

GUIDED READING

Guided reading is usually conducted in small groups of children with a similar reading ability, under teacher guidance. The groups are often around six children, although there may be fewer depending on the children in your class. The sessions are likely to be short, around 20 minutes, and focused on reading and comprehension skills. There should be one focus text and each child should have a copy of it. The text should be slightly more challenging than the children's independent reading level, where they can read and understand the vast majority of the text independently. The teacher facilitation of guided reading allows for the children to access more challenging materials in a supported environment – they should still be able to understand and access 90 per cent of the content though. Guided reading is much more than just reading in turns. Time should be given for reading independently; the teacher may wish to listen to individual children, but this should be followed up by checking the children's understanding and comprehension of the text through discussion and questioning.

How these sessions relate to the *Read & Respond* teacher's book

These sessions can be used as stand-alone guided reading or in conjunction with the corresponding *Read & Respond* book. The guided reading notes in the teacher's book are ideal to use with the whole class. While the ones provided in the sessions on the supporting online resource are much more detailed and therefore work better with a small group.

ABOUT THE SESSIONS

The number of sessions vary based on the length and complexity of the book. For ages 5–7, there are usually four sessions per book; for ages 7–9, there are usually six sessions; for ages 9–11, there are usually eight sessions. The sessions work through each book, so you read it over a number of weeks. It has been assumed that the sessions will be conducted in guided reading groups of around six children; if you plan to use them differently, then they can be adapted accordingly. Each session follows a similar structure:

Session aims: The purpose of the session and what children will be focused on in their reading.

Before the session: Identifies if there is anything the children need to do prior to the session.

Read: Focuses on the children reading the text either independently or as a group. It may be reading new chapters or re-reading parts that they have read previously. They should consider questions about the text while reading and then discuss these as a group to check their understanding.

Revisit and respond: A range of activities have been provided. As each session is intended to be around 20 minutes long, it is advised that one or two of these activity ideas are used to meet the needs of your children.

Assessment opportunities: A bank of questions has been provided which could be used at any point in the session as relevant. They are divided into headings to identify the purpose of the question. Also available are three templates that you can use to support your guided reading sessions:

Guided Reading Bookmark Template: A bookmark template that you can complete and give to the children as reference. It could include the questions you want them to consider when reading or you could use the assessment opportunities questions for the children to discuss.

Guided Reading Record Template: A template to record any notes from a guided reading session so you have a record that you can refer to.

Guided Reading Log: A log that can be completed as a class or by individual children as you read and explore the book.