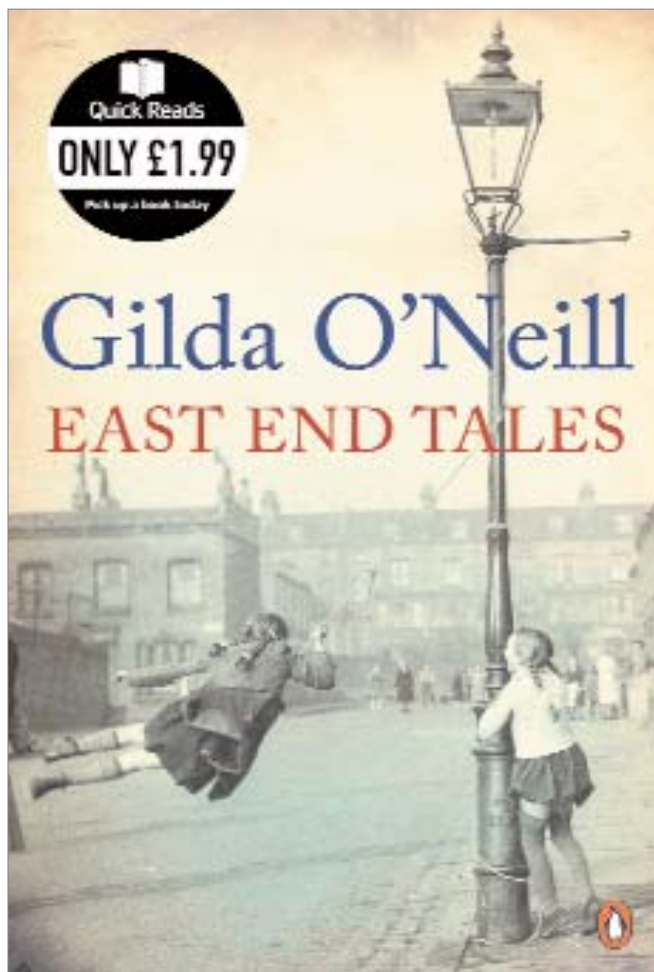




Quick Reads

The Vital Link Guide



East End
Tales
Gilda O'Neill

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.

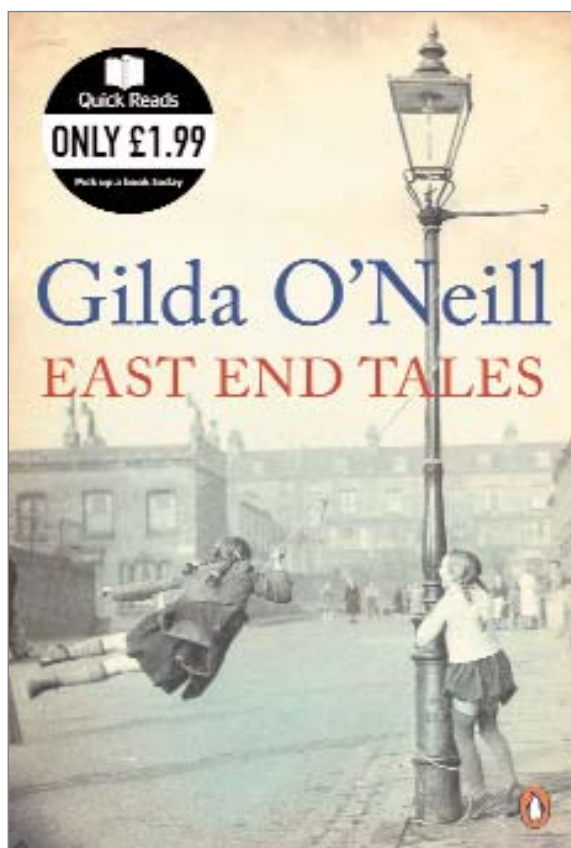
Similar materials for Quick Reads titles published in 2006 and 2007 are also available from www.vitallink.org.uk. *Starting with Quick Reads*, a 24-page guide supporting the Quick Reads titles published in 2007, is also available as a hard copy free from DIUS. Call 0845 6022260 (ref code SFLQR).

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. 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



Readability 12 Level 1

The Book

Gilda O'Neill was born in London's East End in 1951. She tells the story of life there as she remembers it, and as told to her by other East End residents across several generations. Tales of hardship and upheaval rub shoulders with stories of kindness, pride, courage and humour. Above all is a sense of warmth and community, now nearly vanished. Each chapter recalls a particular aspect of life such as education, leisure, housing or healthcare, which makes it ideal for use in reading sessions.

The Author

Gilda O'Neill was born into a typical East End family. She left school at 15, when her dreams of becoming a pianist or a writer were squashed by a teacher. She held many jobs, but later returned to learning. She has written five books about the East End and 13 novels.

Book Talk

- Gilda O'Neill's memories draw on several generations. What were the significant events in their lives, or those of readers you are working with? (Recording on a time line appeals to visual learners and those who have difficulty organising their ideas.)
- At the end of Chapter 1 the author says 'riches can come in many forms'. Explore this idea with readers and find examples from the book (particularly Chapter 9). Look at how often Gilda talks about 'we' instead of 'I' – what effect does that have? In the final sentence why does her dad say 'Of course they were the good old days – we were young!'?
- How does life in TV's *East Enders* compare with Gilda O'Neill's memories? In the book, where is community life centred? (See Chapters 7 and 9.) There isn't much about pubs in the book, but there is quite a lot about markets. Is this just a woman's perspective?
- What does Gilda say about crime then and now (Chapter 8)? Use the book to encourage discussion about whether crime is better or worse today. Compare modern crimes with Jack the Ripper (1888-89). For the facts about Jack the Ripper, see www.met.police.uk/history/ripper.htm. How much are our ideas influenced by the media? Draw on news reporting of a recent case (e.g. the disappearance of Madeleine McCann).

This book is ideal for group reading because of its short chapters. Research by the National Research and Development Centre found that reading aloud, paired reading and independent reading between sessions, are strong indicators for reading progress. See how to do it in *Reading: developing adult teaching and learning: practitioner guides* by Maxine Burton (NRDC) distributed by www.niace.org.uk/publications

Taking it Further

- Ask readers to collect some photos of everyday life in the East End or in their local community from the internet, the library, or picture books of local life. Use them to stimulate discussion, writing and research. Mount them as a display, along with maps, newspaper reports and the readers' own writing. If you can put this up in a local community venue it will give readers a genuine audience for their work – or they could create their own website.
- Look at some oral history websites such as www.bbc.co.uk/ww2peopleswar or www.pbs.org/wgbh/peoplescentury. Suggest readers record their own memories or collect memories from each other or members of their own families (but be sensitive to those who have no wish to revisit their past). First discuss how interviews are conducted. What speaking and listening skills are required? What skills are needed to take notes?
- Contact the archivist at your local library or records office and find out what local historical material they hold. This may include old maps, local trade directories, old newspapers, photographs, parish registers etc. The librarian might visit your group or, better still, take them along to the library. Discuss what the group wants to look at. Spend some time before the visit making sure they have the research skills they will need, such as using an index, skimming and scanning.

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.

Follow and comprehend the main events of the novel	Rt/E3.1; Rt/L1.1
Use features of specific texts to find detail	Rt/E3.5; RT/L1.4
Describe significant situations and /or circumstances related to the main points of discussion	SLc/E3.3; Slc/L1.3
Recognise how an author uses language and other textual features for different effects	Rt/E3.4; Rt/L1.2
Follow and contribute own opinions to discussion	Sld/E3.1; Sld/L1.1
Present information and ideas in a format appropriate to situation	Wt/E3.1; Wt/L1.2 & Wt/L1.5
Write using a style appropriate to your purpose	Wt/E3.3; Wt/L1.4

What Shall We Read Next?

<http://history1900s.about.com/library/time/bltime1950.htm> is a website that could help to set the scene of 1950 as it lists some world events that were taking place at this time. Other eras can also be viewed.

Gilda O'Neill has written other books about East End life, and 13 novels. There is a list of her books on the Random House website www.randomhouse.co.uk and an interview with Gilda on the Penguin website. www.penguin.co.uk

For a contrasting picture, try *Driving with Daisy* by Tom Nestor, which paints a story of childhood in rural Ireland in the 1940s. This book is published by New Island and was written for emergent readers. See www.newisland.ie/node/177

Every BBC local radio area has a Where I Live site providing local news and information about local sport, entertainment and community issues. See www.bbc.co.uk/wherelive/ to find your local site.

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 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

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 01438 747000 www.avantibooks.com
- Bertrams/THE – books@bertrams.com 0871 303 6600 www.bertramsthe.com
- Browns Books for Students – schools.services@brownsbfs.co.uk 01482 384660 www.bfs.co.uk
- Gardners – custcare@gardners.com 01323 521777 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 01664 423000 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 01225 335336 www.bbcaudiobooks.com/libraries

Audio extracts from the Quick Reads can be found on the BBC RaW website at 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

Publishers producing titles specifically for emergent readers include:

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

New Leaf Publishing publishes titles by and for adults who are new to reading and have low levels of literacy 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