

Each year Delany College holds a Reading Conference. In 2007, parents have been invited to the keynote address and a workshop for parents about reading in the home.



# Reading matters



Walking and reading are basic skills in life. We are good at walking because we never stop practising.

## **Reading is different.**

Some people learn faster, some people do not practise. Some people just choose not to read.

## **Reading really does matter.**

Your children will benefit through life from being able to read to the best of their ability.

## **This booklet is for Delany families.**

It is about how you can join with the staff in improving your child's reading.

## **Your teen is already a good reader?**

Everyone benefits from regular reading. Check out the 'Proficient readers' from [www.delanylibrary.com/proficientrdrs.pdf](http://www.delanylibrary.com/proficientrdrs.pdf)

I asked Year 7s and they said...



## But Mum ...

It's too hard

Read books at your level.

If there are more than 5 words on the first page that are too hard for you, choose an easier book.

It's boring!

Read about things that interest you.

Read about your sports, cars, fashion, fishing, the world.

Provide your child with material that interests them. Purchase magazine subscriptions and newspapers.

No one reads so why should I read?

Parents, make the time to read.

Be seen by your children reading. Buy books, magazines and newspapers.

Let your children see that reading is valued at your house.

I do all my reading at school

But it is NOT enough.

Everyone should be reading every day.

1 page... 3 pages.. 10 pages and much more.

**Read at home every day.**

I asked Year 7s and they said...



## But Dad ...

**I play sport ..**

**That is great!** Everyone should be active, but read too.

**You can do both.**

Read in the evenings, maybe before bed. Ask Ms Walsh - she reads every day and plays sport too.

**I don't have time**

**Make time.**

You make time for everything else in your life, add reading at night, before you go to bed.

**It's nerdy  
But no one  
reads!**

This is the hard one.

First of all, don't believe everything friends say. Many WILL be reading and studying. Second, if they choose not to read, they are limiting their own lives. Is that a good reason to limit yours?

Do you really think your friends will desert you because you read at night?

Think again. Be responsible for yourself.

**Have friends AND read!**

# Teenagers and Reading

Source: RIF Parent Guide Brochure : <http://www.rif.org/parents/>

- Perhaps the teenager in your family was once a keen reader, but now hardly ever opens a book, or perhaps your child never liked reading in the first place.
- You know that reading is important, and you obviously want to make sure that your teenager grows into adulthood with all the skills he or she needs to succeed.

## *What can you do?*

- This article suggests how parents can help their teenagers decide for *themselves* that reading is important to their lives.
- With that in mind, half of this article speaks directly to young people. We encourage you to share it with the teens in your family. It is enclosed on a separate sheet.

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## Try to Avoid...

Before we list ways to encourage teen reading that *do* work, here are a few tactics that *don't* work:

### **Pressuring, nagging, or bribing.**

Encourage your kids, but don't hound them.

### **Criticizing what your teens read.**

Explain what troubles you about certain types of reading materials *after* reading them yourself. Forbid as little as possible. And whenever you can, accept differences of opinion as just that.

### **Lavishing too much praise.**

If you catch your youngster reading, show interest, but don't make a big deal out of it.' Teens can sense phoney praise.

### **Valuing only 'classics'**

There is more to reading than reading classics. Value newspapers, magazines, books online. It is all practice.

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## Now ...

### Some ways to encourage

1. **Set an example.** Let your kids see *you* reading for pleasure and visit the library together.
2. **Make time** in the family routine for reading.
3. **Furnish your home with a variety of reading materials.** Leave books, magazines, and newspapers around. Buy subscriptions.
4. **Give teens an opportunity to choose their own books** from the library or bookstore. Lend books between family and friends.
5. **Build on your teen's interests.**  
Look for books and articles that feature their favourite sports teams, rock stars, hobbies, for funny stuff.
6. **Read some books written for teens.** Young adult novels can give you valuable insights into the concerns and pressures felt by teenagers.
7. **Make reading aloud a natural part of family life.** Share something you are reading but do not turn it into a lesson!
8. **Acknowledge your teen's mature interests.** Let them read suitable adult books.

End of document.

**Finally.....**

## **Remember Mr Lee and Bilel...**

Bilel was a student at Granville Boys High School and he came from second bottom in every subject in year 9, to be Dux of his school in year 12. Yes, it is true!

### **How did he do this?**

He asked Mr Lee how much would he have to read to become a Doctor like his daughter – would 1 page be enough?

So he started reading – 1 page, 3 pages 15 pages until he was reading 150 pages a day.

Every day, without fail.

He made a note of words he didn't know and he learned their meanings.

**He became a 'proficient reader'** which helped him with his school work, and he succeeded at school.

He still did not get into medicine straight from school. He completed a Medical Science degree first, and then got accepted into Medicine which he is now completing.

**Bilel, the son of an Arabic speaking family, who had never had a member go to university.**

**Reading enabled him to reach his potential.**

*You can read the full story of Bilel and Mr Lee in an article that was printed in the Good Weekend supplement to the Sydney Morning Herald 7 May 2006. Ask your teen to borrow it from the school library.*



# 2007

## Focus on reading

Home and school  
Working together

### Want to know more?

'Reading is Fundamental' is an organisation in the USA, and it has produced a website with a large section for parents. It contains practical and sensible suggestions for both you and your teen.

<http://www.rif.org/parents/>

Delany library has a site for reading and books:

[www.delanylibrary.com/ChoosingBooks.html](http://www.delanylibrary.com/ChoosingBooks.html)

Proficient readers supplement is available from the Delany Library website' [www.delanylibrary.com/proficientrdrs.pdf](http://www.delanylibrary.com/proficientrdrs.pdf)

This booklet is available at

[www.delanylibrary.com/Parentbklet.pdf](http://www.delanylibrary.com/Parentbklet.pdf)

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