



Reading Enhancements for KS2 (Including Local Library & Virtual Author Engagement)



To foster a deep love for reading in Key Stage 2, various reading enhancements can be implemented both in and outside the classroom. These strategies help develop comprehension, critical thinking, and enthusiasm for reading, integrating local resources and modern technology. Here's an expanded list of reading enhancements that include the use of **local libraries** and **virtual author interactions**.

1. Local Library Visits & Borrowing Challenges

Example: Class Library Visits & Library Cards

- **Activity:** Organize regular class trips to the **local library**, where pupils can explore new books, participate in reading activities, and learn how to use the library's resources effectively. Encourage all pupils to get their own library cards and set up a **Library Borrowing Challenge**, where students track how many books they borrow and read from the library.
- **Benefit:** This fosters independence in selecting reading material, gives students access to a wider variety of books, and introduces them to community resources.

Library Reading Programs:

- Many libraries offer **summer reading programs** or **book clubs**, which can encourage reading outside school hours. Sign pupils up for these to encourage them to continue reading during holidays.

2. Virtual Author Visits & Interviews

Example: Live Author Webinars & Q&A Sessions

- **Activity:** Arrange a **virtual author visit** where an author of a book the pupils are reading speaks to the class through a webinar. Pupils can prepare questions in advance and participate in a live Q&A session. Authors can discuss their creative process, inspirations, and give insights into their books.
- Platforms like **Authors Aloud UK**, **Authors Online**, or direct author websites often offer virtual events.
- **Benefit:** Engaging with authors directly brings the reading experience to life and helps pupils see the human side of writing, encouraging them to read more and even write their own stories.

Follow-Up Activities:

- After the session, pupils can write thank-you letters to the author or engage in creative projects inspired by the session, such as writing their own short stories based on the author's style or themes.



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3. Library Book Hunt Challenges

Example: Themed Book Hunts

- **Activity:** During a visit to the local library, create a **Book Hunt Challenge** where pupils must find books related to a specific theme (e.g., nature, historical events, friendship). They can work in pairs or small groups to locate and choose books from different genres (fiction, non-fiction, poetry) that fit the theme.
- **Benefit:** This promotes independent research, familiarity with how libraries are organized, and an exploration of different genres.

4. Digital Reading Platforms & eBooks from the library

Example: eBook Borrowing from Libraries

- **Activity:** Introduce pupils to the **digital resources** available through local libraries. Many libraries offer access to eBooks, audiobooks, and digital magazines via platforms like **OverDrive**, **BorrowBox**, or **Libby**. Pupils can download and read books from home or school using tablets, laptops, or smartphones.
- **Benefit:** This expands access to books beyond the physical library, especially for reluctant or struggling readers who might benefit from audiobooks or digital resources.

5. Author Studies Featuring Virtual Content

Example: Exploring Author Websites

- **Activity:** While doing an **Author Study**, have pupils visit the author's website (many children's authors have interactive websites with videos, blog posts, and activities). Some authors, like **David Walliams** or **Jacqueline Wilson**, offer **exclusive online content**, including videos about their writing process, sneak peeks at upcoming books, and interactive games related to their books.
- **Benefit:** This makes learning about authors more dynamic and engaging, helping pupils explore the writer's world beyond the books.

6. Virtual Book Tours & Literary Festivals

Example: Participating in Virtual Literary Festivals

- **Activity:** Many literary festivals now offer virtual events where pupils can join **online book tours**, **author interviews**, or **writing workshops**. Events like the **Hay Festival**, **Edinburgh International Book Festival**, and **Bath Children's Literature Festival** often host virtual sessions with children's authors and illustrators that schools can access.
- **Benefit:** These events expose pupils to a wider range of authors and writing styles, and often include interactive elements that engage young readers in fun and creative ways.



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7. Book Club Partnerships with Libraries

Example: Library-Hosted Book Clubs

- **Activity:** Partner with the local library to run a **school book club**, where pupils and the librarian choose a monthly book. The librarian can lead discussions during library visits or virtually. Alternatively, the library can provide a set of books to be read in class or as part of a reading group.
- **Benefit:** This allows pupils to explore new genres and authors, encourages thoughtful discussion, and promotes community engagement.

8. Interactive Storytelling Workshops

Example: Virtual Storytelling Sessions

- **Activity:** Engage pupils in virtual **storytelling workshops** hosted by professional storytellers or authors, either through local libraries or organizations like **The Story Museum**. These workshops may include interactive story creation sessions, where pupils contribute ideas to shape the story as it unfolds.
- **Benefit:** This interactive format encourages creativity, listening, and imagination, and it can make reading and storytelling more exciting for reluctant readers.

9. Community Reading Events & Online Book Challenges

Example: Community Reading Events

- **Activity:** Organize or participate in community-wide reading events like **World Book Day** or **National Libraries Week**, where pupils can share what they are reading, participate in virtual author events, and enter reading challenges. Many libraries offer **reading challenges** (like the Summer Reading Challenge), which can be tracked online and motivate pupils to read more books.
- **Benefit:** This builds a community around reading, engages pupils in a national or local literacy initiative, and can provide external motivation for regular reading.

10. Virtual Reading Platforms with Author Engagement

Example: Using Epic! or Book Trust

- **Activity:** Use **Epic! Book Trust**, or similar platforms that offer a large library of digital books and often include opportunities for virtual events with authors. Some platforms allow pupils to access audiobooks, videos, and quizzes to reinforce comprehension.
- **Benefit:** This gives pupils access to a vast library of reading material, especially helpful for pupils who may not have easy access to physical books at home. Virtual author events and reading challenges integrated into the platform make reading fun and interactive.



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Conclusion

Integrating local library resources and virtual author engagement into KS2 reading strategies provides a rich, multi-faceted reading experience. By involving community resources and taking advantage of technology, teachers can offer pupils more opportunities to engage with literature, develop a love for reading, and deepen their comprehension skills. These enhancements create lifelong readers by making reading accessible, interactive, and relevant.