



School name:	Filton Avenue Primary School
Area/ region:	Bristol
Programme:	Year 4
Number of children:	24 in 4 groups of 6
Who runs Reading Gladiators™?	Head of English oversees all groups. Class teacher leads each group
How are the children selected?	Most able, with priority to those receiving Pupil Premium

Identified Outcome

This is the first year we have used the programme and it is already having a noticeable impact on raising the profile of reading within the school.

How does the school organise the sessions?

Reading Gladiator sessions are weekly and last for 30-45 minutes each time. They take place outside the classroom in a suitably quiet environment, for example, the library. They run at the same time every week in the afternoon, at a convenient time decided on by the group leader in order to fit in with their other teaching commitments.

Teachers are supported in their role by excellent online resources from the Reading Gladiators website as well as programme notes detailing suggested activities and time scale for each text, regular webinars, interactive blog, mini-challenges to motivate the Reading Gladiators and so on. Teachers are encouraged to post blogs detailing their group's activities to the Reading Gladiators website so that other schools can view them.

The Reading Gladiators programme has certainly raised the profile of reading in our school. It is extremely inspiring to see how our Gladiators have acted as "Ambassadors for Reading" in their classes. There is a palpable "buzz" among the Gladiators when the title for the next month is revealed. We have also noticed general excitement in the library when the children spot other books by the same author as the Reading Gladiator titles.

When Year 4 Reading Gladiators have finished a book, they usually make a short presentation to their class. That particular title is then incorporated into classroom book corners and into our Free reader section in the library, so that those children who are not Reading Gladiators can immediately access a copy.



The Gladiators say...

'I love the challenges! We've done really well and our video won a visit from Elen Caldecott!' Ella

'When we do Reading Gladiators we get to feel really special! We do all sorts of fun activities. I've also found I'm reading much more at home.' Lilly

'My friend in Reading Gladiators taught me that it doesn't matter what your predictions are as long as it links to the story. Predictions are important so you can find out for yourself.' Adara

'What I've learned from everyone is to be reflective and not impatient. Jack and Ibtihal are very good at being reflective.' William

'Normally, I read in my head, but in Reading Gladiators I actually get the chance to be heard by other readers. When I performed a poem last week I got good comments and feedback.' Cristelle

'It's fun and it encourages children to read other books.' Akram

The Adults say...

'Reading Gladiators has been extremely beneficial in broadening our children's reading repertoire. It has given our readers the opportunity to discuss texts and be inspired by the best of children's literature today.'
Karlina Lock, Head of English

'I've found that Reading Gladiators has really engaged and inspired children to read longer texts. I had thought that the extended reading might be a challenge but children are actually reading on ahead of where we need to be.' Lisa Carey (Senior teacher, year 4)

'I've really enjoyed the opportunity to work with my most able readers. The programme has also encouraged me to read a wider variety of books appropriate for my year group. It is true to say, that the benefits are not just for reading; I have noticed that exposure to high quality texts in Reading Gladiators has enabled children to transfer literary devices and effects to their own writing. I feel we are seeing better cohesion, more adventurous vocabulary choices and an improved awareness of audience.' Jane Baker (Senior teacher, Year 4)

'I have really enjoyed being a group leader. With Reading Gladiators, not only do we challenge and encourage our more able readers, but we also engender a positive, "trickle-down" effect on the motivations and aspirations of less able readers across the school. The quality titles that are brought into the school environment enrich our library and our books corners, while at the same time broadening the literary repertoire of teachers and students alike. In my view, the Reading Gladiators programme constitutes a very astute use of a limited school budget because the multiple positive effects represent a win-win situation for our reading community.' Lydia Trapnell (Reading Recovery Teacher)

'Reading Gladiators has had a huge impact not just on the children taking part but also on the wider school community. What has been particularly impressive is how it has impacted on children's reading choices. It has made them more adventurous in their choices and it has made us re-evaluate the texts we were using in classrooms, in book corners and in the library. I particularly like the way it exposes them to a range of genre and authors and takes children out of their comfort zone. It also helped them to respect other people's points of view and enabled them to work together as a team. I would recommend to all schools as an excellent way to develop and promote reading.' Anne Rutherford (Headteacher)