

If you stop to think about it, reading really is magical.

A few pieces of paper covered in pictures and squiggles allow us to travel to places real and imagined without leaving our seat, giving us a front row ticket to fantastic experiences we might never have in real life. Reading gives us instant access to the most fascinating ideas and information, the opportunity to learn from the experts in any given subject. Reading allows us to see and understand life through the eyes of other people different from ourselves and the chance to stumble across the gloriously familiar in unexpected places.

As the author Stephen King puts it, 'books are a uniquely portable magic'.

Learning to read and then building the habit of reading in their own time are amongst the most important gifts we can pass on to our children. Research suggests a strong link between reading and children's success at school, better wellbeing and mental health, increased levels empathy towards others, and even a positive affect on their future happiness. And that's before we've considered the enjoyment and fun that can be found in losing yourself in a good book.

The modern world means that prioritising reading at home can sometimes be tricky - there have probably never been so many other things competing for our time and attention - but if we can carve out some time to read with our children as often as we can, supporting them on their reading journey with our time, energy and enthusiasm, we can induct them into this world of magic with all the benefits that will bring.

So, here's to many years of reading together with your child, many adventures in many books and a lot of fun along the way. Here's to raising a reader!

James Clements is an education writer, researcher and former teacher. He's also the parent of two lovely but very loud children.

Thank you for signing up to this pack!

Raise a Reader

Through our Raise a Reader campaign, we are supporting families on their reading journey and want to make it as fun as possible for you and your little ones to kickstart new reading habits and get stuck into some spectacular new stories together at home.



OXFORD

Some top tips for grown-ups on how to make the most of this pack:

Model reading to your child

As a parent/carer, we want you to get stuck-in and involved with reading too! If your little ones see you reading, it will hopefully inspire them to pick up a book and join you. Use our **Reading Reward Sticker Chart** to track how many books your child has read (and there's even a grown-ups section to track how many books you've read, too!). There's also **Bookmark** for each of you included in this pack.

Make a space for reading

Set up a dedicated space for reading to make the experience comfortable and relaxing, removing any distractions such as gadgets or screens if possible. Create a special and cosy space to curl up with a book – add cushions, blankets, fairy-lights – anything that you like! And when you're done, don't forget to hang up our **Reading Corner sign**, too.

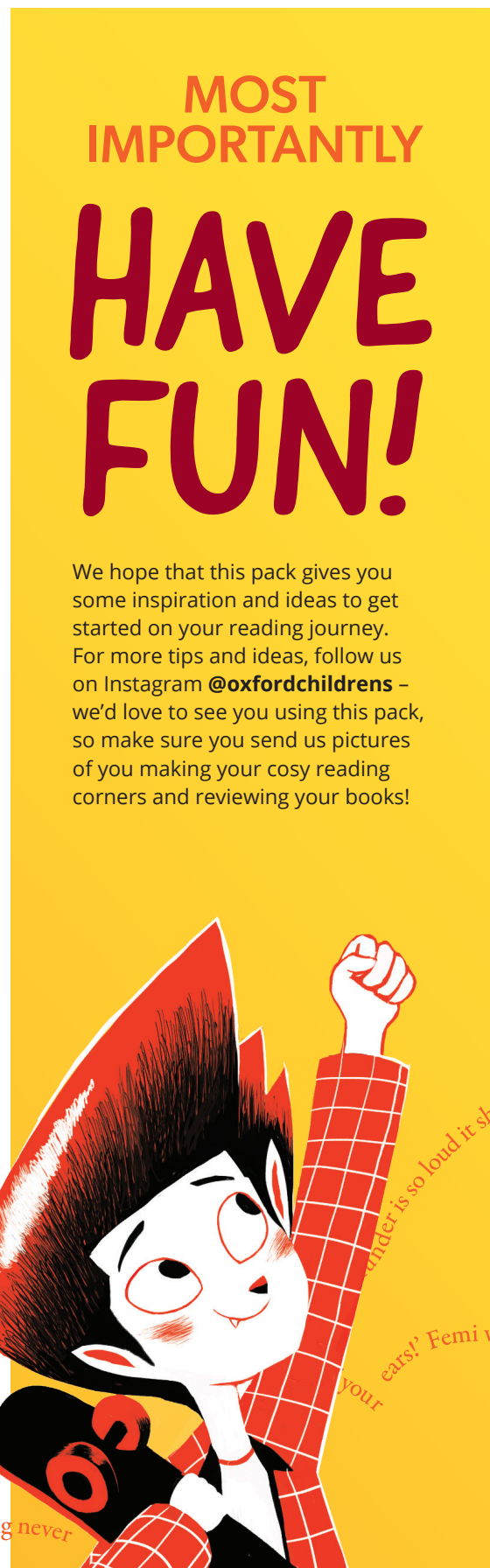
Talk about books

Share the joy you take from reading and share the books you're reading with your little one. Discuss and ask questions about the books you read, including the books your child is reading on their own. What was your favourite part of the story? Who was your favourite character? What did they like about the book they've been reading, and what would they score it out of 5? Use the **Reading Review Sheets** to help you put together mini book reviews (and as a grown-up, put together your own book reviews too!)

Swap books with friends, neighbours, and go to the library

To read a variety of stories, why not see if you can swap books with a friend or neighbour? Encourage your little ones to ask their friends if they have read any brilliant books recently – can they swap books with each other to share their favourite reads? Don't forget, you can also go to the library for a treasure-trove of new books and for tonnes of reading inspiration. Could you set up a book swap in your local area? This could be at your apartment building, village hall or school reception. Hang up our Book Swap Sign in your chosen area!

For reading tips, and advice on choosing the right level of book for your child, visit **Oxford Owl for Home**: home.oxfordowl.co.uk



Some top tips from parents and teachers!

Our *Oxford Language Report* heard from parents and teachers across the UK who shared the different ways in which they help children to discover new words, develop their vocabulary and build their reading confidence.

Reading

Reading together is a great way to prompt additional conversation for building vocabulary. Give your child the space, time and choice around how they want to read.

- Get your child talking about the book they are reading – What’s going to happen next? What is a character feeling? Share and compare your own responses too!
- Don’t forget audiobooks! They are another great way to experience stories together and a practical option for long car journeys too.
- As your child gets older, reading is still important for vocabulary learning, so continue to encourage your child on their reading journey.

Conversation

Introducing new words into everyday conversation is a great way to develop your child’s vocabulary and build their confidence.

- Introduce new words through everyday conversations – such as on the way to school, during meals or at bath time.
- Use things you hear or see around you like adverts, songs or the news as inspiration for introducing new words to your child.
- It’s normal for children to make mistakes in their speech – be patient, gently correct any mistakes and praise your child when they try using new words.

Activities

Activities or word games are a fun way to get your child to develop their vocabulary! We’ve picked our favourite games below.

- Tell each other a story about something you see on the way to school. Try using the 5 “Ws” as questions to get started - who, when, why, what, where (and how). Take it in turns to say what happens next!
- Play word games that involve synonyms (words that mean the same thing) – for example, how many different words can your child think of for kind, scary or funny?
- Link words to real-life actions and experiences – you could act out adverbs by asking your child to creep silently, scamper quickly or skip joyfully!

Raise a Reader

Through our Raise a Reader campaign, we are supporting families on their reading journey and want to make it as fun as possible for you and your little ones to kickstart new reading habits and get stuck into some spectacular new stories together at home.



OXFORD

My book review

Book title

What is your favourite part of the book?

Reviewer name

Date

Summary of the story

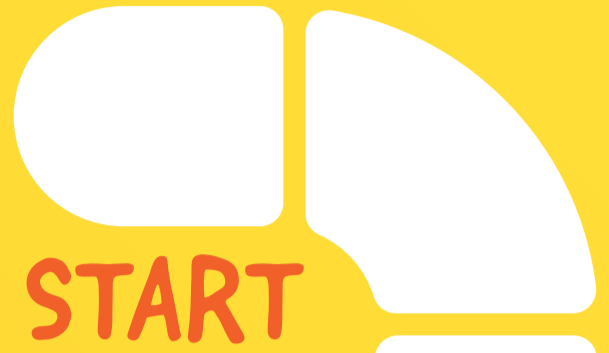
Who was your favourite character?

Overall rating

/5

LET'S READ

Children add one sticker to the chart for every book you read.



LET'S GO TO THE LIBRARY!



LET'S BUILD A READING DEN!

TIME FOR A BOOK SWAP!



CAN YOU WRITE A REVIEW?



YOU DID IT!



ADULTS TICK (✓) HERE



Try to finish 1 book for every 5 books your child reads.



BOOK SWAP

Raise a Reader

flashing.' Edie's ghostly eyes glowed as she stepped
It's a place
where, they say,
the lightning never stops



And the thunder
out of your
ears!' Fer

LET'S READ

pavement. I stared into the darkness

the other side of town where there was a
tiny little alleyway between

to he can go so much faster than me! We whizzed
through the night air and across

into the air and
It Dad's hand because

of the alleyway and shivered.

two houses. It's through here! Dad,
as we landed on the

Hold my hand
Together, we race
You don't want to get swept away!



Cool kids
**READ
BOOKS**



Grandad said, 'Tell the suit what you want to be and see it in yourself,'
'Marvin—the sky's the limit,'
what happens.
Marvin looked up to the roof of
their house. He touched the 'M'
the front of his suit. 'Walk on
'Marvin whispered.
'Tell the suit what you want to be and see it in yourself,'
Grandad said.