



19 August 2022

To: Principals, Subject Advisors, Parents, Teachers, Departmental Heads, and Library Information Services (LIS) Coordinators.

Topic: Building back better through employing effective reading methods in high schools.

Message Objective:

To:

- Promote reading in high schools
- Maximise reading strategies in high schools
- Increase numbers of learners participating in reading activities in schools.

Integrating reading periods in high schools can help build back better the culture of reading for high school learners. There is currently few or no reading periods in high school. If schools can create such sessions they can be achieved as far as improving reading is concerned. Teachers can use the following ideas to stimulate interest in reading in schools:

Encourage learners to read the rest of a story or book by reading only the first chapter or section to them. Then stop reading and tell the learners where they can find the rest of the story or book. Find downloadable resources at <http://www.fundza.co.za/resources/> The chat catalogues are two pages from the beginning of a short play. Print out four copies and invite confident learners to read them aloud with you. You can also find downloadable stories via FunDza on WhatsApp. Save FunDza as a contact on your phone at 060 054 8676.

Use of popular songs

Print out the lyrics of popular songs for learners to listen. Display them on the wall. The learners read the text as they sing it. They also discover that singers can also be writers and poets.

Start a reading club

Ask people to help you collect resources like interesting magazines and suitable books to start a reading club after school, or during the break. The learners read the story/magazine/book and then discuss the characters, storyline, and information from the text(s).

Get learners writing

Encourage learners to keep journals to express their thoughts, hopes, and dreams. Encourage them to write poetry about what is important to them. Start a writing club sees <https://live.fundza.mobi/home/library/resources-education/me-with-you-writing-course/>).

Special reading events

Along with reading and writing clubs, there are important historical and social events that schools should support through community reading activities. You can find these special reading days in the Weekly Plans for 2022. For example, Literacy Day which will be celebrated on the 8th of September 2022. On that day you can plan for the following: Invite community leaders to read a story aloud to all the learners at assembly (e.g. the

- Nal'ibali World Read Aloud Day story.
- **Design a poster:** Invite learners to create posters that promote reading. They share their ideas on why reading is important.

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