

## Reading Together

In such sad and frightening times, I am going to spend some time each day reading, and this also is what I am offering to you for your English timetable.

Did you know that many books, especially classic novels, are available for free online? Organisations such as Project Gutenberg and Planet eBook specialise in providing this content for you to enjoy, and now is a great time to take advantage of their work. If you are a member, you can also access books online via local libraries, or you could even choose a book to read together for yourself, from books you have at home.

Choosing a book can be a daunting task. As an English teacher I would always say that if you have enjoyed a book yourself, if the content is suitable, there is no reason why you can't share it with our young people, and it is fine for you to do this during the time you set aside to focus on English, rather than choosing from the list I provide.

If you'd rather be given a book to read, I'm happy to help and have made a list of books which are not only free online, but are also available as audio books for free for the next few weeks from Audible, another online service. It is much better to be reading from the text together, but you could listen to the audiobook first, and re-read it together from the text if that works well for you. You won't need to register or sign up for any of this content, just check the lists I've created and follow the links.

Finally, it isn't just about reading, you will need to talk about the story with your young person. I encourage you to create a 'reading record' book, detailing what you have read together and your thoughts and feelings about it. You could try to predict what will happen next, write your reactions to the characters, events and places, and compare them to characters, events and places in films you might have seen, or in other books you might have read.

Finally, this isn't meant to be a difficult task, just enjoy the experience of new stories together as an escape from the situation we find ourselves in.

With all good wishes

*Emily Wood*

English Tutor