**JFS Top Ten Ideas to Encourage Reading**

**As well as some suggestions for the upcoming half term**

I thought it might be helpful for me to share some links to help develop/further an interest in reading. Some of the information below might also be relevant to KS2 so if you have younger children it may be of further use.

1. Audible have put a list of books on their website that are free for students to listen to: [Audible Stories: Free Audiobooks for Kids | Audible.com](https://stories.audible.com/discovery?ref=adbl_ent_anon_ds_ds_vn)
2. World Book Day has just started a ‘Book Ideas Hub’ with links and resources to encourage children to read for pleasure: <https://www.worldbookday.com/2020/03/book-ideas-hub-brilliant-stay-at-home-ideas-free-resources/>
3. Authorfy has interactive resources, videos and activities to support children’s reading and writing: [https://authorfy.com/about/#](https://authorfy.com/about/)

For example, these 10 minute videos with challenges by acclaimed children’s authors are brilliant: <https://authorfy.com/10minutechallenges/>

1. The Book Trust has a new ‘Home Time’ page with a variety of ideas that are especially helpful if you have younger children as well as some recommended books: [Search | BookTrust](https://www.booktrust.org.uk/search/#!?q=teenage&type=All&sortOption=Relevance&pageNo=1)

In addition, their book-themed recipes look like a lot of fun to make and there are linked activities: <https://www.booktrust.org.uk/books-and-reading/have-some-fun/recipes/#!?q=&sortOption=MostRecent&pageNo=1>

1. This site encourages young people to keep a ‘Lockdown Diary’ to help with mental health and to bring some fun into these stressful times. You can select the appropriate age (9-12; and teen- YA) and then you will find videos by authors and educators talking to young people in a compassionate way and offering suggestions for their diaries: <https://www.ourcoronadiary.com/how-to-join-in>
2. The Book of Hopes is a free eBook with short stories, poems and drawings and is the perfect tonic during a time of crisis; great for KS2/ 3: <https://literacytrust.org.uk/family-zone/9-12/book-hopes/>. You can buy it in hardcover format too.
3. If you have a child in KS3, there are several authors reading aloud their books on daily basis (with recordings on YouTube). Don’t miss Cressida Cowell (Children’s Laureate) reading aloud her books, including How to Train Your Dragon and The Wizard of Once: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCe01xn13M8q2dsIw0mvW9lg>

Also wonderful are the Piers Torday videos: he is reading aloud The Dark Wild, which is the story about a virus which has hit the animal world, and a vaccine that has just been developed…<https://www.youtube.com/c/piersftorday/featured>.

1. One unexpected advantage of the current situation is that literary festivals (which used to be expensive and involved travel) are now free and available to all. For example, the Hay Festival had a wonderful series of talks (available for free via ‘Hay Player’) for young people of all ages including KS5: <http://www.hayfestival.com/education>.

The site has a useful books to inspire section: [Hay Festival #BooksToInspire](https://www.hayfestival.com/wales/books-to-inspire.aspx)

1. Don’t forget to encourage your children in KS3 to quiz on Accelerated Reader: <https://ukhosted79.renlearn.co.uk/2231271>
2. Explore our JFS Recommended Reads booklist which can be found on our website: [Literacy – JFS](https://jfs.brent.sch.uk/literacy/)

To ensure that we have the most up to date books available that will interest and engage our children, we have set up an Amazon wishlist. If you would like to contribute towards this, we would be most grateful: <https://www.amazon.co.uk/hz/wishlist/genericItemsPage/24I68Y76NGFB8?ref_=lol_ov_le>

Warmest regards,

**Anna Joseph**

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