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School name:	The Albert Pye Community Primary School
Area/ region:	Suffolk
Programme:	Year 4
Number of children:	13
Who runs Reading Gladiators™?	Reading Advocate (Support Staff)
How are the children selected?	More able children were identified by staff

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### Identified Outcome

The ultimate impact for our Reading Gladiators was that by the end of the year all participants were assessed as Greater Depth in reading.

### How does the school organise the sessions?

Weekly half hour session during literacy lessons. It is run in the style of a book club to create an atmosphere which promotes an enjoyment of reading and freedom to discuss and share opinions, ask and explore questions. Initially guided by the adult, the focus is to allow the children to take ownership of these sessions.

We include a variety of activities and discussion starters suggested by Just Imagine in the comprehensive guide provided. This includes activities, discussion starters and ideas for engaging with books. The children love taking up the monthly challenges and competitions, the inclusion of which promote creativity, drama and teamwork. The children often choose to use their free time to work together on these competitions.



## The Gladiators say...

'I have really enjoyed Reading Gladiators so far. It has encouraged me to read books by authors I wouldn't have read books by before.' Emily

'I like Reading Gladiators because you get to find out about lots of different books that you probably wouldn't know about otherwise.' Olive

'Reading Gladiators has made me read long books. So I like long books. I also like looking at picture books now.' James

'I think Reading Gladiators has shown me that all books aren't boring anymore. I liked the Michael Rosen A to Z Poem book.' Alex

'I think Reading Gladiators is fun, you get to discuss with everybody else. Challenge day was really fun. I loved doing the art and I enjoyed the drama because it was funny.' Luca

'It has let me come out of my comfort zone in reading and I have found that I have enjoyed all the books we've read.' Emily.

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## The Adults say...

'The Reading Gladiator programme has been a huge success in boosting our more able readers' love of reading. It has also broadened the range of texts that the children are reading. They have been stimulated to think more deeply about texts and their discussions around texts are in greater depth.

For less confident pupils in particular, their debating skills have been developed. The challenging level of the books has improved their understanding and use of language, which has also become evident in their own writing. We are also pleased to see their growing reading stamina.'

### Class Teacher

I am proud to support the Reading Gladiators programme. Our Gladiators have enjoyed each text for its own merits, each one becoming the new favourite. Children have thrived as the sessions have progressed, their confidence, enthusiasm and eager participation all continuing to increase. The texts supplied are of high quality and varied genres, which ultimately become part of our book provision increasing the stock available within school.

Reading Gladiators offers the opportunity for inter school competition, something we had not previously provided in a reading context. The programme has raised expectations of the children themselves as readers and it is rewarding to see the pleasure and pride both adults and children achieve from these sessions.'

### Head Teacher