

Education Through Escapism - How Walker Books Can Support Children's Learning

Reading is one of the closest things we have to magic. It's funny how some simple words on a page can take on a life of their own, sweeping us away into worlds of magic, adventure and mystery. Beyond that though, reading is an incredibly powerful tool for learning. Without realising it, we absorb a lot of information as we tear through the pages. Books can improve our memory, ability to concentrate, and our literacy skills, as well as teach us important lessons about morality. And that's just scratching the surface!

Knowing just how much reading can help children with their learning and development, Walker Books has decided to pair up with the education company Twinkl. Together, we've created some brilliant learning resources to complement Walker Classics and help kids get the very most out of reading.

As such, today we're going to be talking all about how Walker Books can support children's learning - particularly when paired with Twinkl resources! Whether you're a parent wanting to provide your child with additional learning support or a teacher looking for new ways to get your students excited about reading, we've got you covered. So, let's take a look at all the different ways our books and resources can support children's education.

1. Reading Comprehension

Reading comprehension is the ability to read text, process it and understand its meaning. It involves being able to decode what the symbols of each word mean and then what all of the words mean together in a sentence. This can be very tricky for beginners to get to grips with!

That's why we've made several reading comprehension mats to pair with our most beloved Walker Books. For those who don't know, [learning mats](#) are worksheets that can be used to consolidate a pupil's understanding of a subject and provide them with words/information relevant to the topic at hand. Feel free to laminate them, cut them up and rearrange as you see fit.

Parents and teachers can use Walker Books reading comprehension mats to determine how well children have understood the text and then provide them with additional support if need be! These word mats are also a great way to help kids make connections between what they've read and what they already know.

2. Improved Vocabulary

Following off the back of our previous point, reading is also a brilliant way to help children grow their vocabulary! Books expose kids to a wealth of new words that they otherwise might not come across. Moreover, reading can help children to better understand the meaning of different words by seeing them in context.

We've produced a series of description word mats to go alongside Walker Classics like *We're Going on a Bear Hunt*. These word mats are great for introducing kids to more complex words and helping them get to grips with them. Students can then take all the new words they've learnt and apply them to their own work. With a larger vocabulary, your children may become better at articulating themselves too!

3. Spelling & Grammar

There's no better way to improve a child's spelling and grammar than to get them reading! As children read, their brains unconsciously absorb a massive amount of information, helping to develop their understanding of spelling, syntax, punctuation and grammar. After a little while, they'll be able to transfer this knowledge into their own writing.

To help children further consolidate their grammatical skills, we've created a number of brilliant educational resources! You can use these learning activities alongside whatever Walker Book you're reading at the time with your kids. For example, we have [this fun caption writing activity](#) that goes alongside *Five Minutes' Peace*, which encourages children to use their imagination whilst practising their spelling and grammar.

4. Supporting Phonics

Phonics are notoriously difficult for children to learn. It can take a lot of time and practise for young children to understand how different letters correlate to different sounds when spoken aloud. Without a solid grasp on phonics, your students might struggle to become fluent readers.

To support children as they develop their proficiency in phonics, we've made a series of phonics desk mat resource packs. These packs have 3 different mats and cover phases 2, 3, 4 and 5. Depending on what resource pack you've downloaded, each mat should be accompanied by some charming illustrations from our Walker Classics books, including *Five Minutes' Peace*

and *Owl Babies*. Learning phonics alongside their favourite characters should help kids to gain a little more confidence in their reading!

5. Encouraging Creativity

The importance of encouraging creativity in children shouldn't be overlooked. Creativity develops our ability to think outside the box, consider new perspectives and approach problems from a different angle. These skills are vital not just for children's education, but also for helping them grow into well-rounded adults. There's a well-established link between creativity and empathy too!

Your children might feel inspired to get creative after finishing one of their favourite Walker Classic books. In which case, we have just the resources for you. This [Owl Babies collage activity](#) teaches kids how to make their very own owl collage using materials they can find in the house or garden. Meanwhile, our [modelling dough mats](#) are a great way to encourage creative expression and deepen your pupils' understanding of a story.

6. Hand-Eye Coordination & Fine Motor Skills

We've produced a number of educational resources to accompany our Walker Classics that can support the development of children's hand-eye coordination and fine motor skills too! For starters, we have our [cutting activity packs](#). Using scissors allows kids to practise getting their body to respond to visual stimuli and helps strengthen the little muscles in their wrists and hands.

Our [pencil control resources](#) are another great way to develop children's fine motor skills and handwriting. Each worksheet has a dotted outline of an illustration from a Walker book. Kids can trace over these dotted outlines to bring the characters from their favourite books to life themselves - all the while refining their hand-eye coordination. After a little practice, they'll be able to hold their pencils with a lot more strength and confidence!

7. Creative Writing

Reading and writing go hand in hand - you can't have one without the other. So, it's no surprise that one of the best ways to become a better writer is to do a lot of reading. As we mentioned before, reading can improve spelling and grammar, but it goes beyond that. Books can teach kids more advanced literary techniques that they can use in their own creative writing, such as

metaphor, hyperbole and onomatopoeia.

We've created several creative writing educational resources to encourage kids to express themselves through writing and develop their literacy skills. What's more, these resources are accompanied by colourful illustrations from our most popular books to help get children's creativity flowing. For example, we have these wonderful [We're Going on a Bear Hunt writing frames](#) and this fun [caption writing activity for So Much](#).

The benefits of using Walker Books alongside Twinkl resources don't end there, but the rest are for you to discover yourself! If you'd like to download all the learning resources we've spoken about today, you can find them (and more) by [heading over to our partnerships page](#) on Twinkl.