

Websites:

- BBC Bitesize www.bbc.co.uk/schools/gcsebitesize
- Spark notes www.sparknotes.com (this includes translations of Shakespeare plays - Romeo and Juliet and Macbeth)
- Shmoop www.shmoop.com
- Broadsheet newspapers' websites, for example, The Guardian (which is free) www.theguardian.com/uk
- Random image generator for descriptive writing:
<http://writingexercises.co.uk/random-image-generator.php>
<http://www.pobble365.com/>
- Random first line generator for writing narratives:
<http://writingexercises.co.uk/firstlinegenerator.php>

Reading for Language

- Reading broadsheet newspapers - particularly opinion articles
- Reading 19th, 20th and 21st century non-fiction texts - diary entries, travel writing, letters
- Listening to political speeches - discuss them and challenge the opinions
- Listening to TED Talks - discuss them and challenge the opinions, how do they present their viewpoints?
- Listening to radio debates (Radio 4, TED Talks) - listen to how opinions are shared and presented - discuss them and challenge opinions
- Reading short stories from different genres
- Junkmail/leaflets

Ways to support your child

- Encourage them to read as often as possible; everyday would be preferable (fiction and non-fiction).
- Ask them questions about what they have read.

- Ask them about any vocabulary they don't understand - discuss meanings and usage
- Buy copies of the set texts so they can re-read them in their own time.
- Encourage them to listen to Radio 4, watch the news to keep informed of current affairs. Talk to them about their ideas and opinions on issues.
- Give them any junkmail/leaflets that come through the door. Ask them what the FATTP of the text is (**Form** - what it is, **Audience** - who it is specifically aimed at, **Tone** - is it happy, playful, angry, etc., **Topic** - the subject it is about, **Purpose** - why it has been produced). Ask them to identify language and structural techniques that the writers have used and consider the effect of these techniques.
- Read/listen to key political speeches. Identify persuasive techniques and consider how effective they are.
- Ask them to read a broadsheet article once a week. Talk to them about issues raised and also how it has been written. Identify techniques used and their effects on readers.
- Use <http://writingexercises.co.uk/random-image-generator.php> and ask them to plan and then write a description of the image.
- Use <http://writingexercises.co.uk/firstlinegenerator.php>. It generates the first line of a story. Ask them to plan and then write the rest of the story.
- When looking at their work, remind them about the need for capital letters, punctuation, paragraphs and accurate spelling.
- Test them on common spelling errors that they make. websites:
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