

## Keywords

self-study • assessment • collaborative activities •  
reading diary • silent reading • class reading •  
reading for pleasure • summaries

## Reading in Class

It could be a good idea to set up a regular “**class reading time**”, in which the students read their chosen book **in silence**. It is important that they have chosen a book they like and that it is at an appropriate level for them. This can become a valuable occasion for you to observe the class, to identify their individual reading methods, power of concentration and the pleasure they get in following the story as it unfolds.

To understand how the reading experience and understanding of the text is progressing (as well as how much the students are enjoying the book) you could ask them each to prepare a brief **summary** of the different parts of the book they've read. Alternatively, to stimulate interest in the story and the characters, the students could do **collaborative tasks** in pairs or groups which lead on to discussion and an exchange of ideas on the situations, characters and the plot.

## Reading at home

Even reading at home can be a fun, simple way of checking how students approach a book **independently**, outside of school. It also ensures that the pleasure of reading is always the main focus and doesn't get inundated by tests and complicated exercises.

How to keep a check on individual reading progress and understand how the students are getting on with their reader? You could ask the students to keep a reading diary, a simple table in which they describe their general reading habits (how long they read for and where) and their reactions to the story: if the characters are interesting/ boring/ curious etc. is the plot gripping/ scary/ adventurous/ unrealistic and so on. Reading diaries also help students to understand if they like the reader, how much it involves them, what emotions it provokes and whether these change during the course of the story or not. You can adapt the **reading diary** depending on the type of book the students have chosen. If they are reading a thriller, for example, the emphasis will be on the twists in the plot, if it's a travel book the places themselves will be the most important part. Students consider this type of **assessment** a fun task rather than a real “test” even though it constitutes an important educational aspect of reading, while being accompanied by the **pleasure of reading**.

## Reading Diary

### 1 Read the text and complete the reading diary.

Lord Canterville lived in a fine old English house called Canterville Chase. When Mr Hiram B. Otis saw it, he immediately decided to buy it. He was a rich and very important American with a large family and he wanted to live in England. Everyone told him that he was very foolish. 'There is a ghost,' they said. 'Canterville Chase is haunted!'

Lord Canterville himself told Mr Otis why he preferred not to live in the house. 'My Lord,' said Mr Otis, 'I'll take the house with the furniture and the Ghost. I come from a modern country where we have everything that money can buy. If ghosts really existed in Europe, I'm sure that an American would take one back home. He would put it in a museum or a show for everyone to see.'

Lord Canterville smiled. 'The Ghost really exists. People have seen it many times in the last three hundred years, since 1584 in fact. It always appears before the death of any member of my family.'

A few weeks later Lord Canterville sold Canterville Chase to the Americans. There were six people in the Otis family. His wife, Mrs Lucretia Otis, was a beautiful lady. She was full of energy and very healthy. They had called their oldest son Washington in a moment of patriotism. He was tall, blond and good-looking. His sister, Virginia, was fifteen years old with large blue eyes; she was lovely. The youngest children were twins. They were often naughty but everybody liked them.

The Canterville Ghost by Oscar Wilde (Reading&Training Life Skills B1.2)



### My reading habits

When I like reading: ☐ afternoon ☐ evening ☐ weekend ☐ holiday  
☐ others .....

My favourite place to read: ☐ in my bedroom ☐ on the beach ☐ in the park  
☐ at the bus stop ☐ others .....

How much time I spend reading every day: ... minutes ... hours

How I like to read: ☐ in silence ☐ out loud ☐ with the radio on ☐ with the tv on  
☐ others .....

### The book I'm reading: The Canterville Ghost

	I really like it	I quite like it	It's alright	It's boring	Reason
The setting	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	.....
The story	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	.....
The Otis family	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	.....
Mr Canterville	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	.....