

Parental Support

Why is **READING** so important?



Student "A"

reads **60 minutes**

2340 minutes

in a school year

1, 170, 000 words



90th Percentile

31 full school days reading

by the end of Year 10

Student "B"

reads **15 minutes**

585 minutes

in a school year

183, 300 words



50th Percentile

8 full school days reading

by the end of Year 10

Student "C"

reads **5 minutes**

195 minutes

in a school year

8670 words



10th Percentile

3 full school days reading

by the end of Year 10

Which student has a better vocabulary? Which student is more successful?

Which student would you prefer to be?

- Encourage your child to switch off devices half an hour before they go to bed and read instead. It's a habit, and they only need 20-30 minutes a night regularly. Start with shorter times if needed. Taking away the blue light will also ensure that your child gets better quality sleep, allowing the brain to process the day's learning and ensure what they have learned is remembered.
- Use rewards to help motivate your child to read if they are reluctant, and praise and encourage them as they read
- Talk to your child about your reading habits, or books you enjoyed at their age
- Take advantage of all the amazing free reading resources online.
- Read to your child – you'd be surprised how much even grumpy pre-teenagers actually like being read to – even if you think they are too old for it
- Let them listen to audio books as an alternative
- Don't discourage them from reading non-fiction, graphic novels, comics or magazines – everything helps. Similarly, don't comment on their choice of book even if you think it is too easy – get them reading first, and they are more likely to move onto more challenging reads later.
- Ask them about their reading. Get them to read their favourite bit to you. Ask them questions about what they think will happen next. Borrow their books and read them and then discuss them.
- Help them with reading home learning by checking they understand the words, directing them to a dictionary to check unfamiliar words, getting them to read it to you or summarise it for you.
- Build in some quiet reading time into the day – maybe half an hour after lunch – then chat about what they have read
- A useful blog if your child struggles to read: <https://www.theschoolrun.com/overcome-reading-barriers>