



# Sheldon School

**BE KIND | BE BRAVE | BE THE BEST YOU**



# SparxReader Parent Carer Workshop

Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> November 2024



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# Aims of the Workshop

- To share why it is important for the school to address our students' literacy
- To share how literacy is being addressed in-school
- To explain how SparxReader works
- To share ways in which you can support your child's literacy
- To address any questions that were raised during the sign up to the event



# Who Am I...

**Andy Symes**

Deputy Headteacher

Responsibility for:

- Teaching and Learning
- Literacy
- Learning Support
- Staff Development



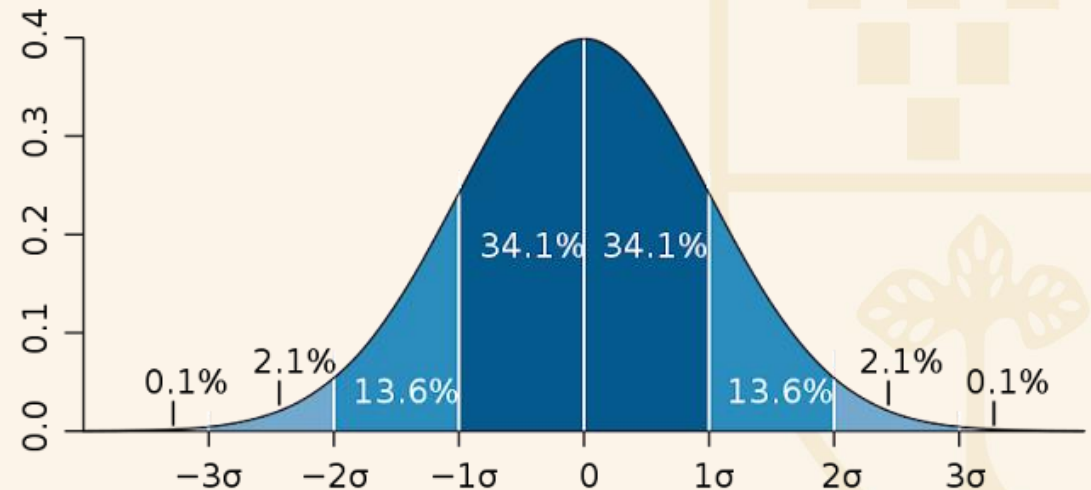
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# Sheldon – A Comprehensive School

- Our comprehensive nature is something to be celebrated
- The school possesses wide ranging skills and attitudes
- Tonight's workshop will not address every possible scenario/profile of student





# Why?

Why is the focus on reading so important?



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# Happy Students

Children who enjoy reading and writing are happier with their lives.

Children who enjoy reading are three times more likely to have good mental wellbeing than children who don't enjoy it.

Link to research [here](#)



# Healthy Students

Children born into communities with the most serious literacy challenges have some of the lowest life expectancies in England.

Link to research [here](#)





# Declining Access to Books

1 in 12 children and young people aged 5 to 18 say they do not have a book of their own at home.

Book ownership is one of the top three predictors of reading performance. Almost three times as many book owners read daily.

Link to research [here](#)





# GCSE Preparation

Not just an 'English Department' problem



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# In Geography...

Study **Figure 7** which describes the effects of an intermediate technology project in an area of Malawi, a country in Africa.

**Figure 7**

## **Bicycle Ambulances**

There are two small Health Centres in the area serving 45 000 people. 1 in 6 women die in childbirth.

People have to travel vast distances to be seen by a nurse or doctor. Travel to the clinics is usually by ox and cart but this is an expensive and slow mode of transport.

A project was started to build bicycle ambulances and to provide training to the people in the area so more patients can make their way to a health centre. It is hoped that these bicycle ambulances will help save many lives.



# In Science...

0 3

A student plans a method to prepare pure crystals of copper sulfate.

The student's method is:

1. Add one spatula of calcium carbonate to dilute hydrochloric acid in a beaker.
2. When the fizzing stops, heat the solution with a Bunsen burner until all the liquid is gone.

The method contains several errors and does not produce copper sulfate crystals.

Explain the improvements the student should make to the method so that pure crystals of copper sulfate are produced.

**[6 marks]**



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# In Maths...

18

Beth and Mia translate documents from Spanish into English.

A set of documents that would take Beth 8 days would take Mia 10 days.

Beth starts to translate the documents.

After 2 days Beth and Mia both work on translating the documents.

How many **more** days will it take to complete the work?

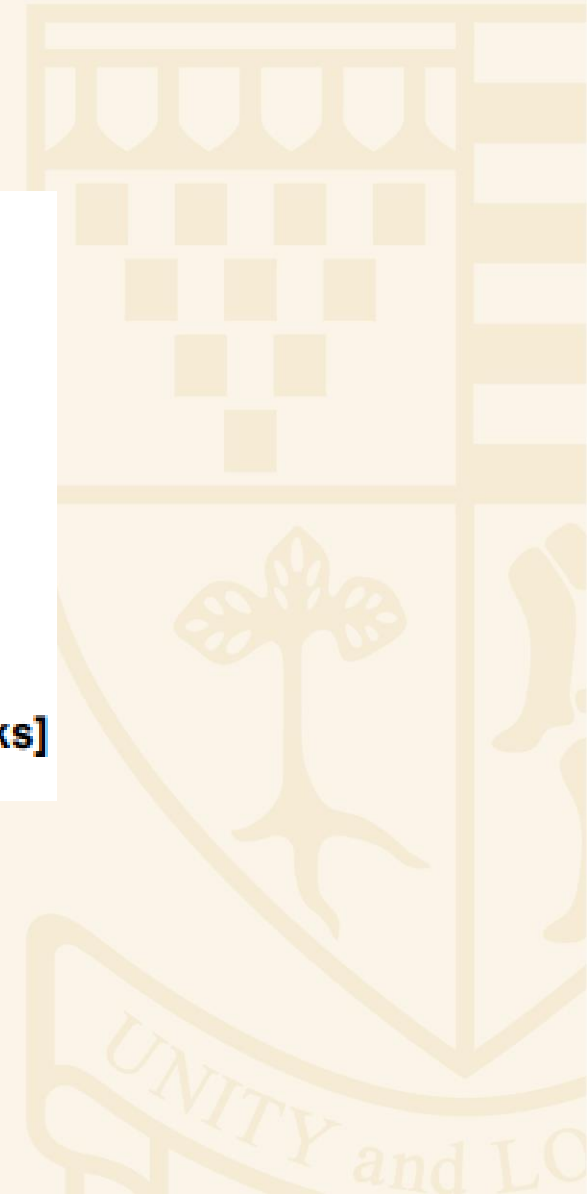
You **must** show your working.

[4 marks]



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# In School Practice

What are we doing at Sheldon?



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# Explicit Vocabulary Instruction



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# A Christmas Carol





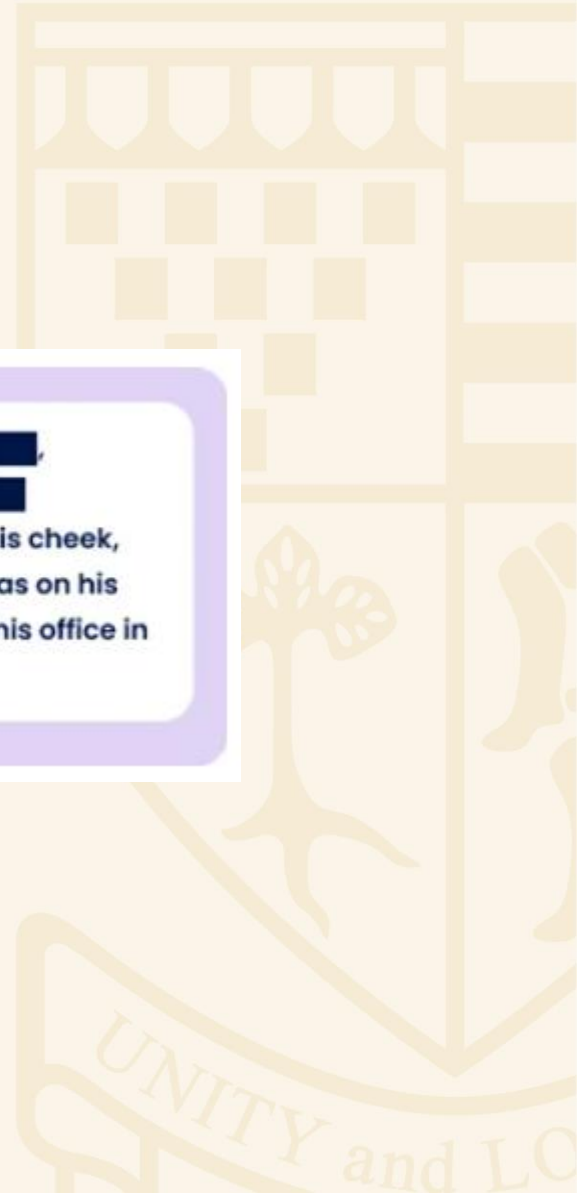
# 75% Vocabulary Comprehension

Oh! But he was a [redacted] hand at the [redacted], Scrooge! a [redacted], [redacted], [redacted], [redacted], [redacted], [redacted], old [redacted]! Hard and sharp as [redacted], from which no [redacted] had ever [redacted] out [redacted] fire; secret, and [redacted], and [redacted] as a [redacted]. The cold within him froze his old [redacted], [redacted] his pointed nose, [redacted] his cheek, [redacted] his [redacted]; made his eyes red, his thin lips blue; and spoke out [redacted] in his [redacted] voice. A frosty [redacted] was on his head, and on his eyebrows, and his [redacted] chin. He carried his own low [redacted] always about with him; he [redacted] his office in the [redacted]; and didn't [redacted] it one [redacted] at Christmas.



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# 95% Vocabulary Comprehension

Oh! But he was a tight-fisted hand at the [REDACTED], Scrooge! a squeezing, wrenching, grasping, scraping, clutching, covetous, old [REDACTED]! Hard and sharp as [REDACTED], from which no steel had ever struck out generous fire; secret, and self-contained, and solitary as a oyster. The cold within him froze his old features, nipped his pointed nose, shrivelled his cheek, stiffened his [REDACTED]; made his eyes red, his thin lips blue; and spoke out shrewdly in his grating voice. A frosty [REDACTED] was on his head, and on his eyebrows, and his wiry chin. He carried his own low temperature always about with him; he iced his office in the [REDACTED]; and didn't thaw it one degree at Christmas.



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# Full Text

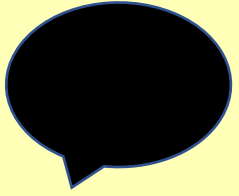
Oh! But he was a tight-fisted hand at the grindstone, Scrooge! a squeezing, wrenching, grasping, scraping, clutching, covetous, old sinner! Hard and sharp as flint, from which no steel had ever struck out generous fire; secret, and self-contained, and solitary as a oyster. The cold within him froze his old features, nipped his pointed nose, shrivelled his cheek, stiffened his gait; made his eyes red, his thin lips blue; and spoke out shrewdly in his grating voice. A frosty rime was on his head, and on his eyebrows, and his wiry chin. He carried his own low temperature always about with him; he iced his office in the dog-days; and didn't thaw it one degree at Christmas.



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[Link to Further Reading](#)



# Sustainable

Vocabulary

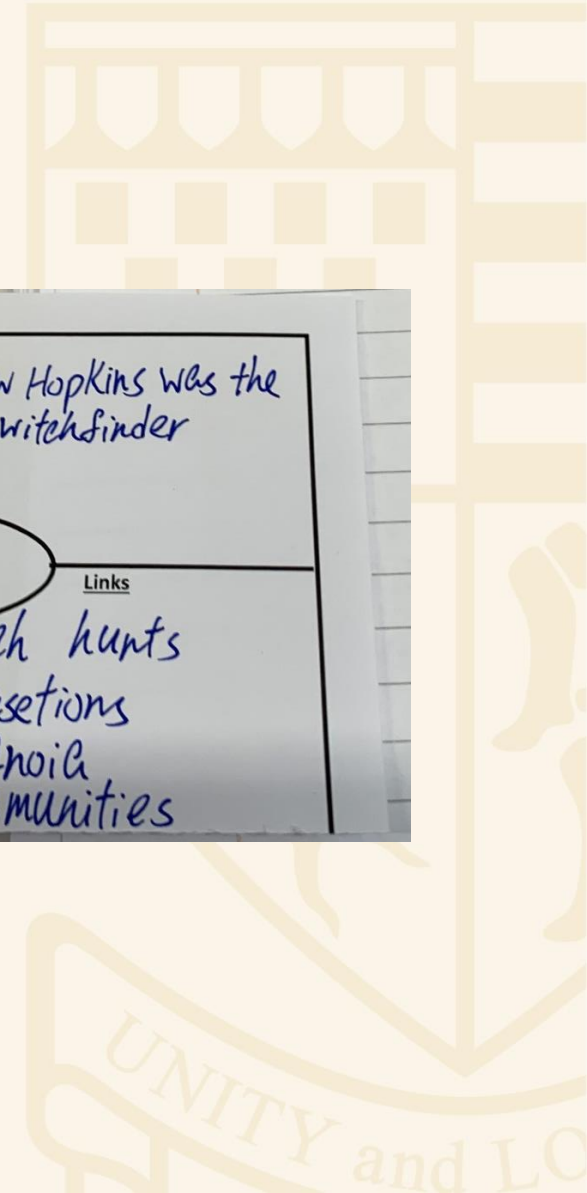
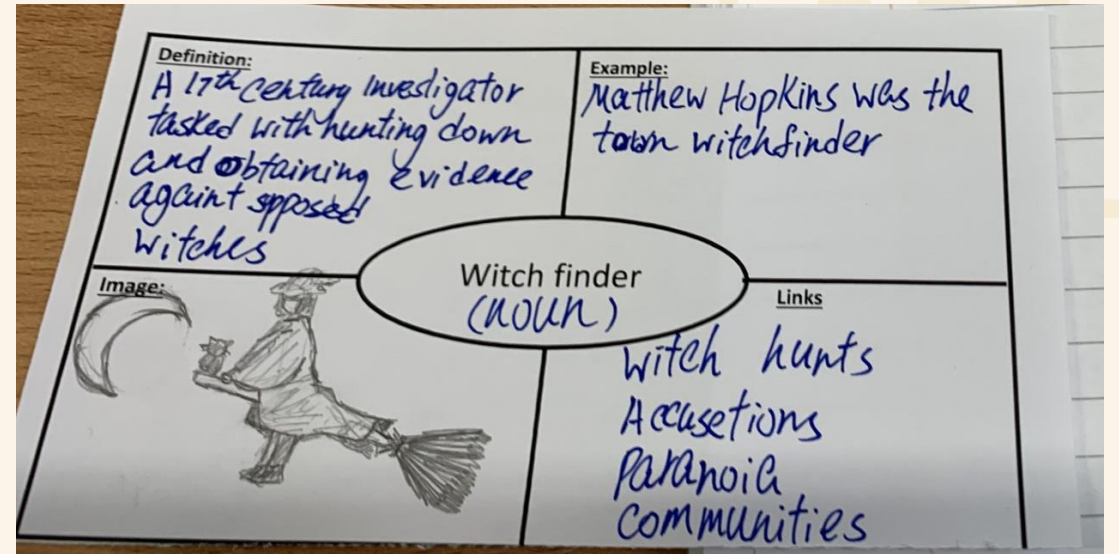
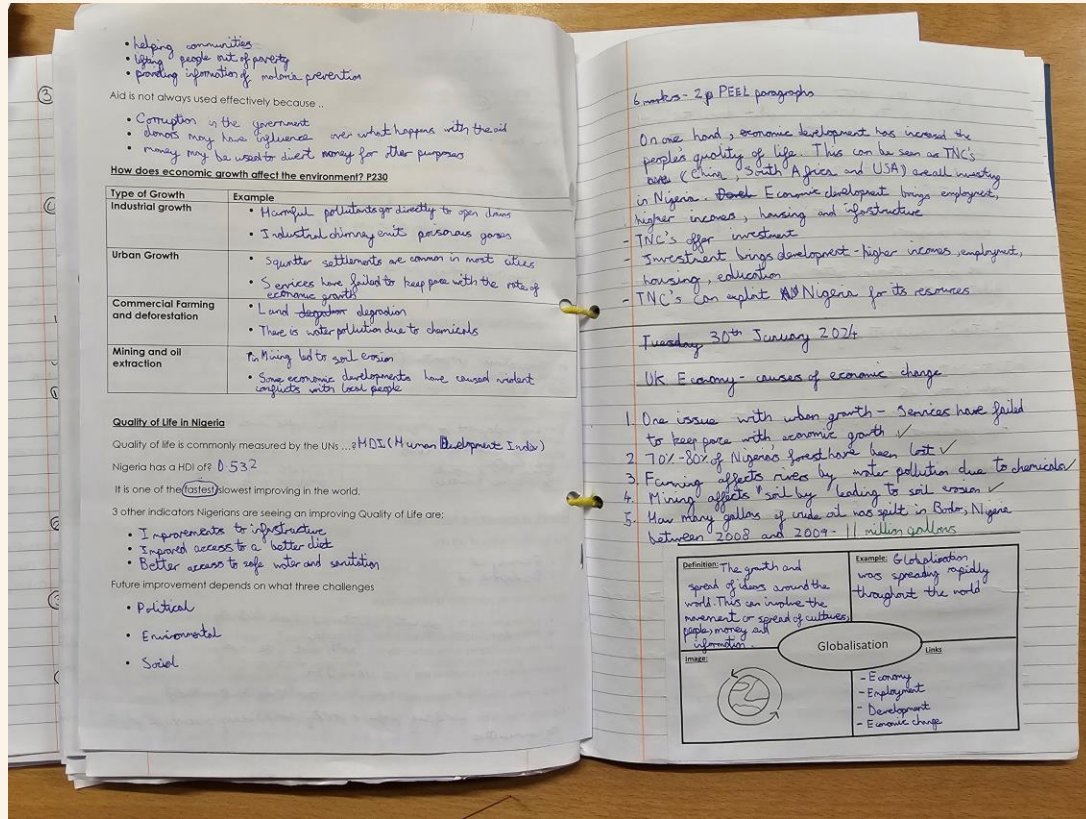
<b>Sustainable</b> (adjective)	Something <b>sustainable</b> can be used often without it running out or getting damaged.	Using a bag for life is a more <b>sustainable</b> choice than single-use plastic.
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Which of the following is **sustainable**?

1. Throwing away a water bottle after one use.
2. Using solar power for electricity.
3. Only sleeping for 2 hours every night.

# Frayer Models





# A Consistent Approach to Reading

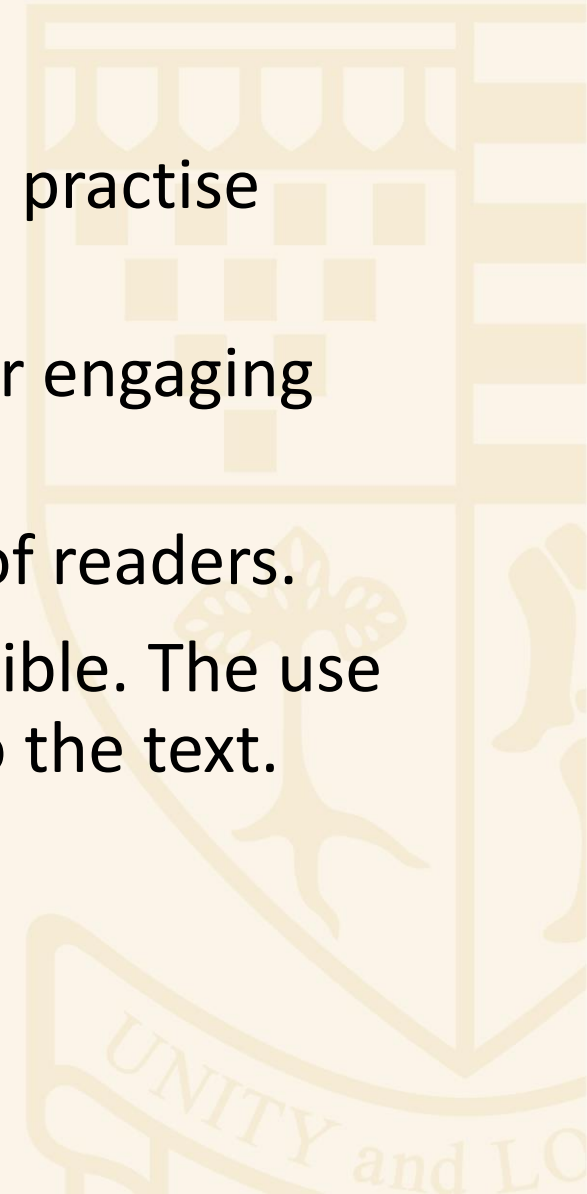
# FASE Reading

**Fluency** – Creating an opportunity for students to hear and practise reading aloud to develop fluency.

**Accountability** – Ensuring that students are accountable for engaging with text.

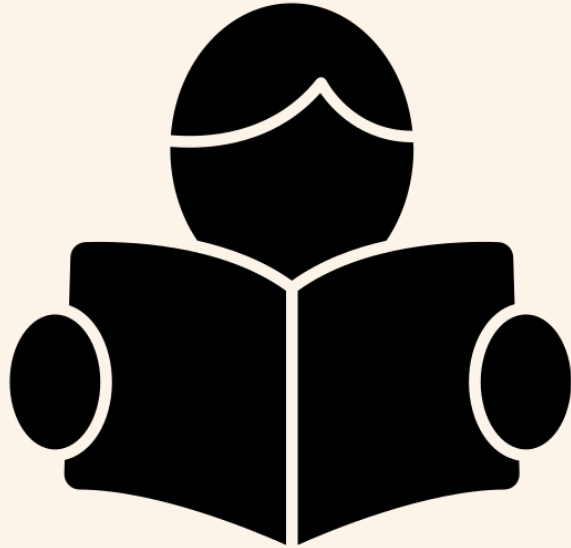
**Social** – Creating a sense of belonging amongst the group of readers.

**Expressive** – Reading aloud makes the meaning of text audible. The use of expression from teachers and students breathes life into the text.

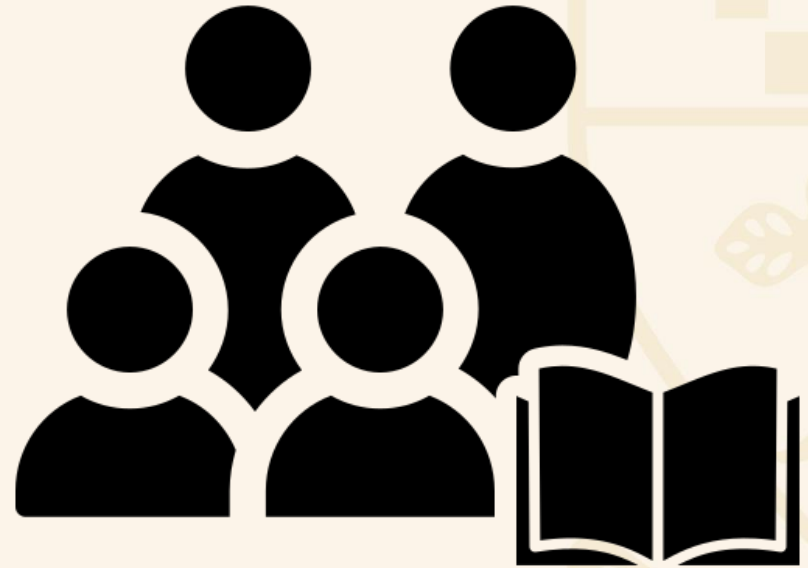


# FASE Reading

## Primary Readers



## Secondary Readers



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# SparxReader



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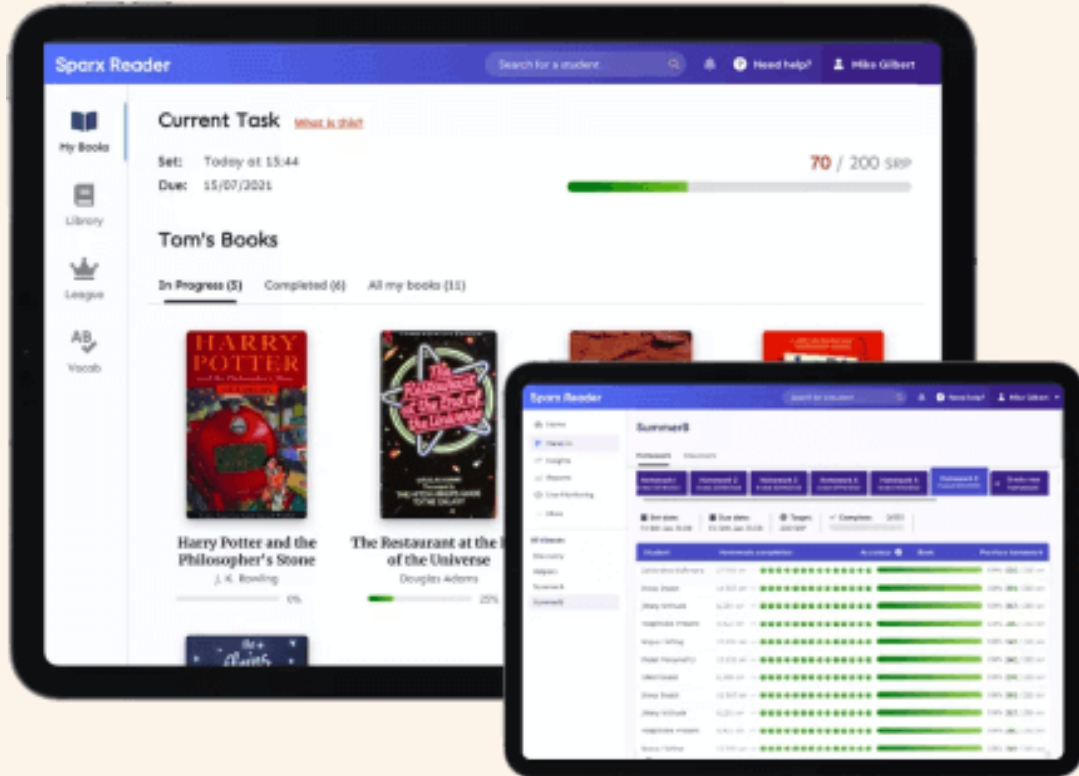
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# Why Does Sparx Reader Exist?

- Link to video shared [here](#)

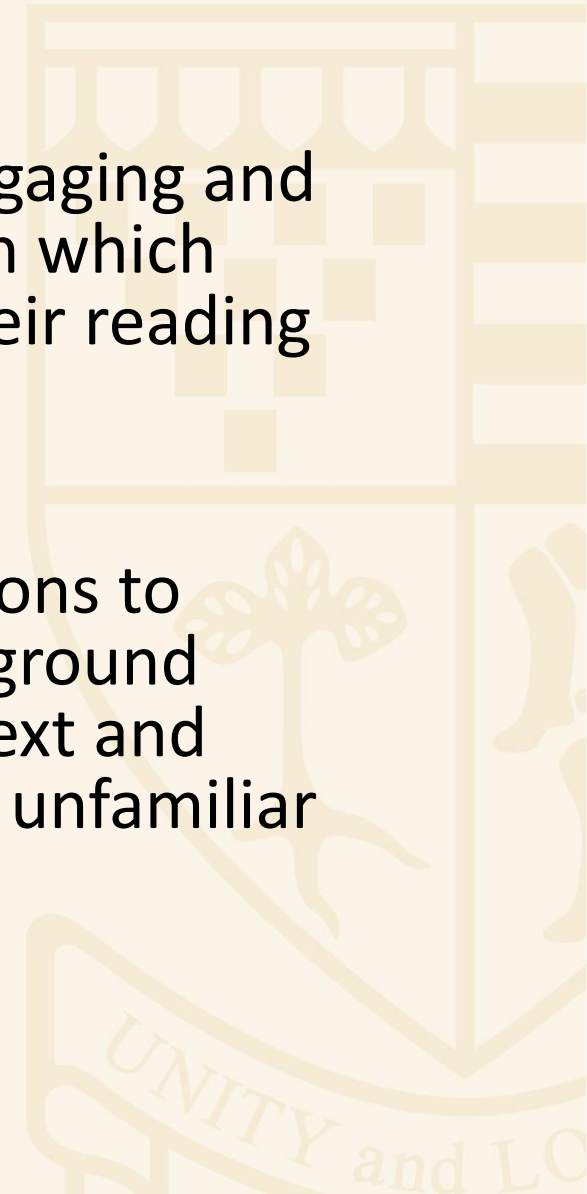


# SparxReader



Sparx Reader is an engaging and supportive platform in which pupils can develop their reading and literacy skill.

The platform has options to change text and background colours, enlarge the text and check the meaning of unfamiliar vocabulary.



# Digital Literacy and Technology Research

*“While most of the reading done by children and young people in 2019 is still paper-based, **reading both on paper and on screen is associated with higher reading attainment and reading engagement.**”*

The logo for the National Literacy Trust features the organization's name in a bold, black, sans-serif font. The text is centered within a teal-colored shape that resembles an open book, with the top and bottom edges of the shape mimicking the pages of a book. The entire logo is set against a white background.

**National  
Literacy  
Trust**

**Change your story**

# Managing Screen Time

**OPINION**

MARCH 4, 2024 | 5 MIN READ

## Debating Screen Time? Here's Why Reading Might Tip Your Scales

Digital books will never replace the tactile experience of paper books, but as part of bedtime reading and improving access to reading materials, they shouldn't be counted as screen time

BY NATALIA KUCIRKOVA

**Source:** Scientific American (2024)

Link to article [here](#)



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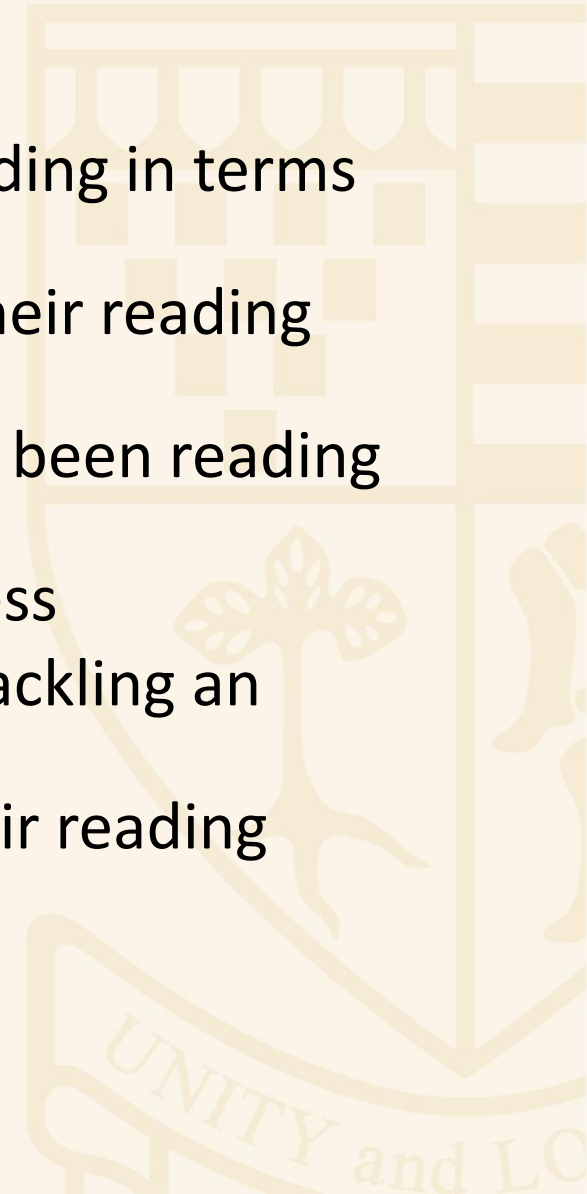
# What About Screen Time?

- Link to video shared [here](#)



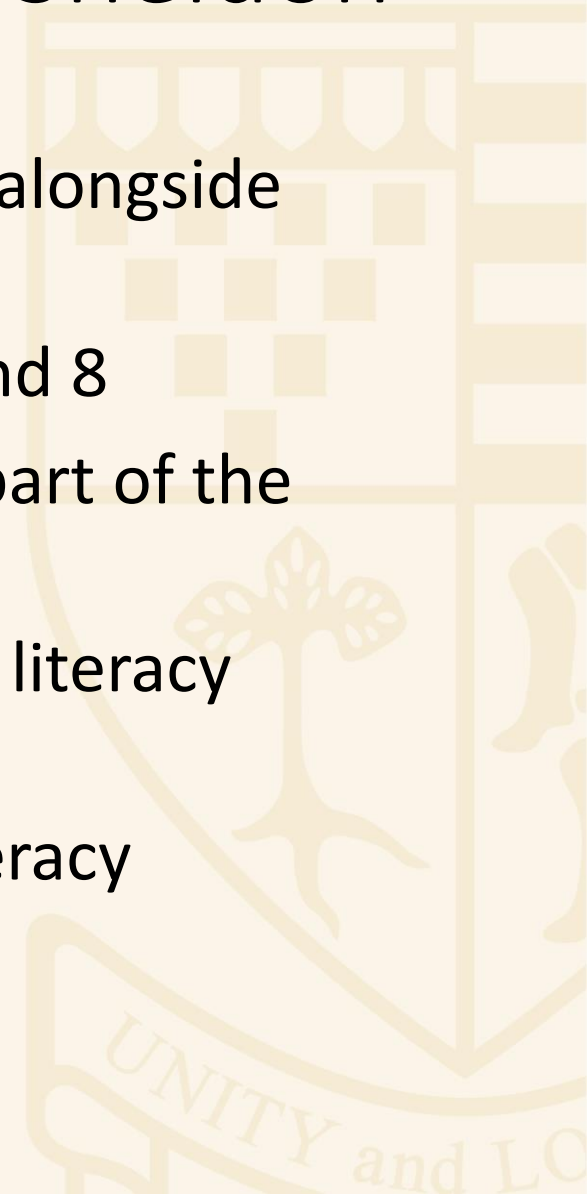
# Why eBooks?

- They provide teachers with full visibility of their students' reading in terms of accuracy, time and book choice
- They provide books to students that are closely matched to their reading ability
- They ask students questions regularly to check that they have been reading in a focused and careful way
- They give students immediate evidence of their reading success
- They compartmentalise the sometimes-daunting process of tackling an entire book
- They adapt the amount of points given to pupils based on their reading speed, to level the playing field for readers of all abilities



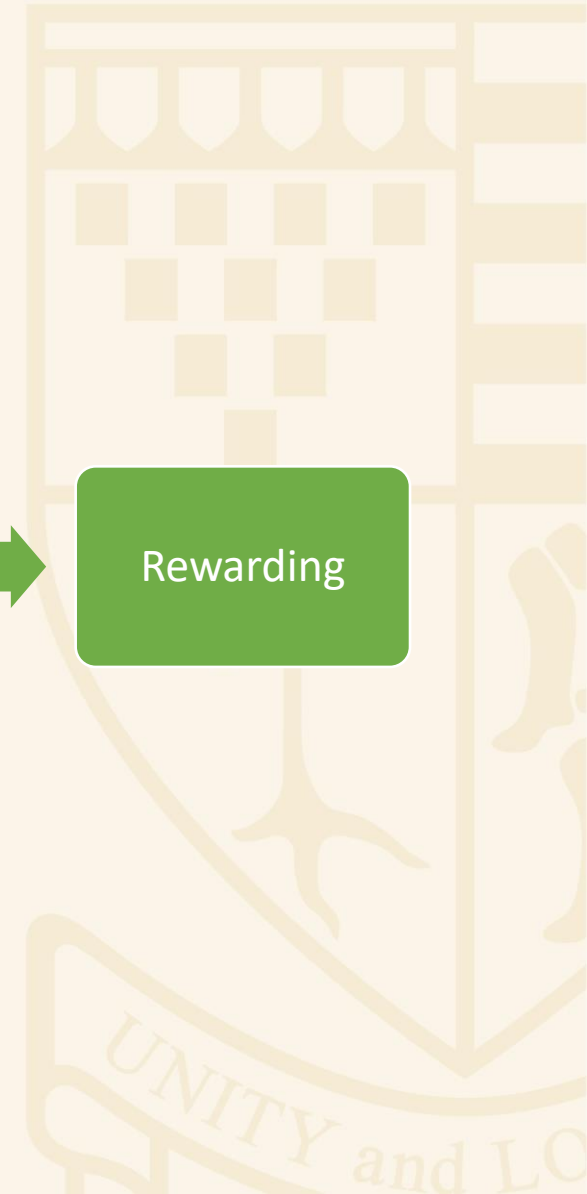
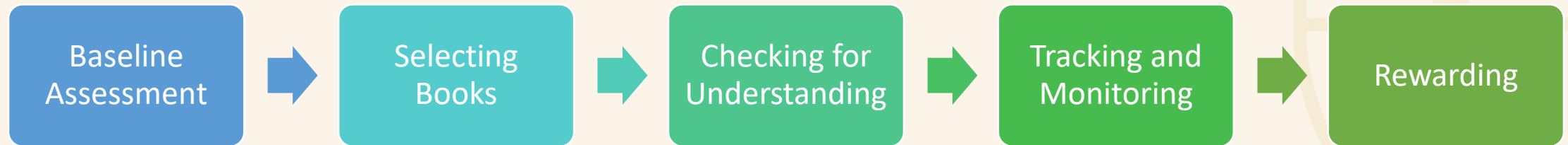
# Physical Books Remain Encouraged at Sheldon

- We urge pupils to visit the library to select books to read alongside their Sparx homework texts
- Students still have designated library lessons in years 7 and 8
- Students will still receive a free book from the school as part of the Book Buzz scheme
- Tutors will continue to read text from books in tutor time literacy sessions
- SparxReader is one strand of the school's approach to literacy





# SparxReader Journey



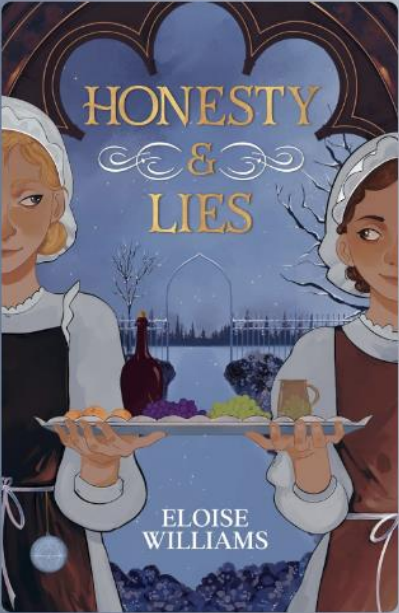
# Assessment & SparxReading Levels

- Students cannot **revise** for assessments
- Baseline assessment to establish starting point
- Interim assessment (Easter time) to establish progress
- End of Year assessment to ensure that progress is sustained

Sparx Reading Levels correlate to reading ages:

- **Sparx Level 1-2:** Reading Age 5-7 (Easier books to support struggling readers, and simpler tasks in place of questions)
- **Sparx Level 3-4:** Reading Age 9 -10 (Easier books to support struggling readers)
- **Sparx Level 5-6:** Reading Age 11-12 (Middle-grade books)
- **Sparx Level 7-8:** Reading Age 12-14 (Higher middle-grade books)
- **Sparx Level 9+:** Reading Age 15+ (Challenging books for stronger readers)

# Book Selection



## Honesty and Lies

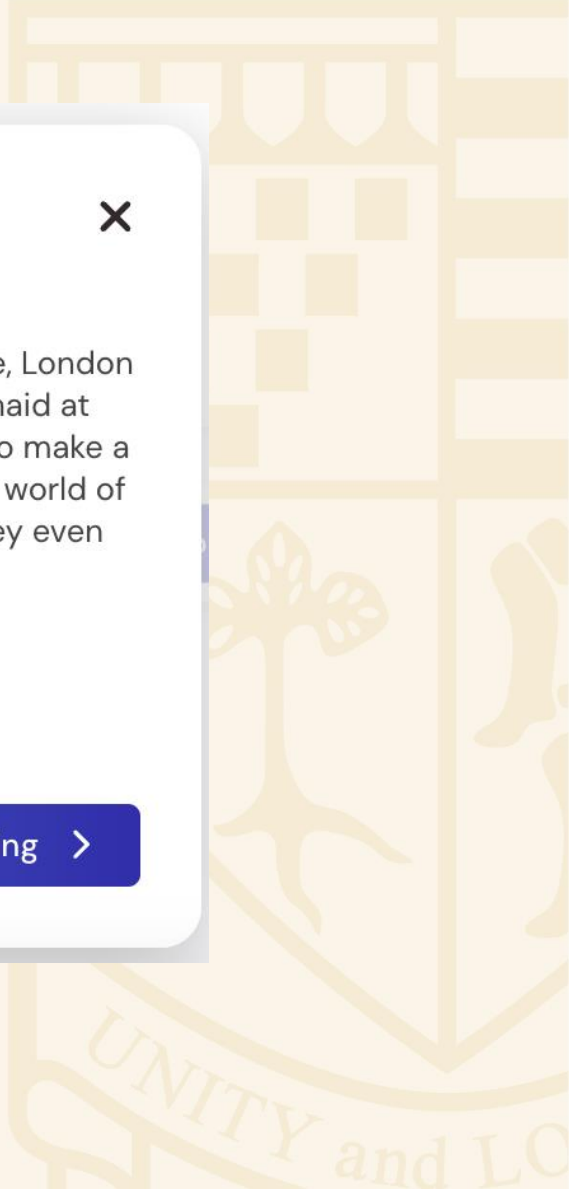
Eloise Williams

I cannot survive here alone. I need a friend.' Winter, 1601. Greenwich Palace, London On her first day in London, Honesty manages to get a job with Alice as a maid at the court of Elizabeth 1. But while Honesty looks for attention and praise, to make a better life for herself, Alice must stay invisible, hiding a terrible secret. In a world of treason and revenge, their friendship will put them both in danger. Can they even trust each other?

eBook Version

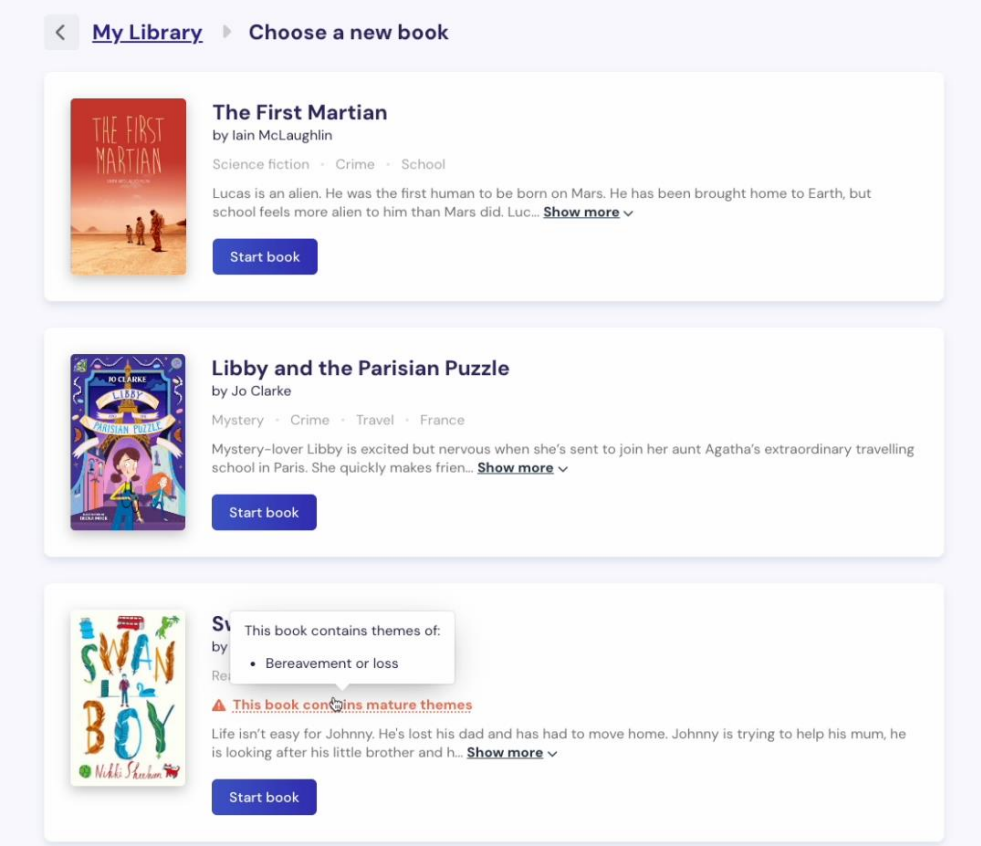
Swap this book

3% [Continue Reading](#)




# Making Informed Choices


- It is important to control which texts are accessible to younger students so a number of books have a minimum age attached to them.
- SparxReader will flag if a book contains mature themes to a student when they are choosing a book.
- Students can hover on a label to see what the mature themes are, in order to make an informed choice of which book to begin reading.



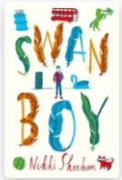
< [My Library](#) > Choose a new book

 **The First Martian**  
by Iain McLaughlin  
Science fiction · Crime · School  
Lucas is an alien. He was the first human to be born on Mars. He has been brought home to Earth, but school feels more alien to him than Mars did. Luc... [Show more](#) v

[Start book](#)

 **Libby and the Parisian Puzzle**  
by Jo Clarke  
Mystery · Crime · Travel · France  
Mystery-lover Libby is excited but nervous when she's sent to join her aunt Agatha's extraordinary travelling school in Paris. She quickly makes frien... [Show more](#) v

[Start book](#)

 **Swan Boy**  
by Nikki Shook  
Rei... This book contains themes of:  
• Bereavement or loss

**⚠ This book contains mature themes**  
Life isn't easy for Johnny. He's lost his dad and has had to move home. Johnny is trying to help his mum, he is looking after his little brother and h... [Show more](#) v

[Start book](#)

# Book Selection

- Students are recommended books based upon their baseline assessed reading level
- Students can have two books in their library at once and they will be given a maximum of 4 books to choose from
- Students can swap books once they have read two sections

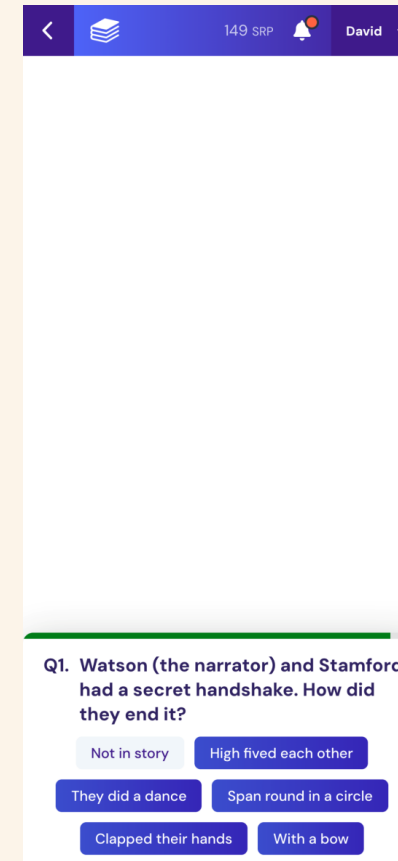
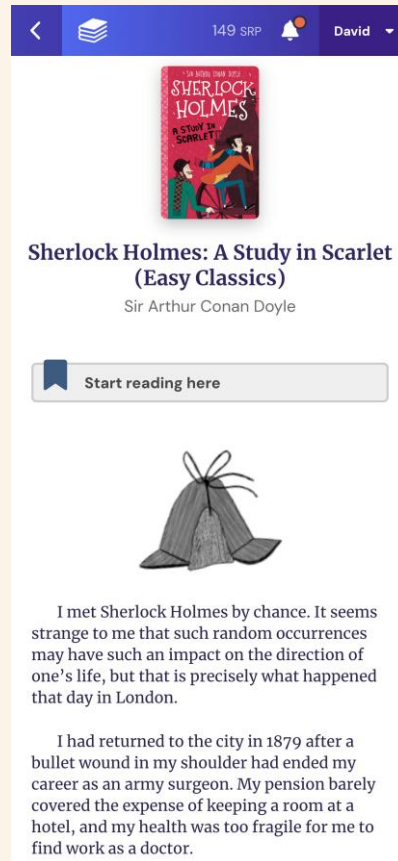
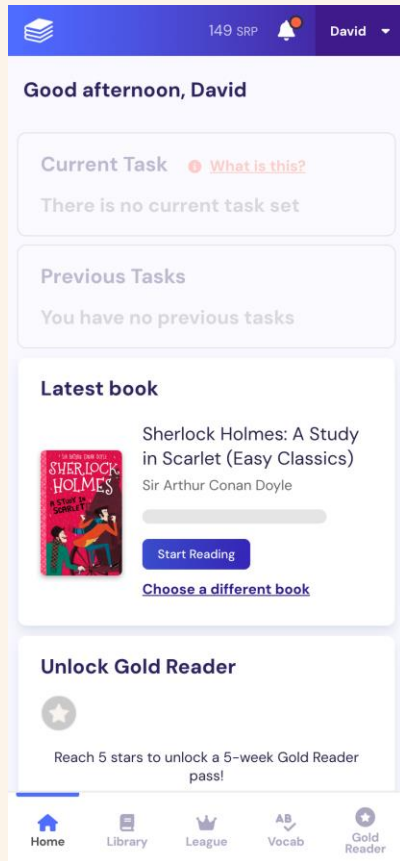
How much do you **like** this book?

How **easy or difficult** is this book?

Much too easy  A little easy  About right  A little difficult  Much too difficult

Next >

# Platform Accessibility



# Contextual Definitions

I hold my breath and close my eyes. Here it comes...

*Beep beep. Beep beep.*

Ms Mezher stops for a moment and scans the school assembly. I keep my eyes fixed on the maths folder on my lap. That's only the first alarm clock. It's stuck to the bottom of a seat over near where I sit. I'll be quieter: they'll build up slowly with our... under Mrs Keiren's butt.

scans

Scans in this sentence means to look around quickly and closely. It means to take a careful look at the people and things that are around you.

Helpful? [Having trouble?](#)

This is a new feature. Your feedback helps us to improve.

Collins scans

English | French | German | Italian | Spanish | Portuguese | Hindi | Chinese | Korean

Summary Definitions Synonyms Pronunciation Collocations Conjugations Senses

## scan

(skæn)

Word forms: scans , scanning , scanned

**1. verb**

When you **scan** written material, you look through it quickly in order to find important or interesting information.

*She scanned the advertisement pages of the newspapers. [VERB noun]*

*I haven't read much into it as yet. I've only just scanned through it. [VERB + through]*

**Synonyms:** glance over, skim, look over, eye [More Synonyms of scan](#)

**Scan** is also a noun.

*I just had a quick scan through your book again. [+ through]*

**2. verb** [no passive]

When you **scan** a place or group of people, you look at it carefully, usually because you are looking for something or someone.

*The officer scanned the room. [VERB noun]*

*She was nervous and kept scanning the crowd for Paul. [VERB noun + for]*

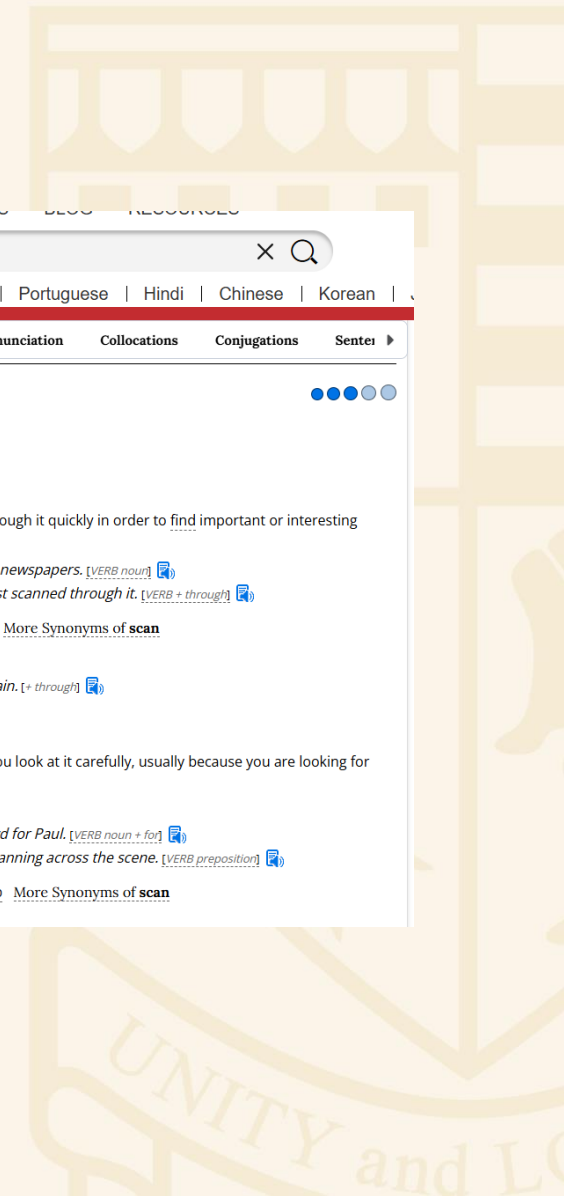
*He raised the binoculars to his eyes again, scanning across the scene. [VERB preposition]*

**Synonyms:** survey, search, investigate, sweep [More Synonyms of scan](#)

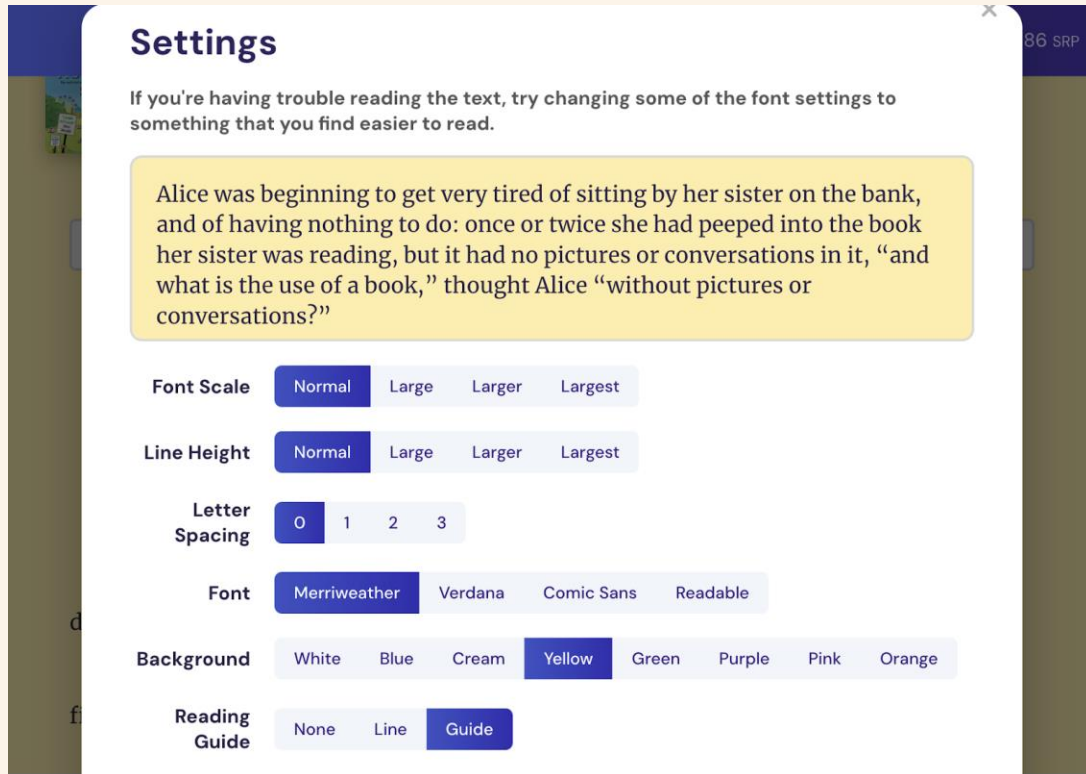


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# Accessibility



**Settings**

If you're having trouble reading the text, try changing some of the font settings to something that you find easier to read.

Alice was beginning to get very tired of sitting by her sister on the bank, and of having nothing to do: once or twice she had peeped into the book her sister was reading, but it had no pictures or conversations in it, "and what is the use of a book," thought Alice "without pictures or conversations?"

**Font Scale** Normal Large Larger Largest

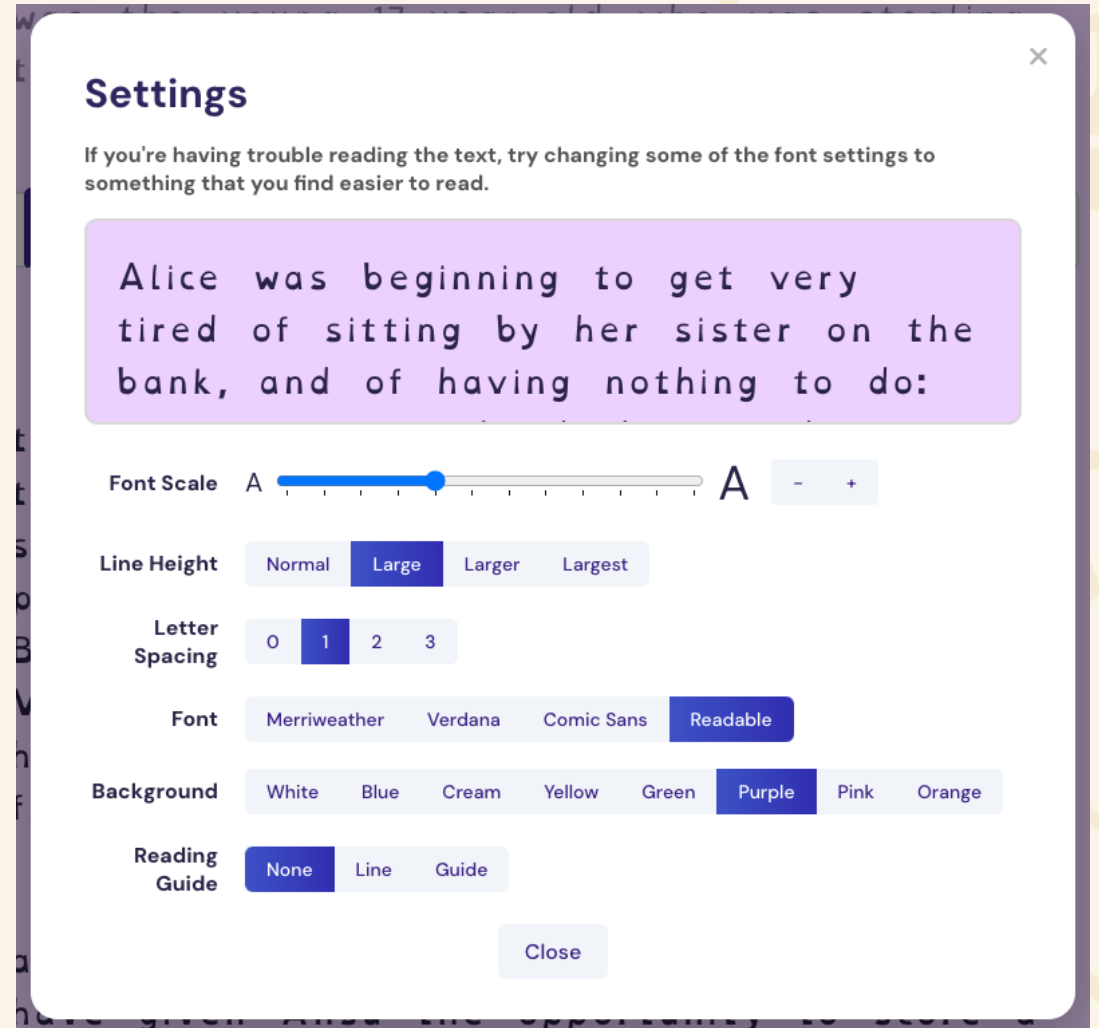
**Line Height** Normal Large Larger Largest

**Letter Spacing** 0 1 2 3

**Font** Merriweather Verdana Comic Sans Readable

**Background** White Blue Cream Yellow Green Purple Pink Orange

**Reading Guide** None Line Guide



**Settings**

If you're having trouble reading the text, try changing some of the font settings to something that you find easier to read.

Alice was beginning to get very tired of sitting by her sister on the bank, and of having nothing to do:

**Font Scale** A  A - +

**Line Height** Normal Large Larger Largest

**Letter Spacing** 0 1 2 3

**Font** Merriweather Verdana Comic Sans Readable

**Background** White Blue Cream Yellow Green Purple Pink Orange

**Reading Guide** None Line Guide

Close



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# Why Are Students Quizzed?

- Link to video shared [here](#)



# Assessment

- Quizzing makes student comprehension visible
- Students get immediate feedback
- Staff are able to have discussions with students regarding understanding and/or commitment

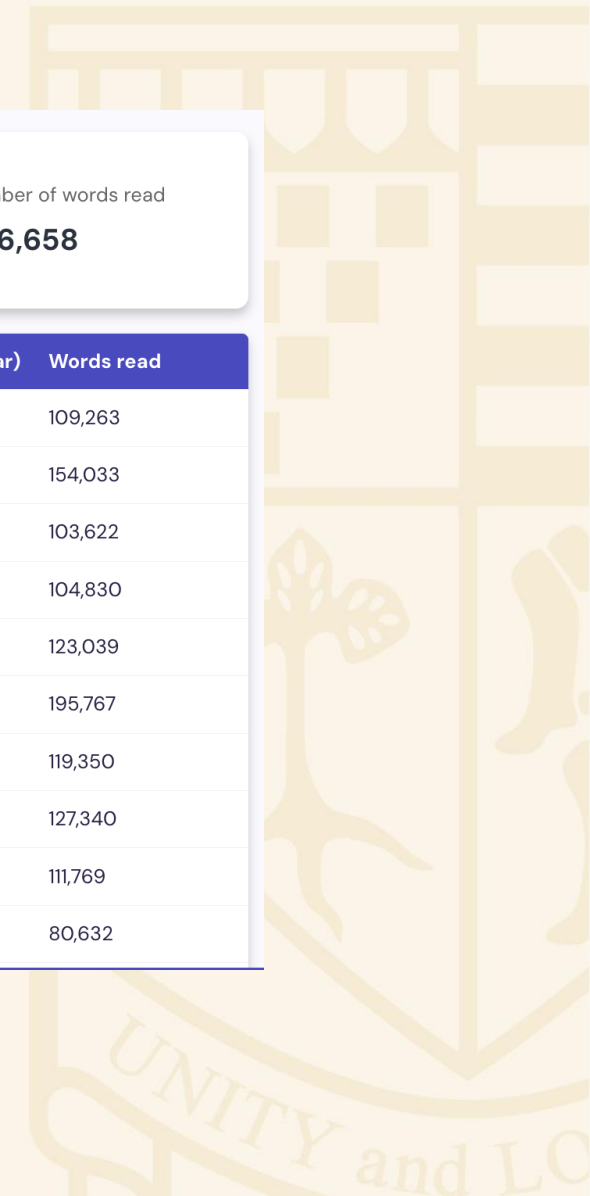
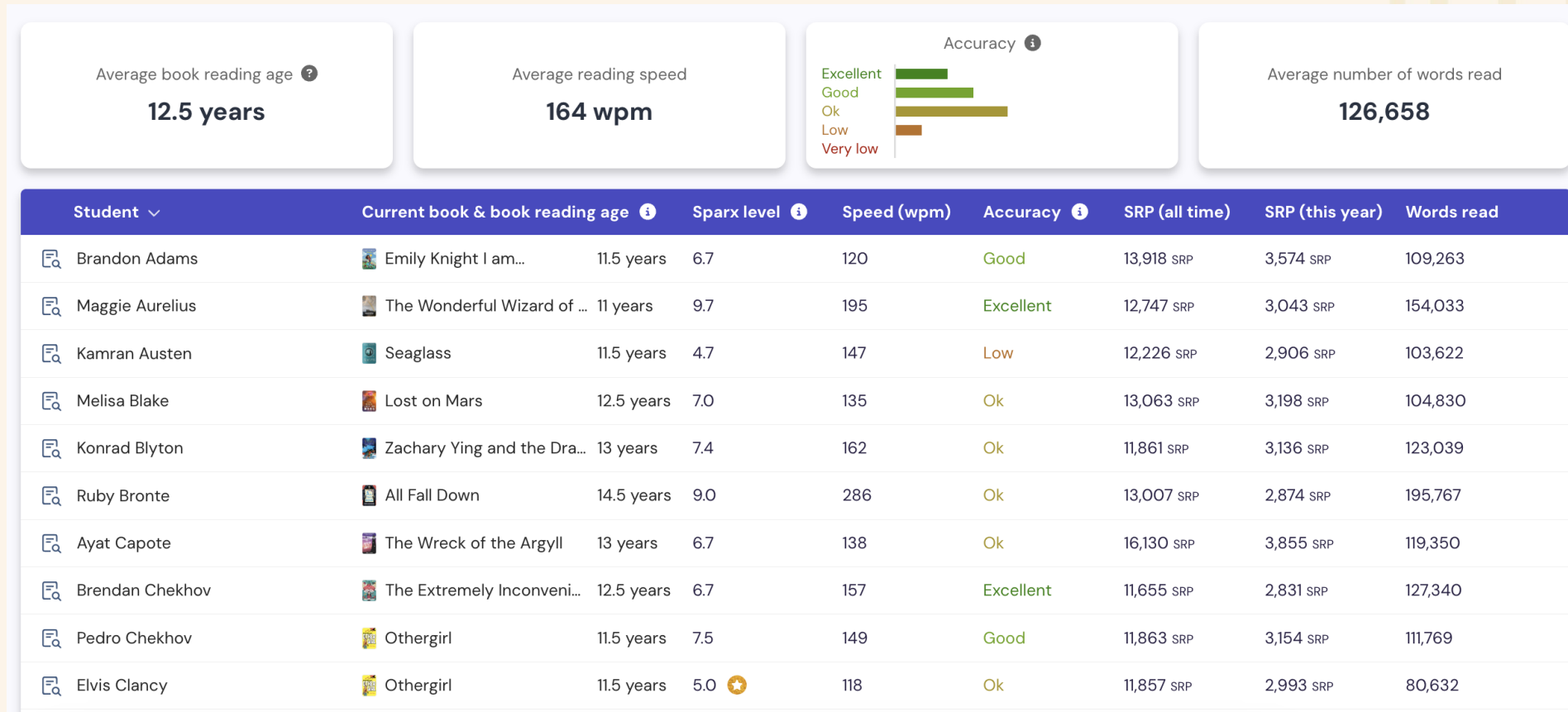


# Expectation

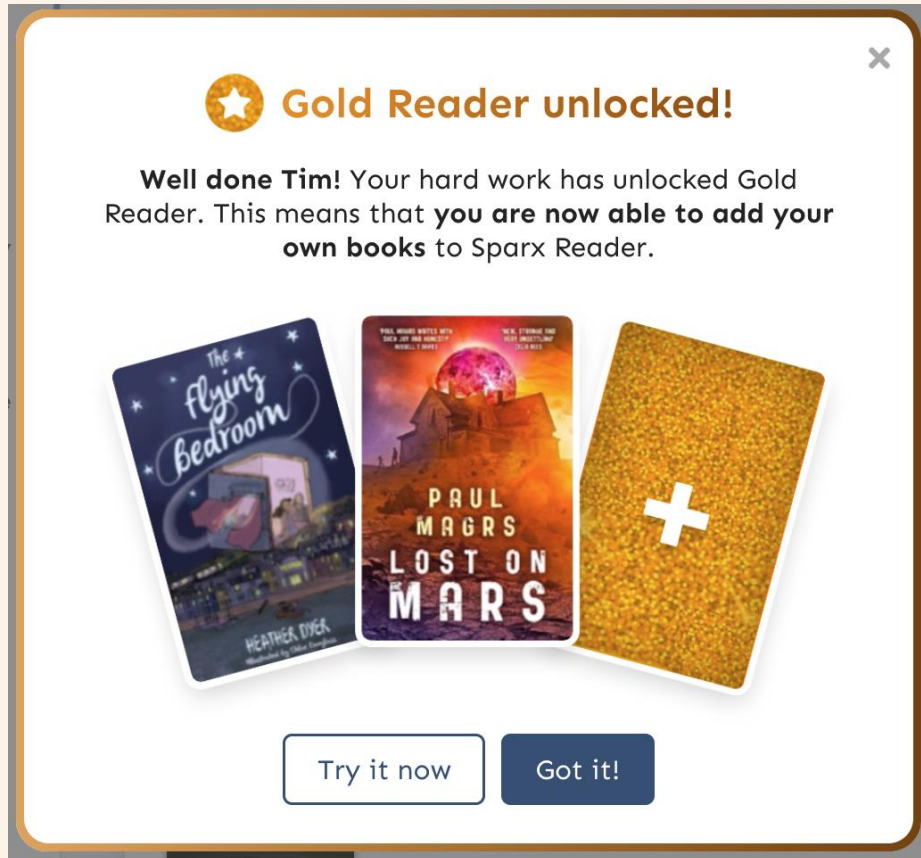
- Students gain 300 Sparx Reader Points (SRP) per week
- SRPs take into consideration the differing start points of our students



# Teacher Insights



# Gold Reader Pass



The notification features a gold star icon and the text: "Gold Reader unlocked! Well done Tim! Your hard work has unlocked Gold Reader. This means that you are now able to add your own books to Sparx Reader." Below the text are three book covers: "The Flying Bedroom" by Heather Dyer, "Lost on Mars" by Paul Magrs, and a gold star icon with a white plus sign. At the bottom are two buttons: "Try it now" and "Got it!".

- Students who are doing additional reading on top of their compulsory homework will be rewarded for this with gold stars.
- Once they reach 5 gold stars, students are awarded a Gold Reader pass which lasts for 5 weeks.
- When a student is awarded a Gold Reader pass they can read a physical book of their choice.



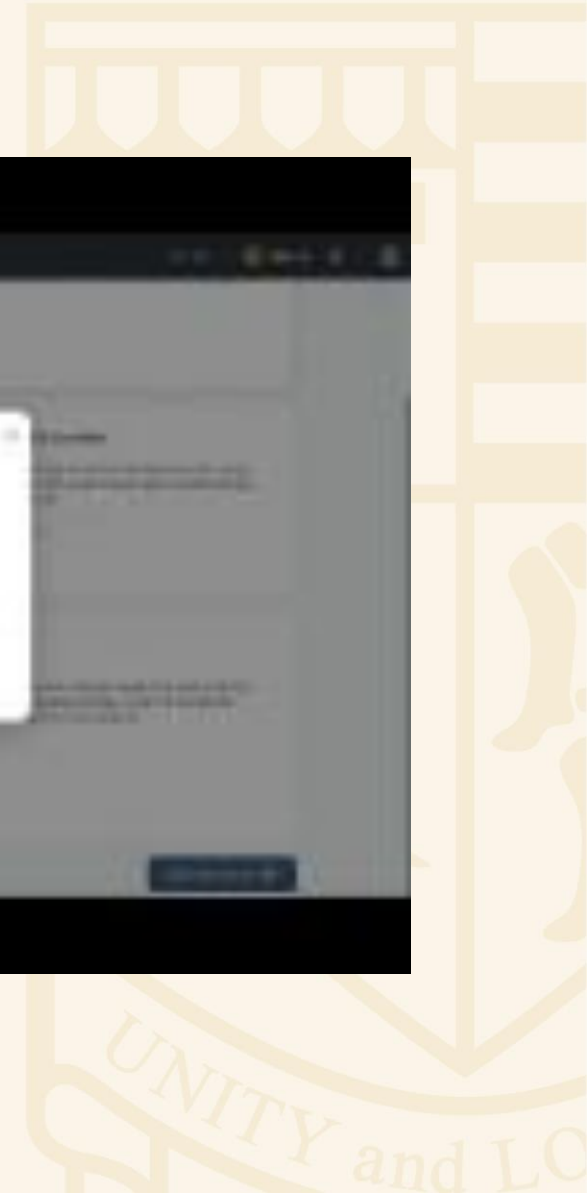
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# Gold Reader Pass

- Teachers can also manually add Gold Reader Passes
- Students who are reading above age related expectations can elect to have a Gold Reader Pass so that they can read their own books instead of the books within the SparxReader library
- Students who are making good progress with their reading have a wider selection of books/reduced screen time



# Rewards

The screenshot shows a 'Leaderboard' interface. At the top, there is a 'Your name' field with 'Candice the Master' and a 'Change name' button. Below this are tabs for 'Your Class', 'Your Year', and 'Your School', with 'Your School' selected. A 'Show:' dropdown menu is set to 'This year'. A green banner with a crown icon reads 'Yearly leaderboard This academic year'. Below the banner is a list of students with their SRP scores:

Rank	Student Name	SRP Score
1	Krystal the Author	11,450 SRP
2	David the Purveyor	10,958 SRP
3	Owen the Maker	10,300 SRP
3	Ryan the Chief	10,300 SRP
5	Amal the Wonder	9,744 SRP
6	Silv the Saviour	8,997 SRP
7	Candice the Master	8,870 SRP

- Students can opt into a Leaderboard
- Rewards for individuals and tutor groups to incentivise
- Conversations with students who are not engaging with reading
- Develop a love of reading - not punish children for not/into reading

# How to Support Your Child

- Link to video shared [here](#)





# Thank You

- Please could you scan the QR code and complete the feedback form (3 questions)
- If you have any questions that you would like followed up – please share them along with your contact details
- Have a safe onward journey...

