



I DON'T HAVE TIME TO READ!

Keywords

time • organization •
value of reading • story

Making the best use of reading time

I don't have **time**! This is one of the most common excuses students (and adults) use to explain why they don't read. Actually the real problem is often about how time could be usefully employed to make reading enjoyable.

Graded readers are structured in such a way that they help **organize** reading time. The length of the chapters depends on the level and ensures a relaxed, satisfying read that doesn't take too long. In addition, every **story** – and every literary genre to which it belongs – is made up of lots of short blocks of text. In this way, reading is fun and not just a collection of challenging pages that risk being too difficult and boring to read. The aim is to stimulate students to read, often and everywhere.

It doesn't matter how long they spend, as, even if they only read one chapter, they are acquiring skills and vocabulary. And if it's a good story they'll gradually start to read for longer and longer periods, in reading sessions that are fun and full of growing curiosity rather than being something they're forced to do. And this in itself is a sure way to become a strong reader.

The **value of the graded reader** and its contents leads students to appreciate their reading time, and progress almost unconsciously towards structured learning thanks to their increasing ability to manage reading sessions.

An interview about reading

1 Read the beginning of the adventures of Robin Hood and then answer the interview questions.

At the time of this story King Richard, known as the Lionheart because of his bravery, was away on a crusade in the Holy Land. During this time his brother, the greedy Prince John, ruled England in his place and no one liked him. Prince John made the people pay very high taxes and took away their lands and belongings. Poor peasants often died of hunger. The sheriff of Nottingham was one of Prince John's worst sheriffs. These were very difficult times. Robin Hood's real name was Robert, son of the Earl of Huntingdon, a tall, handsome young man. He was kind and friendly with everyone. One day the cruel sheriff of Nottingham killed Robin's father in order to take away his many lands in Locksley. Young Robin lost his father, his home, his belongings and all his lands. He was very upset because he loved his father very much. 'What can I do?' he thought. 'I'm alone and I don't have my family or my home any more.' Robin decided to escape to Sherwood Forest with his faithful servants. They chose to live as free men in the forest, although they lived outside the law. They did not want to be slaves of King John and the evil sheriff of Nottingham. However, King John considered them dangerous outlaws. Deep inside the forest Robin sat under a huge old oak tree and talked to his faithful servants. 'Sherwood Forest is our new home. We'll hunt the animals of the forest and go fishing in the streams. We'll carry bows and arrows. When I blow my horn three times, you must all hurry to my side.' 'But remember, my friends, we are free but we are outlaws,' said Robin seriously. 'We are considered dangerous enemies of England – the rich and the greedy hate us and are against us. Only the poor honest people are with us.'

Robin Hood retold by Gina D. B. Clemen
(Green Apple A2/B1)

2 How long did it take you to read the text?

3 How much did you enjoy it?

- a ☐ a lot
b ☐ not much
c ☐ not at all

4 What did you like best about the text? Choose the best answer for you. You can choose more than one.

- ☐ the places
☐ the characters
☐ one character in particular
☐ the historical period
☐ the adventure genre
☐ other (say what).....

6 At the end of the interview what sort of reader do you think you are?

- a ☐ a reader of short chapters
b ☐ a reader of long chapters
c ☐ a reader of adventure stories
d ☐ reader of other genres (specify which)