Closing the Reading Gap

Alex Quigley
@huntingenglish
www.theconfidentteacher.com
Reign of Terror

French Revolution

The Reign of Terror was a dark and violent period of time during the French Revolution. Radicals took control of the revolutionary government. They arrested and executed anyone who they suspected might not be loyal to the revolution.

Leading up to the Terror

The French Revolution had begun four years earlier with the Storming of the Bastille. Since then, the government had been in a constant state of change. By 1793, the revolutionary government was in crisis. France was being attacked by foreign countries on all sides and civil war was breaking out in many regions. Radicals led by Maximilien Robespierre took over the government and started the Reign of Terror.
‘Don’t throw away your printed books: A meta-analysis on the effects of reading media on reading comprehension.’ Delgado et al. (2018)
‘When Children are Not Read to at Home: The Million Word Gap’, Logan et al. (2019)
Quiz question: How many disadvantaged children in the UK do not own a single book at home?

A. 1 in 28
B. 1 in 18
C. 1 in 11
D. 1 in 8

[STEP 1] Train teachers to be expert in how pupils ‘learn to read’ and go on to ‘read to learn’.

[STEP 2] Develop and teach a coherent and cumulative ‘reading rich’ curriculum.

[STEP 3] Teach with a focus on reading access, practice, and enhancing reading ability.

[STEP 4] Teach, model and scaffold pupils’ reading so that they become strategic and knowledgeable readers.

[STEP 5] Nurture pupils’ motivation to read with purpose and for pleasure.

[STEP 6] Foster a reading culture within, and beyond, the school gates.
Brexit-Boris will die legendäre BBC zerschlagen

Der britische Premierminister Boris Johnson (55) sorgt wieder für Schlagzeilen. Nach einem Bericht der englischen Tageszeitung ‘Sunday Times’ plant Brexit-Boris die Zerschlagung der größten öffentlichen Rundfunkanstalt der Welt: der legendären BBC (British Broadcasting Corporation)!

Demnach erklärte ein Offizieller der Tageszeitung, dass der Briten-Premier, “sehr lautstark” eine Reform fordert.

Sein Plan: Die Pflichtgebühren für ein Fernsehgerät in Großbritannien (pro Haushalt rund 185 Euro im Jahr) abschaffen und durch ein “Netflix-Abo-System” zu ersetzen.
Brexit-Boris wants to smash the legendary BBC

The British Prime Minister Boris Johnson (55) makes headlines again. According to a report by the English daily "Sunday Times" Brexit-Boris plans to dismantle the world's largest public broadcaster: the legendary BBC (British Broadcasting Corporation)!

According to an official of the daily newspaper, the British prime minister is "very vocal" on calls for reform.

His plan: abolish the mandatory fees for television in the UK (around €185 per household per year) and replace it with a "Netflix subscription system".
Evaluate task

Skim the text

Scan proper nouns

Activate prior knowledge

Re-read

Link nouns

Predict meanings

Build schema

Explore unfamiliar word parts

Evaluate meaning of punctuation

Clarify and question

Summarise text meaning

CLOSING THE READING GAP  ALEX QUIGLEY
“They do not see reading as an active, constructive process: It is only when their incorrect answer and therefore inadequate understanding is brought to their attention and they are required to search for some information, that these children make such links.”

Knowledge + strategy = Skilled reading

CLOSING THE READING GAP  ALEX QUIGLEY
Reading and the curriculum

CLOSING THE READING GAP  ALEX QUIGLEY
Key Stage Two and ‘Pre-complex texts’

In the very heart of the fog was Lincoln’s Inn Hall. Deep inside the Hall sat the Lord High Chancellor in his wig and gown. All around him lawyers droned on, in the case of Jarndyce and Jarndyce. It was about a Will.

Long ago, Mr. Jarndyce had died and left a fortune, but no immediate heir. His cousins had fought for the money in court. Their children and their children’s children had fought for it. Lawyers had argued about it for decades. The case of Jarndyce stank of trickery and delay. It was as murky as the misty cloak hanging over London.
Key Stage Three and ‘Pre-complex texts’

CLOSING THE READING GAP  ALEX QUIGLEY
Key Stage Three and ‘Pre-complex texts’

England’s victory in 1588 was celebrated as the triumph of Christ over Antichrist.

“England’s victory in 1588 was celebrated as the triumph of Christ over Antichrist.”

The threat from Spain, the power of the French Huguenots and the great Jesuits of Rome, was met by the victory at the battle of the Armada. This was a turning point in the history of modern Europe. From the 16th century until today, England has been a world power, and its history has been shaped by events such as these.

**Places to visit**

**Harrington Hall, Worcestershire**

The family home of the ancient family, the Harries, this house was built in the 16th century. It is now a museum and provides a glimpse into the life of the family.

**Baddesley Clinton, Warwickshire**

This is the birthplace of the Baddesley line, a family who played a significant role in the history of England. The house has been restored to its original state and provides a fascinating insight into the life of the family.

**Tower of London**

This is the site of the Tower of London, which has been used as a prison, a fortress, and a palace over the centuries. It is now a museum and provides a fascinating insight into the history of England.

**St Paul’s Cathedral, London**

This is the main religious building in London, and has been the seat of the Archbishop of Canterbury since the 7th century. It is now a museum and provides a fascinating insight into the history of England.

**England’s victory in 1588**

England’s victory in 1588 was celebrated as the triumph of Christ over Antichrist. The defeat of the Spanish Armada was seen as a sign of God’s favor to England and a victory for the Protestant cause. This was a turning point in the history of modern Europe, and has had a significant impact on the development of modern England.
Key Stage Two/Three and ‘Pre-complex texts’
CLOSING THE READING GAP

THE ARDUOUS EIGHT

[1] Background knowledge – the sheer range of necessary knowledge and related ideas in a given passage or whole text.


[5] Narrative or whole-text structures.

[6] The generic elements of the text e.g. a biographical account in history.

[7] The scaffolds present, or absent, in a given text e.g. key word glossary.

[8] Text length. e.g. longer texts including a broad range of information.
Powerful knowledge and reading

Reign

- Etymology – Latin, kingdom
- Monarchy
- Power
- Kingdom/kingship
- Hierarchy
- Seizure of power
- Popularism
- Anti-monarchical violence
- French Revolution
Knowledge + strategy = Skilled reading

CLOSING THE READING GAP

ALEX QUIGLEY
Reading culture
Simple solutions to complex challenges?

“Book-gifting is unlikely to be effective on its own. But providing more structured support, ideas, and activities with carefully chosen books can be effective. Such approaches do not necessarily require regular or intensive attendance at courses or workshops if they provide comprehensive instructional materials and resources.”

Priorities?

- Early and systematic assessment of reading
- Development of a reading culture for both pleasure and purpose
- Reading interventions for pupils below age-related expectations
- Sequenced design of a cumulative reading curriculum
- Explicit teaching of reading strategies, e.g., reciprocal reading
- Organised vocabulary instruction
- Supporting home reading / prioritising reading in homework
- Development of ‘reading in the disciplines’
- Development of a variety of whole-class reading approaches
Priorities?

This is the one

CLOSING THE READING GAP  ALEX QUIGLEY
Resources

Launching young readers!

Reading Rockets

10 Things Every Teacher Should Know About Reading Comprehension

Timothy Shanahan
University of Illinois at Chicago
www.shanahanliteracy.com

Nuffield Early Language Intervention

THE CONFIDENT TEACHER

HOME   CLOSING THE VOCABULARY GAP   CLOSING THE READING GAP   THE CONFIDENT TEACHER   HOME SCHOOL   RESOURCES

CLOSING THE GAP RESOURCES

Below are the free resources created to accompany my ‘Closing the Gap’ series:

Resources

10 Things Every Teacher Should Know About Reading Comprehension

Nuffield Early Language Intervention

Improving Literacy in Secondary Schools: Guidance Report

Closing the Reading Gap Book Club Questions

Closing the Reading Gap

Alex Quigley

Chapter 1: Introduction
- What are the existing reading challenges faced by pupils in your school/area?
- What are the reading ‘knowledge gaps’ amongst colleagues in your school?

Chapter 2: A history of reading
- How well do colleagues understand your pupils’ reading abilities and their information needs?
- How will your school strategy ensure teachers support reading development and attainment?

Chapter 3: Reading barriers
- How confident are colleagues in their school’s planning for pupils with reading difficulties, such as dyslexia or poor comprehension?

Chapter 4: Reading in the subject disciplines
- How confident are colleagues in their school’s planning for pupils with reading difficulties, such as dyslexia or poor comprehension?

Chapter 5: Reading for pleasure
- How are pupils supported to read strategically across a range of text types (eg, textbook reading?)
Contact

Email: aquigleyconsults@gmail.com
Website: www.theconfidentteacher.com
Twitter: @HuntingEnglish