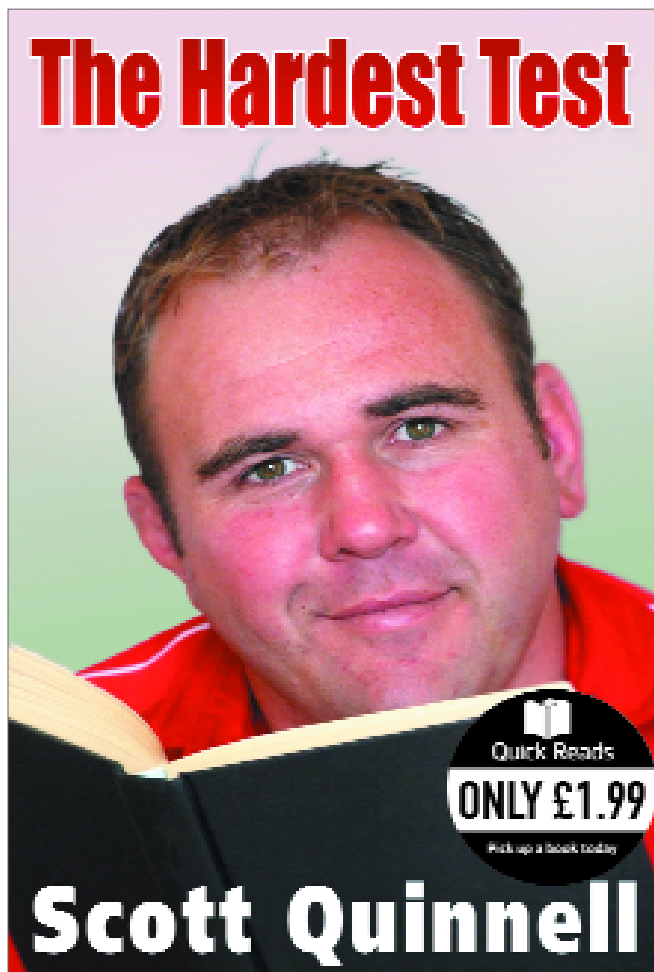




Quick Reads

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.

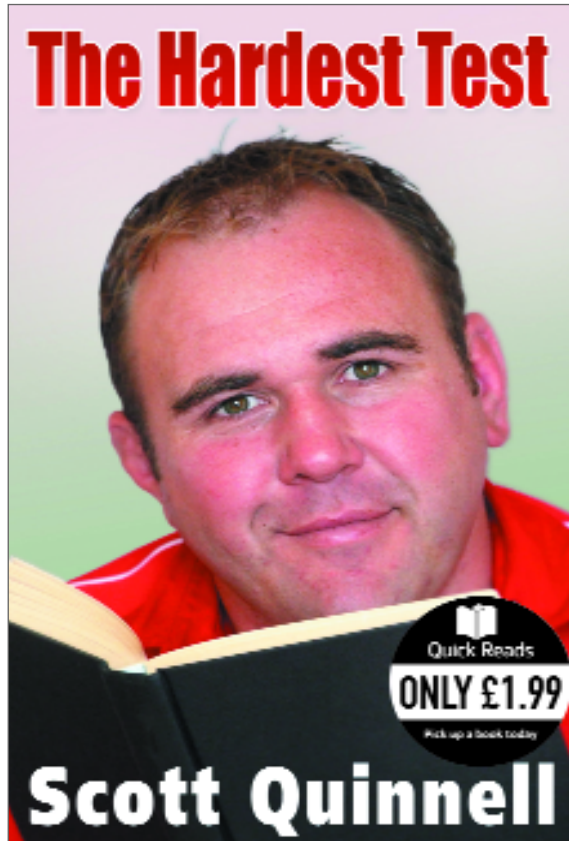
Similar materials for Quick Reads titles published in 2006 and 2007 are also available from www.vitallink.org.uk. *Starting with Quick Reads*, a 24-page guide supporting the Quick Reads titles published in 2007, is also available as a hard copy free from DIUS. Call 0845 6022260 (ref code SFLQR).

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 13/14 Level 2

The Book

This is the autobiography of one of the most distinguished Welsh rugby players of recent years. Scott Quinnell gives accounts of matches he played in and famous players he encountered. In addition to describing his most cherished moments in the sport, he talks about the learning difficulties he first encountered at school and which stayed with him throughout his playing career. After his retirement, he learnt about a programme that could help both him and his children deal with their dyslexia. Applying himself to this programme was his 'hardest test'.

The Author

Scott Quinnell started and ended his career playing rugby union for the famous Llanelli Scarlets club. In between, he also played rugby league for Wigan and represented Wales at both codes as well as touring with the British Lions in South Africa and Australia. He is now a rugby pundit for Sky television.

Book Talk

- ⋯⋯⋯ What are his feelings now about his school days? What were the signs of his learning difficulties at this stage of his life and how did they affect him?
- ⋯⋯⋯ Throughout the account of his playing career, Scott Quinnell describes a number of moments that were particularly special for him (eg first playing for Llanelli, p22). Which other moments can readers find and what was it that made them so important? He also describes some frustrating experiences, mostly associated with being injured. Which were these?
- ⋯⋯⋯ Chapters 8 and 9 deal with Scott Quinnell's rugby league career. Why was making the switch from union to league such a difficult decision for him? What were the similarities and differences between his experiences in the two codes (eg the fervour of fans in both Llanelli and Wigan, p43; quick return after injury in RL compared with RU, pp46-47)?
- ⋯⋯⋯ For Scott Quinnell, rugby was 'something I could do which wasn't hindered by my learning difficulties'. However, in Chapter 15, he describes a number of ways in which his dyslexia did affect him as a rugby player (eg p77, maintaining concentration during a game). What were these? What were his special moments in his 'hardest test'?
- ⋯⋯⋯ Readers could discuss what makes a good biography or autobiography of a sports personality. Is it necessary for there to be an additional element beyond sport, as in the case of Scott Quinnell's dyslexia? Unlike in some sports autobiographies, Scott Quinnell has not included any controversial opinions or revealing information about fellow players or officials. How might that have affected readers' enjoyment of the book?

The activities mainly focus on particular sections of the book, so should be suitable for mixed level groups. With some it should be possible to use very short pre-selected extracts for group reading.

Taking it Further

- Readers can find out more about Scott Quinnell's 'last test' at: www.bbc.co.uk/wales/health/sites/programmes/pages/quinnell.shtml, which has video clips and interviews following his progress on the Dore dyslexia programme.
- For readers who want to find out more about dyslexia, there are links from the above to further information on the BBC's site and to the Dore website. Those who may empathise with some of Scott Quinnell's difficulties and would like to test themselves against the adult dyslexia checklist can do so at: www.bdadyslexia.org.uk/adultchecklist.html

NB It should be noted that there are many approaches to dealing with dyslexia and it is important to find one that matches individual needs as in Scott's case. Some useful sources of free information and advice about dyslexia are the Adult Dyslexia Organisation (0207 9249559), British Dyslexia Association (0118 966 8271) and Dyslexia Action (01784 222300).

- For readers who want to find out more about Scott Quinnell and Welsh rugby, there is an interview with him at the BBC sportacademy site: http://news.bbc.co.uk/sportacademy/hi/sa/rugby_union/features/newsid_2071000/2071743.stm
- Readers could discuss their own 'great sporting moments', which could be either personal or ones where they have been spectators. They could then compile a collection of short paragraphs describing them.

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 the main events of an author's life story and identify the most important ones	Rt/E3.1, 4; Rt/L1.1, 3.
Follow and contribute to discussion	SLd/E3.1, 2; SLd/L1.1
Give clear short accounts of incidents from sport	SLc/E3.3; SLc/L1.3, 4
Listen for, identify and understand information on different topics	SLLr/E3.3; SLLr/L1.2
Write a short account of a sporting incident or event	Wt/E3.2, 3; Wt/L1.3, 4

What Shall We Read Next?

There is a plethora of autobiographies of famous sports personalities. A recent rugby title is *My World* by Jonny Wilkinson, who also features on the following website: www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/sport/columnists/jonny_wilkinson/

The recent autobiography of the English rugby player, Lawrence Dallaglio, was controversial because it was critical of his team's coach. An extract can be read online at: www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/sport/rugby/article2753834.ece

A small number of short biographies of sports stars can be found at: <http://www.biographyonline.net/sport/index.html>

Probably the most comprehensive website on sport is <http://news.bbc.co.uk/sport>. This has links to a wide range of other sites depending on the particular sporting interest.

All the main national newspapers have extensive sports coverage, including on their websites. For example: <http://sport.guardian.co.uk>

The Observer took a readers' poll of 100 great sporting moments. An account of the winner can be found at: <http://observer.guardian.co.uk/osm/story/0,6903,433074,00.html>, with links from there to shorter accounts of the other 99.

Other Quick Reads with a sporting theme:

Life's New Hurdles by Colin Jackson

Aim High by Tanni Grey Thompson

I Love Football by Hunter Davies

The Team by Mick Dennis

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 backlog

<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