

Reading River activity

Five steps to creating a river of (multilingual) reading:

1. **Think back to when you were little: who were the people reading with you?** Ask them for help to remember which books and other texts were important to you then, and what languages they were in.
2. **Think beyond books:** in a river of reading, all texts matter. Is reading messages from your friends important, or reading a particular magazine? Do you love cooking and read recipes? Do you read as part of gaming, or to follow celebrities online? It all counts, and it all matters!
3. **'Important' doesn't always mean 'favourite'.** In fact, some reading might be important because you didn't enjoy it at all, or because it was super-hard. Or perhaps it links to a special person: a book received from a grandparent, or something you read together with a friend. It could also be what a book stands for: the first book you read in a specific language or the first thing you read after moving to a new country. You, and only you, decide what is important and why.
4. **Think about the languages you speak, and when and where they come into your river of reading.** Has this changed over time, or is it different for different things you read (books, magazines, webpages, gaming, etc)?
5. **Your river of reading is your story, so make sure you tell it.** You can present it at school, share it with family and friends or even record yourself presenting it.

Dr Sabine Little, University of Sheffield, for World Book Day

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