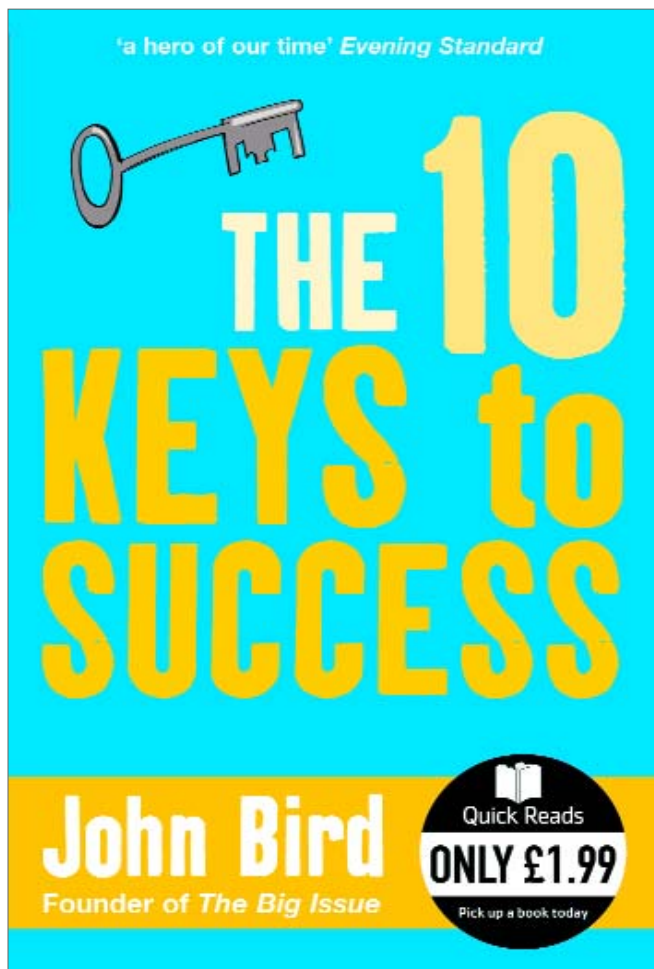




# Quick Reads

## The Vital Link Guide



## Introduction

The launch of a fourth set of Quick Reads titles on World Book Day in March 2008 provides another great opportunity to introduce less confident adult readers to the world of books. This is particularly important during the 2008 National Year of Reading which has adult literacy learners as a priority audience.

The response to the books published since the launch of the Quick Reads initiative in March 2006 has been enormously positive. Thousands of people have discovered an enjoyment of reading for the first time. Tutors and other professionals have recorded an increase in learners' confidence, motivation and acquisition of literacy skills.

The Vital Link encourages practitioners to integrate reading for pleasure into their work with adult literacy learners through partnership with the public library service. Support from the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills has enabled us to provide tools to link the Quick Reads into regular teaching practice and into more informal contact with adults who are improving their literacy skills.

As part of this work, The Vital Link has created resources to support use of the Quick Reads. These provide a 'way in' to using the books in a range of settings through ideas for discussion and extension activities. We have included suggestions for other reading materials, printed and online, and curriculum references for the main learning points.

The resources for the Quick Reads published in 2008 are available to download as individual PDF or Word files from [www.vitallink.org.uk](http://www.vitallink.org.uk).

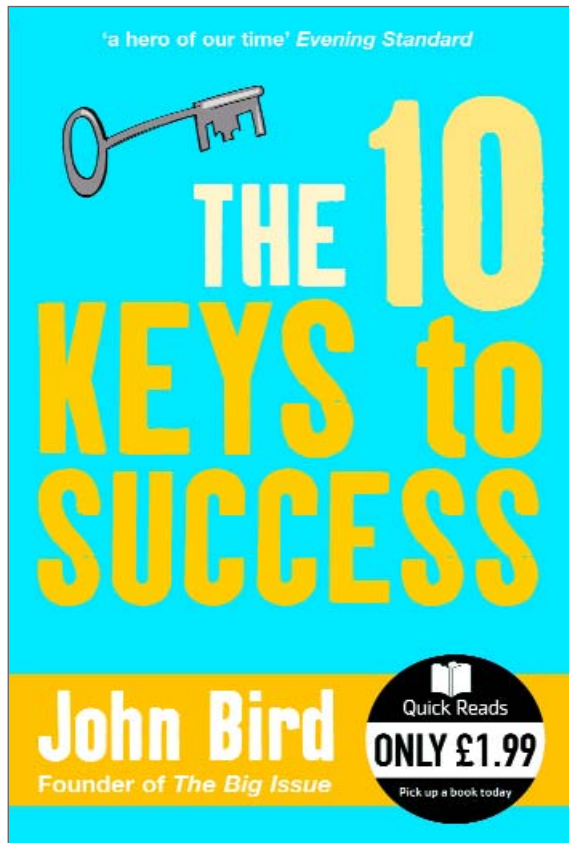
Similar materials for Quick Reads titles published in 2006 and 2007 are also available from [www.vitallink.org.uk](http://www.vitallink.org.uk). *Starting with Quick Reads*, a 24-page guide supporting the Quick Reads titles published in 2007, is also available as a hard copy free from DIUS. Call 0845 6022260 (ref code SFLQR).

An innovative set of web-based activities for readers linked to the Quick Reads titles published in 2007 can be found at [www.quickreadsideas.org.uk](http://www.quickreadsideas.org.uk). A CD containing resources from 2006 and 2007 (excluding the web quests) for those without internet access is also available from DIUS. Call 0845 6022260 (ref code SFLQRCD).

**The  
Vital  
Link**

Our thanks go to writers Roger Adams and Gill Moore. The Vital Link is run by The Reading Agency in partnership with the National Literacy Trust.

We welcome all feedback on these ideas and on how you are using the Quick Reads. Please contact [genevieve.clarke@readingagency.org.uk](mailto:genevieve.clarke@readingagency.org.uk)



**Readability 11/12 Level 1**

### **The Book**

*The 10 Key to Success* provides clear and sensible guidance that can be followed by anybody who wants to achieve personal goals, however small and whatever their starting point. He is scornful of books which claim that you can do anything just by positive thinking and emphasises the need for self-reliance and a realistic understanding of what is possible. Each 'key' is illustrated with numerous short examples, usually taken from his own experience, and the most important points are helpfully summarised at the end of each chapter.

### **The Author**

John Bird had a troubled early life, which included a number of spells in jail. At the age of 45 he created *The Big Issue*, which he says is now 'probably the biggest social business in the world'. It is best known for its magazine, sold by homeless vendors on the streets.

## Book Talk

- How can readers best make practical use of the advice contained in the book? Do they have to start at the beginning and use the 'keys' in this order or do the headings and bullet points enable them to 'dip in' and just take what they want from it?
- The title is an example of the way John Bird uses everyday metaphors to make his points easy to understand. What other examples can readers find? (eg p2, 'the engine won't go if you don't put the right fuel into it'; p50, breaking a door with a sledgehammer)?
- John Bird tells several stories taken from his own life or observations (eg p10, moorhens on the pond near his house; p23, one of his first employees; p58, Edison and the light bulb). How does he use them to get over the points he wants to make?
- What examples can readers provide from their own experience or knowledge that could be used to illustrate the effectiveness of some of John Bird's precepts?
- There are places in the book where John Bird gives his view about aspects of life in modern Britain that he thinks are wrong (eg p42, the Health Service; p46, the need to have everything instantly; p53, intolerance of failure). What examples can readers find and how far do they agree with the views expressed? There would be an opportunity here for a more formal debate on one of these topics.
- Individually, readers could decide which 'key(s)' they consider to be most important. In small groups, they could then compare results and attempt, through discussion and persuasion, to compile a shorter list in priority order.

With a mixed group, the search for examples could be limited to particular sections of the book for some readers. The bullet points at the end of each chapter provide an accessible focus for consideration of the book as a whole.

## Taking it Further

- The book's title indicates that John Bird considers these to be the keys to success. Do readers agree with this? John Bird's advice could be compared with that contained in self-help books or websites, for example the following site that gives 10 steps to achieving success: [www.icbs.com/Kb/inspiration/kb\\_the-top-10-secrets-to-achieving-any-goals.htm](http://www.icbs.com/Kb/inspiration/kb_the-top-10-secrets-to-achieving-any-goals.htm) Compare also the advice contained in his previous Quick Reads title *How to Change your Life in 7 Steps*. Readers could discuss John Bird's precepts for success and add their own. They could then, as a group activity, compile a collection of short anecdotes to illustrate them.
- Readers could consider whether any of John Bird's keys to success are illustrated in other Quick Reads titles. For example, in *The Hardest Test* Scott Quinnell writes about setting himself a goal and overcoming obstacles and Colin Jackson refers to key qualities for becoming a winner in *Life's New Hurdles*. The stories contained in *RaW Voices* should also provide fertile material for discussion.
- John Bird gives Jane Tomlinson as an example of someone who 'found a direction in life because her own life changed radically'. She succeeded by doing something 'for the right reasons' (p28). Readers can find out more information about her activities at: [www.bbc.co.uk/leeds/features/jane\\_tomlinson/jane.shtml](http://www.bbc.co.uk/leeds/features/jane_tomlinson/jane.shtml)
- Other examples of successful people mentioned by John Bird are Anita Roddick, J. K. Rowling and Thomas Edison. Short essays about all of these can be found on: [www.myhero.com/myhero/home.asp](http://www.myhero.com/myhero/home.asp), which also contains short essays on a wide range of other 'heroes'. These could provide a model for readers' own writing (eg about Jane Tomlinson).

## Learning Objectives

*The curriculum references below are for Entry 3 or Level 1, but the suggested activities are quite open-ended to allow for the range of abilities found in many settings. Supported reading and discussion should enable readers with lower levels of literacy to be included.*

Understand an explanatory text	Rt/E3.1; Rt/L1.1
Recognise how language and other textual features are used	Rt/L1.3
Use organisational features to locate information	Rt/E3.5; Rt/L1.4
Follow and contribute to discussion	Sld/E3.1,2; Sld/L1.1.
Write a short anecdote, using paragraphs	Wt/E3.2,3; Wt/L1.2,3

## What Shall We Read Next?

Readers can find out more about John Bird and The Big Issue, some of the other people he mentions in the book and case studies of vendors, by visiting <http://www.bigissue.com/magazinesite/index.html>

### Other Quick Reads with a similar theme

*How to Change Your Life in 7 Steps* by John Bird

*Screw It, Let's Do It* by Richard Branson

*The Hardest Test*, by Scott Quinnell

*RaW Voices: True Stories of Hardship and Hope* edited by Vanessa Feltz

*Life's New Hurdles* by Colin Jackson

See the following pages for additional sources of support for working with emergent readers and a complete list of Quick Reads titles.

## Further Information

See [www.quickreads.org.uk](http://www.quickreads.org.uk) for more about Quick Reads 2008 and the supporting campaign run by NIACE.

You can find a wider range of books suitable for Entry3/Level 1 readers at [www.firstchoicebooks.org.uk](http://www.firstchoicebooks.org.uk)

Copies of the Quick Reads titles first published, re-issued or reprinted in 2008 can be purchased at all main bookshops and supermarket chains. Bulk quantities can be ordered from the following suppliers:

- Avanti – [orders@avantibooks.com](mailto:orders@avantibooks.com) 01438 747000 [www.avantibooks.com](http://www.avantibooks.com)
- Bertrams/THE – [books@bertrams.com](mailto:books@bertrams.com) 0871 303 6600 [www.bertramsthe.com](http://www.bertramsthe.com)
- Browns Books for Students – [schools.services@brownsbfs.co.uk](mailto:schools.services@brownsbfs.co.uk) 01482 384660 [www.bfs.co.uk](http://www.bfs.co.uk)
- Gardners – [custcare@gardners.com](mailto:custcare@gardners.com) 01323 521777 [www.gardners.com](http://www.gardners.com)

Audio versions of the Quick Reads are available from W F Howes Ltd as part of their Clipper Emergent Reader programme – [sales@wfhowes.co.uk](mailto:sales@wfhowes.co.uk) 01664 423000 [www.wfhowes.co.uk/cerp/](http://www.wfhowes.co.uk/cerp/)

Large print versions of several of the Quick Reads titles are available from BBC Audiobooks Ltd – [library.sales@bbc.com](mailto:library.sales@bbc.com) 01225 335336 [www.bbcaudiobooks.com/libraries](http://www.bbcaudiobooks.com/libraries)

Audio extracts from the Quick Reads can be found on the BBC RaW website at [www.bbc.co.uk/raw](http://www.bbc.co.uk/raw) along with a range of resources to support the BBC RaW campaign.

The Quick Reads project in Wales is a joint venture between the Welsh Arts Council and The Basic Skills Agency. Further details can be found at [www.quickreads.net](http://www.quickreads.net)

Publishers producing titles specifically for emergent readers include:

- New Island Open Door series [www.newisland.ie](http://www.newisland.ie)
- Sandstone Press Vista series and accompanying education packs [www.sandstonepress.com](http://www.sandstonepress.com)
- Barrington Stoke [www.barringtonstoke.co.uk](http://www.barringtonstoke.co.uk) (teenagers and young adults)
- Ransom Publishing [www.ransom.co.uk](http://www.ransom.co.uk) (teenagers and young adults)

Gatehouse Media Limited publishes and distributes books and resources for use in adult basic education, including Gatehouse Books written by and for adult beginner readers [www.gatehousebooks.org.uk](http://www.gatehousebooks.org.uk)

New Leaf Publishing publishes titles by and for adults who are new to reading and have low levels of literacy [www.newleafpublishing.org.uk](http://www.newleafpublishing.org.uk)

## Full List of Quick Reads Titles, Including Availability

### New titles published March 2008

<i>Doctor Who: Revenge of the Judoon</i>	Terrance Dicks	978 1 846 07372 4
<i>East End Tales</i>	Gilda O'Neill	978 0 141 03494 2
<i>The Girl on the Platform</i>	Josephine Cox	978 0 00 727008 8
<i>Happy Families</i>	Adele Parks	978 0 141 03491 1
<i>The Hardest Test</i>	Scott Quinnell	978 1 90612595 0
<i>Humble Pie</i>	Gordon Ramsay	978 0 00727096 5
<i>Life's New Hurdles</i>	Colin Jackson	978 1 90612593 6
<i>One Good Turn</i>	Chris Ryan	978 0 099 52234 8
<i>Raw Voices: True Stories of Hardship and Hope</i>	Vanessa Feltz (ed)	978 1 846 07446 2
<i>The 10 Keys to Success</i>	John Bird	978 0 091 92360 0

### Quick Reads backlist

<i>Aim High</i>	Tanni Grey Thompson	1905170890 978 1 905 17089 0
<i>Bring it Back Home</i>	Niall Griffiths	1905170912 978 1 905 17091 3
<i>Chickenfeed</i>	Minette Walters	978 0 330 44031 8
<i>Cleanskin</i>	Val McDermid	978 0 007 21672 7
<i>Danny Wallace and the Centre of the Universe</i>	Danny Wallace	978 0 091 90894 2
<i>A Day To Remember</i>	Fiona Phillips	1905170904 978 1 905 17090 6
<i>Doctor Who: I Am a Dalek</i>	Gareth Roberts	978 0 563 486480
<i>Doctor Who: Made of Steel</i>	Terrance Dicks	978 1 846 07204 8
<i>Don't Make Me Laugh</i>	Patrick Augustus	978 1 902 934464
<i>A Dream Come True</i>	Maureen Lee	978 0 7528 8239 0
<i>The Grey Man</i>	Andy McNab	978 0 552 15433 8
<i>Hell Island</i>	Matthew Reilly	978 0 330 442329
<i>How to Change Your Life in 7 Steps</i>	John Bird	978 0 091 90703 7
<i>Lily</i>	Adele Geras	978 0 752 88224 6
<i>The Name You Once Gave Me</i>	Mike Phillips	978 0 007 216710
<i>Reading My Arse!</i>	Ricky Tomlinson	978 0 7515 3953 0
<i>The Rubber Woman</i>	Lindsay Ashford	1905170882 978 1 905 17088 3
<i>Star Sullivan</i>	Maeve Binchy	978 0 75287 954 3
<i>The Sun Book of Short Stories</i>		978 0 553 181882 6
<i>Survive the Worst and Aim for the Best</i>	Kerry Katona	978 0 091 91754 8
<i>Twenty Tales from the War Zone</i>	John Simpson	978 0 330 44999 1

## Other Titles (only available in libraries)

<i>Blackwater</i>	Conn Iggulden	978 0 007 22166 0
<i>The Book Boy</i>	Joanna Trollope	978 0 747 58211 3
<i>Burning Ambition</i>	Allen Carr	978 0 141 03030 2
<i>The Corpse's Tale</i>	Katherine John	1905170319
<i>Desert Claw</i>	Damien Lewis	0099493535
<i>The Dying Wish</i>	Courtia Newland	0349119635
<i>I Love Football</i>	Hunter Davies	0755314700
<i>The Poison in the Blood</i>	Tom Holland	0349119643
<i>Screw it, Let's Do It</i>	Richard Branson	0753510995
<i>Secrets</i>	Lynne Barrett-Lee	1905170300
<i>Someone Like Me</i>	Tom Holt	1841494461
<i>The Team</i>	Mick Dennis with the Premier League	0552153729
<i>The Thief</i>	Ruth Rendell	0091796865
<i>Winner Takes All</i>	John Francome	0755329481
<i>Woman Walks into a Bar</i>	Rowan Coleman	0099492288