WE LOVE READING

Collins

BIG CAT

10 Reasons to Read

Reading helps you to learn new things.

Reading can take you on adventures without leaving your house.

Reading can take to outer space, back in time, or even to the future.

Reading fuels your imagination.

Reading teaches you fun, and fascinating facts.

Reading can help you relax

Reading helps you learn new words.

Reading gives you good ideas for writing.

Reading teaches you about our world, the places you might one day visit.

Reading boosts your confidence.

The most important reason to read:

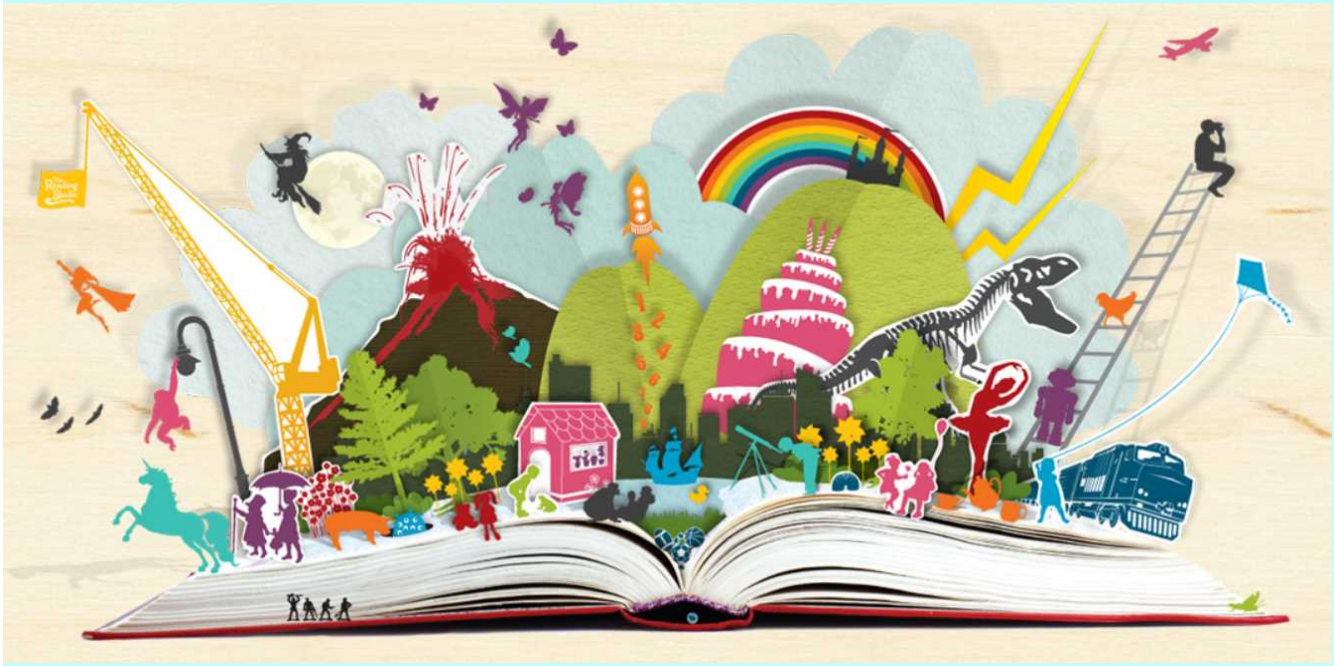
This year, we introduced some big changes to the way we help you learn to read at school.

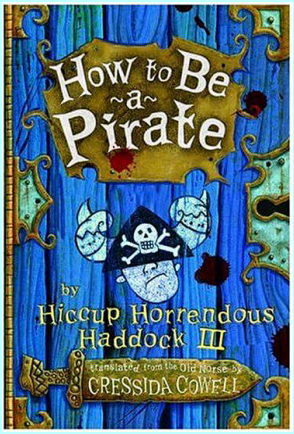
And now, you all read two different types of books:

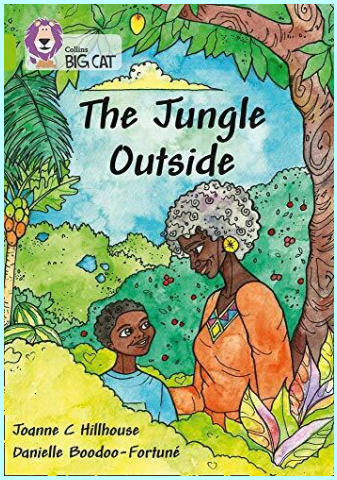
1. your Big Cat banded book

2. your Reading for Pleasure book.

Collins BIG CAT







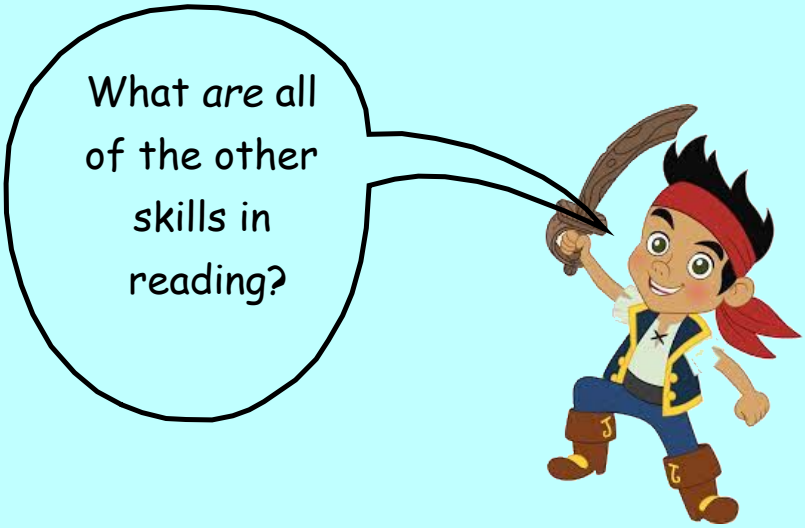
The books that you read are different, and the reading that you do is different!

This may sound strange, but I am going to explain how and why....

The Big Cat banded books are designed for children to be able to read with accuracy.

This means that you should be on a band where you can read almost all of the words easily and without having to sound them out.

Being able to read all of the words means that you can concentrate on all of the other skills in reading.



Reading skills:

Prosody: this means being able to read with expression in your voice, and at different volumes and pace. To bring characters and settings to life, and set the mood. **For example** you might whisper and read slowly if you are setting a spooky mood.

Inference: this means being able to work things out about characters and settings from clues written by the author. For example:

Blue Cottage was small and crooked there was a rickety door and wind whistled through gaps in the windows.

From this description, we can work out that the cottage, is **old** - because old buildings are often crooked / and cottages are old fashioned types homes -the word rickety tells us that the door doesn't fit the frame very well and maybe needs to be fixed. New and modern buildings do not have gaps around the windows - and because the wind is whistling through, it is probably quite **cold** inside the cottage.

Explaining: we should be able to explain certain parts of what we have read and tell others what we think about them. We should be able to explain why characters act in certain ways on stories, or why words that have been used by the author are good words.

Sequencing: this means we should be able to explain what happened at the beginning, middle and end of a story. Or what a character did first and then next etc.

Retrieval: this means we should be able to find, or remember certain bits of what we are reading. For example, we might need to say what colour hat a character was wearing, if reading a fiction book. Or find a piece of information about what owls eat, if reading a non-fiction book.

Summarising: this means that we should be able to tell somebody about what we have read using less words than we have read, and just a few of the most important words

Vocabulary: not only should we be able to read the words of our banded book, but we should be able to say what they mean, or even say other words that mean the same.

Prediction: this means we should be able use what we have already read, or what we already know about a story or character to predict what might happen next.

Speed: did you know that for each year group there is a reading speed. This means that we should be working towards be able to read a certain number of words in a minute (60 seconds). This is a skill we could practice at home with a timer, or stop watch).

I'll show you the list of speeds in a moment.

When you are reading your banded book, it is these skills that you should be practicing.

It is **REALLY** great if you can read with an adult, or older brother / sister / relative when you read your banded book, so that they can help you with these skills and encourage you to do your best.

Now for some important info!

Your banded book is the book that you are expected to read for home work.

Homework is not an option.

It is part of your 'job' as a learner to complete your homework.

The points you receive are a 'reward' for completing your homework - and we give you badges so that you can wear them with pride, knowing that you are doing your VERY best to make progress with your reading and develop your skills to be the best you can be!

The banded books are written by experts, who understand how children learn to read and the skills that you need to develop as you get better and better.

This means that the bands are not to be RUSHED through.

There is an expected band level per year group, and we want all children to the band that they should be on and then read as many of the books as they can.

This is because it is part of the National Curriculum that children read 'widely'.

The National Curriculum is the document written by the government that sets out what children should read.

Reading widely means reading a whole variety of stories, poems and non-fiction books.

The banded books include all sorts of stories - all story types (genres), lots of non-fiction books about many different topics, and some poetry.

This means that you are meeting the need to read widely at the same time as developing your reading skills.

As you read your way through the band, you will come across lots of different vocabulary, new words, sentence structures, use of descriptive language and use of technical vocabulary. As well as lots of characters, settings, plots and facts about many different subjects.

Each band builds on the skills of the previous one.

Developing the skills you need whilst reading your banded book, means that you can really get stuck into the books that you LOVE.

And, READ for PLEASURE.

It is so important to remember that your reading homework is just a small portion of the reading that you should / can do at home.

If you have a book that you are really enjoying and cannot wait to read, then

.

You only need to read your banded book for 10 minutes and then you can spend as long as you like reading the book that you have chosen to read for pleasure, or any book of your own.

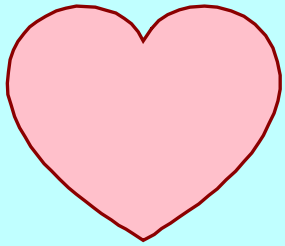
The banded reading is NOT the only reading we want you to do.

The MORE you read the better.

So, remember reading is the key to all things great!

Some of you have been saying that you do not want to do your reading homework, but it is absolutely VITAL that you do.

Just 10 minutes a day, and then you can read the book of your choice until your heart is content.



MR. TOP TIPS

TIPS for re-reading your banded book. Here are some examples of what you might do over the 5 days of the week:

Day 1: read the book and talk about the story / facts that you have read. Ask the person you are reading to listen to you and then ask you questions.

Day 2: practice reading with expression - if you are reading fiction, use voices for the characters and change your voice to add excitement and tension where there is action. If you are reading non-fiction - use voice to add emphasis to bits of information, or where there are exclamation marks or question marks.

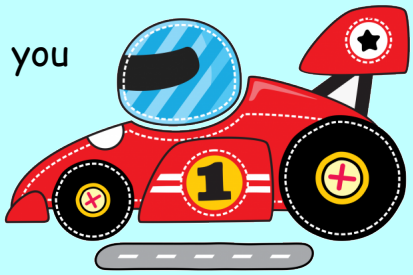
Day 3: explore words that you do not know, or if you do know all of the word then find interesting words and list synonyms for them (words that mean the same), or antonyms (words that have the opposite meaning)

Day 4: look at the punctuation and practice putting pauses in where you see full stops and commas. The exclamation mark to give 'dramatic' effect and the question mark to raise your voice and pose a question. Look at the pictures in the book and make links between them and what is written.

Day 5: re-read the book with expression and using the punctuation - this time, time yourself to see how long it takes you.

Finally.....here are the reading speeds that you should be working towards.

In 1 minute you should be able to read:



	Autumn term	Spring term	Summer term
Reception			12 words
Year 1	12 words	29 words	60 words
Year 2	60 words	72 words	90 words
Year 3	90 words	95 words	110 words
Year 4	110 words	120 words	133 words
Year 5	133 words	137 words	146 words
Year 6	146 words	148 words	150 words