



Introduction

Why shared reading? (0:00-2:20)

Shared reading helps students develop a love of reading and gives them a pathway to independence. Through shared reading, students learn how texts work and how readers read. The large amount of teacher support means that students can quickly join in and feel and sound like readers. After many shared readings of a big book and lots of opportunities to practise, they'll be able to read the small book versions on their own.

Shared reading gives students access to all sorts of texts – fiction, non-fiction, plays, and poetry, that they wouldn't be able to read by themselves. Texts for shared reading (big books and poem cards) use memorable language and encourage enthusiasm for reading. They often have rhythm, repetition, and rhyme, including refrains that students love to join in with. For new learners, shared reading supports early concepts about print, such as reading from left to right and learning to match spoken words to written words. Shared reading also helps students exercise their imaginations, extend their vocabulary, and build comprehension, fluency, and confidence. In these ways, shared reading lays the foundation for guided reading.

The books for shared reading aren't levelled. That means they can be used with different students in different ways. There are teacher support materials (TSM) with suggestions about the many ways you can use the books. You can find more information about shared reading (and the TSM as well as audio) at readytoread.tki.org.nz

In the following case studies, teachers talk about their use of some of their favourite Ready to Read shared books. These books are provided free to all New Zealand primary schools.

