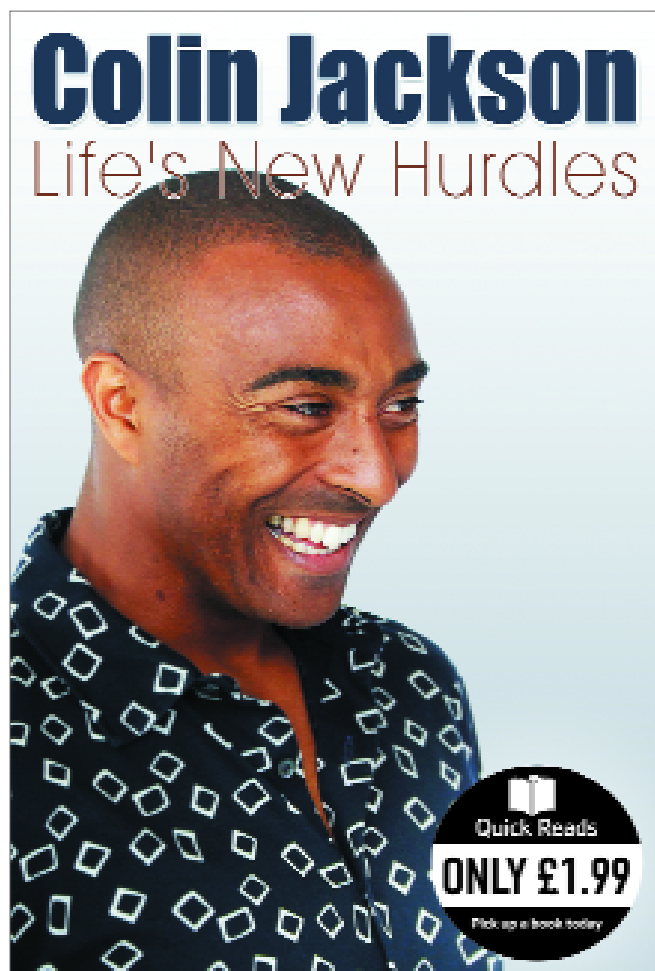




Quick Reads

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.

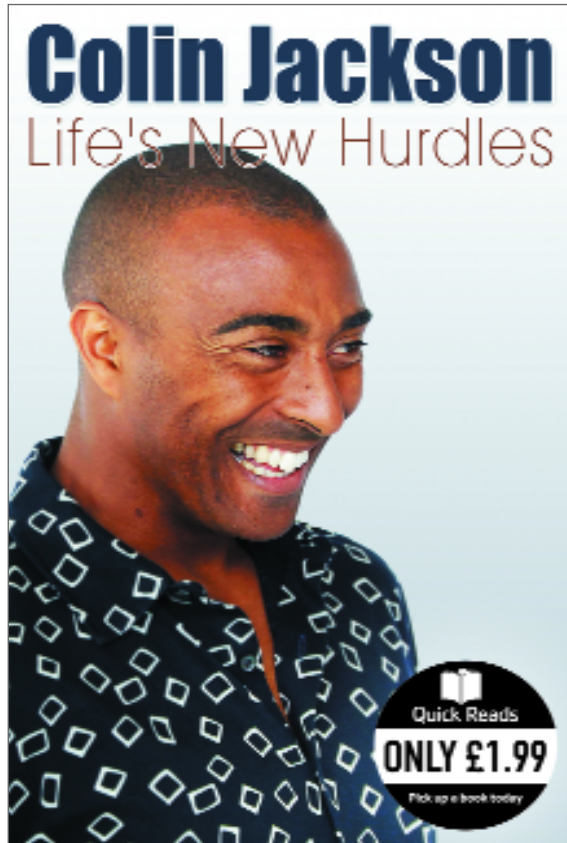
Similar materials for Quick Reads titles published in 2006 and 2007 are also available from www.vitallink.org.uk. *Starting with Quick Reads*, a 24-page guide supporting the Quick Reads titles published in 2007, is also available as a hard copy free from DIUS. Call 0845 6022260 (ref code SFLQR).

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

Colin Jackson, one of the world's best athletes, describes the shock of adjusting to life after he retired from the track. How would he manage without the strict routines? Would he for ever want to be back in the race? Could he overcome his shyness to become a TV presenter? We learn what drives Colin, from swimming with sharks to learning to tango.

The Author

Colin Jackson was born in Wales and for 16 years was at the top of world athletics as a hurdler. He won an Olympic Silver Medal, was World Champion for two years, and world record-holder. He is now a TV presenter and works for Raise Your Game, an educational project.

Book Talk

- Before you begin, ask the readers what they already know about Colin Jackson. How well does Chapter 1 set the scene? The opening sentence is the 'pivotal moment' on which the whole story hangs. You quickly begin to get an idea of Colin's character. Why is the opening of any story important? (Get the attention, set the scene, but don't give away too much.)
- In Chapters 2 and 3, discuss the contribution of his father (p6); his sister (p8); his PE teachers (pp7-8) and his coach (p11 on). Then turn to the penultimate paragraph of the book. How did being told he would not make it affect him?
- Colin is very clear about the qualities you need to make it to the top. Ask readers to say what these are, using quotes where possible. (Honesty, self-belief, preparation, discipline, hard work, persistence, concentration, etc.) Apart from the keys summarised on pages 17 and 61, what else drives him? For example, how much is he affected by celebrity status (dinner with Princess Anne, p10), image (p2), race preparations (p31, p55) and fear of failure (Chapter 5)?
- In Chapter 5, how does he build up the tension? What is the importance of rituals (p31)? Notice how often he says he didn't talk to other competitors or even look at them (pp31-33). Why? Compare how solo athletes behave and look with the players in team events.
- How significant a hurdle is Colin's change from solo performer to team player? (for example: p26, 'I wasn't in that club ... it hurt'; p39, 'I wasn't a member of the BBC club' and p62, 'I desperately wanted to be the same as them'). Is this linked to his shyness? How does he overcome this hurdle?

Taking it Further

- What does the title '*Life's New Hurdles*' mean? Draw out the idea of metaphor (which is when one aspect of life is described in language drawn from a different aspect of life. In this case the literal hurdles of Colin's running career become the metaphor for the challenges in his media career). The website http://www.bbc.co.uk/worldservice/learningenglish/youmeus/lingo/lingo_sport.shtml gives examples of other sporting metaphors and includes a 'lingo challenge' game.
- Readers may want to talk about the hurdles they have faced in their own lives and how they overcame them. What could any of us learn from Colin? Explore the website which Colin recommends <http://www.bbc.co.uk/raiseyourgame>
- Why do many successful people want to 'give something back'? What skills do readers have which they could use to help others? John Bird's books for Quick Reads also talk about the importance of helping others.
- Take Colin's keys to success (pp17 and 61) and ask readers to relate them to something they have done or are hoping to achieve. This could be the basis for a group discussion, an individual piece of writing, a series of items in a student publication or even the plot to a play

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.

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

What Shall We Read Next?

There are many references to Colin Jackson on the web, including <http://www.100greatblackbritons.com> and <http://www.100welshheroes.com>

With the Olympics being held in Beijing in August 2008, there will be many newspaper reports to follow up and lots of TV coverage to watch. The official website for the games is <http://en.beijing2008.cn>

The BBC has a message area for sports fans called 606. Go to <http://www.bbc.co.uk>, then to the 606 homepage and choose your sport.

Read some sports reports from newspapers – perhaps looking for more sporting metaphors.

Other Quick Reads in which celebrities tell how they have faced challenges and overcome them:

How to Change Your Life in 7 Steps and *The 10 Keys to Success* by John Bird

Screw It, Let's Do It by Richard Branson

Survive the Worst and Aim for the Best by Kerry Katona

Burning Ambition by Allen Carr

The Hardest Test by Scott Quinnell

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