

Using the Diary of a Wimpy Kid series to encourage Reluctant Readers

The Diary of a Wimpy Kid books are the perfect companion for any reluctant reader, helping them to overcome their reading barriers and develop a real and lasting love of reading. There are three main features of the books that make them excellent for those with a lower reading age: their layout, style and content.

Layout

The Diary of a Wimpy Kid books' clear comic-book format makes them accessible for those who have lower reading ages, or who might struggle to read long sections of unbroken text. The font size, spacious layout and simple, direct language make the books both accessible and engaging. The text is interspersed with images, making it easily digestible and allowing readers to work at their own pace, without losing the thread of the story. This visual backup is excellent for those who find reading more challenging: the pictures can contextualise and reinforce what is happening in the story, while keeping it fun and engaging.

Style

The books are packed full of literary features that help make them accessible for those resisting the reading bug. Jeff Kinney writes in the first person, taking students straight into the mind of his protagonist. They are full of characters to whom young people can relate and, most importantly, the books are bursting with laugh-out-loud moments that make reading them a real pleasure.

Content

The series tackles themes that young people want to hear about: bullying, friendship, school and family life. The events in the books are based on real experiences that young people go through, and can therefore be a great tool to help young people navigate the experiences in their own lives. The Wimpy Kid books make reading fun, and provide that important jump into reading lots of different types of books for pleasure.

Core Reading Skills

The series is excellent for developing core reading skills. The enthusiasm the books create in their readers fosters a positive attitude to reading that can then be continued with other types of literature including: fiction, non-fiction, plays and other multi-modal texts. The Diary of a Wimpy Kid books get young people talking. Children love to share, recommend and comment on these books – all skills that are recognised and championed by the National Curriculum.

The activities in the following 5 pages are designed for reluctant readers. They are made up of games and taster activities that will get students excited about the books while developing their reading, writing, speaking and listening skills. The tasks are great for more advanced readers too – these students should follow the extension activities to complete the tasks in greater depth.



#WIMPYKID



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