

Kids who read ...succeed

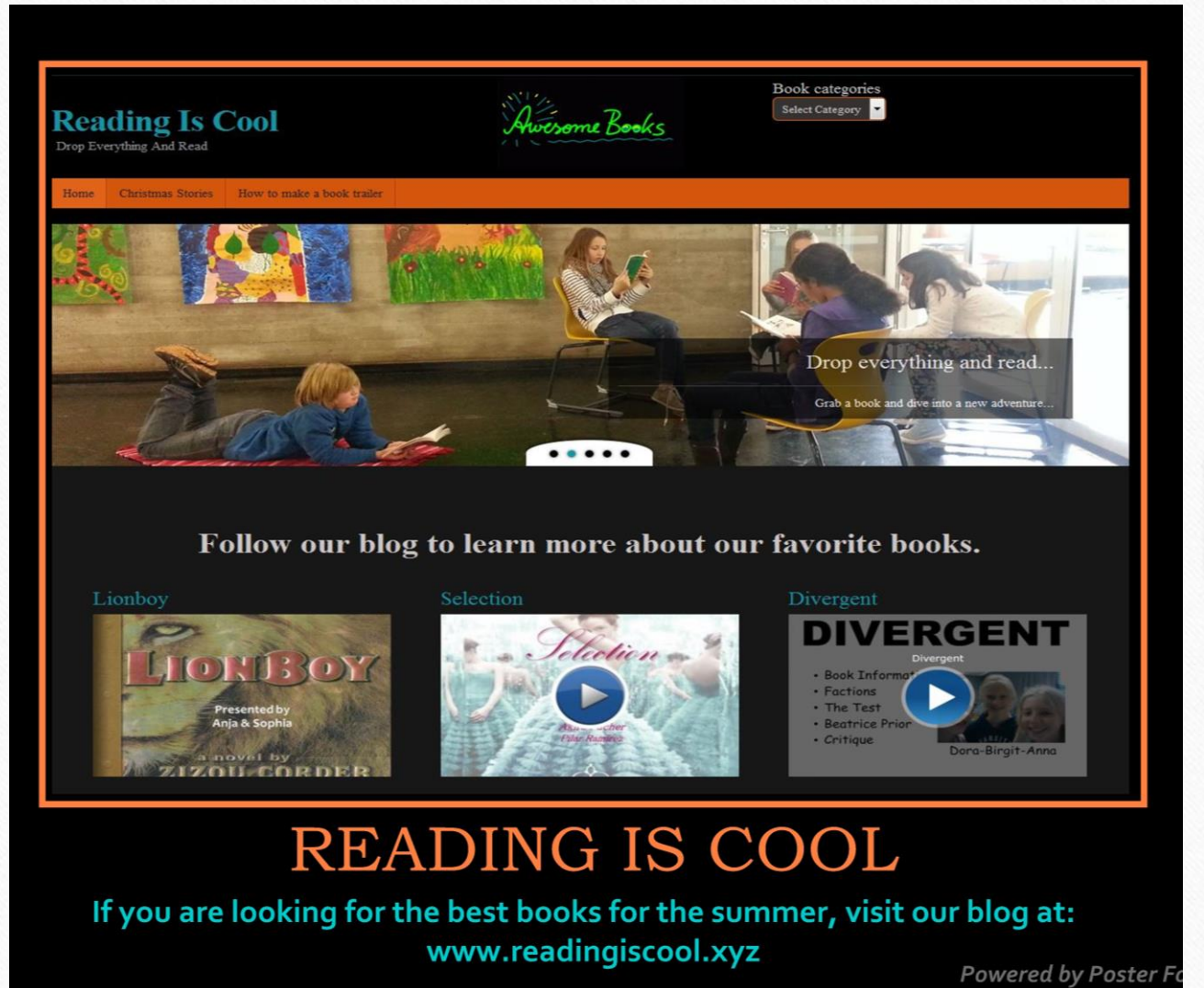
readingiscool.xyz

By Elisabeth Pölzleitner



Overview

- Kids who read... succeed
- Why use a blog?
- Examples of my learners' book trailers
- Good readers are good writers
- The tools you need



The screenshot shows the 'Reading Is Cool' website. At the top left is the logo 'Reading Is Cool' with the tagline 'Drop Everything And Read'. To the right is the 'Awesome Books' logo and a 'Book categories' dropdown menu. Below the header is a navigation bar with links for 'Home', 'Christmas Stories', and 'How to make a book trailer'. The main banner features a photograph of children reading in a library, with the text 'Drop everything and read... Grab a book and dive into a new adventure...'. Below the banner is a section titled 'Follow our blog to learn more about our favorite books.' which contains three book trailer thumbnails: 'Lionboy' (presented by Anja & Sophia), 'Selection' (presented by Dora-Birgit-Anna), and 'Divergent' (presented by Dora-Birgit-Anna). At the bottom, the text reads 'READING IS COOL' and 'If you are looking for the best books for the summer, visit our blog at: www.readingiscool.xyz'. A small footer note says 'Powered by Poster Fo'.



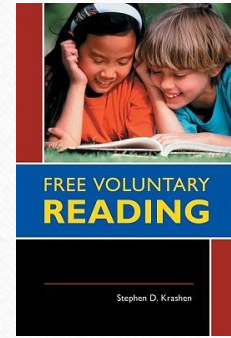
In the Minds of Others

Reading fiction can strengthen your social ties and even change your personality.
By Keith Oatley

When you read a novel, you are not just following the story and the characters. You are also experiencing the world of the book, the emotions and the thoughts of the characters. This is what makes reading fiction so powerful. It can help you understand other people better, and it can even change your personality. In a recent study, researchers found that people who read fiction were better at understanding the emotions and thoughts of other people. This is because fiction allows you to step into the shoes of someone else and experience their world. This is a powerful tool for building empathy and understanding. Reading fiction can also help you to develop your imagination and creativity. It can help you to see the world from a different perspective, and it can help you to think about things in a new way. So, if you want to become a better person, a more empathetic person, and a more creative person, then you should read fiction. It is one of the best ways to do this.

Kids who read... succeed.

Studies have shown that...



- Students who read a lot do better in tests of writing, spelling, vocabulary, grammar and reading comprehension.
- Students who read more do better in the TOEFL test.
- Students who read more have more “cultural literacy”, more practical knowledge and suffer less from writer’s block.
- Reading fiction can strengthen your social ties and even change your personality.





...more interesting findings



- Rewards, reading tests and book reports are counterproductive
- Prize-winning books are not particularly popular among children



- Case studies show that comics can serve as a conduit to “heavier” reading.
- One “home run book” can create a reader.
- Book displays influence reading
- Peers influence reading

Why does reading work? Two answers

Krashen's Hypotheses

- *"The best methods are therefore those that supply 'comprehensible input' in low anxiety situations, containing messages that students really want to hear.*

Comprehensible input, I + 1

Affective filter

Acquisition / Learning

forcing and correcting production." Stephen Krashen

Answers from the Neurosciences

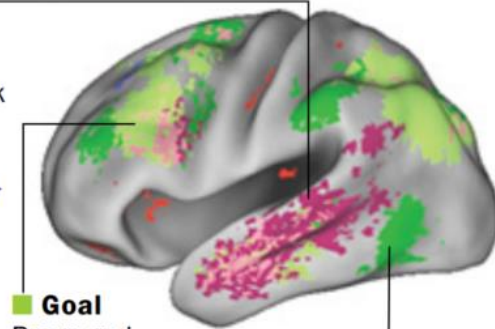
Stories on the Mind

The brain responds to fiction as if a reader were feeling or acting just as the character is in the story. Scientists correlated passages displayed in a functional MRI scanner with brain activity. The prefrontal cortex, an area behind the forehead concerned with goal-setting, reacted when

a character initiated a new goal. The temporal cortex, at the brain's sides, responded to character switches and goal-directed actions. Other parts reacted to allusions to time, or to changes in a character's spatial location or dealings with objects, in keeping with their regular roles.

■ Character

As soon as Mrs. Logan made a check mark on his paper, Raymond hurried back to his desk.

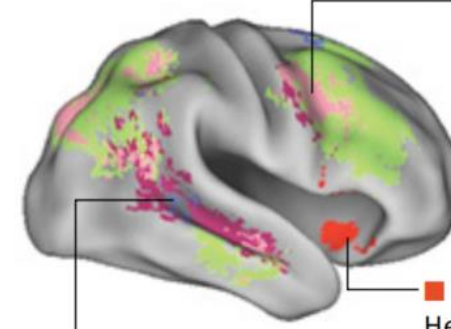


■ **Goal**
Raymond crumpled the paper, seemingly without any anxiety.

■ **Object**
Raymond picked up his English workbook ...

■ Multiple Aspects

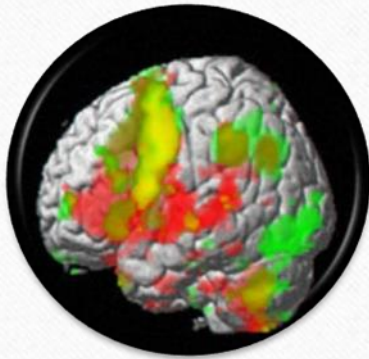
Responds to various features of the storyline.



■ **Space**
... and returned to the teacher's desk.

■ **Time**
He walked briskly.

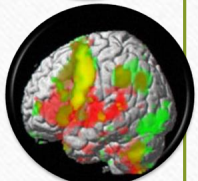
Why does extensive reading work? Answers from the neurosciences



Why use a blog?



- In our blog students are free to choose the books they want to read
- The blog creates a sharing community: we all read and we find reading cool.
- FIP: Format – Imagination – Pride
 - The blog combines multiple literacies (reading, writing, using pictures, digital literacy and speaking) in creative ways.
 - Learners are proud of their contributions and want them to be seen by others. Effort and motivation rise.



Examples of my learners' book trailers



...more examples

DIVERGENT

- Book Information
- Factions
- The Test
- Beatrice Prior
- Critique



Dora-Birgit-Anna



Good readers are good writers

Christmas Stories



Halloween Stories

Life and Death of *Benjamin*

Recorded with
SCREENCASTOMATIC
Emily & Sarah

What you need...

Webcam

- www.eyejot.com
- or youtube recording
- A cheap webcam (15€) or a laptop




Free screen-recording software

- [Screencast-o-matic](#)
- [Jing](#)

Basic instructions for these tools can be found on www.epep.at – search for “How to”
Or on www.readingiscool --- category “Help”

The next steps...

- Present the blog to more teachers
- Invite teachers to participate with their classes
- Organize workshops for teachers to try out the tools



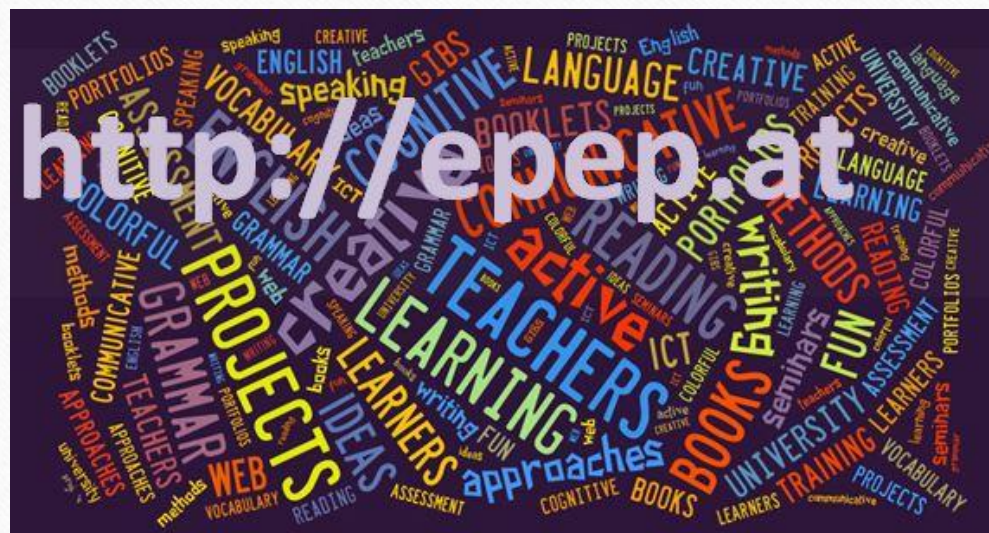
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Thank you for your attention

Do you have any questions?



Find further ideas on my homepage:



References

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