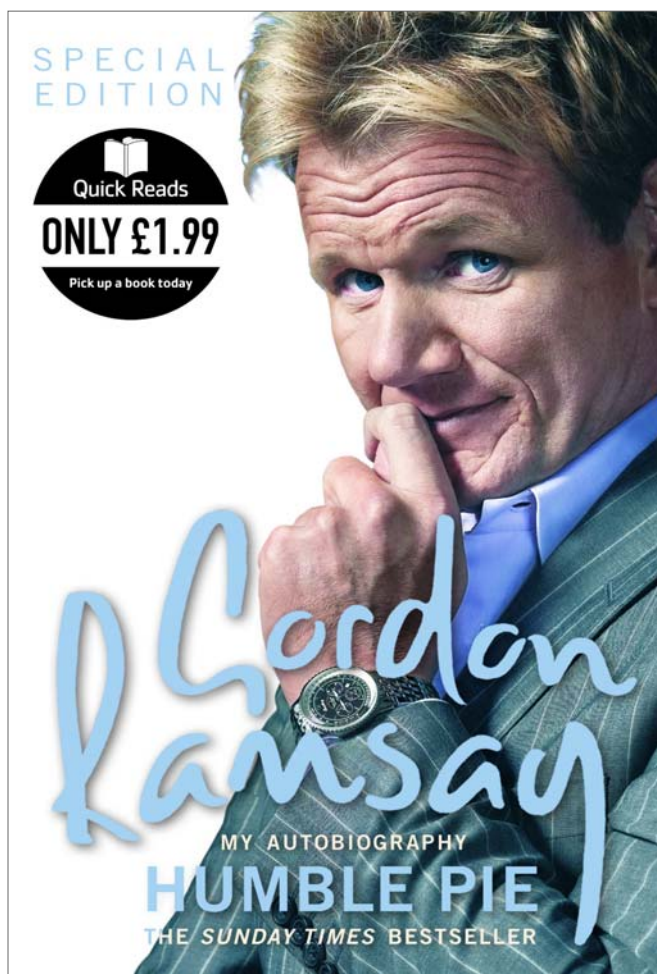




Quick Reads

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.

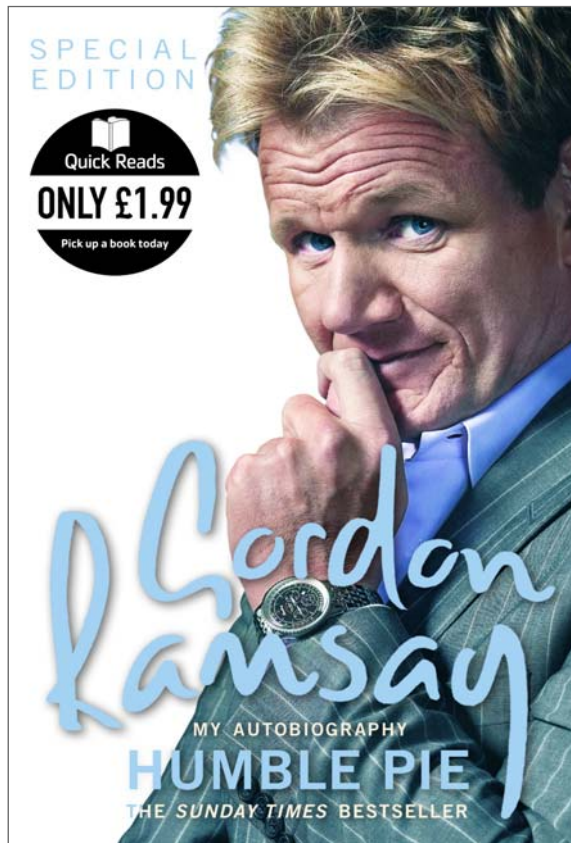
Similar materials for Quick Reads titles published in 2006 and 2007 are also available from www.vitallink.org.uk. *Starting with Quick Reads*, a 24-page guide supporting the Quick Reads titles published in 2007, is also available as a hard copy free from DIUS. Call 0845 6022260 (ref code SFLQR).

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 14 Level 2

The Book

This is a special edition of Gordon Ramsay's autobiography *Humble Pie*. In it he tells of his early life with an abusive father, his thwarted attempt to become a professional footballer, and his determination to be the best he could be as a chef. Through the flying pots and hurtling swearwords, we watch a passionate and totally committed man of enormous energy emerge as perhaps the world's best-known chef and media personality.

The Author

In his own words, Gordon Ramsay is 'as driven as any man you'll ever meet'. He runs Michelin-starred restaurants throughout the world. His TV shows include *Kitchen Nightmares* and *Hell's Kitchen*. He writes cook books and newspaper columns and in his spare time rides motorbikes and runs marathons.

Book Talk

- The book is written in an informal style and contains a quite a lot of swearing. Is it an essential part of Gordon Ramsay's image? Would readers feel it was genuinely his voice if it was 'cleaned up'? This discussion can be extended to talk about the 'author's voice' as an important element in any writing.
- Find some of the examples where he asks a question and then answers it (for example, in the second section of Chapter 9). How does this work as a writing style? Does it remind readers of any other type of writing (a newspaper interview)? If they were interviewing Gordon, what questions would they ask him?
- People tend to have strong views about Gordon Ramsay. Encourage readers to back up their own opinions with examples from the book, such as his swearing, his behaviour on *Hell's Kitchen* (Chapter 10), his scheming (Chapter 9), the devotion of his staff when he left *Aubergine* and *L'Oranger* (Chapter 8), his desire to encourage 'the youngest chap in the kitchen' (p42), his passion and energy. How appropriate is the title *Humble Pie*?
- What were the important turning points which led Gordon Ramsay to the success he enjoys today? Against each of the key players, note what they contributed (his Dad's violence – made him strive, Rangers club – ended his dream of football, Social Services – found him a flat, etc). Autobiographical stories have 'pegs' on which to 'hang' the story. Readers could reflect on their personal 'pegs'.
- George Orwell wrote *Down and Out in London and Paris* in 1933. In Chapter 10 Orwell gets a job washing up in a Paris restaurant. Read a short extract to the group (the text is online at www.george-orwell.org). How much has changed since the 1930s? As part of this activity, you might use a clip from BBC TV's *Masterchef* to show life in a restaurant kitchen today, the pressure aspiring chefs are under, and how driven they need to be to succeed.

Taking it Further

- Look at some restaurant reviews in national or local papers. How objective are they? What is fact and what is opinion?
- Developing from discussion about Gordon Ramsay's writing style, ask readers to rewrite an extract from the story as an interview (or role play an interview).
- Many of the celebrity chefs have websites with autobiographical details. Compare the career and character of a few of them: for example, Jamie Oliver (www.jamieoliver.com/about). Nigella Lawson's website has a section reproducing interviews she has given. www.nigella.com/nigella/index.asp
- Have a look at some of Gordon Ramsay's cookbooks (a chance to examine instructional writing). Encourage readers to bring in some of their favourite recipes. Free supermarket magazines are a good source and often they carry information on healthy eating, which might form an interesting topic to explore.
- Collect some restaurant menus and look at how the dishes are described. Use a good dictionary to compare the different shades of meaning implied by the adjectives. Suggest that readers try to write about their own meals to make them sound as desirable as possible.

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.

Recognise how an author uses language and other textual features for different and/or specific effects	Rt/E3.2; Rt/L1.2
Follow and comprehend the main events of the narrative	Rt/E3.1; Rt/L1.1
Use features of a text to find specific detail	Rt/E3.5; RT/L1.4
Express an opinion based on the text	SLd/E3.2, SLc/L1.4
Follow and contribute to discussion	Sld/E3.1,2; Sld/L1.1
Write a clear description, using paragraphs	Wt/E3.2; Wt/L1.3

What Shall We Read Next?

This Quick Reads book is a special edition of Gordon Ramsay's autobiography *Humble Pie*, published by HarperCollins.

Nigel Slater's autobiography *Toast: The story of a boy's hunger*, published by HarperCollins, marks his passage from his schooldays in the 1960s to well-known food writer. Each step of the way is remembered through food providing a wealth of material for reminiscing about foods in childhood and writing activities.

Many magazines, weekend newspapers and TV guides run columns by celebrity chefs. Readers might bring their favourites to share.

Other Quick Reads about celebrities fighting their way to success:

Survive the Worst and Aim for the Best by Kerry Katona

How to Change Your Life in 7 Steps by John Bird

Screw It, Let's Do It by Richard Branson

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

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