



British Embassy
Rome

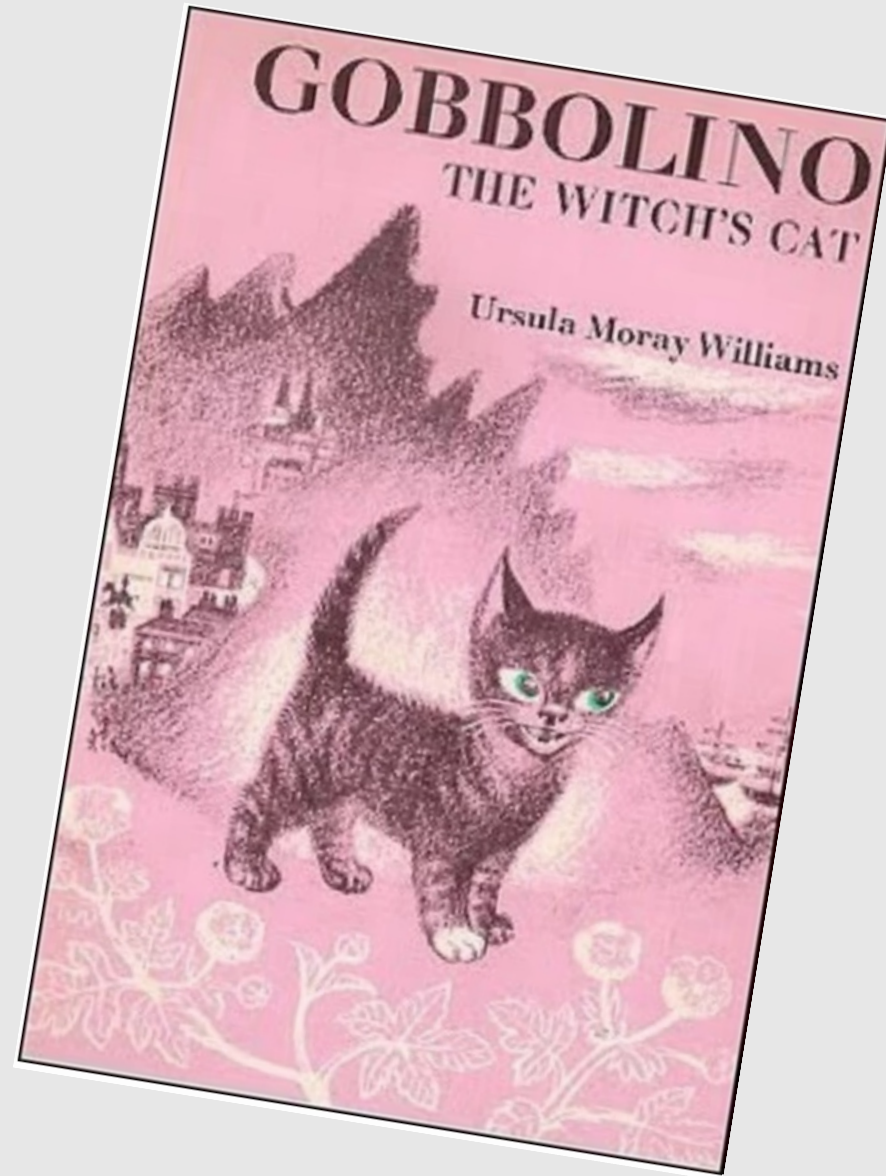
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Creating a Culture of Reading in Schools

Sarah M Howell

The British Ambassador's Residence
Villa Wolkonsky – Rome

20 February 2018



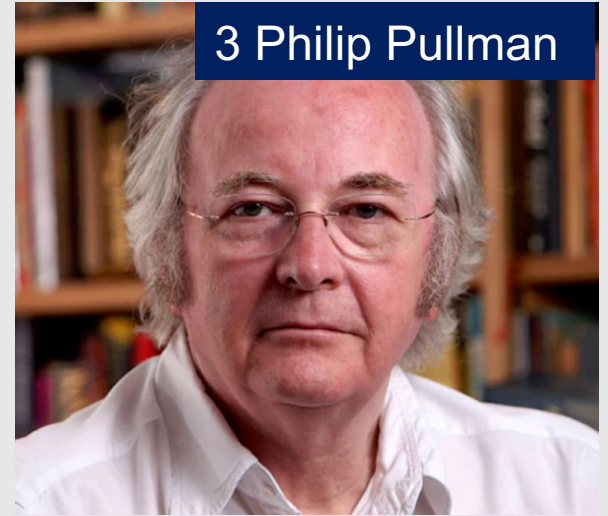
1 JK Rowling



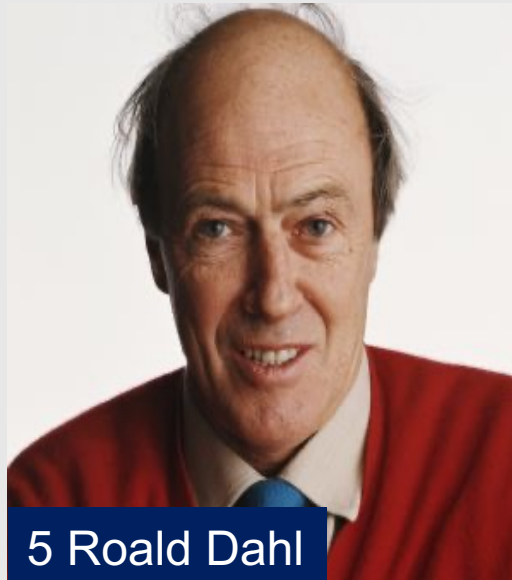
2 Zadie Smith



3 Philip Pullman



4 Benjamin Zephaniah



5 Roald Dahl



6 Stephenie Meyer

"After nourishment, shelter and companionship, stories are the thing we need most in the world."

Philip Pullman

"I do believe something very magical can happen when you read a good book."

JK Rowling

"When I was 8, I was reading "Gone with the Wind" and "Pride and Prejudice" and all that, not knowing it wasn't my reading level."

Stephenie Meyer

"When I look at a book, the first thing I see is the size of it, and I know that's what it's like for a lot of young people who find reading tough."

Benjamin Zephaniah

"The library was the place I went to find out what there was to know. It was absolutely essential."

Zadie Smith

"Books shouldn't be daunting, they should be funny, exciting and wonderful; and learning to be a reader gives a terrific advantage."

Roald Dahl

What kind of reader are you?

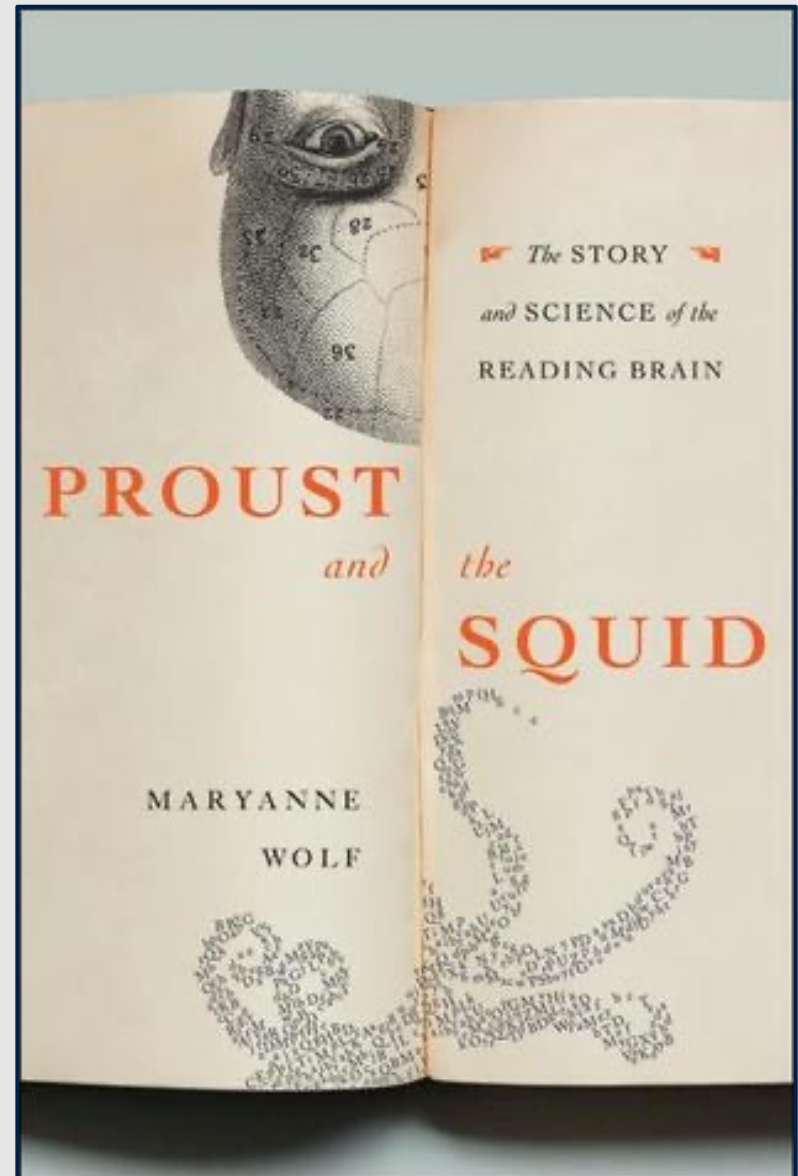


On reading...

"Human beings were
never born to read"

Two thousand days to
prepare!

Proust and the Squid, Maryanne Wolf



"Children who never
have a story read to
them,
who never hear
words that rhyme,
who never imagine
fighting with
dragons or marrying
a prince,
have the odds
overwhelmingly
against them."

Maryanne Wolf



Research on reading habits

Students who scored 90% better than their peers on reading tests, read for more than :

20 minutes a day – exposing them to 1.8 million words a year.

Students who scored at 50 percentile, read on average only:

4.6 minutes a day – exposing them to 282,000 words per year.

Students in the 10 percentile for reading, read less than:

1 minute per day – exposing them to 8,000 words per year.

It would take 1 year to read as many words as a good reader would read in 2 days.

Schools...do not have an overall conception of **what makes a good reader...** there is not enough curriculum time to focus on **wider reading or reading for pleasure.**

Moving English forward, Ofsted, 2012

“Developing a love of reading can be more important for a child’s **educational success** than their family’s socio-economic background.”

OECD



Why do we need a Culture of Reading for Schools?

Reading is the **most** important 21st Century Skill – a fundamental **life skill** that gives us access to everything else.

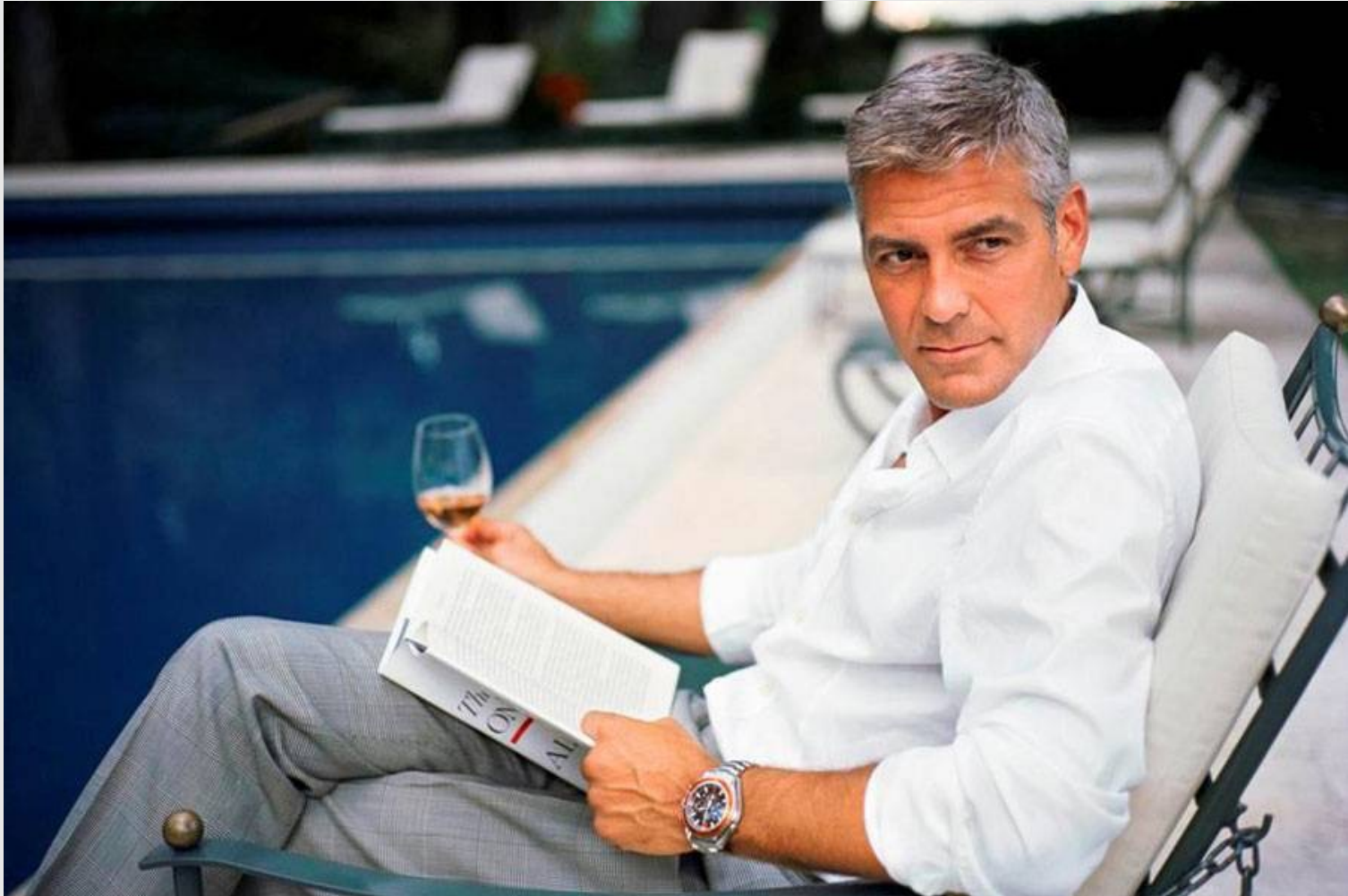
- Bridge the **reading gap**
- Support screenager **families**

Give your students a **gift for life!**



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How do we get staff involved?



How do we get staff involved?

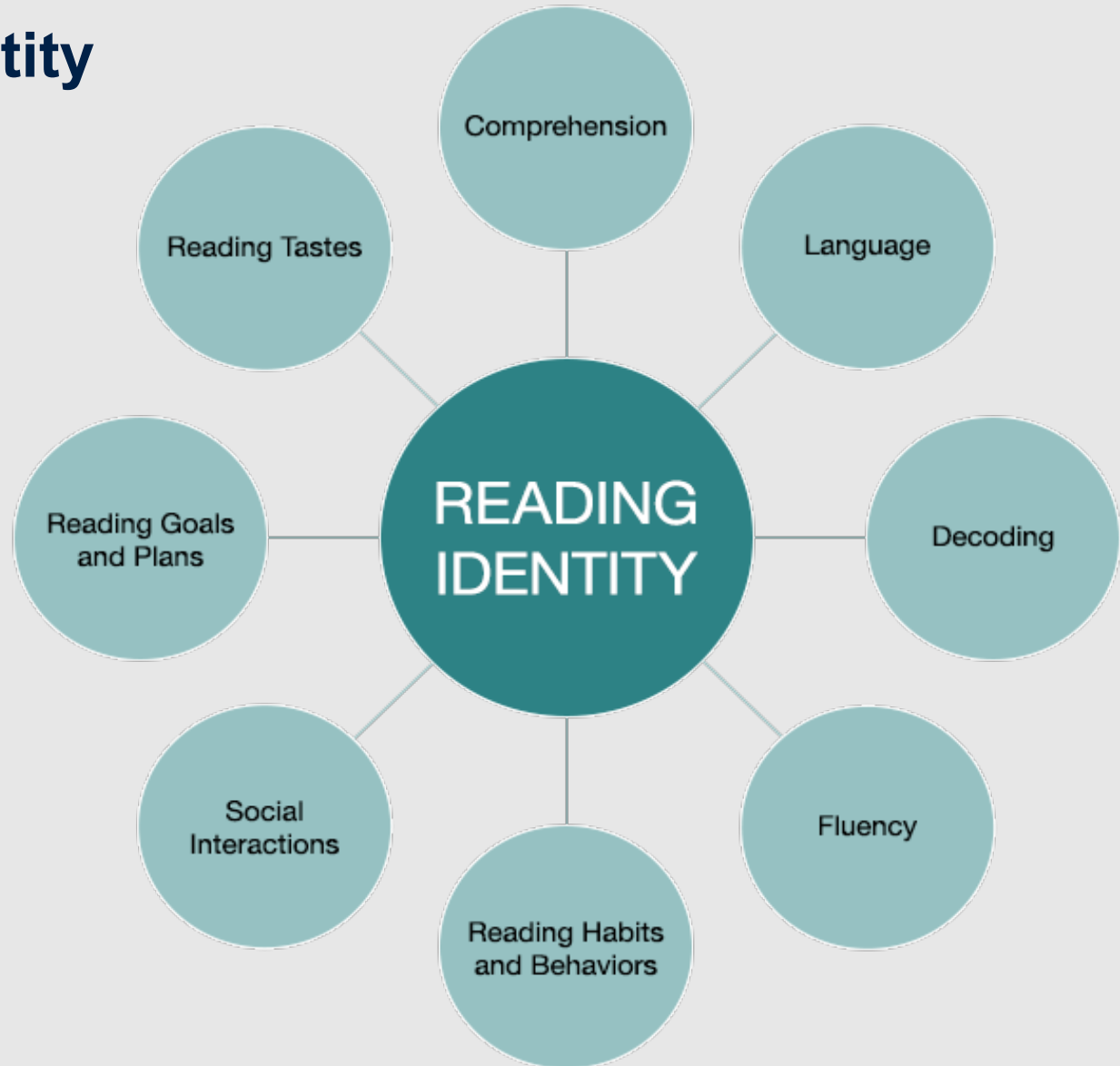
- to understand the **impact of reading** on student achievement
- a **shared vision** of the school's reading culture
- to know **why a reading culture** is important
- to fully support **the library** (class/school/local)

Screenagers...

A photograph of four teenagers sitting on a stone wall outdoors. From left to right: a young man in a light blue shirt and jeans, a young woman in a white t-shirt and black pants, a young man in a red t-shirt and jeans, and a young woman in an orange t-shirt and jeans. All four are looking down at their smartphones. They are sitting on a low stone wall with green foliage in the background. A dark blue banner at the bottom of the image contains the text '6.5 hours of screen time per day'.

6.5 hours of screen time per day

Reading Identity



Leggo sempre quando ho un po' di tempo libero. Leggo i libri Fantasy come Harry Potter ma mi piacciono anche i Romanzi .
I generi dei libri che mi piacciono meno sono i libri storici.
Penso che la lettura sia un ottimo modo per migliorare il linguaggio ma la trovo utile anche per viaggiare con la fantasia e rilassarsi dai libri di scuola.

Mi piace leggere però leggo poco perchè normalmente mi vengono proposti libri noiosi. A me piacciono libri scritti da YouTubers o libri comici

I don't really like to read. I read only when I am bored and without technology

Odio leggere,,, Non leggo per piacere ma perchè richiedo a scuola...Trovo noioso rispetto ad altre attività. In generale mi piacciono solo gialli per ragazzi

I don't like to read, sorry. I'm more of a film person. I'm not very intrigued by books

10 rights — 1 warning
Don't make fun of people
who don't read —
or they never will.



Schedule time for reading

Independent Reading Time

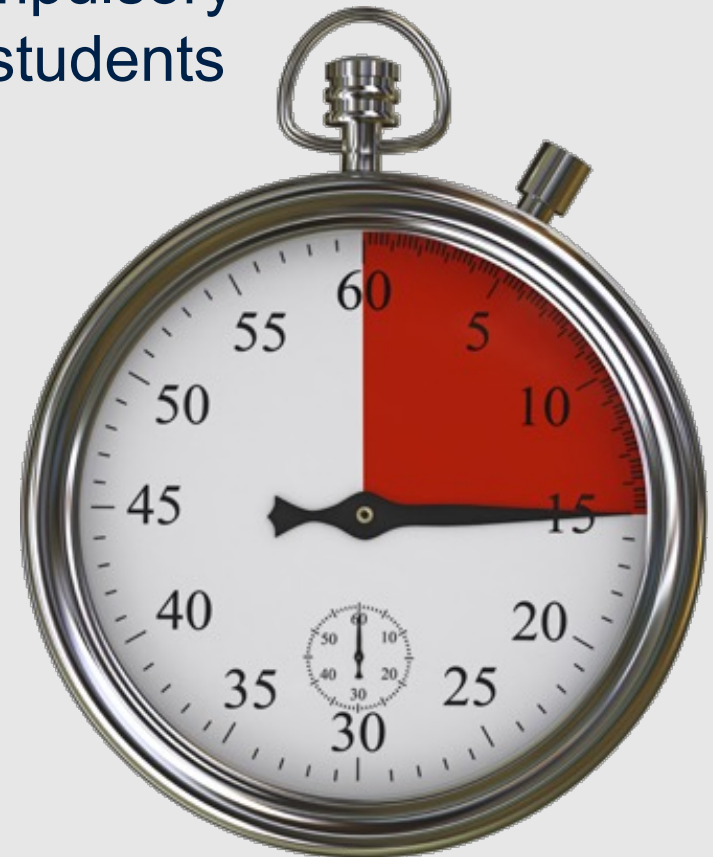
- Top-down AND bottom-up, **whole** course/school planning
- A weekly **reading for pleasure** period for every class

Outstanding Schools factor in
time for **Reading for Pleasure**

Good beginnings

Start every school day with a compulsory **15** minute reading session – for students AND teachers.

No matter how **busy**
the curriculum is!



Teachers as Readers

- Talk to your pupils about your reading life
- Let them see you reading a wide variety of texts
- Talk to them about the challenges you experience as a reader and how you get around them

YOU are a ROLE MODEL!
I had a teacher once...

Be consistent

- Whole school culture
- Transitions between schools
- Transitions between years

Consistency really helps to **support** students through that crucial time of development!

Reading spaces

- A year/class library
- Multilingual opportunities
- Books, magazines, ebooks
- A good mix of genres/levels
- *Volunteer* librarians



But... we have no books!

Campaign for donations!

- Local businesses, associations
- Families
- Former students
- Teachers /former teachers



Technology

- Technology is here to stay...and that's OK!
- Technology can be the *means* for getting our teens serious about reading for pleasure

- eReaders, tablets
- Apps
- Goodreads, Amazon, Watpadd

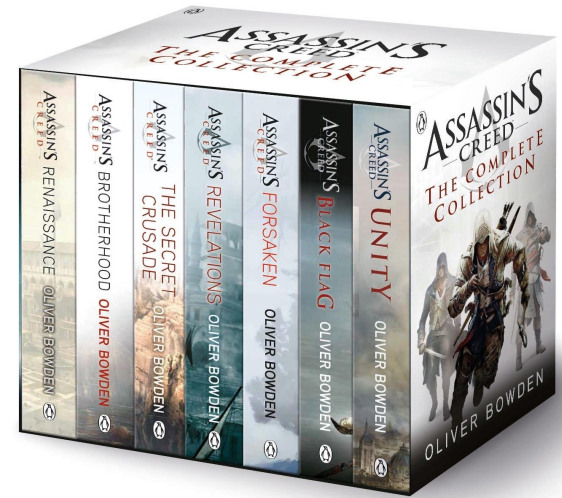


5 The right to read anything.

- <http://www.ala.org/aasl/standards/best/apps/2017>

A note for our “gamers”

- Book adaptations **of** video games
- Books to read **after** video games



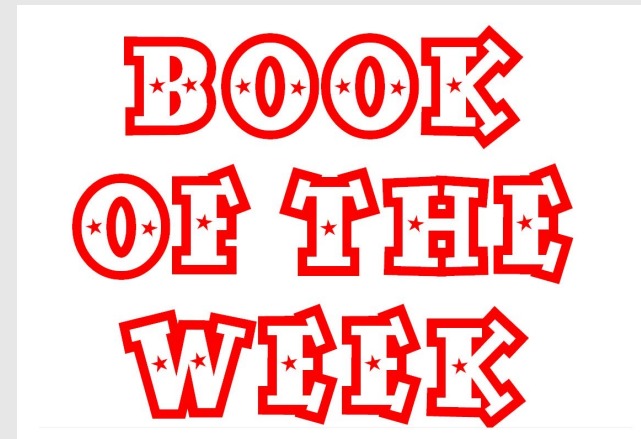
Great Books to Read Once You've Played the Video Game

Matt Whyman <http://bit.ly/VidGameBasedBooks>

- *What game would you love to see turned into a book?*
- *What book (film adaptation) would you like to see turned into a game?*

Make Your Reading Culture *felt*

- Book of the week (Teachers', Principle's)
- Reading assemblies
- Book clubs
- Reading Newsletter
- Blogging (eg. Wattpad, etc)
- Author visits / Read alouds
- Book Logs
- Book Festivals



Making your Reading Culture Visible

Displays around the school – in the entrance, along the corridors, on classroom doors

- signs with slogans / quotations
- events
- library info

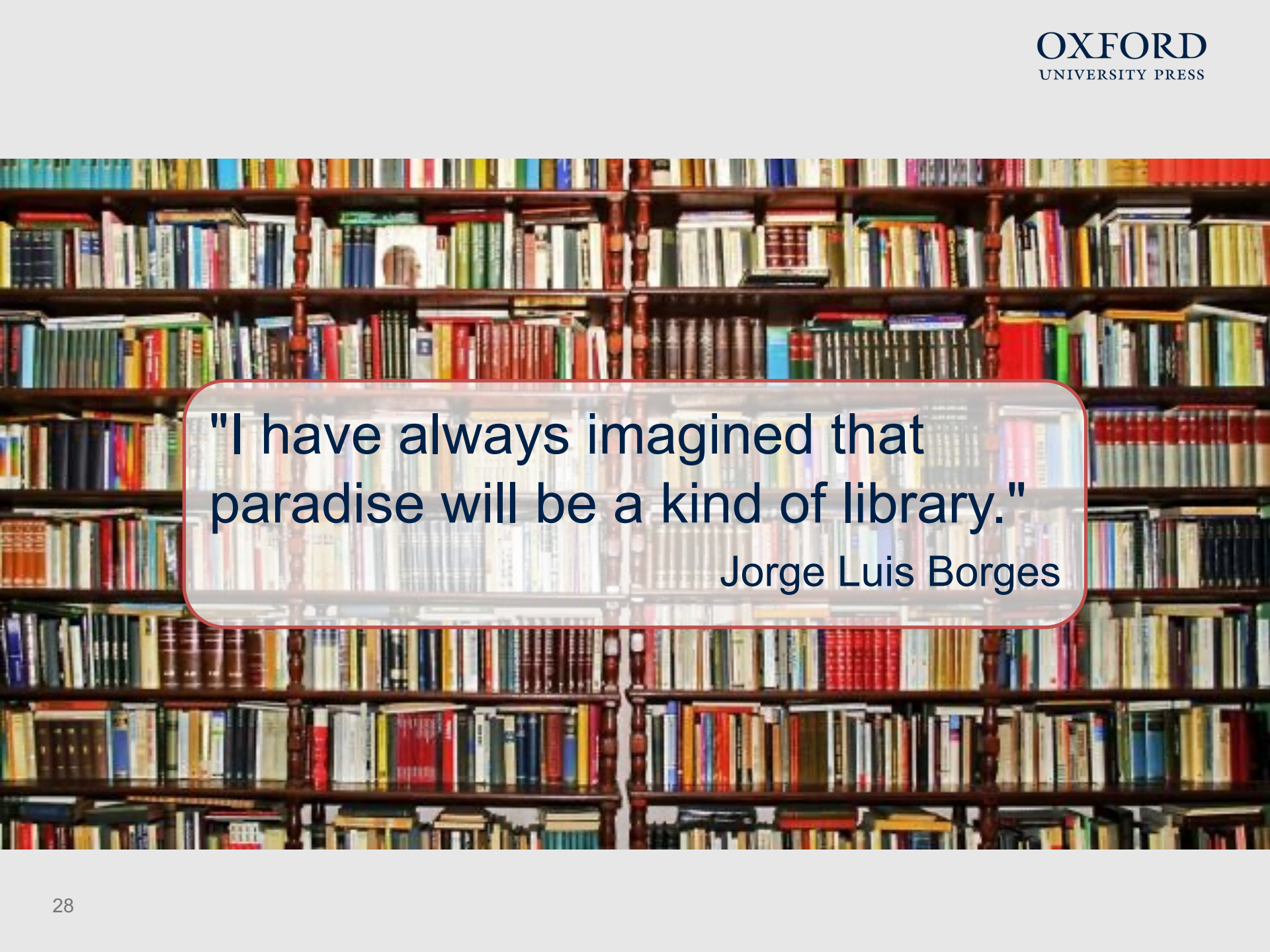
Social Media specific “Reading” pages for the school

- Facebook, instagram, twitter
- SS2° involve the 5a



Think about everything your school is currently doing that encourages independent reading.

- What is really working?
- What current activities and ideas could you further develop and add on?
- Does anything indicate that reading is important at your school?



"I have always imagined that
paradise will be a kind of library."
Jorge Luis Borges