▶ Video 02

WHAT IS EXTENSIVE READING?

Keywords

level • motivation • new language •
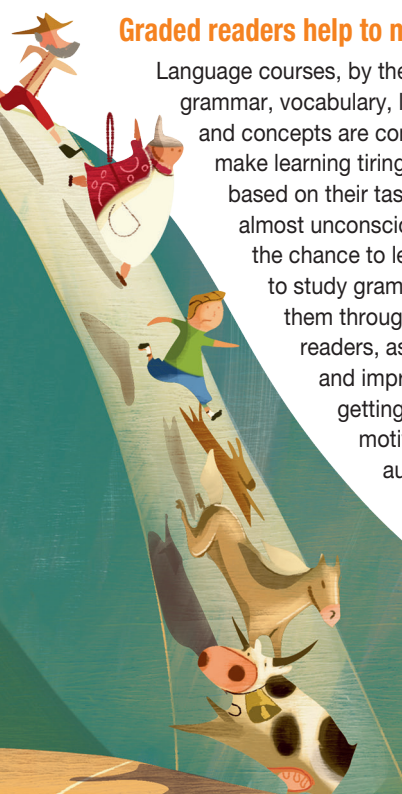comfort zone • individual pace

The secret to motivation is choosing the right level

Teachers often complain about the fact that their students don't read.
Graded readers encourage reading because they let students work at the level which is most appropriate for them, each one at their **own learning pace**. One thing that graded readers consider an absolute priority is that the students are **motivated**; that they 'feel' they can attempt reading a story independently and with ease.
If the **level** is too high or inappropriate, students will feel discouraged and either abandon the book or not like it which definitely won't help.

Let's ask ourselves a question: no great musician ever began to play starting from Beethoven's symphonies, so why ever should a student, just beginning to learn a foreign language, read a complete novel?

Graded readers help to memorize, understand and learn to choose

Language courses, by their very nature, follow a well-defined teaching path: grammar, vocabulary, language and functions. This means that rules and concepts are continually being taught, and it's natural that this can make learning tiring. Simple texts and exciting stories chosen by students based on their tastes and preferences means discovering the fun and almost unconscious aspects of learning through reading. It gives them the chance to learn **new words** effortlessly and a natural opportunity to study grammar and other features of the language and memorise them through reading. This is a great added value of the graded readers, as it goes beyond the sheer hard work done a school and improves the entire teaching commitment, as well as getting the students used to making choices in a fun and motivating way. Graded readers therefore represent an autonomous **comfort zone** that can be difficult to reach in the classroom. The free choice of book makes students want to keep on reading, again and again with their motivation creating a virtuous circle of learning combined with the pure pleasure of reading.

Discovering the text

1 **Before you read. Match the words (1-4) to their definition (A-D).**

1 ☐	sword	**A**	Short mythological person with a long beard.
2 ☐	screen	**B**	Similar to a long knife, used for fighting.
3 ☐	key	**C**	Flat part of a television or computer where you see images.
4 ☐	dwarf	**D**	Small button used to control a computer.

I watched Jack Longshanks as he took the sword quickly and lifted it high above his head. Silently he turned round. He wanted to surprise the dwarf hiding behind a tree. With a single movement he jumped towards the creature and cut its head off. Then he ran as fast as he could.
"Yes!! Excellent, Jack Longshanks," I said. Another ten points flashed onto my screen. I was getting stronger and more powerful every time I played. I moved Jack north towards the forest and past the dwarf who lay headless on the grass. The quest to find the key was more difficult than I imagined but that was why the game was so good.
"Adam!" It was my sister Lucy so I turned the music on my stereo up and pretended that I couldn't hear her. My bedroom door burst open and Lucy walked in.
"Didn't you hear me? Turn that music down. I was calling you. Dinner's ready."
"Yeah, well, I'll come down when I've finished this game." "Right! Well, when you've finished playing with those dwarves the rest of the family is ready to eat."
She went out of the room angrily. "And close the door behind you!" I shouted.
"Hey, what's going on?" I couldn't believe it!! I took my eyes off the screen for ten seconds and Jack wasn't there. He was now moving off in a completely different direction towards the castle. I pressed the right keys on my keyboard and made him run north again.

Time Games by Victoria Heward (Reading&Training B1.1)

2 **Comprehension check. Look at these sentences.**
Say whether they are true (T) or false (F).

		T	F
1	Jack Longshanks is a friend of Adam.	☐	☐
2	Jack Longshanks is the character of a videogame.	☐	☐
3	Adam loves videogames.	☐	☐
4	Adam is very fond of his sisters.	☐	☐

3 **What do you think? Write a brief answer for these questions.**

1 Do you like the character in this text? ☐ Yes, because … ☐ No, because …

2 Is Adam good at videogames? ☐ Yes, because … ☐ No, because …

3 Do you think Adam's sister seems nice? ☐ Yes, because … ☐ No, because …