

# READING

AT SCHOOL

If your child is meeting the Reading Standard by the end of Year 7...

...they will be working towards reading at curriculum level 4.

Your child will be able to find, think about, and bring together information and ideas within and across a range of books and articles. As they do this they will be able to think of their own questions and be able to answer questions they are asked across all curriculum areas.

To meet the standard your child will be learning to:

- read a wide range of stories including both fiction and non-fiction, and with a number of layers of meaning including complicated plots, difficult themes and ideas
- recognise most words automatically and work out more difficult words using a range of strategies. For example, letter-sound knowledge, inferring what they don't know from what they already know about parts of words and letter patterns
- choose the best strategy – from a whole range they know – to help them understand what they're reading
- recognise and use features of grammar to support understanding of more difficult words
- use their judgement to work out their personal response to what they are reading and think about the strengths and weaknesses of what they are reading, using a wide range of information.

Books at this level look like this:

As your child reads this story they might:

- think about what they have learned about this topic before, at school, from reading and from watching television and movies
- understand that the pictures give a snapshot of some of the content
- recognise that headings organise the information, and know to scan the headings and first sentences in paragraphs for a sense of the meaning
- predict what might happen to Nancy when the Gestapo become suspicious of her
- understand more about the history of the Second World War
- write and talk about the situation in the story from different points of view.

"The Gestapo's Most Wanted" by Feana Tu'akoi  
– School Journal, Part 4  
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Work together...

Help support your child's learning by building a good relationship with your child's teacher, finding out how your child is doing and working together to support their learning.



MINISTRY OF EDUCATION  
Te Tāhuhu o te Mātauranga

READING

# AT HOME

## SUPPORTING YOUR CHILD'S READING

### Make reading fun

- Play card and board games and do complicated puzzles.
- Help your child to follow a recipe and cook for the family.
- Encourage your child to read and follow instructions for playing a game, making or using a piece of equipment, completing a competition form or for completing tasks for pocket money.
- Remember their reading doesn't have to be a book – it could be a magazine, comic, newspaper, or something from the Internet.

*Talk a lot to your child while you are doing things together. Use the language that works best for you and your child.*

*Encourage your child to read every day. Make reading fun and praise your child's efforts, all the time.*

### Talk about it

- Ask your child to talk about parts of a story they liked and why.
- Talk about the key facts, characters, plot, setting, theme and author's purpose.
- Have them retell the main ideas or describe characters, events or facts they were interested in.
- Ask them to show you where the story supports their thinking.
- Be a role model. Show you read for a variety of reasons; e.g., to compare products advertised in brochures, to be informed on current issues, to find a phone number or a bus timetable, to relax etc.
- Try reading the same book as your child so you can talk about it together.
- Talk about the TV show you are watching. What were the main ideas? Talk about the order events happen in – practising this skill is important as children can find this difficult to learn. What did they like/dislike and why?

*Help your child to link stories to their own life. Remind them about what they have done when a similar thing happens in the story.*

### Read to your child

- Just because your child can read doesn't mean that they don't enjoy listening to someone else reading. It could be a non-fiction book on a topic they like, a magazine, a newspaper, a short story or a longer book read in instalments. It could also be a more difficult book/article that your child needs your help to read and understand.
- You could also listen to audio stories together – you can borrow these from the library or download from the Internet.
- Encourage your child to read the lyrics to their favourite songs, waiata or haka. Talk about why the composer wrote the song. What were they trying to say? Search the Internet for more information.

*Keep the magic of just listening to a good story alive by reading either made up, retold or read-aloud stories – with lots of excitement through the use of your voice!*

### Keep them interested

- Find books or magazines about your child's interests. Reading about their favourite sport, player, team or kapa haka group or an issue they are interested in will help them to be an expert on a particular subject.
- Find books that relate to TV shows or movies, or the area they come from. Knowing some of the ideas, characters or ancestors/tīpuna before you start reading can make it easier to understand a book. Talk about how the book differs from the TV show or movie or builds on what they already know.
- Join the library and visit regularly to help your child choose books that interest them – you may want to encourage your child to read different types of books including non-fiction stories.
- If you don't have a computer or access to the Internet.

*Be positive whenever your child is reading, no matter what they are reading. Respect your child's opinion as it shows they are thinking about what they read.*

### Support your child...

As parents, family and whānau you play a big part in your child's learning every day, and you can support and build on what they learn at school too.

[www.minedu.govt.nz/Parents](http://www.minedu.govt.nz/Parents)