

DESCRIPTION OF SUCCESSFUL READING PROGRAMME <b>PROGRAMME TITLE: KES Regional Reading Initiative</b> <b>PROGRAMME ORGANISER(S): County Kerry Education Service</b>	
<b>Description Created by LiRe Partner Institution: Meath VEC</b>	
<b>Time &amp; Place</b>	<b>Target Group(s)</b>
Summer Term 2010	Post Primary School Students of 9 participating schools
<b>Short Description (Max. 200 words)</b>	
<p>The programme encouraged secondary school students to partake in an intensive 6-week reading for enjoyment initiative. The organisers, Kerry Education Service, hosted a book fair for the 9 participating schools. Publishers were invited to showcase their most up to date and exciting books. Teachers had the opportunity to view, get advice and order books for their school libraries.</p> <p>Students from the participating schools were challenged to read six books in six weeks and to produce project work on each. The project work was facilitated by teachers, although students were given the freedom to choose a genre in which to produce their reviews. As a result, the project work produced was varied and of a high standard.</p> <p>Students were tested to assess their reading level prior to undertaking the reading challenge and then again at the end of the challenge. The improvements recorded were notable. Many of the students remarked on the joy of being a part of an initiative and the excitement of reading new and interesting books every week. Students were rewarded for their efforts with certificates at celebration assemblies.</p>	
<b>Objectives (General &amp; Specific)</b>	
<p><b>General:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To promote a love of reading</li> <li>• To promote success in reading</li> <li>• To encourage students to read a range of genres</li> </ul> <p><b>Specific:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To create cohesion between schools, educational services and publishers</li> <li>• To provide exciting and up to date reading material for young people</li> <li>• To read intensively for six weeks</li> <li>• To increase attainment in reading and vocabulary through reading</li> <li>• To produce projects on the books read</li> </ul>	
<b>Scheme of Reading Promotion Actions &amp; Activities</b>	
<p><b>Step 1:</b> Establish school involvement in the initiative. English teachers of schools must be involved.</p> <p><b>Step 2:</b> Organise book fair for participating schools.</p> <p><b>Step 3:</b> Students to undertake challenge of reading six books in six weeks.</p>	



**Step 4:**

Students to produce project work on material read, facilitated by classroom teacher.

**Step 5:**

Acknowledge and reward student attainment.

**Results / Indicators of Success**

Both teachers and students agreed that the initiative was a success. Teachers reported in some cases that the improvements in attainment levels of reading and vocabularies were remarkable.

Testimonies from students included:

*"I'm more interested in reading now, I even pick up the newspaper and read it. Before I would just look at the pictures"*

*"Now I read every night"*

*"Some of the books were so interesting that I read them again"*

*"Since the initiative I think that my reading has improved and I like reading much more now"*

Teachers also commented on the high standard of project work produced by students.

**CONCLUSIONS**

(WHAT WORKED WELL AND WHY)

**Book Fair:** The opportunity for teachers to pick books for the students in the class was seen as a positive.

**Reading Challenge:** Schools found it easier to concentrate on one year group at a time to complete the challenge. Most of the students participating completed the challenge.

**Certificate Presentation:** Schools hosted assemblies in which they celebrated the achievement of the students participating on the initiative. Each was presented with a County recognized certificate.

**REFERENCES**

Kerry Educational Service