

Key Stage 3 Reading

'There is no friend as loyal as a book' Ernest Hemingway

Reading in Key Stage 3 builds on their progress from other phases. Many of our pupils are at different levels in their reading, and that is ok. Our teachers work hard to enable your child to make good progress in reading throughout their time at The Observatory School. Throughout the school the policy is to set pupils' work based on their ability, enabling the learning to be more appropriately structured and to meet the needs of every student.

Reading is supported through our own reading programme which again, is varied and personalised to pupils. Any prior knowledge of phonics is developed and built upon, as well as repetition and recapping of key words, sounds and stories. We are currently in the process of implementing **Accelerated Reader**.

Key Stage 3 aims:

- Develop an appreciation and love of reading, and read increasingly challenging material independently through:
- Choosing and reading books independently for challenge, interest and enjoyment.
- Re-reading books encountered earlier to increase familiarity with them and provide a basis for making comparisons.

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Understand increasingly challenging texts through:

- Learning new vocabulary, relating it explicitly to known vocabulary and understanding it with the help of context and dictionaries
- Making inferences and referring to evidence in the text
- Knowing the purpose, audience for and context of the writing and drawing on this knowledge to support comprehension
- Checking their understanding to make sure that what they have read makes sense.

Read critically through:

- Knowing how language, including figurative language, vocabulary choice, grammar, text structure and organisational features, presents meaning
- Recognising a range of poetic conventions and understanding how these have been used
- Studying setting, plot, and characterisation, and the effects of these
- Understanding how the work of dramatists is communicated effectively through performance and how alternative staging allows for different interpretations of a play
- Making critical comparisons across texts
- Studying a range of authors, including at least two authors in depth each year.

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