

Reading: Strategies to develop reading for different purposes

Key principles

1 Read for pronunciation.

A valid purpose for reading at the beginning is to embed the phonics and develop the sound-written patterns of the language. A useful 'fringe benefit' is often that they can begin to guess at the meaning and also that they are interested and begin to ask questions about the reading text. All types of material are useful for this – especially comic strips, adverts, and especially poems and short children's stories because they were written to be read aloud.

- Teacher reads or students take turns reading around the class, but all learners move their mouths as they follow the text.
- Read chorally from a shared version on the board. If students mouth it through the first time to practise, then the teacher reads it and they mouth it through again, then they can read it chorally or according to any routine the teacher has (e.g. teacher could carry a 'reading wand' and assign the reading responsibility by indicating one learner followed by the next, etc..) Memory work can be developed from here, subtracting key words from the written text.



2 Read for the main details.

For example, use the 5 Ws and an H routine (What? When? Which? Where? Who? & How?) Once learners know the question words in the foreign language, begin to introduce short article type texts, drawn from the news on the internet (sometimes these will need shortening and adapting but not too much! We just want learners to pick up the main details. If you include a picture clue and title with cognates learners will cue into the meanings very quickly.



3 Read for skimming and scanning: gist to detail routines.

Choose a challenging text with some unknown language and apply the following routine to it.

1. Read once and match paragraph headings to the correct paragraph.
2. Read a second time and highlight any sentences that you can 'guess' the overall meaning of and record the number of sentences
3. Read a third time and infer the meanings of several words from the words either side in the sentence
4. Record your own impression of how much of the text you understand (this is important for teacher feedback later).

4 Read for talk.

Combining skills is a very useful way to give purpose to any task. Here are two examples:

- Hotseating (variation) – Take several short texts on similar theme identified by name (as you find in many text books). Learners read these and choose one to be the 'expert' on – they must answer questions put by the teacher (or other students) as that person. With books closed, students have to identify who the learner is.
- Learners read a short text and modify it (either for them personally or according to a brief given by the teacher) and then have to either answer questions orally or present themselves according to the modified text. If the latter then they might have the original text in front of them to guide and support their speaking.





5 Read to support listening skills.

This strategy enables the learner to access more challenging listening passages at an early stage, and continue to consolidate the sound: writing links.

6 Read to develop memory and attention.

The reading material is at a distance from the learners who work in groups. They have questions to answer and go to the text with a specific 'mission' in mind. This helps them to focus on extracting specific information from a text to complete a comprehension task, and practises working memory.

7 Read to learn new information.

Factual texts in the foreign language can give learners new cultural knowledge. Choosing texts that contain new information for the learner that is 'real' may seem obvious but often seems to be delayed in text books until KS5! The more we link our content with that of other curriculum subjects, the more likely we are to include reading material that teaches learners something new (and develops reading skills along the way!)

8 Read to analyse and make judgements.

Excellent examples of this are tasks developed in the 'thinking skills' mould such as Mystery or Living Graph activities. Essential to their success as learning tasks is the choice of text!

Sources of authentic material (see also appendices)

- <http://all-literature.wikidot.com/>
The Association for Language Learning wiki with teacher-generated lesson ideas for specific literary texts
- <http://www.bookbox.com/free-stuff/stories>
Not all of these are free but at least one story is available in Fr, Gm, Sp.
- <http://lyricstraining.com/>
Site for song activities in many languages using the text
- <http://www.mamalisa.com/?t=eh>
Mama Lisa's World – songs, rhymes in multiple languages
- www.growstorygrow.com
Definitely worth a subscription
- www.linksintolanguages.ac.uk/resources/
Search 'storytelling' for 19 projects on this theme
- <http://www.bbc.co.uk/education/topics/z9jnvqw>
New home for French story clips
(NB: these are for listening / watching but it wouldn't be difficult to provide the transcript to change to reading resources)
- <http://www.bbc.co.uk/education/topics/znc2tfr>
(Spanish version)
- <http://www.bbc.co.uk/education/subjects/z4w76sg>
(German version)

9 Read to demonstrate comprehension.

Most of the strategies above also enable learners to show their understanding. This category includes a range of other essential task types that we typically use for this purpose.

- 1) Multiple choice
- 2) Find the English for
- 3) True / False
- 4) Picture sequencing
- 5) Table / grid completion
- 6) Cloze text
- 7) Question / answer

10 Read to translate

A more detailed look at translation is on the 3Ts handout. I include it here to ensure that we do not forget to include translation into English as one of the strategies we use.



More sources of authentic reading material

French literary texts

- <http://www.mauricecareme.be/poemes.php>
One of my favourite French poets for use in the classroom
- <http://www.momes.net>
- <http://poesie.webnet.fr/home/index.html>
- <http://www.modernhaiku.org/essays/frenchhaiku.html>
Some nice, authentic French Haikus in here, and here:
- <http://www.tempslibres.org/tl/en/textes/essai13.html>
- <http://www.comptines.net/>
An excellent source of short texts for exploiting at KS3 and KS4
- <http://garp.feelingsurfer.net/poesie/index.html>
Very good source of ideas for different poets to follow up
- <http://www.les-coccinelles.fr/poesies.html>
Some excellent poems for the classroom
- http://ww2.ac-poitiers.fr/ia17-pedagogie/IMG/pdf/fiche_defi_homme_de_couleur.pdf
Homme de couleur – excellent children’s book by Jérôme Ruillier. This link is to a pdf with ideas for exploitation.
- <http://lecoledepetiteprune.eklablog.com/recueil-de-poesies-c311673/3>
I particularly like the cat poems on this blog.
- <http://www.childtopia.com/index.php?module=videos&func=cuentos&newlang=fra>
Classic stories with text, audio and pictures for reading along
- <http://litteratureprimaire.eklablog.com/monsieur-couleur-a106977064>
An amazing site full of possible resources

French songs

- <http://platea.pntic.mec.es/cvera/hotpot/chansons/>
Fantastic website with lots of exercises around French songs.
- <http://www.lepointdufle.net/chansons.htm>
- <http://www.paroles.net/>
Site for lyrics to French songs
- <http://enseigner.tv5monde.com/collection/paroles-de-clips>
Amazing site with ready-made resources
- <http://www.parolesdeclip.fr/>
Chart songs so not always in French but many are
 - Specific ‘artists’ to explore on YouTube:
Stromae (lots of songs)
Rose (La liste)
Teri Moïse (Je serai là)
Pink Martini (Je ne veux pas travailler)
Pigloo (Moi, j’aime skier)
Youssou N’Dour (La Cours Des Grands)
Yannick Noah (Angela, Aux Arbres Citoyens)
Bénabar (Y’a une fille)
Alain le lait (old Arc-en-ciel songs for French learners but good!)
Amel Bent (Où je vais)
Thomas Fersen (Pégase and Croque)
Joe Dassin (Champs Elysées)
Grégoire (Toi+Moi, Danse)
Jacques Brel (Ne me quitte pas – I like the version covered by Sting)
Disney in French (loads of these, but try Let it go (Liberée délivrée))
Francis Cabrel (Octobre)
Les trois petits cochons (Lady Gaga)
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1qxnz0z_hg
Gage feat. Vitaa (Tu peux choisir)
Mathieu Edward feat. Sherifa Luna (Comme Avant)
Quentin Mosimann (il y a je t’aime et j’aime)
Dorothee (La valise)
Charlotte Diamond (Je suis une pizza)
Henri Dès (Ma Ma Ma Ma Madeleine)

More sources of authentic reading material

Spanish literary texts

- <http://www.spanishwithjudith.com/spanish-for-kids.html>
An amazing portal with poems, stories, riddles, tongue twisters
- <http://spanishplayground.net/tag/easy-spanish-poems/>
Excellent site with lots of ideas for poems to use in the classroom
- <http://www.elhuevodechocolate.com/>
Poems, but also some stories and songs
- Interactive short stories
<http://www.milcuentos.com/>
Website with links to interactive short stories. The stories include pictures and audio. There is a title for each picture together with a short paragraph so it could be printed out and done as a match up activity or in a computer room.
- <http://www.gloriafuertes.org/index.php/literatura-inf>
Gloria Fuertes is an excellent poet for KS3/4 – I bought Los mejores versos from Amazon.
- http://realidadymargenes.blogspot.co.uk/2013_07_01_archive.html
More poems (some a bit bizarre but I plan to use 'Quiero ver una vaca')
- <http://eljardinededouglas.blogspot.co.uk/search/lab-el/Poes%C3%ADas>
Modern poet – Douglas Wright – loads of excellent material for KS2 – KS4 here, poems and songs
- <http://www.adivinancero.com/>
Riddles classified by topic
- <http://www.childtopia.com/index.php?module=videos&func=cuentos&newlang=spa>
Classic stories to read along, with pictures and audio
- <http://www.scribd.com/doc/44153758/CAMILON-COMILON-PP>
Short story (would broadly fit with theme of food)
- <http://www.revistadibus.com/lista/727/comics/>
Some single image comics with very little text
- http://www.todoele.net/literatura/literatura_list.asp
Texts with activities designed for learners of Spanish as a foreign language. Classified by level. Some 'classic' texts and authors. (Most appropriate for upper KS4/ KS5 but ideas are good and could be adapted)
- www.storyplace.org
Stories to watch, read and listen with follow up activities.
- <http://www.spanishromance.com/spanish-language/stories/>
Short stories (text only) – useful for Y9 upwards

Spanish songs

- <http://zachary-jones.com/zambombazo>
Not just songs. This is an amazing site for authentic material of all kinds..
- <http://formaspa.rediris.es/canciones/index.html>
Songs, videos and suggestions to exploit them. Aimed at ELE. Classified by level.
- <http://www.ver-taal.com/canciones.htm>
Self correcting cloze exercises for Spanish songs (different ability levels indicated)
- <http://elmundodebirch.wikispaces.com/Spanish+Music+Database>
Spanish music database - pop (type) songs with details of what grammar/vocab points you could exploit
- http://www.todoele.net/canciones/Cancion_list.asp
Songs with worksheets and activities. Themes/grammar points highlighted.
- <http://historiapopespanolprofesorele.blogspot.co.uk/>
Songs with cloze versions. Some have glossaries and/or questions. Links to videos.
- Specific 'artists' to explore on YouTube:
Kevin karla & labanda (Spanish versions of popular hits – excellent quality videos)
Daddy Yankee (Grito Mundial)
Ska de la Tierra (Bebe)
Rubén Blades (Muévete)
Nubeluz (Yo quiero ser)
María Isabel (el mundo al revés)
Shakira (No)
Juanes (Gotas de agua dulce)
Bacilos (Pasos de gigante)
Amparanoia (Semana)
Jorge Anaya (De colores)
Azúcar Moreno (Solo se vive una vez)
3 + 2 (Gracias a tí and others)
Manu Chao (Me gustas tú)
Vania Borges & Quincy Jones (Ai no corrida)

Spanish children's books

Saltarina - Susana Peix Cruz
Rolf & Flor – Miguel Gallardo
Hombre de Color – Jérôme Ruillier
¡Qué aproveche, señor Conejo! – Claude Boujon
Tú, ¿qué quieres ser? - Imapla

More sources of authentic reading material

German literary texts

- http://www.zum.de/Faecher/D/BW/gym/ITG_2/index.htm
Some really excellent material here, purposed for the German classroom but easily portable / adaptable
- http://www.grimmstories.com/de/grimm_maerchen/index
Has all the Grimm fairy tales
- <http://www.internet-maerchen.de/maerchen/>
- <http://kinder.niedersachsen.de/abc/buecher-aus-und-ueber-niedersachsen/eure-lieblingsbuecher/>
- <http://www.weihnachtsstadt.de/gedichte/kinde/der-bratapfel.html>
Really good site for all things German Christmas and this is a lovely poem, which is also on YouTube:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0M9JieaZH34>
- <http://www.leselupe.de/>
Amazing site
- http://www.labbe.de/zzebra/index.asp?the_maid=484&titelid=1927
Some classical poems which are accessible!

German Children's stories

Tier-Mix-Max – Erhard Dietl
Zauber Mix-Max – Erhard Dietl
Die kleine Raupe Nimmersatt Eric Carle
Brauner Bär, wen siehst denn du? Eric Carle
Die Bremer Stadtmusikanten, Dornröschen etc
etc Brüder Grimm
Alles über dich Catherine Anholt
Lieber Zoo Rod Cambell
Nur nicht verwechseln Herve Tullet
Zum Strand Patricia Lakin + Sabine Wilharm
Annas erster Schultag Julia Boehme + Antje Flad
Wenn die Möpse Schnäpse trinken James Krüss
Jeder Mensch ist etwas Besonderes Emma Damon
Knabberpappen Farben Rosa Löwe
Die Farben Fredrik Vahle
Der Hase mit der roten Nase Helme Heine

German songs

- http://www.goethe.de/ins/gb/lon/prj/pop/son/enin_dex.htm
The amazing Goethe Institut site with lots of music suggestions
- <http://top40-charts.com/chart.php?cid=12>
Lots of English music in the German Top 40 but still worth checking out.
- http://german.about.com/library/blmusik_pop.htm
Interesting information and further links
- Specific 'artists' to explore on YouTube:
Wise Guys (loads of songs)
Die Prinzen
Fantastischen Vier
Lexi Bexi (German versions of pop songs – excellent quality)
Tokio Hotel
Wir sind Helden
Fotos
Fettes Brot
Sportfreunde Stiller
Farin Urlaub
Culcha Candela

Some of my current favourites

1	Wenn Worte meine Sprache wären	Peter Bendzko
2	Im nächsten Leben	Basta
3	Gib mir Sonne	Rosenstolz
4	Die Stadt	Klee
5	Die Nummer	Ina Müller
6	Wenn du mich brauchst	Fertig, los!
7	Dieses Ende wird ein Anfang sein	Virginia Jetzt!
8	Für dich	Pohlmann
9	Wir hatten eine gute Zeit	Wise Guys
10	1000 km bis zum Meer	Luxuslärm
11	Dieser Weg	Xavier Naidoo
12	Mein neues Handy	Wise Guys
13	Zünde alle Feuer	Phillipp Poisel
14	Zu schnell vorbei	Clueso
15	Heute ha-ha-habe ich Geburtstag	Die Prinzen
16	Nur ein Wort	Wir sind Helden
17	Nur für dich	Wise Guys
18	Wunder gescheh'n	Nena
19	Früher	Wise Guys
20	Ich bin ich (wir sind wir)	Rosenstolz
21	Liebe ist	Nena
22	Alles nur geklaut	Die Prinzen
23	99 Luftballons	Nena
24	Fliegerlied	Tim Toupet
25	Theo mach mir ein Bananenbrot	