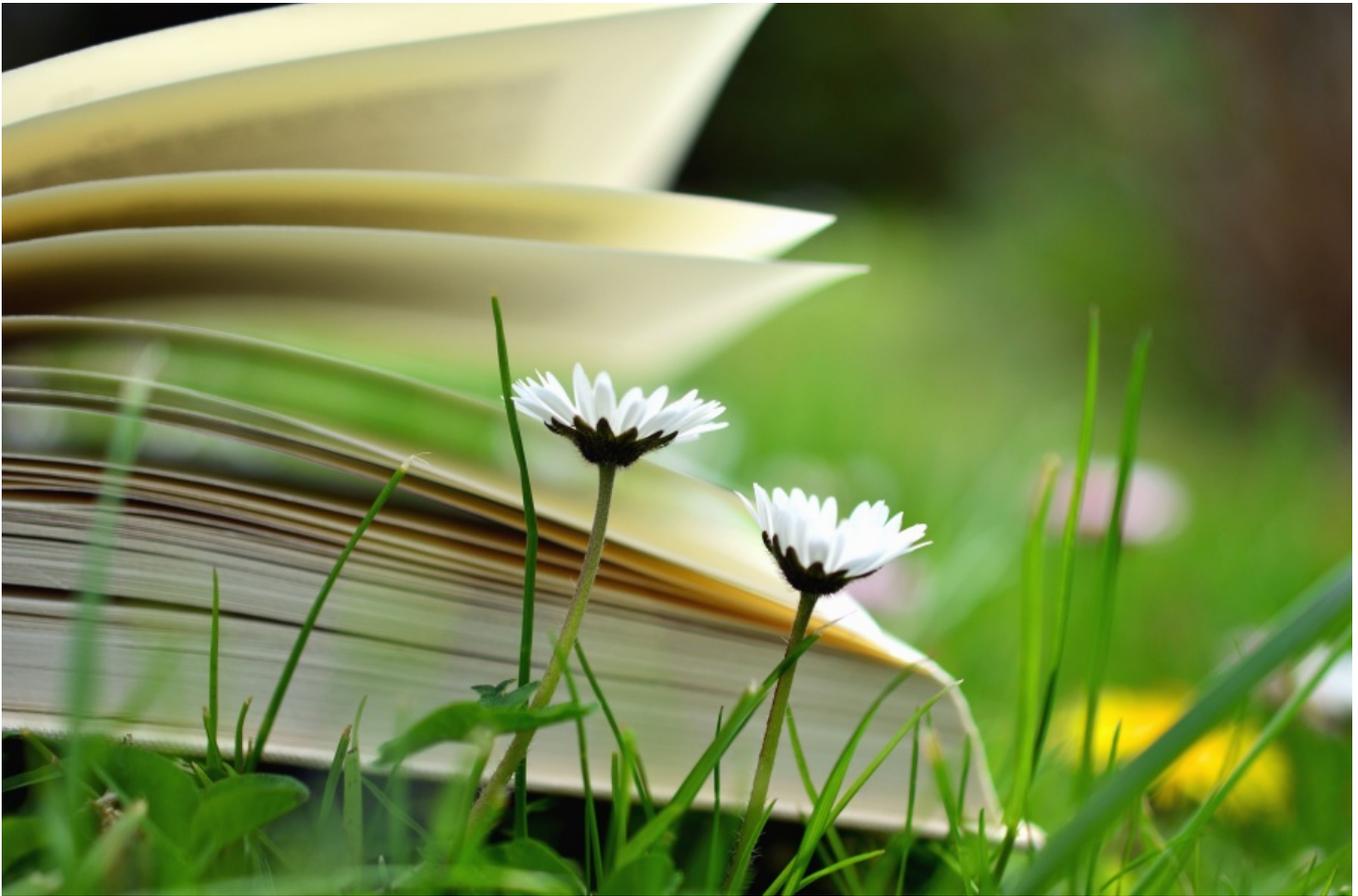


ReadBox Project

-Introduction-



Welcome to the ReadBox Project. Over the course of this school year, you are going to read lyrics, newspaper and magazine articles, short stories, poems and books of your own selection. You may select any kind of reading and will be expected to read consistently over the course of the year. If you finish one article or book, you are responsible for selecting another one. So keep on reading and remember to impress yourself. I hope you will have pleasure in reading !

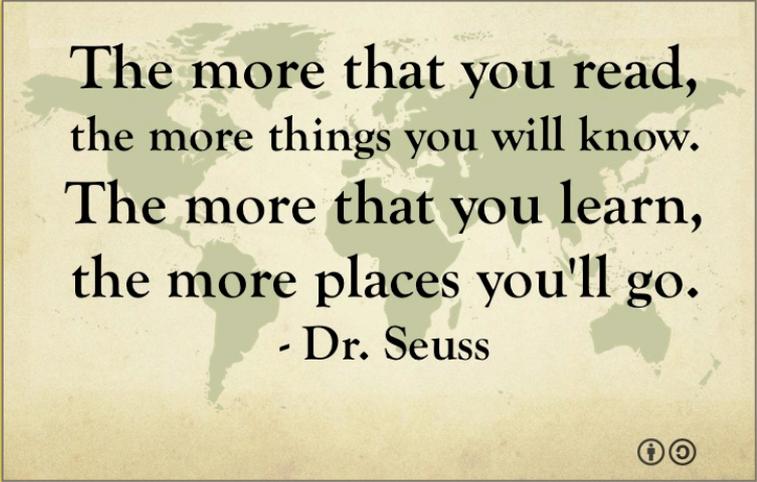
Personal details & Reading Motivation Survey

First I would like to get to know you better. So fill out the personal details and the reading motivation survey (***Personal Details - Appendix I and Reading Motivation Survey Appendix II***) ; tell me about your reading habits, please.

Importance of Reading

There are loads of people that love reading; its invitation to escape into a different world and to forget the stress in everyday life. Many believe reading to be an essential tool in order to learn what you need to learn; it opens new opportunities and ideas and improves your concentration. Reading is the best way to become educated; it enhances your breadth of knowledge, builds your self-esteem and improves creativity. But if you are the kind of person who does not like reading, you might be missing out on discovering why reading actually matters. And it does really matter. It fills our mind with all kinds of information and it expands your view on the world; It gives you a glimpse into other cultures and places. Reading every day lets your brain digest the information that it has been fed. So the more you read the more you broaden your horizon. In fact, it can be life changing in so many ways. So think about some of the most important books that you have read so far.

Reading is not a contest. So what if you read slowly or sometimes skip words here and there? If you are interested in your reading material, you will read to the end, and that is what counts. And remember what they say is true: the more you read, the better you read. If you make an effort to read every day, for example two chapters a day, you will not only improve your reading skills, but you will also learn a lot of new vocabulary. Try it; good reading skills are essential to future success in your career ! It is an investment in your very own future; it can greatly impact your life !



The more that you read,
the more things you will know.
The more that you learn,
the more places you'll go.
- Dr. Seuss

"If you want your children to be intelligent,
read them fairy tales. If you want them to
be more intelligent, read them more fairy
tales."

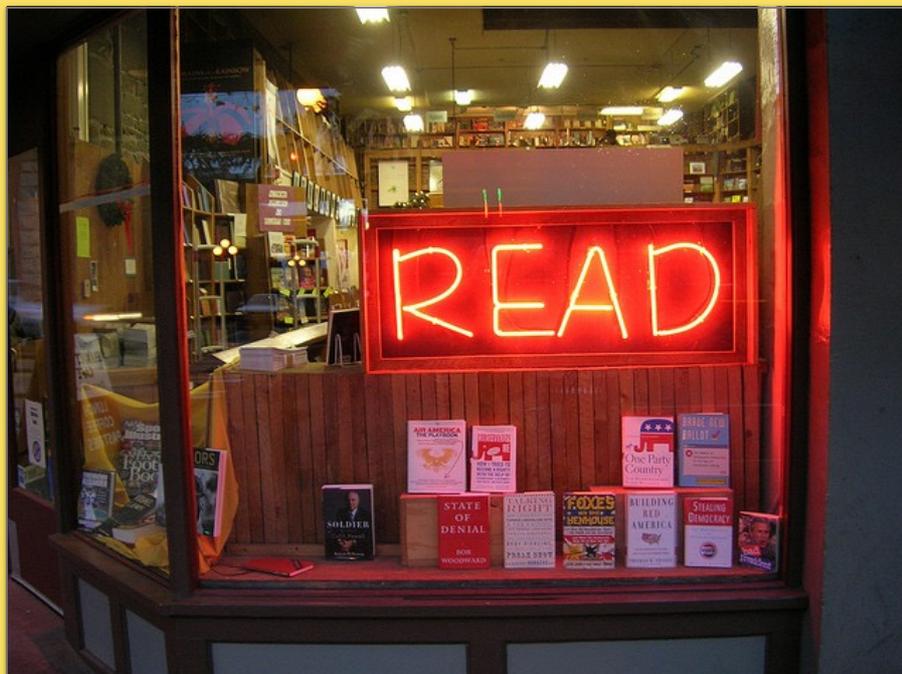
— Albert Einstein

Reading Log

To count lyrics, newspaper/ magazine articles, poems, short stories or books in your reading log, you must read the material front to back. You may abandon reading a book that you don't like at any time, if you do, please discuss it with your teacher and we will search for another book. But please remember that the abandoned book will not count toward your pages read. **(Reading Log - Appendix III)**

Reading Challenge

A reading challenge is a great way to challenge yourself, to read more or explore new genres. And maybe you will discover a great book you might never have chosen. It's a fun incentive to diversify your reading. You may even be surprised by what you find you enjoy ! Check off your articles and books as you go and keep track of what you've read. Reading challenges are fun ! **(Reading Challenge - Appendix IV)**



Reading Process & Requirements

Trimester 1

During trimester one, you should choose two from the following reading materials; a lyric, a poem, a newspaper article, magazine article, blog, review or a short story. The lyrics or poem can only be chosen once. When you have decided upon your reading material, you will then have to decide upon your reading challenge. At the end of this trimester you will have to hand in your reading materials and the appropriate reading challenges.

Trimester 2

During trimester two, you should choose one the following reading materials: a newspaper article, magazine article, blog, review or a short story plus the appropriate reading challenge. When you have finished these, find a book you are going to read. You can choose any type of book that you enjoy reading, though you will be advised to choose books that will improve your reading ability. It is important that you check your book with your teacher before you actually start reading your book to be absolutely certain that the book is suitable for the ReadBox Project. For, example if your book has large font or a small number of words per page, you need contact your teacher. At the end of this trimester you will have to hand in your reading materials and the appropriate reading challenges.

Trimester 3

At the beginning of this trimester you will have finished reading your book. Now it is time to start working on your final reading challenge. Please be prepared that you will have to present this last reading challenge.

Every time you select a new reading material, you must go through the following steps:

- 1 Select your reading material from the Reading Challenge for the trimester.
- 2 Enter your reading material in your Reading Log. Once you are done, upload the form to your ReadBox folder in Edmodo.
- 3 Select the appropriate assignment for your reading material.
- 4 After you have finished reading the lyrics, newspaper/ magazine article, short story or book, do the appropriate assignment of your choice (see ReadBox folder on Edmodo). Don't forget to use the Vocabulary Notebook (see next page)
- 5 Discuss your reading process with your teacher so that (s)he can check off your assignment.
6. Select your new reading material and repeat the above steps.

Vocabulary Notebook

As you read, identify unknown words. For each chapter (or lyrics/ poem/ newspaper or magazine article/ short story etc.), you should come up with at least four words. If you cannot find four unknown words, try to find higher level words in the text. Copy each word, write down the page number, part of speech, the Dutch translation, and the dictionary definition and an example sentence in your personal vocabulary notebook and learn them by heart. Don't forget: Learning new vocabulary helps to improve the word choice in your writing ! So build your vocabulary ! **(Vocabulary Notebook - Appendix V)**

Notes

Use this form to keep track of important ideas, thoughts, questions, and vocabulary while you read your magazine articles/books etc. It helps you to maximise your learning. **(Notes - Appendix VI)**

Keep all of these items mentioned above both in your ReadBox folder on Edmodo and on your computer at home. You will need to hand them in at the end of each trimester as part of your test grades.

Conferencing

I will be discussing your selection of articles and books and your ReadBox process at various times throughout the trimester. Please be prepared to discuss your reading materials and assignments and to answer questions. Remember that all ReadBox challenges should demonstrate that you put a lot of time and effort into this project. All details should be refined and show careful planning and contemplation. This should look like it took not hours but days to complete your project. The ReadBox challenges should demonstrate understanding of the reading material from beginning to end.



So start your reading engines and get started on your ultimate ReadBox challenge !

How to find your reading material

During this ReadBox Project you are going to read various authentic texts such as lyrics, newspaper/ magazine articles and books etc. In order to read for pleasure you should look for articles and books that match your interests and sparkle your enthusiasm for reading. How are you going to find the reading material you are looking for ?

Here are some tips:

Decide what you're in the mood for

First of all you have to decide what mood you're in for. What book genre suits you best? Are you into action and adventure, science fiction, romance, drama, satire, mystery, history, poetry, comics/ graphic novels, autobiographies, journals etc ? Perhaps you enjoyed a recent film or TV miniseries; chances are it was based on a book you would enjoy also.

Ask around or get recommendations from social media

Ask someone in your circle of friends or in your family, or a teacher for any book which are must-reads. They will probably even lend you a book.

Check out the (school) library

Make time to visit the (school) library and check out the English section. Are there any books of your interest? Spend some time looking at the cover, and reading a chapter or two, before checking it out to ensure it fits your interests. It won't cost you anything. Librarians do tend to be literature fans, so talk to them for their recommendation.

Browse in a bookshop

Just look around and find the English section and see if there are any books that interest you. Don't judge a book only by looking at its cover; what you see on the cover is not necessarily what you get. Read the short reviews printed inside a dust jacket, or skim the first few chapters to find out what a book is really about. If the book is not for you, put it aside and try another, until you find your book.

Browse the net

If you are looking for a particular kind of book, you can do google searches to find appropriate titles. You can consult book and author-related blogs where teenagers get together to discuss books and have a list of books other people have enjoyed on the net. You could have a look at Library websites; they also provide suggested reading lists. Or search for community websites, such as [Goodreads](#) or [Shelfari](#), which allow you to connect with literature fans around the world. You can find good books within minutes. You can also consult the next pages.

Useful websites to support your Reading Challenge

Songbird	Lyrics
Lyrics	www.lyrics.com
Lyrics Training	http://lyricstraining.com
Lyrics Planet	www.lyricsplanet.com
Lyrics Time	www.lyricstime.com

Daily Poetry	Poetry for teenagers
Family Friend Poems	http://www.familyfriendpoems.com/poems/teen/
100 Best Teen Poets	http://100-poems.com/poems/teen/
Poems for the People by the People	http://www.netpoets.com/poems/teenlife/
British Council	http://learnenglishteens.britishcouncil.org/uk-now/stories-and-poems-uk

Short story	Short stories
Short Stories UK	http://www.short-stories.co.uk
Fiction Eserver Collection	http://fiction.eserver.org/short/
English Club	https://www.englishclub.com/reading/short-stories.htm
Lingua Press	http://linguapress.com/inter.htm
Book Trust	http://www.booktrust.org.uk/books/adults/short-stories/stories/

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Questions and Feedback

Please share your feedback with me. Email me at c.sangers@sintjan-lvo.nl

After you have finished the ReadBox Project, please fill in the evaluation form.
(Evaluation - Appendix VII)

