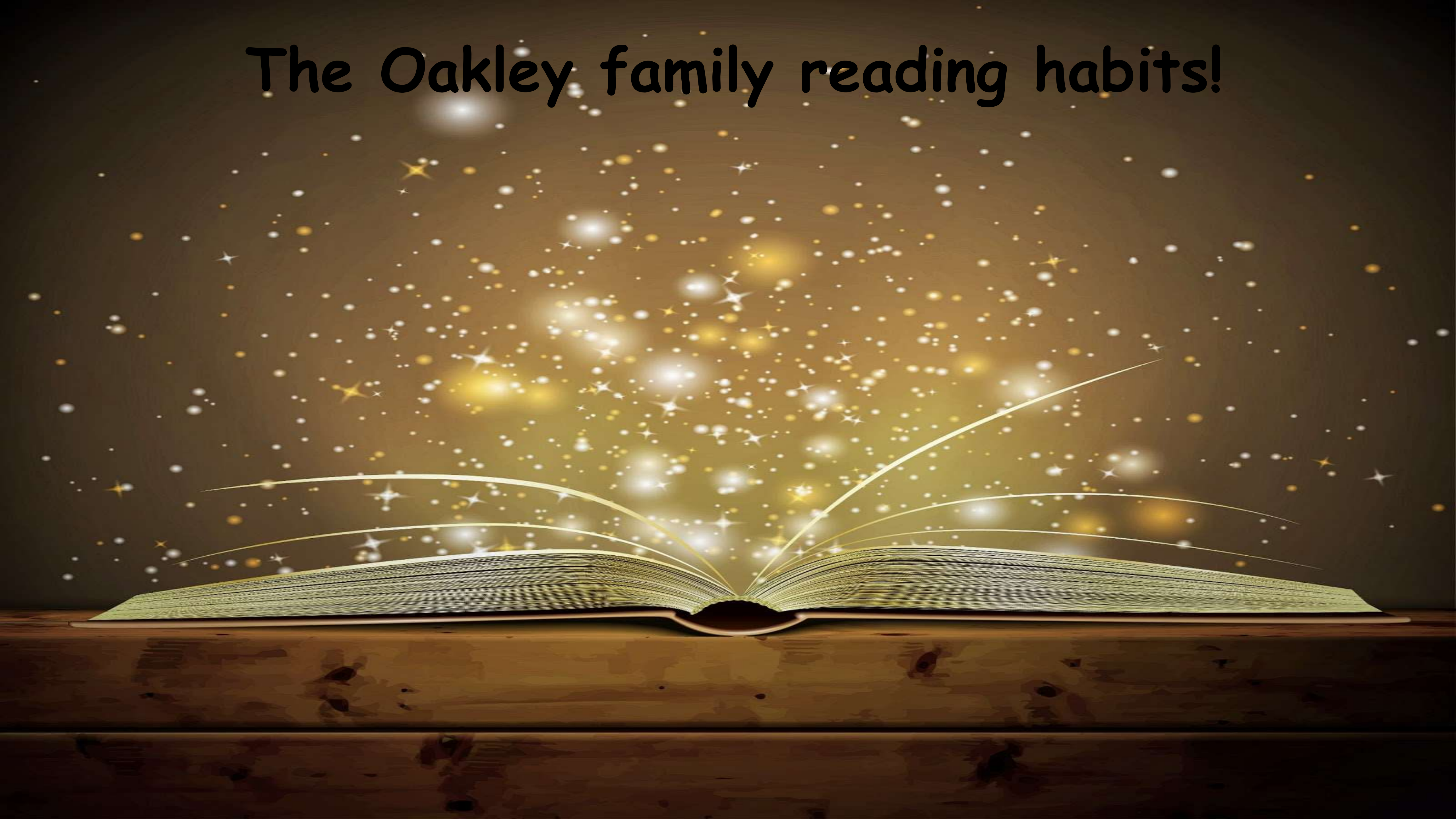


# Plymstock Lockdown Literacy Challenge

Parents' Challenge: Tweet, or email us, about one thing you have done to keep your young person interested in reading.



# The Oakley family reading habits!

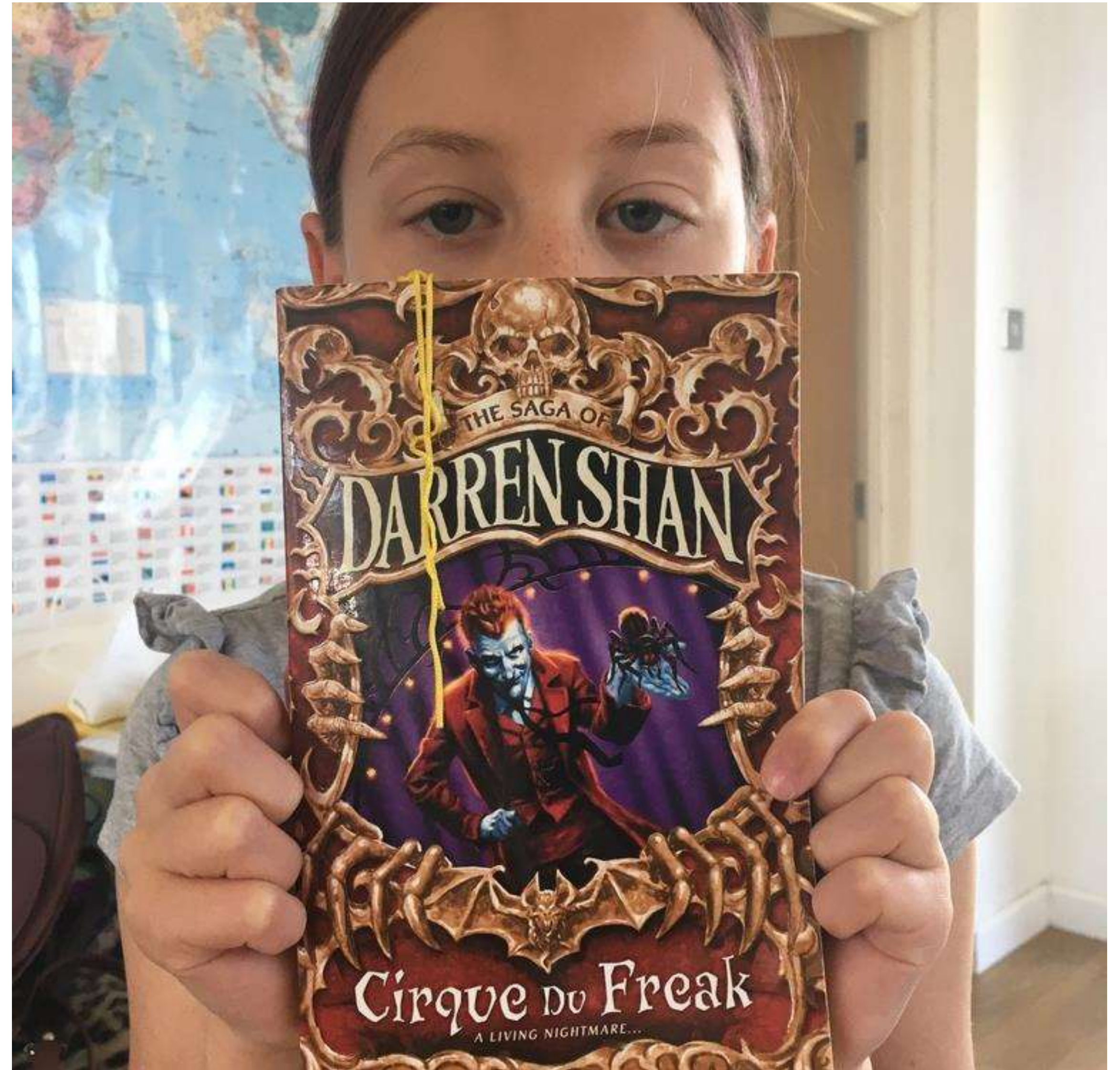


Child 1: aged 10 (doesn't love reading...yet!)

- I gave her this book because I have read it - so I know all the answers!
- We read a small amount every day.
- We sometimes share the reading.

I ask questions lots of questions like:

- What happened in that chapter?
- What do you think will happen next?
- Where did Darren get the circus leaflet from?
- What did Darren see when he stayed behind after the show?



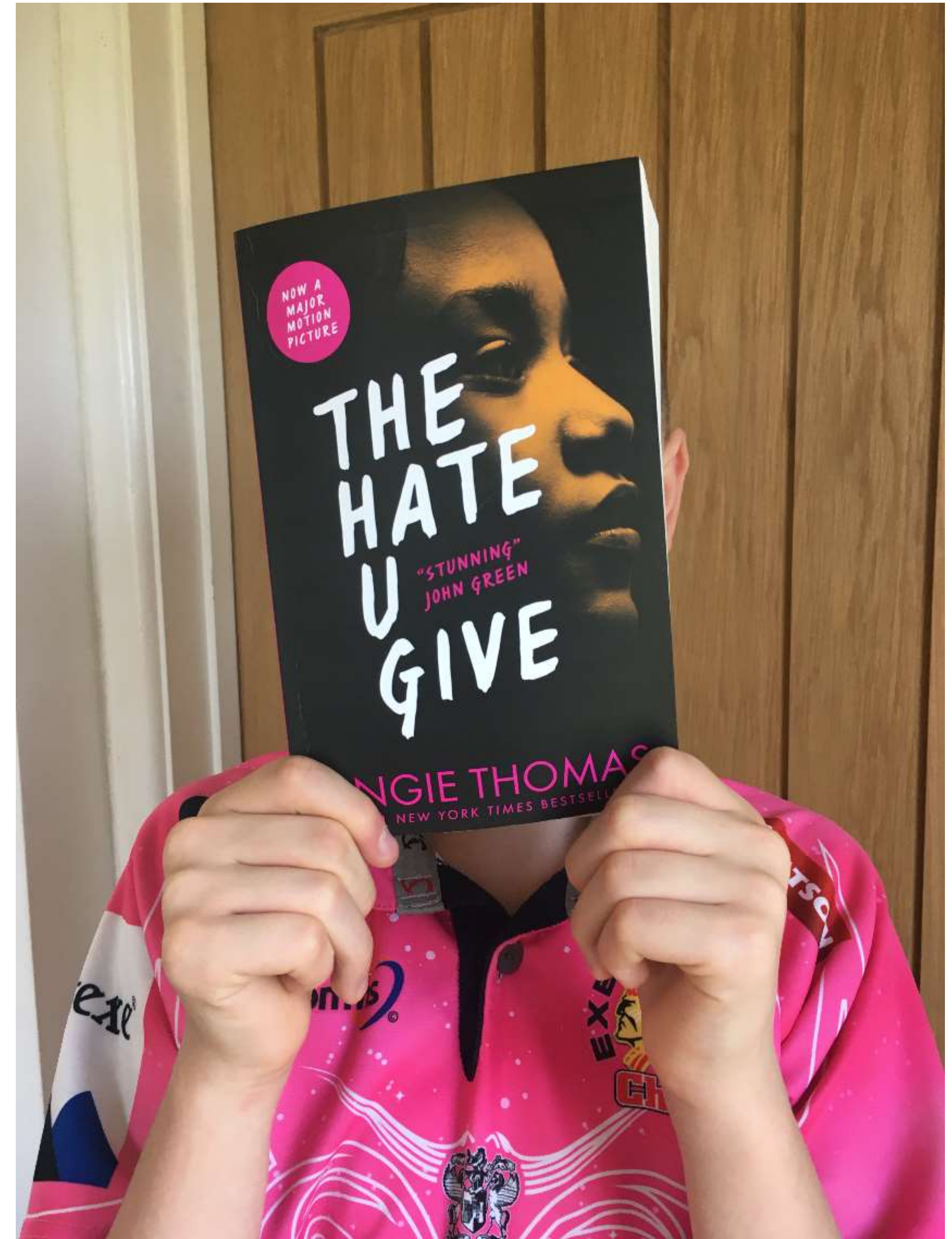
This series gets lots of students reading at school. It has short chapters and is a bit scary!

Child 2 aged 12 (We have worked hard at finding books he likes. Other books he likes are the Cherub Series by Robert Muchamore and Darren Shan.)

- I gave him this book because I have read it and I thought he'd like it. There is also a film, so our deal is: read the book and you can watch the film!
- He reads independently every night, but I ask questions often about what he is reading.

I ask lots of questions like:

- Who are the main characters?
- What happened in that chapter?
- What do you think will happen next?
- What is interesting about ...?
- Why do you think that character behaved in that way?

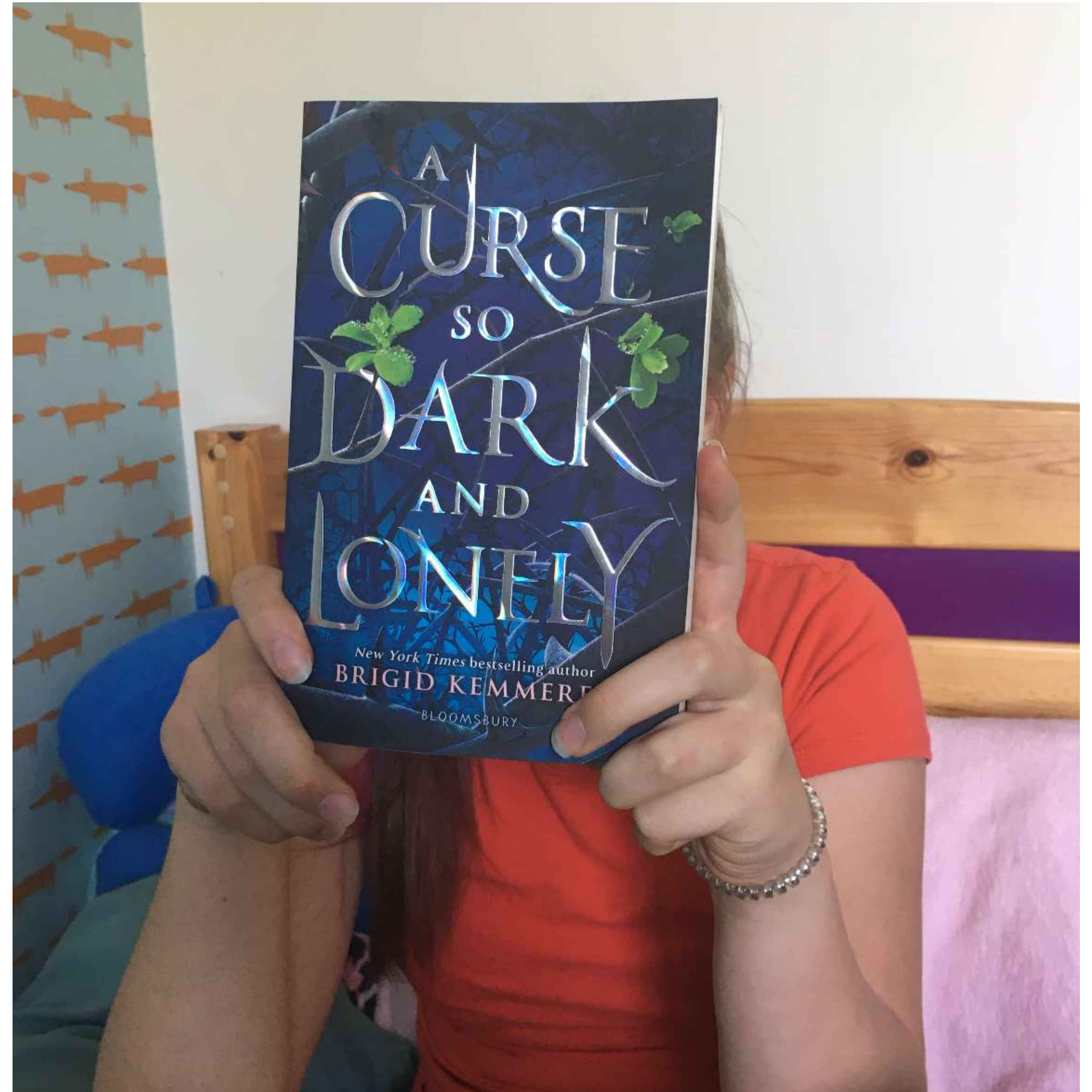


## Child 3 aged 13 (A book worm!)

- I read this book, and the sequel, last month and could NOT put them down. There are lots of fabulous 'young adult' fiction books out there. See Plymstock Library website for recommendations.
- She reads independently every night, but I ask questions often about what she is reading.

I ask lots of questions like:

- What did you think when ..... ?
- Do you like the way the writer has ....?
- Which character do you like the most so far ...?
- Why do you think [insert character] made that choice?
- What would you like to see happen next? What do you think will happen next?
- What did you like/dislike about the ending?



## 7 Top Tips to Support Reading at Home

Shared reading is a great way to develop children's language and communication and to boost their reading skills. Regular reading routines can offer lots of opportunities for learning during school closures.

### 1 Concentrate on reading quality (it isn't all about reading lots!)



Don't worry too much about the 'what' and 'how' of reading each day. Books are great—but leaflets, comics, recipes and instructions on a webpage can all be great too. Following a recipe to make some cupcakes is valuable reading. Be on the lookout for reading, wherever it is!

### 2 Ask your child lots of questions



All reading matters. Shared reading is about 'reading with', not just 'reading to' (even for older children). So, ask lots of 'Wh' questions, such as Who? What? When? Where? Why? Try them when talking about books: for example, 'what do you think Harry is feeling?'

### 3 Ask your child to make predictions about what they have read



If it is a book, look at the front cover—or the last chapter—and talk about what might happen next. Look for clues in the book and be a reading detective! For example, 'can you see the bear on the front cover? Where do you think he will go?'

### 4 Ask your child to summarise what they have read



When you've finished reading, talk about what happened. Acting out the things that happened in the story or describing the big idea of a chapter is really fun and maximises learning. For example, 'can you remember all the things that happened on the bear hunt?'

### 5 Ask your child to write about what they have read



Write, or draw pictures, from anything you've read! Big writing and pictures are even more fun. For example, use an old roll of wallpaper to make a treasure map with clues from the stories you've read together.

### 6 Read and discuss reading with friends or family



Make books a part of the family. Encourage your child to share them with a relative or friend, over a video call. Laugh about them when you are making meals together. For example, 'I hope the tiger doesn't come to tea today!'

### 7 Maintain the motivation to read



Talk about the joy of reading whenever you can. Your child is on an amazing journey to becoming a reader. Put them in the driving seat and have fun on the way! For example, 'choose your favourite story for bedtime tonight.'

Education Endowment Foundation (2018)

*Preparing for Literacy: Improving Communication, Language and Literacy in the Early Years.* Education Endowment Foundation: London.

Available online: [eef.org.uk/literacy-early-years](https://eef.org.uk/literacy-early-years)

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*Improving Literacy in Secondary Schools.* Education Endowment Foundation: London.

Available online: [eef.org.uk/literacy-ks3-ks4](https://eef.org.uk/literacy-ks3-ks4)

Breadmore, H.L., Vardy, E.J., Cunningham, A.J., Kwok, R.K.W., & Carroll, J.M. (2019).

*Literacy Development: Evidence Review.* Education Endowment Foundation: London.

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[https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/public/files/Publications/Covid-19\\_Resources/Resources\\_for\\_schools/7\\_Top\\_Tips\\_to\\_Support\\_Reading\\_at\\_Home.pdf](https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/public/files/Publications/Covid-19_Resources/Resources_for_schools/7_Top_Tips_to_Support_Reading_at_Home.pdf)

How do you keep your young person interested in reading?  
Tweet: #plymstocklockdownliteracychallenge

Any questions?

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Plymstock School Library email: [rhogben@plymstockschool.org.uk](mailto:rhogben@plymstockschool.org.uk)

"Children and young people who are the most engaged with literacy have better mental wellbeing"

<https://literacytrust.org.uk/research-services/research-reports/mental-wellbeing-reading-and-writing/>