



Reading in Languages

Disciplinary literacy is defined as the confluence of content knowledge, experiences, and skills merged with the ability to read, write, listen, speak, think critically and perform in a way that is meaningful within the context of a given field.

Foreign language reading can make a crucial contribution to wider learning in languages, for reasons including the following:

- As one of the four main language skills, it forms part of students' broader communicative competence.
- Reading provides linguistic 'input', allowing students to encounter new language and consolidate what they know (e.g. in terms of vocabulary and grammatical structures).
- It supports autonomous learning, particularly outside the classroom.
- It offers a window on the target language culture – not only through books but also websites and blogs, song lyrics, social messaging etc.
- Foreign language reading may impact positively on English literacy, for example through the development of transferable reading strategies and knowledge of phonic decoding (Murphy et al., 2014).

? READING FOR UNDERSTANDING

PHONICS INSTRUCTION:



Teaching students about the relationships between the written symbols of the language and the spoken sounds they represent, helping them to 'sound out' written words in order to be able to pronounce them accurately. Reading aloud is common place in lessons.

STRATEGIC READING:

If students are to access more challenging texts, it is likely that they will need to deploy appropriate strategic behaviour to compensate for gaps in their current linguistic knowledge.

Examples of strategic reading might be:

- Use context to infer the meanings of unknown words
- Use logic and make connections / comparisons to work out the meaning of unknown words (including connections to knowledge of English words)
- Read on to look for meanings of unknown words later in the text
- Use images and titles to support understanding of text
- Think about whether the initial understanding of a word or sentence makes sense in the wider context, or considering new information as you read on
- Read with resilience and stamina



CULTURAL CAPITAL

- Use reading as a way to make connections and better understand the culture of the language they are studying.

TEXTS



- Written instructions
- News articles
- Blogs
- Websites
- Vocabulary lists
- Authentic literary extracts
- Documentaries
- Fictional texts
- Questions (e.g. exam questions)
- Poetry
- Song lyrics

