



# INSPIRING READING FOR PLEASURE THROUGH SOCIAL MEDIA

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# CONTEXT

I am a Primary PGCE student at the University of East Anglia, specialising in Key stage 1 and Lower Key Stage 2. I am an English specialist and over the last six years I have developed a passion for reading. I grew up in a family that did not value reading and as a consequence neither did I. My recent passion only took hold when I returned to education at the age of 25. I now read every day and a few of my favourite genres include: sporting autobiographies, psychological non-fiction, mystery and fantasy. My favourite authors are: Malcolm Gladwell, Mathew Syed, Matt Haig, Arthur Conan Doyle and George Orwell.



# OUR RESEARCH INSPIRATION AND RATIONALE

It was the Teachers as Readers research that inspired me to improve my knowledge of children's literature and also to share my reading habits with others to promote reading for pleasure and build reading communities.

TaRs found that in order to foster reading for pleasure effectively, teachers need to develop:

- 1. Considerable knowledge of children's literature and other texts*
- 2. Knowledge of children's reading practices*
- 3. A reading for pleasure pedagogy which includes:*
  - Social reading environments*
  - Reading aloud*
  - Independent reading*
  - Informal book talk, inside-text talk and recommendations*
- 4. As Reading Teachers: teachers who read and readers who teach*
- 5. Reading communities that are reciprocal and interactive.*

# AIMS

I was inspired by writing my English essay about reading for pleasure, to read more children's literature in order to increase my subject knowledge and become a reader that teaches. I wanted to share my journey and my love for reading with others so I decided to become more active on social media. My first reason for doing this was to try to inspire individuals to take up reading if they do not already. My second reason was to offer book recommendations for adults. I wanted to test if I could use this process in my NQT year to influence parents' perceptions of Reading for Pleasure. I read both adult and children's books, so I thought my recommendations might be useful for parents who read and who want to encourage their children to read. I chose Instagram as my main platform as I enjoy taking pictures and as a dedicated site for photographs I thought it offered me the best chance to convey my love for reading creatively.





**OUTLINE** I decided to take a picture of every book that I read in 2018 and share it on Instagram in order to try to inspire Reading for Pleasure.



**liannachandler @nigel\_86** Great photo. X  
I heard about this book today and thought of you. It's supposed to be really good. Check out Who Let the Gods Out? by Maz Evans  
<https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/32735550>

**doddingtonsarah** Love the pictures u take looks great 👍

**nigel\_86 @doddingtonsarah** thanks! I do enjoy taking them! Hope all is well with you?

**santaklauspublishinghouse** Like the feed!! 😊✍️

**writershark** 🙌👍❤️

**simonlaffyauthor** #love

**marshad1985** Cool!!! 🙌❤️

**rozenesarayan** #greatstuff

**afewillust** 🙌👍❤️

**paper\_and.ink** Your IG is awesome  
✔️:D 🙌👍

**laceybare** I LOVED this book

**gfellx** This is so cute! I'm loving your reading journey!

**cellis0309 @nigel\_86** that is the best photo yet! X

**georgiemhaynes** Yes Nigel! 👍

**psutton94** This is the winner! 📷👤

**liannachandler @nigel\_86** Great photo. X  
I heard about this book today and thought of you. It's supposed to be really good.

**benjineyman** Wow! Robbie's drawing is brilliant. I love his interpretation of the Professor's buttons on his space suit. 10/10. Keep up the great work, Robbie and remember... Knowledge awaits!

**graciewright222** You're brilliant! 🙌👍 X

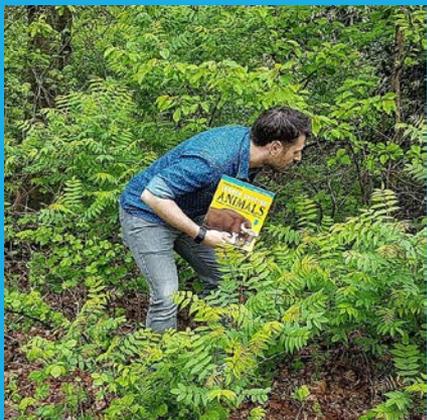
**nigel\_86 @benjineyman** cheers for the reply. Robbie is very pleased with your response. He said thank you and he loves the books. 🙌👍👍 X

**nigel\_86 @graciewright222** so are you! X  
The children and I really want to read the new Silly Eric book. Can we buy one from you please? X

**graciewright222 @nigel\_86** you can X  
have a copy my friend! I will send one to you all when it's finished xxx

# IMPACT

I have received lots of positive feedback from my experiment so far. I have had two teachers direct message me to ask about how I used books in class, to which I happily replied with my lesson plans and feedback from how my lesson went. I have received over 950 likes on the posts (as of the 07/05/18) and received comments from an illustrator and author. I have particularly enjoyed the comments and feedback that I have received from others, both through social media and personally. One of my University friends told me that my posts are inspiring her to read more. These comments have made me feel as though my aims are being achieved and inspiring me to continue trying to inspire others.



# REFLECTIONS ON IMPACT THE TEACHERS AS READERS RESEARCH HAD ON PRACTICE



This process so far has shown me that inspiring Reading for Pleasure is possible and that it is also possible to build a reading community that is reciprocal and interactive. It has also highlighted that as an educator I can have a positive impact on the parents' perceptions of reading for pleasure. I have been posting on my personal feed; however, I would like to set up a page just for parents at my school (following school guidelines) with the aim of improving the perception of reading.

This could also be implemented in other schools as part of the promoting Reading for Pleasure strategy. I also feel that by showing my enthusiasm for reading in the classroom then I can also have a positive impact on my classes perception of reading.

Finally, this process has highlighted to me that children's literature is a very big topic indeed and in order to keep abreast of it I will need to continue to read throughout my career as an educator. Which pleases me very much!