

Introducing  
**the Reading Opens Doors**  
**Reading Goals resource**  
by *Elise Ellerman*

Available [here](#)



**Determine the reading habits of your class**

This could be done a number of ways:

- Anonymously, via a live poll (for example, Mentimeter or Poll Everywhere).
- Create a continuum (with a piece of masking tape, string, or whatever you have on hand) on the ground. Label one end 'never' and the other 'every day'. Demonstrate the different possibilities along the continuum. Ask students, "how often do you read?" Invite students to respond by either standing along the continuum, or placing a post it note with an emoji or symbol demonstrating their opinion of reading on the continuum.

**Consider the results.**

- Do the majority of people in the class enjoy reading?
- What are some possible reasons why students may not enjoy reading?
- What other activities are students engaging in instead of reading? Why?
- What do students enjoy doing in their spare time (important to learn students interests to add books to class library that reflect their interests)

**What are the benefits of reading?**



As a class, brainstorm the benefits of reading. Perhaps break the class into small groups to discuss this and report back.

If possible, include benefits as reported by the school's Administration team and other teachers (this would obviously have to be prepared earlier, you might use quotes with the person's photo, or a photo of them enjoying their favourite book).

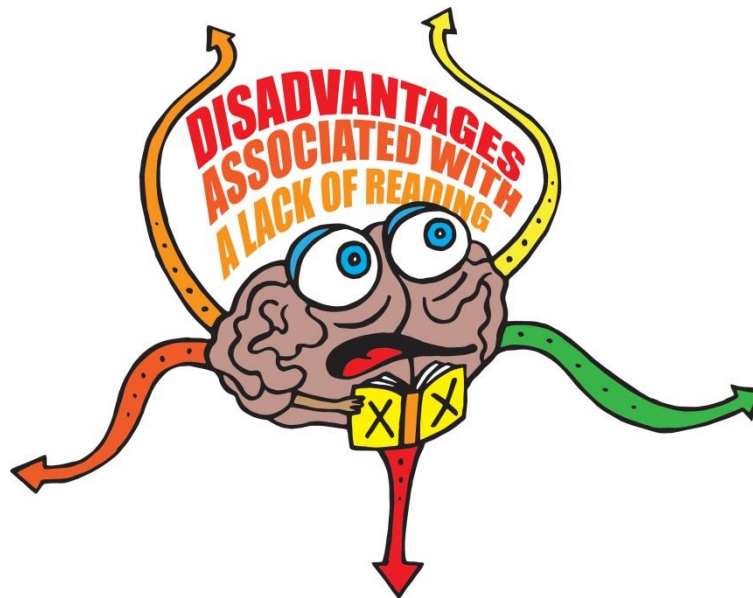
The following infographic from Scholastic and cartoon from Jarrett Lerner (which is available for download for educational and/or private settings here:

<https://jarrettlerner.com/art/> ) may be of use.



Be sure to discuss representation – it may be comforting to read about a character experiencing something you are and/or can relate to.

**What are the disadvantages associated with a lack of reading? Brainstorm these.**



**Favourite books.**



Compile a list of your student's favourite books, authors, series and genres.

Create four stations or group settings where you have one piece of paper at each (label each paper - 1. Book titles, 2. Authors, 3. Series and 4. Genres). Students sit in groups, each with one of the sheets of paper and have a designated time to add to the list on their sheet of paper. Once the time is up, the sheets of paper are rotated to the next group. Repeat process four times.

- Discuss the responses. Identify any gaps (are poetry books included? Does anyone have a suggestion for this? What about verse novels, comics, graphic novels, audiobooks, gaming books, magazines, information books, books to movies etc. See if these suggestions prompt further ideas.

### **Introduce the Reading Goals Resource**

- Explain to the class that this year you are excited about making memorable reading experiences and inviting everyone to participate in a super fun reading challenge where their mission, should they choose to accept it, is for everyone to find books they connect with and discover new and exciting ways to enjoy reading.
- Peer validation of reading choices will be important and powerful, you might be interested in setting up a way to display favourite books – maybe something like Bookflix where you display covers of trending books, top picks, new releases (if you Google this there is lots of inspiration).
- Introduce Reading Goals resource which is all about mixing it up when it comes to reading, for example, share a book over Zoom with a family member or friend, connect with another school if possible (and have book pen pals if this is something you could do). Is it possible to Zoom some elderly people in your community and have students read with them? Have students then look at the filled out Reading Goals resource available on the [Reading Opens Doors website](#) and invite them to come up with some possible ideas. They might choose to only fill in a couple of boxes and that's ok, this is designed to be a work in progress.

### **Provide opportunities to bring books to life**

Some ways to do this may include, but not limited to:

- Author visits
- Special guests reading a book
- Invite a staff member from your local independent bookshop to speak about trending books and/or upcoming books to look out for in the future.
- Subscribe to StoryBox Library to enjoy their book readings.
- Create and enjoy a themed cake, drink, food or art activity inspired by a book
- Dress up as a character.
- Create a mystery bag to introduce a book (pull clues from a bag – a map with a clue for the setting, the blurb, some information about the characters).
- Create book inspired cosy spaces in your classroom – include positive quotes about reading.
- Perhaps add some plants to your classroom with miniature literary inspired lands or additions
- Librarian, Jenny Pocknall, has made some wonderful 'Book in a Bottle' creations. See these below:



