

# Hello and Welcome

# Why is reading so important?

# First the glaringly obvious bit

- Children who read for pleasure do better in reading tests
- They also have a better vocabulary, increased general knowledge and a better understanding of other cultures

# Now the not quite so obvious bit

- Reading for pleasure is more likely to determine whether a child does well at school than their social or economic background

Finally, the slightly over the top bit, which is hopefully not relevant to any one here, but is food for thought... bit

- 46% of people entering the prison system have literacy skills no higher than those broadly expected of an 11 year old child. This is three times more than the 15% of people with similar skills levels in the adult population generally.

What difference can you make as a parent?

# How can you help your child?

James's little face was glowing with excitement, his eyes were as big and bright as two stars. He could see the peach swelling larger and larger as clearly as if it were a balloon being blown up.

In half a minute, it was the size of a melon!

In another half-minute, it was twice as big again!

“Just look at it growing!” Aunt Spiker cried.

“Will it ever stop!” Aunt Sponge shouted, waving her fat arms.

Now it was so big it looked like an enormous butter coloured pumpkin dangling from the top of the tree.

“Get away from that tree trunk, you stupid boy!” Aunt Spiker yelled.

# The opinions of a selection of thinkers and authors

- **One of the greatest gifts adults can give—to their offspring and to their society—is to read to children.** —Carl Sagan
- **I will defend the importance of bedtime stories to my last gasp.** —JK Rowling
- **Reading should not be presented to children as a chore or duty. It should be offered to them as a precious gift.** —Kate DiCamillo

# Thank you for listening

- If you are here, you are almost certainly already doing all you can to help your child
- Well done
- Thank you again
- Keep it up
- This is the last bullet point