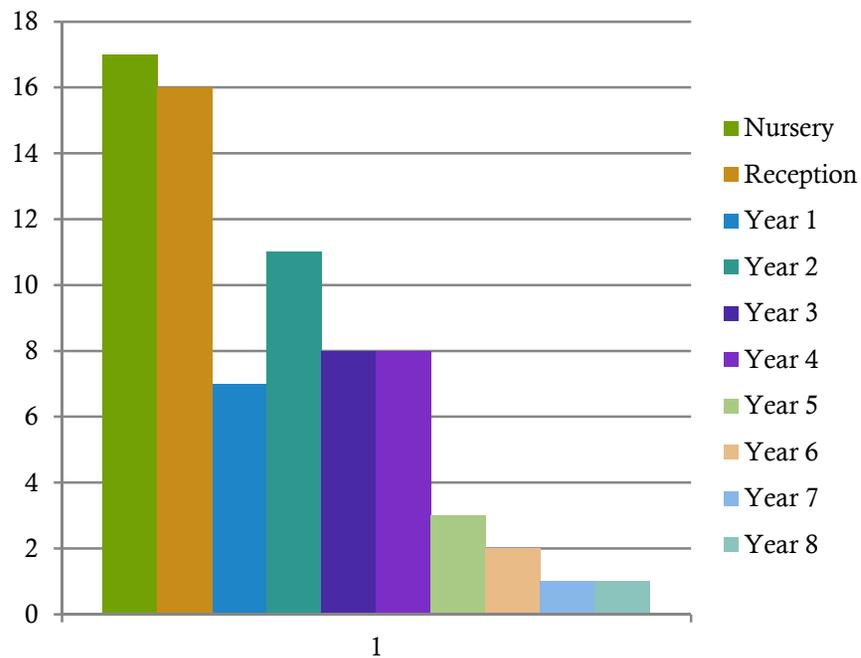
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What the children say:

## Year 6

- *When an adult reads to me I like it because they do the voices and it seems more real. Ciara*
- *I like stories being read to me because it calms me down but it also helps me to understand complicated plots which I then find easier to read myself. Also, I pick things out and use them in my own stories. Bart*
- *When an adult reads to me I like it because it helps me to read and I really enjoy it. Max*
- *When an adult reads to me I like it because they change the sound of what the people say and it's better than reading on your own. Mu-Hyeon*

Reading to children at home is the single most important thing to do to help your child succeed.



# Accelerated Reader

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AR is a computerized reading management program used at BESA as a supplement for the reading curriculum. The Accelerated Reader program is a computerized program that tests reading comprehension and enables us to monitor reading and reading levels throughout the school. Students select books on their reading level, read independently, and take an independent comprehension test on the computer. Each book is worth a certain number of points based on its length and reading level. Students get a percentage of these points based on how many of the test questions they get right. The program tracks their progress over the course of the school year.



# The Library

Library sessions once a week (timetabled)

Library open at lunch and break time

Skype sessions with authors

# Handouts Information

Informal opportunity to ask questions

There are a selection of handouts available for parents of children of all different ages

Please help yourselves 😊

WE JUST WANT TO SAY...  
**THANK YOU!**



Children are made  
readers on the laps of  
their parents.

*- Emily Bushwald*



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