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# **Raising *Ready, Steady* Readers**

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English Language Department

*Reflective Inquirers, Aspiring Advocates, Steadfast Leaders*



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# Raising *Ready, Steady* Readers

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The *Whys* of Raising Readers

The *Hows* of Raising Readers

i. *Ready* Readers

ii. *Steady* Readers

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# Activity - Let's Encourage\*!

\* To give somebody support, courage or hope

(<https://www.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com/definition/English>)

Let's write an *encouragement* card to your child.

# **Activity – I managed to read the story by:**

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- decoding symbols
- studying patterns
- examining visual cues
- tapping on prior knowledge
- reading with someone



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# **The Whys of Raising Readers**

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# 1. Reading develops the brain.

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## *Develop your brain - read 15 minutes a day*

Like an exercise regime for fitness, a reading habit can help develop mental fitness



**Akshita Nanda**  
Arts Correspondent

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Two years ago, psychologists proved that reading novels heightens a reader's ability to empathise with and understand other people's emotions. Even reading potboilers can help. Last year, a study at Emory University in Atlanta showed that students who read the 300-page historical novel Pompeii by Robert Harris showed brain changes associated with increased mental capacity to learn language.

Source : <http://www.straitstimes.com/lifestyle/arts/develop-your-brain-read-15-minutes-a-day>

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# 1. Reading develops the brain.

- The study at Emory University found heightened connectivity in the area of the brain associated with receptivity for language after reading, even on mornings after the reading assignments were completed.
- It only takes 15 minutes a day to change the brain patterns.

## 2. Reading develops the verbal abilities.

- Readers tend to have a more varied range of words to express how they feel and to get their point across.
- There is a higher level of vocabulary to use in everyday life.



### 3. Reading improves concentration.

- Reading involves closing off the outside world and immersing into the text.
- Over time, attention span will be strengthened.
- Silent reading is beneficial.



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## 4. Reading reduces stress.

- A study by consultancy firm Mindlab International at the University of Sussex
- The subjects only needed to read silently for 6 minutes to slow down the heart rate and ease tension in the muscles.

Source : <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/health/news/5070874/Reading-can-help-reduce-stress.html>

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## 5. Reading increases wit and imagination.

- Reading involves gaining endless amount of perspectives and lives one could read about.
- Reading provides opportunities to have experiences that we have not had.



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# The Whys of Raising Readers Summary

THE STRAITS TIMES

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This idea might seem hare-brained at first glance. But I believe that it will transform us not only as individuals but also as a nation.

The benefits of reading are widely established. As I argued last year in a commentary titled "Out with tuition, in with reading" co-written with Assistant Professor Loh Chin Ee, an expert in reading and libraries from the National Institute of Education, research has shown how reading not only improves school grades, but also enables a flourishing life as adults and nurtures better citizens.

Source : <http://www.straitstimes.com/opinion/why-reading-should-be-a-compulsory-subject-in-school>

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# **The Hows of Raising Readers**

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# The Hows of Raising **Ready** Readers


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# The Hows of Raising *Ready* Readers



THE STRAITSTIMES

OPINION

 LOG

Research shows that young children need help to read independently and with pleasure, so that can be the role of lower primary teachers.

Source : <http://www.straitstimes.com/opinion/why-reading-should-be-a-compulsory-subject-in-school>

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# 1. Read More - Read Habitually

Two years ago, psychologists proved that reading novels heightens a reader's ability to empathise with and understand other people's emotions. Even reading potboilers can help. Last year, a study at Emory University in Atlanta showed that students who read the 300-page historical novel Pompeii by Robert Harris showed brain changes associated with increased mental capacity to learn language.

So if reading can help one develop mental fitness and social skills, why isn't a reading habit part of every life, just like doctors recommend 150 minutes a week of moderate exercise to stave off heart disease and diabetes?

The answer lies in the comparison. Like developing fitness, developing a reading habit takes time and effort.

Source : <http://www.straitstimes.com/lifestyle/arts/develop-your-brain-read-15-minutes-a-day>



# 1. Read More - Read Habitually

- Silent reading before lessons
- Reading during EL lessons
- Regular visits to the school library

## 2. Read More - Read with Skills

- EL Lessons
  - Letter sounds
  - Word identification strategies e.g. rhyming words, blending and segmentation of sounds
  - Visual cues

## 2. Read More – Read with Skills Additional Support for Beginning Readers

- Learning Support Programme (P1 & P2)
- KidsREAD Programme (P1 & P2)
- Reading Remediation Programme, RRP (P3 & P4)
- School-based Dyslexia Remediation Programme, SDR (P3 & P4)



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# The Hows of Raising **Steady** Readers

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# 1. Read Widely – Read a Variety

- Picture books
- Storybooks
- E-books
- Information books
- Newspapers
- Magazines

# 1. Read Widely – Read a Variety

- Choosing the ‘right’ books
  - a. 5-finger rule
  - b. Interests
  - c. Reading levels

## 2. Read Together – Read and Share

- Reading together with the teacher and peers
- Book Talk activities
- EL Week

<p><b>FAVOURITE SCENE</b></p> <p>Draw your favourite scene from the book.</p>  <p>Completion Date: _____ 😊</p>	<p><b>It's FUNNY!</b></p> <p>Draw or write about the funniest part of the story.</p>  <p>Completion Date: _____ 😊</p>	<p><b>Let's share!</b></p>  <p>Read a book recommended by your friend. Write the title and draw anything from the book.</p> <p>Completion Date: _____ 😊</p>
<p><b>Change the ending</b></p>  <p>Write or draw a different ending to the story.</p> <p>Completion Date: _____ 😊</p>	<p><b>Free Choice!</b></p>  <p>Completion Date: _____ 😊</p>	<p><b>Animal book</b></p>  <p>Read about an animal and draw the animal. You may write about one interesting fact about the animal.</p> <p>Completion Date: _____ 😊</p>



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# The Hows of Raising **Ready and Steady** Readers Summary

Read more

Read widely

Read together

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# Who Am I?

I am your constant companion.

I am your greatest helper or heaviest burden.

I will push you onward or drag you down to failure.

I am completely at your command.

Half the things you do you might just as well turn over to me and I will be able to do them quickly and correctly.

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I am easily managed - you must merely be firm with me.

Show me exactly how you want something done and after a few lessons, I will do it automatically.

I am the servant of all great individuals and, alas, of all failures, as well.

Those who are great, I have made great.

Those who are failures, I have made failures.

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I am not a machine, though I work with all the precision of a machine plus the intelligence of a human.

You may run me for a profit or run me for ruin – it makes no difference to me.

Take me, train me, be firm with me, and I will place the world at your feet.

Be easy with me and I will destroy you.

So who am I?

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# I am **HABIT.**

*Taken from The 7 Habits Of Highly Effective Teens by Sean Covey*

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**Let's cultivate a reading habit  
at home and in school  
to raise *Ready and Steady* Readers!**

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Thank You

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