



A CASE STUDY

The **Connectors** series of non-fiction reading books are shared among a small group of pupils for independent group reading and peer reading. Independently of the teacher or TA they analyse the text; making connections, sharing opinions and evaluating together.

The author states that the books can be chosen randomly, which is useful. In my own case, 'An Idea Seed' links very well to our theme of Inventions, and 'Extreme Environments' with our recent topic on hot and cold climates. Other exciting titles include 'Treasures', 'Wind', 'Civilizations' and 'Wind' (to name only some).

The reading books are vibrant with large appealing and informative photographs. The text holds just the right air of mystery and wonder at the world, combined with scientific and technological explanation.

The principles and methods of reciprocal reading are very clearly and simply stated in Stage 1 of the teacher resource book. It explains that reading comprehension is improved through the reciprocal reading strategies of predicting, clarifying, questioning and summarising.

Through independent group discussions, teamwork and speaking and listening skills are encouraged. One child is given a leadership role within the group, which encourages responsibility and organisational skills.

Stage 2 of the resource book gives suggestions on how to get started, including grouping, resources and goals. I particularly like the 'bright ideas' sections, such as, 'establish a prediction board and choose children to make predictions each day.' These ideas are short, to the point and very manageable. I shall certainly try some out. I also like the 'questions' section with prompt cards for children to cut out and use during group discussions.

There is also a section on assessment and evaluation, feedback about next steps and improving learning, as well as an observation template.

I shall be leading a staff meeting on reciprocal reading early next term and I shall use these materials to explain it. I enjoyed reading about the author Jill Eggleton and her prolific writing. This work must surely be one of her best as I am most impressed. The writing is some of the clearest I have read. The **Connectors** series is spot on.

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