



How to Create a Reading Room with BURLINGTON ENGLISH Digital Readers

Using BurlingtonEnglish Digital Readers as a supplement to your core curriculum is an easy way to help ELLs connect as a learning community and to develop a love of reading. The anticipation of what's in the next chapter will keep your students coming back to your Reading Room!



Benefits of a Reading Room

- Builds vocabulary
- Increases reading comprehension
- Improves reading fluency
- Creates self-confidence
- Encourages academic success

Teaching Virtually

Follow these steps to ensure that you and your students enjoy a fun and meaningful experience in a Virtual Reading Room.

- 1 Practice meeting with students in an online setting before starting your reading session.
- 2 Practice sharing your screen so you can display the Digital Reader during your reading session.
- 3 Familiarize students with basic features of your virtual platform, such as mute, camera on/off, and raise hand. Learn about more advanced features such as breakout rooms for pair and group work.
- 4 Set clear expectations for student participation and online classroom etiquette.

Ideas for Structuring Your Reading Room

- Choose a book from the Burlington Digital Readers Collection.
 - Students can vote on a Reader.
 - The teacher can select a title for the class.
 - **Beginner** and **Intermediate** level Digital Readers are shorter in length and can be completed in less time. They are fun for read-alouds during class time.
 - **Advanced** Digital Readers are longer and more complex. Teachers can assign chapters for independent reading outside of class and then discuss the material during scheduled class time.
- Schedule specific times for your Reading Room (e.g. 20 minutes at the end of each class; every Friday).



Ideas for Reading with a Group

- Give a reading assignment prior to class so students can preview and practice reading from the Digital Reader. For example: Read and/or listen to chapter 1 in *The Prince and the Pauper*.
- Read aloud the “About” section to preview the story.
- Have students take turns reading to the group. Consider students’ reading abilities and adjust your expectations accordingly. Students can read a few sentences, a paragraph or a page, depending on their reading ability and level of comfort.
 - Decide in advance how to structure the turn-taking process so students are clear when it’s their turn to read.
 - Be sure to include yourself in the rotation so you can model fluent reading.
 - Remember to include every student; mistakes are ok ... you are all learning together.
 - As you’re reading along, be sure to allow time to answer questions about vocabulary and pronunciation.
- Use the audio option and have students listen to a passage, then pause to answer questions about vocabulary and comprehension.
- Have students practice reading together in pairs or small groups. Use breakout rooms if teaching in a virtual setting. Students can focus on a particular paragraph or section of the story for extra practice. They can play the audio as a model and then read aloud.

Ideas to Check for Comprehension

- Ready-made comprehension activities are included throughout each Digital Reader to check for understanding.
 - Have students work independently in their notebooks to answer the comprehension questions and then come together as a group to share and check answers.
 - Use comprehension questions to prompt discussion about the characters and settings.
 - Model and practice reading strategies such as using evidence from the text to support responses.
 - Have students work in small groups. Use breakout rooms if teaching in a virtual setting.

Ideas for Post Reading: Writing and Speaking Expansion Activities

Once you have completed a Digital Reader with your class, students can work on writing expansion activities on their own time and share their written responses with classmates during class time.

Creative Writing

Ideas

- Have students write about their favorite or least favorite character and explore qualities of the character: what they like most or least about the character, why they chose a particular character, etc.
- Have students draw their favorite character and then write about the illustration. They can present the character to the class.
- Have students make up an alternative ending to the story, write the new ending and share it with the class.
- Have students re-write the story from a specific character’s perspective.



Tips for Differentiation

Beginner/Intermediate levels: Provide students with a series of questions or an outline, then have them write their responses using complete sentences. Students can read their responses to the class.

Intermediate/Advanced levels: Have students write a paragraph or short essay to describe their favorite character. Students read their essay or paragraph to the class.

5 Star Review: Rate the Digital Reader

Ideas

- Discuss what might be included in a book review. For example, a brief summary, what students liked most or least about the book, who might enjoy this story (audience), etc.
- Ask students to write a book review to share their opinion of the Reader based on the classroom discussion.

Tips for Differentiation

Beginner/Intermediate levels: Provide a series of questions for your students, then have them write sentences to answer the questions. Have students share their answers with the class.

Advanced levels: Write a short book review to present to the class.

Vocabulary Activities

Build vocabulary using new words and phrases from stories in the Digital Readers.

- A-Z vocabulary notebook – personalized for each student
For each new vocabulary word, have students write a definition or translation; use the word in a sentence; draw a picture to represent the word or phrase; write a synonym/antonym; etc. Students can discuss vocabulary words in pairs. Use breakout rooms if teaching in a virtual setting.

Act It Out

Have students role play a scene from the story.

- Consider adding props to bring the scene to life.
- In a virtual setting, students can practice in a breakout room or outside of class in their own virtual calls and then present their role play to the class.

Watch the Movie

Several of the Digital Readers are classic stories that are available on the internet as movies or short films, e.g. *Gulliver's Travels*, *The Prince and the Pauper*, *Ghandi*.

- Show an excerpt or watch the movie together as a class. Discuss the similarities and differences.
- Encourage students to watch the movie at home with their families or friends.

**Come up with your own ideas
and have fun reading together!**