

Strategically Using Extensive Reading to Support a University CLIL Curriculum



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Reading Fluency Training: Extensive reading, repeated reading, readers theater, related readings, etc.

- **Narrow fluency** practice (target language repeated encounters)
- **Wide fluency** practice (general language exposure)



Talk Today: focuses on less traditional and conventional use of extensive reading: supporting content in a CLIL-based curriculum

This approach made possible by proliferation of extensive reading texts (so many texts and so many authors) that are now both accessible and affordable

Xreading chief among them



Overview

Juntendo University

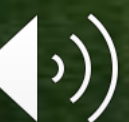
Faculty of International Liberal Arts

- 240 first-year students
- Five 90-minute classes per week
- Two paired teachers in a unified curriculum
- Focus on academic knowledge and vocabulary, and reading and listening skills



Other aims and outcomes for students

- to take upper-level courses in English in the university
- to study abroad or prepare for graduate study
- to develop more autonomy in their own language learning
- to improve their TOEFL ITP performance to meet the university's target of 480



To support these aims and outcomes

New curriculum emphasizing Content and Language Integrated Learning (CLIL) implemented

Few commercial textbooks support this sustained content focus so created our own modules (80-page reading and listening texts) in 6 areas which student study for about a month each

- Health and Medicine
- Zoology and Animal Studies
- Natural History
- Sociology and Social Psychology
- Economics and Business
- Earth Science



Previous Curriculum

More emphasis on communicative skills

Theme-based rather than content-based

Extensive reading also played an important role

Upper-level students

- 100,000-word semester targets

Mid-level Students

- 80,000-word semester targets

Xreading platform used



Why Xreading? (Not a commercial presentation, just an explanation)

XREADING

is the best way to do
Extensive Reading

Thousands of graded
readers available
anywhere, anytime!



Main Benefits

- All books are always available
- Quizzes are available for every book
- Audio on demand for almost every book
- Book recommendations from other students
- Can be integrated with books from a school's physical library
- Track reading progress including books, words, time and reading speed

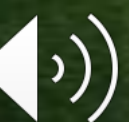


In addition

- Relatively affordable (such a large number of available books)
- Good LMS (Learner Management System) for tracking students' progress and engagement
- Students could follow their own interests

Wanted to continue using Xreading in our new CLIL curriculum

But how?

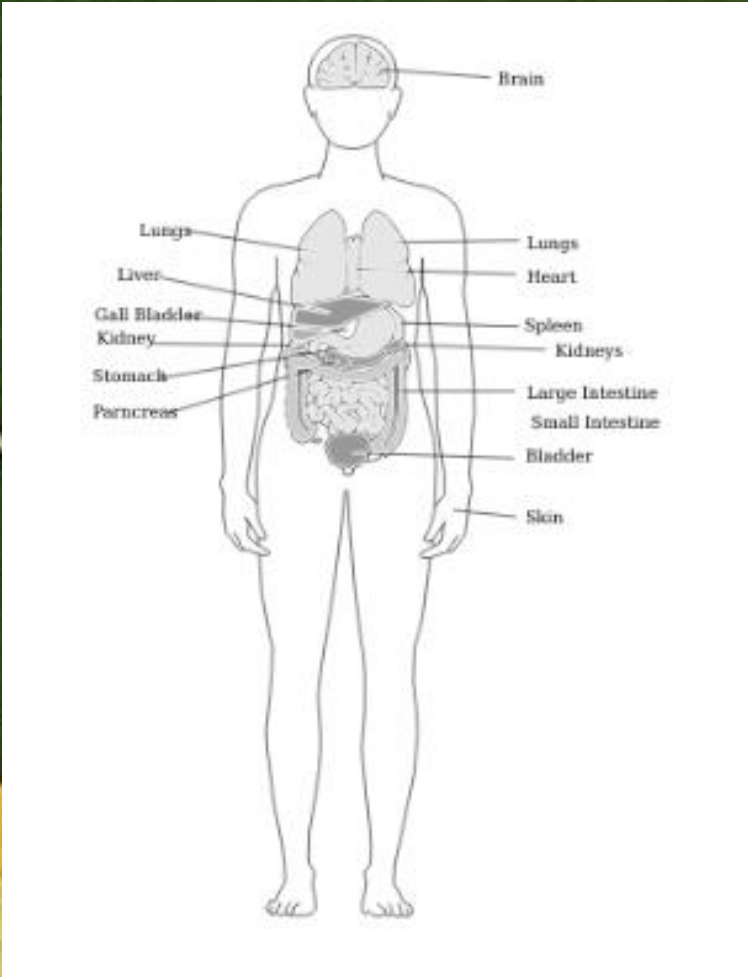


First Step
Identify texts related
to our content topics

4 Health and Medicine



Reading for Knowledge 2: Germs



Relevant texts from Xreading

- *10 Ways to Be Healthy* (2607 words)
- *10 Ways to Exercise* (2527 words)
- *10 Ways to Achieve Work-Life Balance* (2590 words)
- *The Medical Revolution* (1214 words)
- *The Amazing Human Body* (2056 words)
- *Strong Medicine* (13,620 words)
- *Windows of the Mind* (25,724 words)



Our recommendation: Use a hybrid approach

Roughly

- *50% freely chosen by students*
- *50% content-related*

Teacher assigns specific texts, such as

- *The Medical Revolution and The Amazing Human Body*

Allow students to personally select one or two from other sets

- *10 Ways to Be Healthy*
- *10 Ways to Exercise*
- *10 Ways to Achieve Work-Life Balance*



Module 2| Economics and Business



Thank you to
Yoshitake-
sensei and
Ota-sensei

☆経済学 Economics	
★一般用語 general terms	
economist	経済学者
employer	雇用者
employment (employment rate)	雇用
unemployment (unemployment rate)	失業
forecast (predict, prediction)	～を予想 [予測] する
value	価格、価値
corporation	法人
consume	～を消費する
surplus	黒字
deficit	赤字

Example of Intensive Reading in Content Modules

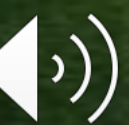
Reading for Knowledge 2: Inflation

Inflation is a decrease in the buying power of money. This happens when the prices of goods (clothing, food, housing) and the cost of services (haircuts, subway rides, wifi service) rise. Inflation especially hurts those who are on fixed incomes like elderly people who have retired and live on a pension, and those who keep their savings in a bank account. As prices rise, the value of their money decreases in value. At the present time, it is worth remembering that 50 years ago as the 1970s began, inflation was roughly at the same level of between three and four percent as in this decade. Then, countries in the Middle East stopped selling oil to the United States, Britain, Japan, and Canada and other countries. Energy and gas more than tripled in cost, and the sharp rise in energy prices greatly impacted the global economy. In the United States, for example, from 1974 through 1980, inflation as measured by the consumer price index (CPI) was more than 9 percent. Rapidly increasing prices caused chaos in the financial markets. Bond prices dropped sharply as interest rates soared into the mid-teens; the stock market valued assets at less than 60 percent of book value of companies, and the average price-earnings ratio of corporate stocks dropped to eight (roughly one-fourth of recent valuations). A similar pattern occurred in economies and stock markets around the world, including in Britain and Japan. Then, from the mid-1980's, inflation once again averaged in the 3-4% range. The result was a more than decade-long bull market in financial assets, as interest rates declined and stocks reached ever higher levels, leading in some countries, such as Japan, to a bubble economy.



Reading books related to Economics and Business

- *The Lost Wallet*
- *Dirty Money*
- *10 Ways to Manage Money*
- *Rich Man, Poor Man*
- *The Future of a Village*
- *Amazing Philanthropists*
- *Amazing Entrepreneurs and Business People*
- *Global Trade and Peace*



Intentions for using extensive reading to support CLIL curriculum

- *Recycle concepts being learned in content (inflation, business cycle)*
- *Reinforce some content vocabulary (price, consume)*
- *Provide basis for class discussion (students discuss plots, characters, information in small groups)*
- *Provide quickwriting tasks to respond to books*



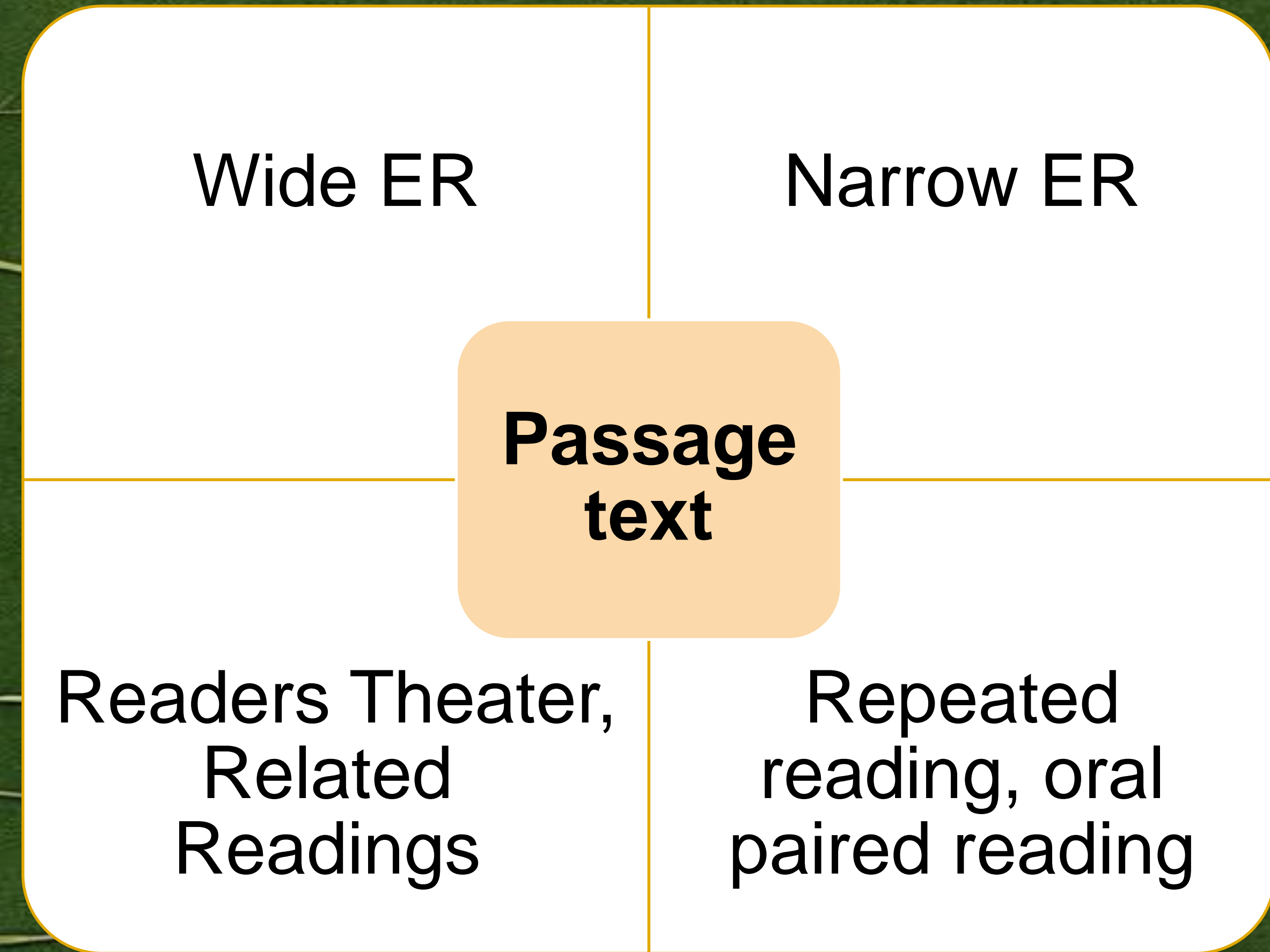
Key

- Give students chance to meet vocabulary and concepts in new context
- Encounter ideas and questions in a more 'real world' (if fictional) scenario



Even greater narrow fluency focus with ChatGPT

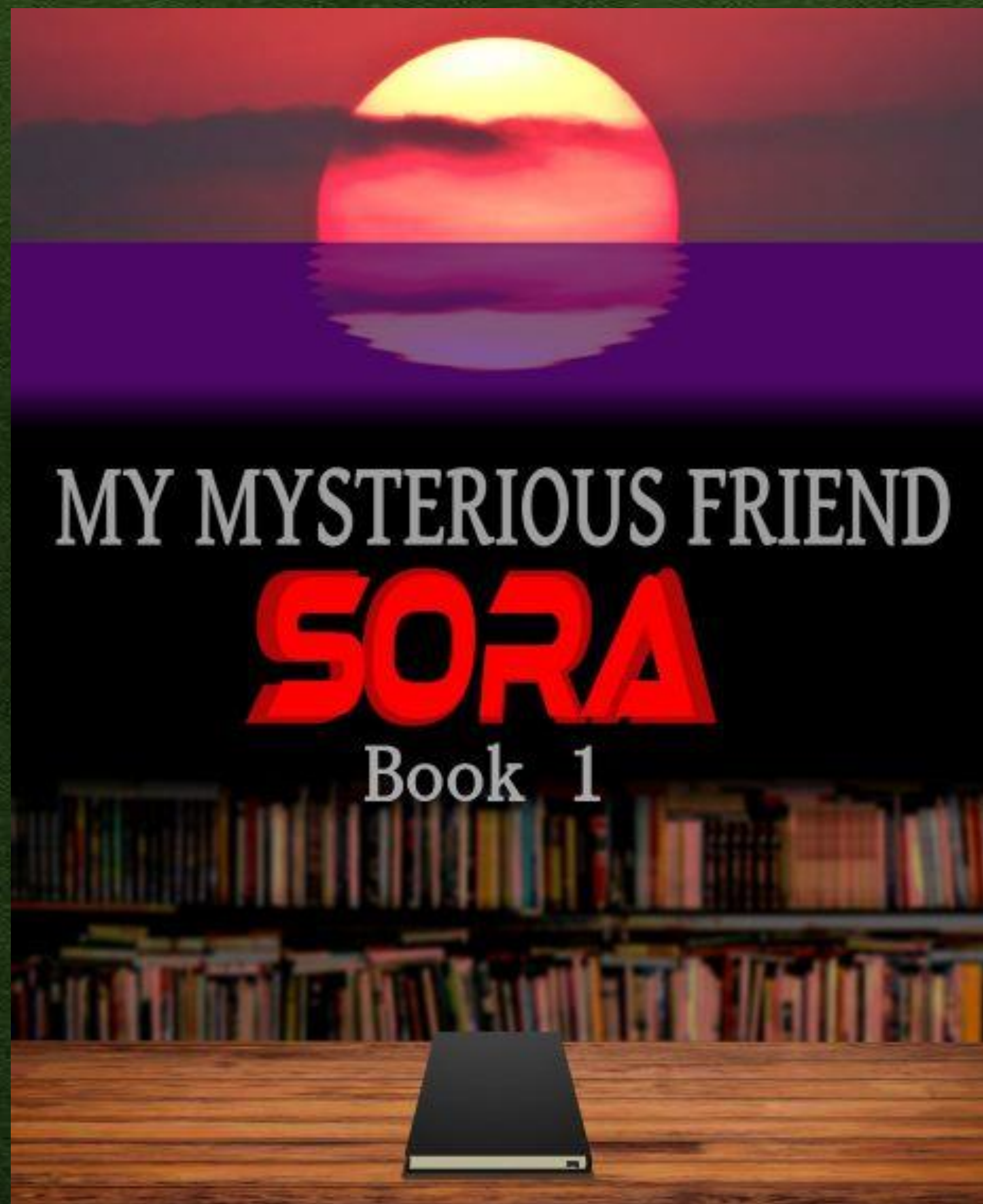
- Create readers theater scripts based on reading passages and have students read them aloud (and perform or upload audio)
- Find or create related readings focusing on similar content to reading passages and have students read them silently, and then aloud in pairs



Another against-the-grain takeaway

- Just as extensive reading is not traditionally associated with content-study, it is similarly positioned against the systematic acquisition of academic vocabulary (it is purposely reduced in vocabulary load)
- Yet some series now can be used to reinforce academic vocabulary learning, such as the AWL (Academic Word List)





Summary: This book is part of a series of ten books following the adventures of a Japanese medical student (Naomi) and her unusual friend Sora.

The series includes all the words from the *Academic Word List (AWL)*.

(They are highlighted in the text so students can recognize them as they come across them.)



Each of the 10 books in the series includes a 60-word subset of the words in the AWL (1-10)

The first time a word appears, it is bolded. Subsequently, it is italicized.

AWL Readers

by Paul Mathieson

Xreading Level: 11 (2000 headwords)

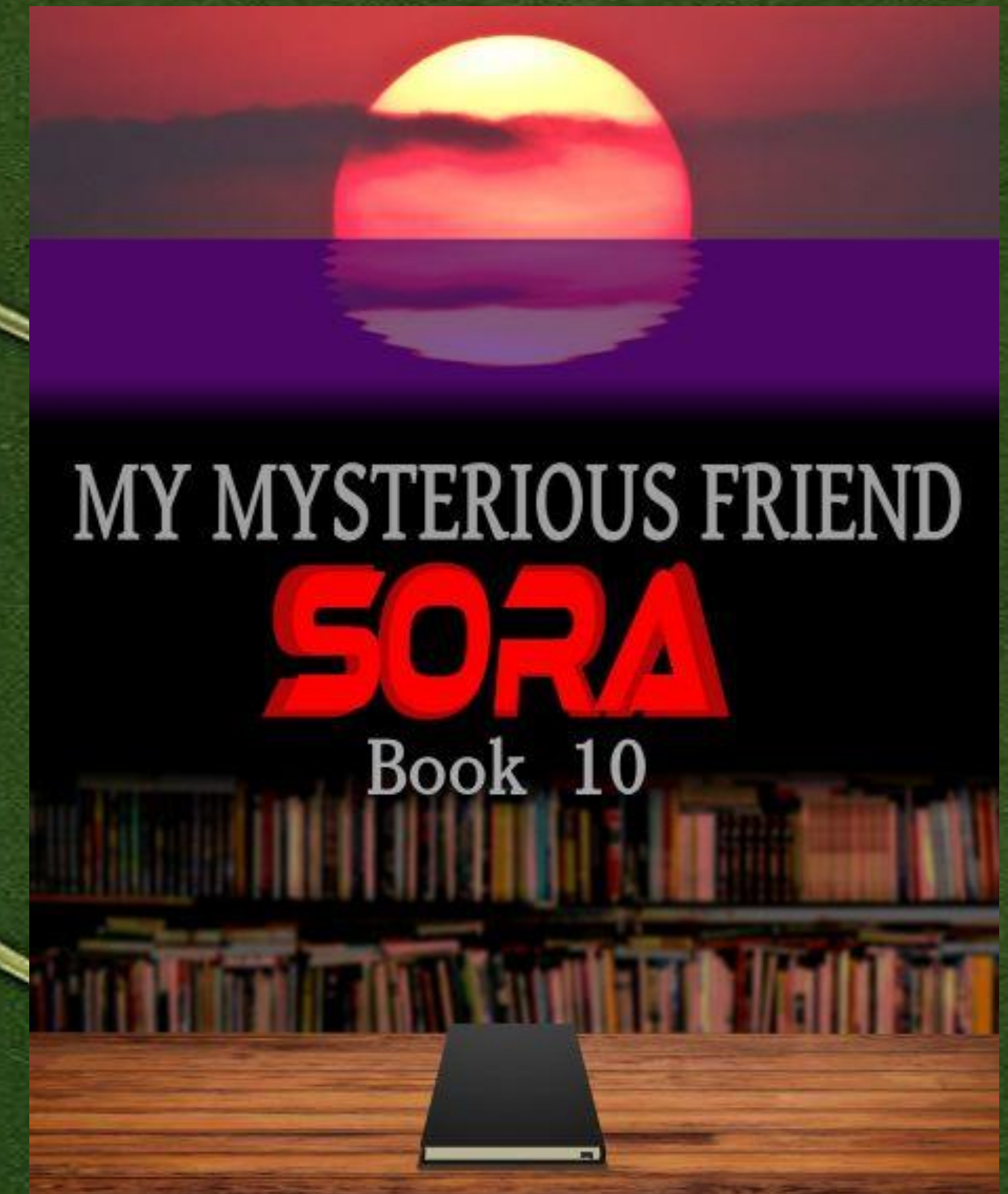
Genre(s): Adventure, Suspense/Thriller, School Life

Words: 11419

Has Quiz: Xreading

Rating: 97% (66 ratings, 11 reviews)

10 books following the adventures of a Japanese medical student (Naomi) and her unusual friend Sora.

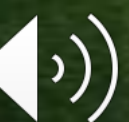


Note:

- After completing the 10-series reading, students had a 30-minute Zoom talk with the author Paul Mathieson
- 15-minute discussion, 15-minute Q & A
- For many their first meeting ever with an author
- Very meaningful experience and a chance to ask questions about the books' conception and composition

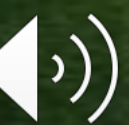


Yet another unconventional yet valuable possible use of extensive reading, under the right circumstances



Questions?
Comments to Share?

Add My Mysterious Friend Sora Discussion
TOEFL score increase



Thank You



(Paul regrets he couldn't present)

Add My Mysterious Friend Sora Discussion
TOEFL score increase

