

Reading, Audio Books, Revision Guides.

- . Readability.
- . Other ways of enjoying reading and audio books.
- . Revision Guides.
- . Dyslexia Friendly Books.

1. Readability

There are formulae for calculating the readability of texts according to word length, sentence length and complexity.

Computer programs, e.g. Word, give readability scores according to those criteria. A simple method is called the **Five Finger Test**:

Choose a book you like.

Open it in the middle.

Try to find a page without pictures.

Start reading at the top. Go on till you reach a word you do not know.

Put your little finger on it.

Continue reading. Put a finger on each word you do not know.

If you run out of fingers before you get to the bottom of the page, the book is probably too difficult for independent reading.

2. Other ways of enjoying books

Ask someone to read the book to you, while you point to the words.

Try paired reading - a helper reads the harder words.

Listen to an audio book or audio-tape of the book, while following the words in the book.

Audio Books to Download.

Listen to downloaded audio books with screen reading software. Listening and following the text can also help improve reading skills.

Kindle

The latest version of Kindle from Amazon has a screen reading facility, and also allows you to change the font, font size and line spacing. Books out of copyright can be downloaded for free from Amazon.

Audio Books for iPod download

Thousands of books to buy to [download](#) to your iPod.

Audio Books from Amazon.

<http://www.audible.co.uk/>

Electric Books.

A library of electronic books where you only pay for the pages you need.

<http://www.elecbook.com/>

Audio Books to download

Listen to free books, buy and download 4000 audio books. Web: <http://www.audiobookradio.net>

Free e-books for downloading

Web: <http://www.manybooks.net> Scroll down to 'About this Site' and then click on Popular Formats, to see the range available. They must be books that are out of 50 year copyright, and in addition books donated by authors, as a taster for their other publications.

Other free e-book sites include:

<http://www.free-ebooks.net> <http://www.ebookdirectory.com> http://www.gutenberg.org/wiki/Main_Page <http://www.getfreebooks.com>

For information on interactive/talking books with a good list of resources, see [BDAtech](#)

Audio books on loan.

Listening Books

The charity also offers over 1,000 audiobook titles that support the National Curriculum, in a variety of formats: downloads, streaming and MP3 CD, collectively constituting their Sound Learning programme.

General Enquiries: Tel. 020 7407 9417 Email: info@listening-books.org.uk

Library Enquiries: Tel. 020 7234 0522 Email: library@listening-books.org.uk

Web: <http://www.soundlearning.org.uk/>

Calibre

Tel: 01296 432 339 Fax: 01296 392 599 Web: <http://www.calibre.org.uk>

Talking book software

Links to organisations offering Talking Books can be found on <http://bdatech.org/learning/i-c-t-for-literacy/#ebooks>

The Seeingear: free online library. Scan books into Word for use with Text to Speech software. Email: librarian@seeingear.org Web: <http://www.seeingear.org>

3. Revision Guides

GCSEpod GCSE Revision Guides to download to an MP3 Player or Ipod. <http://www.gcsepod.co.uk>

With GCSEpod, learning does not involve reading or writing. This is something you can do 'on the hoof' so young people often find it much less restrictive than traditional learning. The student can listen to the podcasts plugged into their ipod/iphone whilst viewing the programme visually via screen. This makes learning multi-sensory and simply that bit more fun.

On-line revision guides you can listen to with text-reading software. Free BBC BiteSize. Written guides, audio files, revision games and message boards. <http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/gcsebitesize>

Free Literature study guides. 7 novels. Each study guide contains extensive information about the novel including chapter summaries, thematic and character discussions, a message board, and more. <http://www.homework-online.com/litguides.asp>

Book revision guides: CGP books. On-line interactive pages give a taster of the books. <http://www.cgpbooks.co.uk>

Books and podcasts: Letts and Lonsdale. Revise science topics on the move with podcasts. <http://www.lettsed.co.uk>

4. Dyslexia Friendly Books

Dyslexic children need access to good literature and books with low reading age/high interest levels. The following publishers supply a range of dyslexia friendly books. Some are suitable for teenagers and adults.

Ann Arbor Publishers

Dilo Reading Books and High Noon Reading Books Tel: 01668 214 460 Fax: 01668 214 484 Web: <http://www.annarbor.co.uk>

Barrington Stoke

Tel: 0131 225 4113 Fax: 0131 225 4140 Email:
barrington@barringtonstoke.co.uk Web:
<http://www.barringtonstoke.co.uk>

Boffin Boy

A popular manga comic style series designed specifically for reluctant and struggling readers. Interest Age 8 - 14 years | Reading Age 6 - 7 years.

Tel:01962 862307 Fax: 05601 148881 Email:
ransom@ransom.co.uk <http://www.ransom.co.uk/BoffinBoy.html>

Let Me Learn

Resources and educational games for struggling learners.

Tel / Fax: 02380 660271 Email:
sue@letmelearn.co.uk http://www.letmelearn.co.uk/reluctant-readers-c-22_127.html

Helen Arkell Dyslexia Centre: Fall into Reading

(Recommendations of Books for Dyslexic Children 7-11 years). Tel:
01252 792 400 Fax: 01252 795 669 Email:
enquiries@arkellcentre.org.uk Web: <http://www.arkellcentre.org.uk>

LDA Learning

Tel: 0845 120 4776 Fax: 0800 783 8648 Email:
orders@ldalearning.com Web: <http://www.ldalearning.com>

Cambridge House

Tel: 01732 369 822 Email: info@CambridgeHouse-Dyslexia.com Web:
http://www.cambridgehouse-dyslexia.co.uk/html/reading_books.html

Lists of books from various publishers.

Guide to Choosing Dyslexia Friendly Books for Kids From Waterstones and Dyslexia Action Web:
http://www.waterstones.com/wat/images/special/mag/waterstones_dyslexia_action_guide.pdf

Books for Reluctant Readers

Web: <http://www.wordpool.co.uk/rr/rrcontents.htm>

Quick Reads for Adults

Quick Reads was launched on World Book Day 2006, with the aim of reaching out to adults in the UK with reading difficulties and those who never pick up a book. They are written specially by bestselling authors and popular personalities for both reluctant readers and for those wanting a short, fast-paced read. They are priced at £1.99 each. Quick Reads is a partnership between the publishing and bookselling industries, the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills, the BBC, Unionlearn, Arts Council and others.

<http://www.quickreads.org.uk>

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