



READERS CUP

Hints for
School/Team
Coordinators





CBCA Qld Branch Readers Cup



Some schools choose to run an in-school competition in Term 1. This could be run as a team sport using the schools' house system to earn team points or inter-class competitions across year levels. Some schools run competitions in year five to prepare teams for the regional competition the following year, but if they are used in selecting a regional team, then the school competition needs to be held in term 1. Because of time constraints, you may need to focus on a reduced number of books based on multiple copies held in the school.

When a whole class is participating, you need to ensure that you have a range of titles to suit all reading levels, and a range of genres. Teams can be from mixed reading levels so all can participate. At the end of the competition, teams can nominate their best team member/s to participate in the regional competition.

Organisation

Readers Cup



When you have decided on the titles for your own school's Readers Cup or been given the titles for your regional Readers Cup, put a temporary Readers Cup Sticker on the books with contact. Books could then be placed as sets in pamphlet boxes to be used by each team. The boxes could have the name of the team on the outside of the box. Another idea is for the team to place a list of their names on the side and mark off titles as they read them. They could design their own table for this. Half a tick indicates that they are reading it, and then they complete the tick when finished. e.g.

	Jamie	Sam	Jacob	Sarah
<i>Fearless Frederic</i>	√	√		\
<i>Dragon Keeper</i>	\		√	
<i>Huda Was Here</i>	√	\	√	√
<i>Running with Ivan</i>	√		\	√

This way teams can make sure that all the books have been read by at least one person in each team.

Encourage them to hold team meetings to discuss the books and to make up questions to ask each other. Remember the spirit of the cup is for the teams to organise their own reading schedule and approach to understanding the books. There should be no coaching by adults.

The motivation for the Readers Cup is to get kids reading and to let the readers in our schools have an opportunity to shine. To be the winner is a wonderful achievement BUT every kid will be a winner if they have enjoyed the experience and have read titles they may not have encountered before.

We cannot emphasise enough that this must be an enjoyable experience for the children in their reading and the sharing of the books with each other.

We expect teams to prepare themselves and have no adult coaches.

This will empower the teams to motivate and organise themselves which we believe is part of the Readers Cup experience. We hope you will respect this decision and have adults encourage from the sidelines rather than lead from the front.

DO	DON'T
<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Provide students with the opportunity to meet, formulate questions and ask questions of each other.✓ Help students to develop strategies e.g. who is the quickest writer to be the recorder for the team or if students focussed on a particular title, do they do the writing of answers for that book?✓ Keep it fun, for example, Smarties for the best questions.✓ Arrive to the competition early so they can settle in.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Make up questions for books and ask students the questions.➤ Drill students with facts.➤ Put on the pressure to win.

Some Tips from Far North Qld Region

Check the school calendar before team selection to help ensure no late changes to team are required due to athletics, cross country ...	Meet for thirty minutes after school - provide food Encourage students to have fun
Be clear re expectations / responsibilities /commitment of team members	Provide sticky notes so team members can jot down questions /notes etc. throughout book
Ensure an early selection process so team can bond well even before reading time begins	School coordinator can suggest some strategies suitable for the team to share learnings about the books
Encourage team to get together out of school /weekend	Encourage students to read the whole book including any included author's notes etc.
Students could act out some happenings to activate fun and memory, read out /draw a favourite part ...	Recommend having one copy per student of each title to save swap-over mishaps

Words of Wisdom from past winners

We bonded, so we got along - this was very important!	We took notes on our books
We elected a team captain that did all the writing on the day	We quizzed each other lots and read the books at least five times
Have fun! It's easier and better if you enjoy the RC experience!	We worked together and had two reserve students also helping
We bonded so there were no arguments	Be dedicated! Read 1-2 hours every day

From previous winning school coordinators

They really were a dedicated group; they gave up most of their lunch times to come together to read and ask each other questions.	They were in the library most days as a group asking each other questions.
The students really led the whole process and as a new coordinator I learnt from them.	I think it also helped that we had a mix of two students who competed last year as well as two new students. The previous experience was helpful for the group.
I was on supervision two days a week with the group, but know they met at other times by themselves.	Encourage bonding and fun

HINTS FOR READERS

- ❖ When you get the set of books for your team, hold a team meeting and decide who will read which books first.
- ❖ Make a sheet that lists the team members and the titles of the books and tick them off as you read them. You could put half a tick to indicate that you are reading it and then complete the tick after you finish reading the book. You could do this with a spreadsheet or table on the computer. e.g.

	Jamie	Sam	Jacob	Sarah
<i>Fearless Frederic</i>	√	√		\
<i>Dragon Keeper</i>	\		√	
<i>Huda Was Here</i>	√	\	√	√
<i>Running with Ivan</i>	√		\	√

This way you will make sure that all the books have been read by at least one person in your team.

- ❖ Hold team meetings to discuss the books, once a few of you have read the same titles.
- ❖ As you read the books, make up questions to ask each other. Remember the spirit of the cup is for you to organise your own team. There should be no coaching by adults.
- ❖ Questions should have answers that are straight-forward and not be a yes/no answer. e.g. If you were reading *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone*, you could ask "What is the name of the game played by Harry Potter and what is he trying to catch in the game?"

