



Extending Reading through Virtual Book Clubs

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01 Introduction



Book Clubs go Digital!

Benefits of Book Clubs.

stimulate collaborative learning, deepen engagement with the text
(Graff, 2020; Iordanaki, 2021; Smutny, 2021)



What are Book Clubs?

It takes more than an individual to facilitate rich discussion about a text.
(Bromely et al., 2014; Dawson, 1999)



Book Clubs go Digital!

All the benefits of physical book clubs and more!



Virtual Book Clubs to extend Reading

Creating online spaces to extend reading.



02

Literature Review

Virtual Book Clubs and
Extensive Reading

Benefits of Virtual Book Clubs

01

freedom from geographical or time barriers

(Elsayed, 2010; Forest & Kimmel, 2016; Schreuder & Savitz, 2020)

02

positive feedback about online book clubs

(Larson, 2009; Smutny & Saal, 2021)



in light of the recent COVID-19 pandemic, learning has also been progressively hybridised

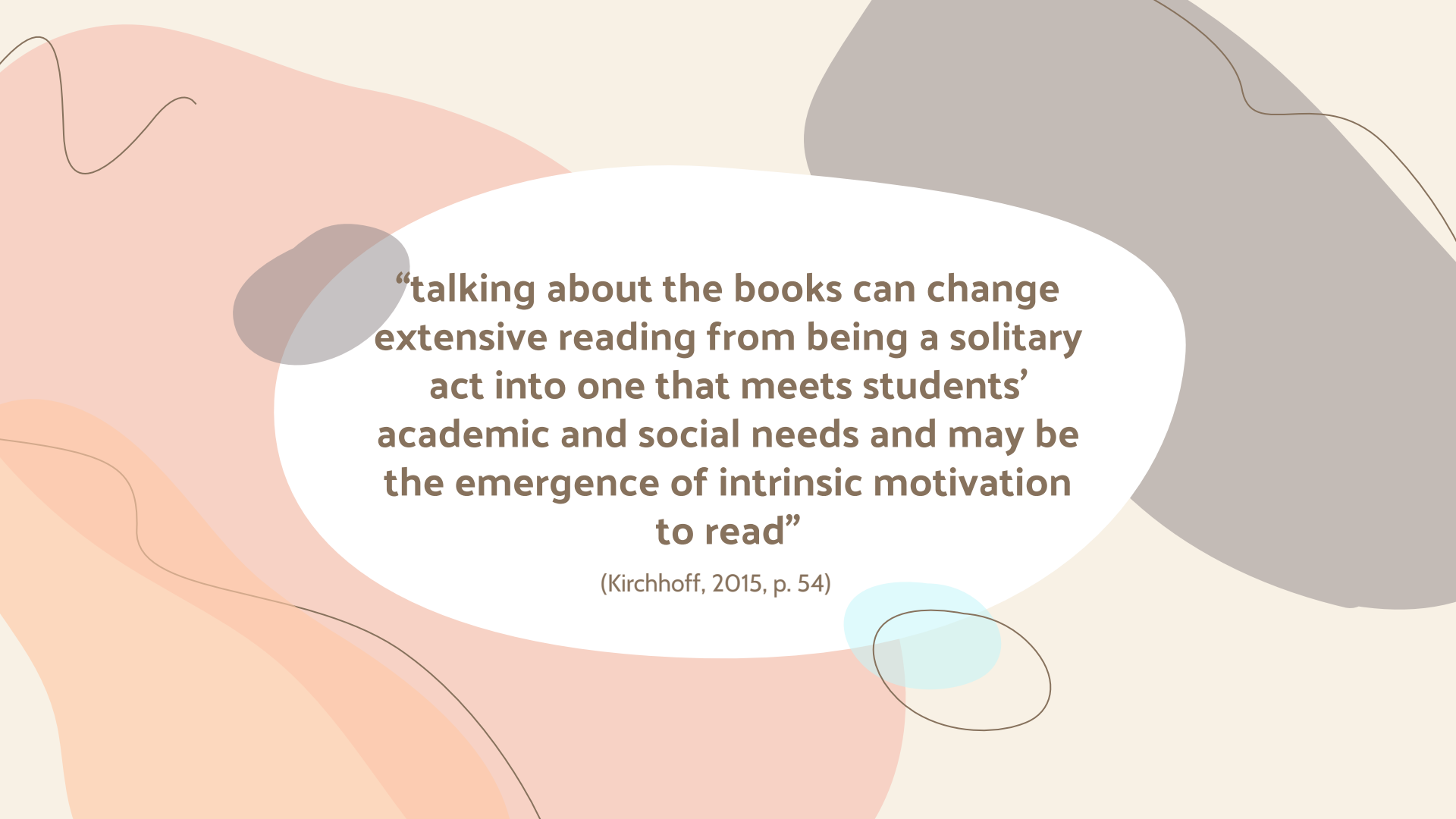
Day and Bamford's (2002) top 10 principles:

1. The reading material is easy.
2. A variety of reading material on a wide range of topics is available.
3. Learners choose what they want to read.
4. Learners read as much as possible.
5. The purpose of reading is usually related to pleasure, information and general understanding.

6. Reading is its own reward.

7. Reading speed is usually faster rather than slower.
8. Reading is individual and silent.
9. Teachers orient and guide their students.
10. The teacher is a role model of a reader.

(Day & Bamford, 2002, pp. 137–141)



**“talking about the books can change
extensive reading from being a solitary
act into one that meets students’
academic and social needs and may be
the emergence of intrinsic motivation
to read”**

(Kirchhoff, 2015, p. 54)

Virtual book clubs & Extensive Reading Programmes



“enjoyable and meaningful post-reading activities”

(Renandya, 2007 p. 134)



**encouraging students to question:
cultivates active learning**

(Andarab & Mutlu, 2019;
Shelton-Strong, 2011)



**language and
literacy development**

(Dincer, 2020)



**heightened engagement with
the text, increased motivation to
read beyond the text**

(McElvain, 2010)

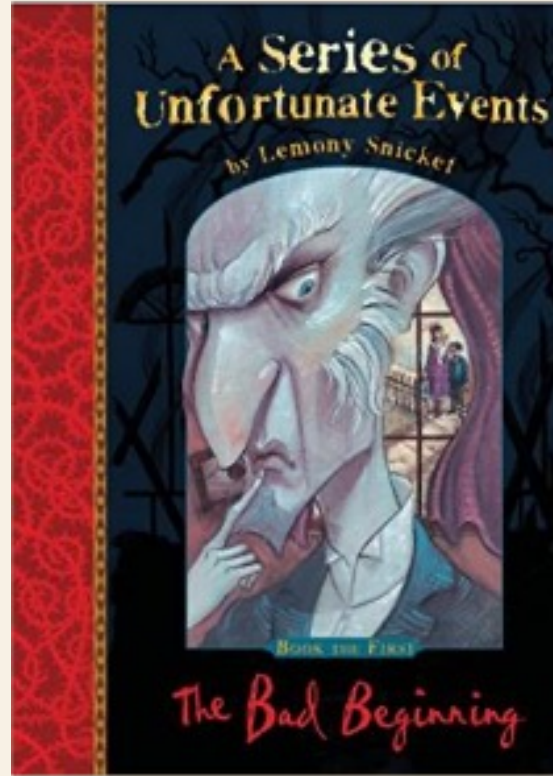


3. Research Context & Findings

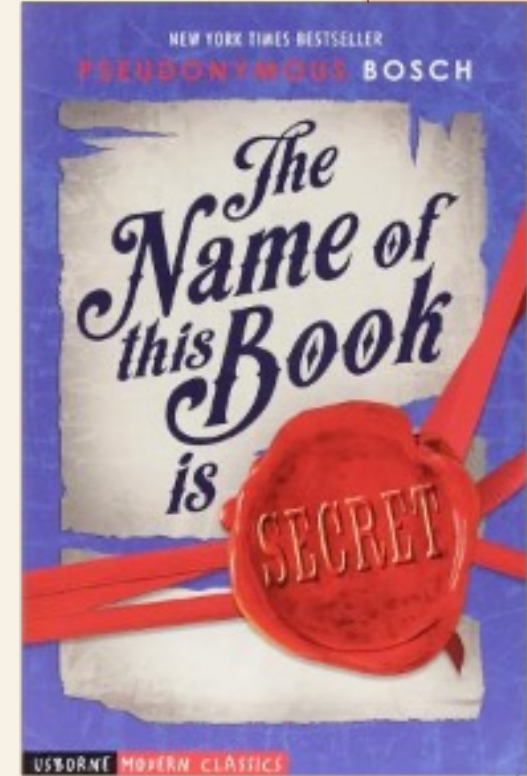


Research Context

Qualitative case study
to examine students'
responses to two
selected children's
texts



Book 1



Book 2

Research Context

3 groups of 5 students

11-year-olds who enjoy reading



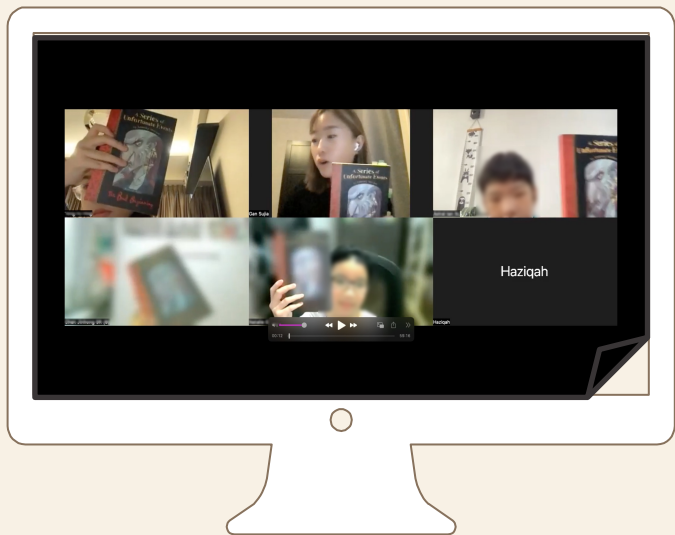
4 sessions of online book club discussions

60mins



1 online Focus Group Discussion

60mins



Findings

Deepened
understanding
of the text

Online vs.
face-to-face

01

02

03

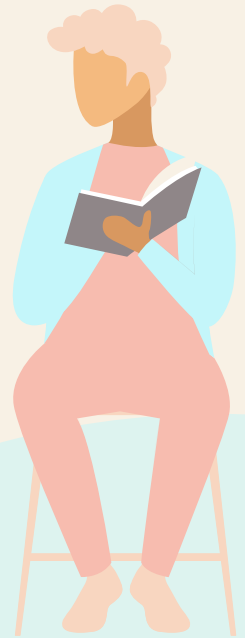
04

Enhanced
collaborative &
communication
skills

Benefits of
virtual book
club
discussions

Deepened understanding Of the text

"...there were small words at the bottom that described the meanings...if we haven't gone through the session, I might have just ignored it and then read on"



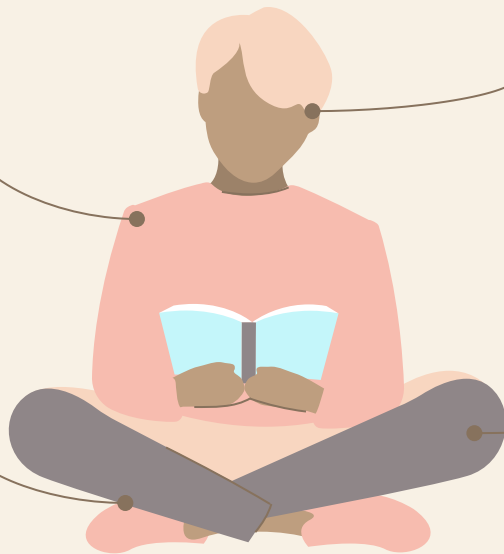
Enhanced collaborative and communicative skills

Taking turns

“You talk first, you talk first”

Elaborating on each other's points

“building on what [student] said”,
“I would like to add on to [student]”

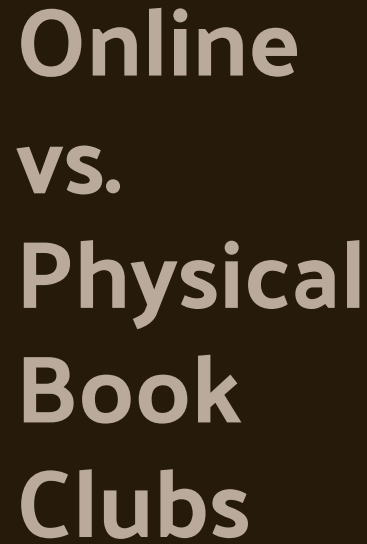


Drawing connections between similar points

“I think I will feel the same”,
“quite similar to [student]”,
“like what [student] has mentioned”

Commenting on each other's points

“He really had to emphasise that it's boring!”



Online vs. Physical Book Clubs

Online

“I feel like doing it at home, is better than doing it in school. **Because doing it in school we will have to waste some time in getting to discuss this book, and then we will be missing time to discuss some of the important things that could be taught inside lessons in school.**”

“Doing at home would be better...**cause you’re at home, you can bathe before you go for the Zoom sessions...**”

“I think Zoom is better! ... Because we feel more comfortable, and then you would like, **we won’t be so scared to share stuff.**”

Physical

“If you do it during Zoom right, then **some people might mute themselves and turn off their cameras, and secretly play games...**”

“Because **face to face, if you want to show what you mean, you can show using the action,** but on zoom it’s a bit hard...”

Benefits of Virtual Book Clubs

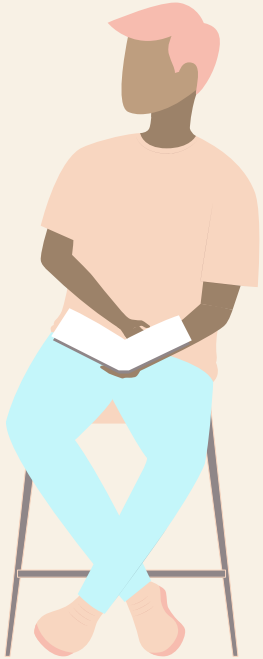
Enjoyed it because:

- ✓ can talk “informally”
- ✓ “make a bit of joke”
- ✓ “don’t feel awkward”

- “...I still feel like, braver, or more confident online sometimes, because I’m in my own space.”
- “Because we won’t have to talk formally....like talking to your friends.”

4.

Implications



Implications



Importance of supplementing reading with post-reading activities

- Further engagement with the text
- Promote new ways of thinking and considering



Importance of creating informal spaces

- Community of openness
 - Students more willing to share
- Various and multiple perspectives encountered and questioned
 - Navigate different voices, thoughts and opinions
- Hold dialogues with each other



Using virtual book clubs to extend students' readings



getting them more interested in reading



participate actively in a reading community

(Renandya, 2007)



a “source of emergent motivation” (Kirchhoff, 2015)



construct strong positive associations with books & reading





Thank you!

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