



## ***English - additional resources and ideas***

There are lots of opportunities for your child to explore above and outside the curriculum during this lockdown period. English is exciting - really exciting - and this is an opportunity to explore that in as much depth as they like! It can be hard to know where to start with all the resources on offer online though, and so we have put together some of the best of what's out there for you and your child to explore should you wish.

We've divided the resources into three sections (click the link to go straight to the section you'd like to access):

1. [Additional resources for parents of students who want to take their love of English further](#)
2. [Additional resources for parents of students who are struggling with specific areas of English](#)
3. [Links to revision materials for parents of students wanting to get ahead with their GCSE study](#)

### **Section 1**

#### **If they love to read fiction...**

- [Audible](#) have made loads of their audiobooks free during the lockdown period.
- [This](#) website has lots of links for websites where you can access free books online - lots of these are suitable for children and teenagers.
- David Walliams is reading to students every day at 11am - you can also catch up on stories that you have missed on his website [here](#).
- [Brightly](#) is a website about raising children who love to read. There are some great articles here, but also good recommended reading lists and suggestions of books that your child might enjoy.
- [Goodreads](#) has list after list of suggested books in categories. This might be a good starting point if you or your child is unsure what to pick next!
- [Spotify](#) has plenty of podcasts that, like audible, read books chapter by chapter. Book Cheat is a great place to start if you aren't sure what genre to read.
- [Literary Hub](#) has everything from Shakespeare to recent teen fiction to crime.
- Why not suggest that they start an online book club with their friends? They just need to pick a book, and then pick an online forum to discuss it either after each chapter or at the end.

#### **If they love to read non fiction...**

- We have a school subscription to the student newspaper '[The Day](#)', where students can access the news in a language suitable to them, and are also given tasks and things to think about related to the news.
- If you're looking for a book to order for them, [this](#) list from Penguin Random House of Teen and Young Adult Non fiction is a great starting point. You can sign up here for updates and new reading lists too!

- [Spotify](#) has plenty of podcasts that, like audible, read travel writing, article, etc.
- Articles such as [this one](#) point readers in the direction of some of the best speeches in history.

### If they love to write fiction...

- [Pobble 365](#) has some amazing writing resources, with a different picture for every day of the year and suggested writing tasks to go with it.
- [Young Writers](#) has some great ideas for student writing, including ideas for entering into competitions!
- [This](#) article talks you through 6 great websites for teen writers, with a summary of what each one is good for and why. A great starting point for you and your aspiring young writer.
- Our very own Stokesley Creative Writing Club is still running! Every week we send out a writing prompt to have a go at. Join the Classroom with the code: [Iz2eday](#) or email Mr Adams ([c.adams@stokesleyschool.org](mailto:c.adams@stokesleyschool.org))
- [Nownovel](#) gives you tips and tricks to writing all forms of fiction.

### If they love to write poetry...

- [This](#) list of prompts is a great starting point for budding poets - hopefully they'll find some inspiration here for something that they'd like to write about.
- [The Poetry Society](#) has loads of great ideas too - there is so much that you can play around with if you're interested in poetry!
- [This](#) article explains what Blackout poetry is - if you can find an old book that you're willing to part with, all of you can have some fun making blackout poetry of your own
- Why not order some [fridge poetry](#) and set the family some poetic challenges
- Encourage them to write a poem about what's going on in the world at the minute - this is undoubtedly going to be a time in history that people remember, and they could be a part of that.

### If they love to write non fiction...

- Whilst it's aimed at primary school children, [Oxford Owl](#) have some great ideas about writing non fiction for fun, that some of our year y7 and y8 students might really enjoy.
- Why not encourage them to interview friends and relatives about their lockdown experience and put them together in a newspaper article of their own about how the lockdown is affecting people that they know?
- Could they start a blog? There are websites where they can do this, or they could just do it on Google Docs and share it with a teacher or family members who would be interested to read.
- Apps like [Mystagram](#) allow you to write and keep your own personal photo diary. It's another great way of documenting what their lockdown experience has been like.
- Sending a letter or an email to an isolating relative would be a great way to use their non-fiction writing skills.

### If they love Shakespeare...

- [BBC Teach](#) have loads of great Shakespeare stuff on their website
- [The Globe theatre](#) are streaming lots of performances and clips of performances

- Probably for students higher up the school, [Massolit](#) have some amazing lectures and videos about Shakespeare and his plays. You'll need a login ([jcs010@jcsonlineresources.org](mailto:jcs010@jcsonlineresources.org)) and password ([JCSHypothesis](#)) for this site.
- The [RSC](#) has links to some Shakespeare plays that you can watch for free on Iplayer
- Because of the lockdown, you can sign up for a 14 day free trial to [Marquee TV](#), the performing arts streaming service.
- Sir Patrick Stewart is reading [a sonnet a day](#) and these are being shown on YouTube - what an opportunity!
- The RSC is offering an amazing opportunity for students to ask their actors who currently aren't working for help with their homework. Visit this [Homework Help](#) site for more information.
- Also from the RSC, their [Learning Zone](#) is well worth a visit to find out more about the bard and his plays.
- There are some amazing opportunities to access Live Lessons from the RSC too: have a look [here](#) to see what's on offer. They also have some [Toolkits](#) which have been designed especially for families learning about Shakespeare and his plays from home during this time.
- This [Shakespeare Unplugged](#) lesson is well worth a watch, as is this one called Text Detectives, which uses a range of scenes and speeches across one of Shakespeare's most well-known plays - Romeo and Juliet.

### If they love the history of English...

- Why not encourage your child to start a project about the history of English? There is some really detailed information [here](#), but you can also access some interesting videos on YouTube such as [this](#) one
- There's a BBC documentary about the history of the English language [here](#) which has individual episodes that can either be watched in succession or dipped in and out of at your desire!
- [Englishclub.com](#) talks you through the development of the English language. It has quizzes and resources and lots of information.
- [The History of English Podcast](#) talks you through our myths and where phrases came from among many other things.

### If they love drama and theatre...

- The [National Theatre](#) are currently giving access to some of their shows online for free - they're well worth catching up on and experiencing whilst you can!
- [This](#) article gives you some hints and tips about how to get the most out of online theatre during the lockdown - there are some great suggestions on here.
- There's a list [here](#) of 7 musicals that you can stream for free during lockdown, including a link to Andre Lloyd Webber's musical hits!
- Why not suggest that they look for film or theatre adaptations of books that they have enjoyed reading? Books such as 'Wonder', 'Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close', and 'Holes' that we study in school all have film adaptations.
- How about watching the [BBC's adaptation of 'Noughts and Crosses'](#) by Malorie Blackman?

### If they love learning new words...

- The [Online Etymology Dictionary](#) is the place to go for learning about the history and origin of the words that we use everyday.

- [Merriam-Webster](#) has a word of the day calendar - you can learn a new word every day! Why don't you all learn it and then try to use it in conversation as much as you can!
- There are some links [here](#) to online versions of vocabulary games such as boggle, scrabble, and word unscramble. There are app versions of lots of these games too. Why not sign up as well and then you can compete against your child!
- This website claims to have links to the '[50 coolest online tools for word nerds](#)'! There are some great websites there, including one where you can help save endangered words!

### If they love poetry...

- There's an article [here](#) which introduces you to 30 poetry apps for mobile phones. I bet there is one in there that they will love!
- The [Poetry by Heart](#) website has some amazing poetry resources - how about encouraging your child to learn a poem by heart and recite it. It would be great to send to friends and relatives.
- The links [here](#) are great - some to traditional poetry websites, others to less traditional ones, but all well worth an explore!
- [Young Writers](#) have some great poetry ideas, including slam poetry competitions - it would be amazing to see some of our students entering competitions during this time.
- Carol Ann Duffy has called poets to document the pandemic in verse. You can find a link to some of these incredible poems [here](#)
- Simon Armitage, the poet laureate, has written a poem about lockdown which you can find as part of this [article](#). If they like his style, why not encourage your child to research a bit about him and his poetry by starting with his [website](#). He is one of the poets that they will study at GCSE, if they're not doing so already.
- Frank Skinner loves poetry and has made a [podcast](#) about it. He's passionate, enthusiastic and accessible.

## Section 2

We appreciate that everyone has different strengths, and for some of our students English can feel like a struggle at times. The next section of this resource is aimed at parents with children who are struggling with particular areas of their English study, and who are looking for ways in which they can support them. As with the section above, lots of the suggestions are online links, but we have also included some hints and tips from the English team as to how you can go about supporting your child in these areas.

### If they struggle to understand what they read...

- [This article](#) gives some really useful hints and tips for parents who want to support their children with reading comprehension, and might be a good place for you to start.
- [Readtheory](#) allows you to set up an account as a parent and, once you have done this, to access reading comprehension activities for your child. They can also set up an account for themselves too, if you'd rather they did it independently.
- Twinkl have made all of their resources accessible to parents during lockdown. Sign up using the code **CVDTWINKLHELPS** and, once on the site, there are some fantastic comprehension resources [here](#) that you can access and use. These are particularly good if you have access to

a printer at home. If you want some help with understanding how to use Twinkl as a parent, they have a fantastic [Parents' Hub](#) that guides you through what you can do.

- If you're after something a little more interactive, these [reading games](#) test and improve students' reading skills without them feeling quite as much like they're doing school work!
- [Oxford Owl](#) also has some great comprehension resources, as well as some hints and tips for parents like yourselves who want to help in this area.
- [English Reading Comprehension](#) is a great interactive app for reading comprehension, if you think your child is more likely to engage with something that's accessible on their phone.

### **If they struggle to read quickly and effectively...**

- It can be really hard to engage your child in reading if they struggle to read quickly. This website [here](#) is a good starting point for you as a parent and provides a list of suggested strategies for you to try at home.
- Whilst [this article](#) is aimed at parents who have children with dyslexia, the advice it gives is useful for any parent who has a child who struggles to read quickly and effectively, and might be a useful read for you too.
- If you're asking them to read regularly, pick a time of the day when they're not already tired. We all know that it's hard to focus on something that we struggle with when we are already exhausted from a day's work.
- [FunEnglishGames.com](#) have some good reading games for students, all of which will either indirectly or directly help them with the speed and accuracy of their reading.

### **If they struggle to remember key terminology...**

- [BBC Bitesize](#) has a whole host of great resources linked to key terminology and key concepts in English, and have produced even more resources during lockdown.
- [Kahoot](#) has some great games to help students with their terminology - most students already have a login for this, but if they don't then they can make one for free.
- BBC Bitesize have a great (but not overly oppressive) list of terminology [here](#). Why not encourage your child to make some cue cards using this list and then you can test one another on them?
- Quizlet is another great website which allows students to test themselves on what they know. The link [here](#) takes you to a quiz on terminology that students need to know to help them in their English lessons at school.

### **If they struggle to understand Shakespeare...**

- Start by telling them that we all do! Even English teachers don't know what he is saying sometimes and have to look it up!
- Start by helping them to understand the story - there are some great simplistic adaptations of stories and summaries, such as the [Cliffnotes](#) ones which can be accessed for free on YouTube. Once they have an understanding of the story, they'll find it easier to work out what's being said.
- Encourage them to watch or listen to the plays. Shakespeare never intended for us to read his plays - they were designed as spectacles for the stage. The [RSC](#) has links here to plays that you can watch from home, but there's nothing wrong with watching the more modern adaptations instead - this list of [Shakespeare Adaptations aimed at teens](#) includes some real corkers that you could perhaps all watch together.

- If they've been asked to read a scene from a play and are struggling to access the language, [No Sweat Shakespeare](#) are now offering access to all of their modern English translations online for free. [Here's](#) an example from Romeo and Juliet so that you can see what you think!
- If you're looking for a more direct translation into modern English to support your child, the Sparknotes [No Fear Shakespeare translations](#) have the original and modern versions side by side.

### If they struggle with spelling...

- Lots of our students worry about having weak spelling, and sometimes this is a hurdle that's just not worth worrying about too much. Yes spelling is important, but it's not the be all and end all, and plenty of students succeed in their English lessons and exams despite struggling with spellings.
- This [list](#) of online spelling exercises and games might be a good starting point for you to look through with your child, to see what they fancy having a go at.
- If you're willing to invest money as well as time into helping your child improve their spelling, [Spellzone](#) is an excellent option. They're offering a free 5 day trial at the minute, and then a 30% discount to membership for anyone who chooses to sign up during the lockdown period. It's certainly worth a trial!
- [BBC Teach](#) is offering some great mini courses on spellings at the minute.
- BBC Bitesize has a [spelling](#) section too, with some great spelling strategies that your child can learn and apply in their writing.

### If they struggle with grammar...

- The [CGP revision guide](#) and [workbook](#) are really good physical resources to have in the house. The two of them go hand in hand, with the pages in the revision guide corresponding to activities in the workbook that they can do. Answers are in the back too, so they can mark it themselves or hand it over to you to mark! The links above are to the KS3 ones, but there are KS4 ones [here](#) too.
- The Grammar sections of the BBC Bitesize websites ([KS3](#), [KS4](#)) are great, with interactive videos and then activities for students to complete. If your child creates an account with BBC Bitesize you can start personalising their dashboard with topics relevant and useful to them.
- [The Educational App Store](#) has provided this list of the best grammar apps for students. If you like the look of the site, they're offering a [7 day free trial](#) to the Parent App Library. Don't worry that this seems to be aimed at younger students, if your child is struggling then accessing material aimed at the top end of primary school is a great start, both in terms of working out where they're at, but also in terms of building their confidence.
- This [article](#) talks you through the top grammar apps to help you improve your writing. This might be worth a look at before you choose an app for them on their phone. These are perhaps apps aimed at those who want to perfect their grammar, rather than those who are struggling with the basics.

### If they struggle to choose a book...

- Encouraging your child to read is often about picking the right book at the right time. Bookshelves and bookshops can be oppressive if they don't know what they're looking for. One suggestion is to encourage them to read the first chapter of books that you think they

might like, with no pressure on them to read the rest of it if they don't want to. Sometimes this is less daunting than opening a book knowing you're expected to read the whole thing.

- [Love Reading](#) is just a great website. You can browse by topic, by age, by gender, by theme and what we love most about it is that you can download extracts of books to try out too. It's definitely a good website for those students who don't know what to pick.
- The [World Book Day website](#) has loads of extracts from books that you can read for free. This again might be a good starting point. There are loads of other lovely reading resources on this site too.
- [Goodreads](#) has list after list of suggested books in categories. This might be a good starting point if you or your child is unsure what to pick next!
- [Brightly](#) is a website about raising children who love to read. There are some great articles here, but also good recommended reading lists and suggestions of books that your child might enjoy.

### If they struggle to settle down to reading...

- There are so many distractions for young people that can mean it's hard to settle down to reading a book. Why not pick a regular time of the day: before tea? Just after tea? If you could allocate a bit of this time to reading too, they'll find it easier to settle down knowing everyone is in the same boat.
- Apps such as Offtime can switch off the apps on their phone that are a distraction, this [article](#) talks you through some of the best apps if you think that this might help
- Don't expect hours of reading at a time - 10 minutes a day to start with will make a massive difference in the long run, and I'm sure you'll find that once they're into a book they will naturally want to read for longer
- How about using some calming music whilst they're reading? YouTube has some playlists such as [this one](#) which are intended to be listened to whilst reading.
- How about reading chapters alternately? They read one and then you do. If reading is a struggle, students can find it hard to find the motivation to read for themselves, but most of them enjoy having stories read to them.
- Don't be afraid to allow them to access stories without them having to read, [Audible](#) have made loads of their audiobooks free during the lockdown period and if just listening is the key to enjoying stories, then go for it.
- How about trying to use a kindle, or the [kindle app](#) on their phone? Some students find that reading on a phone is easier than using an actual book because it's more like what they're used to. There are actually quite a few free books on the kindle store and there's a link [here](#) to the 'Top 100' of these!

## Section 3

Some of our year 9 and 10 students in particular (or you on their behalf!) may well be looking ahead to their GCSEs and wondering what can be done to get ahead of the game. In reality, all of the activities above will contribute towards this, but if you're after some more specific revision materials then some of the links below might help.

## English language:

[English Language complete revision and Practice](#)

[English Language workbook](#)

[Practice papers](#)

[Reading Skills: fiction](#)

[Reading skills: non-fiction](#)

[Revision cards](#)



## English Literature:

Macbeth [revision guide](#) and [workbook](#)

An Inspector Calls [revision guide](#) and [workbook](#)

A Christmas Carol [revision guide](#) and [workbook](#)

Jekyll and Hyde [revision guide](#) and [workbook](#)

Power and Conflict poetry [revision guide](#)

Power and Conflict poetry [essays](#)

Unseen poetry [revision guide](#)

Revision cards

- [An Inspector Calls](#)
- [Macbeth](#)
- [A Christmas Carol](#)
- [Jekyll and Hyde](#)

