

# Educational benefits of *Supernova* USES IN THE CLASSROOM OR AT HOME

*Supernova* is an excellent resource for teachers and parents to assist learners and children in the learning process as well as to engage with them using the magazine. Here we provide you with some helpful tips on how to use *Supernova* in the classroom or as a parent to maximise the educational benefits of *Supernova*.

## READING

### **The importance of reading aloud**

Fluency is an important part of reading because it is based on a child's ability to recognise words. Reading should be fun, and this includes reading aloud. If the reading level is above the child's capability, read the text together and identify and explain unknown and interesting words in order to build vocabulary.

### **Reading with a partner**

Make reading interactive by letting the child read with a partner. If the text is appropriate for the child but he / she may have some difficulty reading it, allow the learners (or siblings) to pair up. This may allow an efficient reader to guide and encourage a reader experiencing a reading roadblock. Before the children pair up, you can highlight and explain new and difficult vocabulary to ease reading and ensure comprehension.

### **Visual literacy**

*Supernova* has been designed with the modern child in mind. The visual design and format of the magazine is meant to appeal to children who are used to a world filled with images. Whether the child is an excellent reader or is experiencing a bit of difficulty, there will be something of interest for them to read in every issue. The unique illustrations and activities will entice the learner who is experiencing a reading roadblock to formulate an idea of the content of the article.

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## READING

### Going beyond the text

Encourage learners/children to read more about a topic that they find interesting. An article that is CAPS aligned may even serve as an introduction or project guide in topics such as history, technology or science.

## READING SKILLS AND STRATEGIES

### Vocabulary

Building a child's vocabulary is important for them to become better readers.

If a text is littered with difficult words, it may become frustrating for a learner to read, but the lack of new vocabulary in a text will not allow the young reader to grow their vocabulary. Teach and encourage the child to look for the meaning of the word in context or to use a dictionary to find the meaning. The learner can even add words from articles into their personal dictionary!

### Making connections

Reading stops being boring when you are interested in what you read. Using the CAPS aligned articles, you can assist the children to connect what they are reading to themselves and the world around them. This allows the readers to feel connected to the text and to encourage them to read further about similar topics. *Supernova* covers a wide range of topics to cater for you as teacher or parents and for the learners in your class or your children in your home.

### Predicting outcomes

Predicting the outcome of a story or article helps the learners to think about what they are about to read. You can help the children by guiding them to look at the pictures in the article and to read the headline out loud and then to make a prediction about the content of the article.

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## READING SKILLS AND STRATEGIES

### Comprehension

Comprehension is a valuable tool for you and the learner/your child to check if they understand what they are reading. Select a text that fits in with the outcomes of your lesson. After reading the article or allowing the child to read it, ask questions about the article or ask the learners to give you the main theme of the article. A comprehension test may be used as an introduction to a lesson in the form of a verbal activity or a more formal written assessment.

### Summarising

Reading stops being boring when you are interested in what you read. Using the CAPS aligned articles, you can assist your learners or children to connect what they are reading to themselves and the world around them. This allows the readers to feel connected to the text and to encourage them to read further about similar topics. *Supernova* covers a wide range of topics to cater for you as teacher or parent and for the learners in your class or your children in your home.

## READING AND WRITING CONNECTION

### We publish children's work

It is important for your child to have a good reading and writing connection. *Supernova* gives the learner an amazing opportunity to see their writing in print. In 'The Pin Board' section, subscribers can write to us about their experiences and interesting projects that they are working on. They can also write us a letter about what they think of the magazine, respond to an article or even send us some original jokes.



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## READING AND WRITING CONNECTION

### Projects

A possible class project can also include the creation of their very own magazine, which features a wide range of topics and activities. This is also a good lesson about the publishing industry and the various ways books and magazines are made. Contact the *Supernova* Team for more information on a presentation at your school about the publishing industry.

## INTEGRATION INTO OTHER SUBJECTS

We strive to publish articles that feature something from the CAPS curriculum. Allowing any teacher to utilise *Supernova* to its fullest potential.

### Natural sciences

An article such as *The Cassini Spacecraft* in Volume 7.1 will be a great resource to use in a project on looking into space for Natural Sciences. The article provides learners with additional information and an illustration that will enhance their understanding of the topic.

### Social sciences

For instance, the article on *Trains – From ancient Greece to steam* will take the learner back in time from the first trains up to their modern counterparts. The interesting illustrations will peak the learner or child's interest in the subject and will help to convey the facts about trains.

### Art

In our 'Masterclass' segment there are a number of interesting activities that range from easy to hard. These activities will be a great add on in the art class and could even be assessable.

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## ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNING

### Vocabulary and education

It is very important for learners to build their vocabulary to be able to succeed academically. *Supernova* allows a teacher or parent to use words from the articles as well as the illustrations and the real-life pictures to explain and enhance childrens' vocabulary.

The articles in *Supernova* will allow children to build their knowledge on subjects that they don't encounter daily. Using flash cards will not only benefit the childrens' vocabulary, it will cement the new information that they have gained by reading interesting articles.

## CRITICAL AND CREATIVE THINKING

### Using the activities

- In our '*I can do that*' and '*Masterclass*' segments we provide our young readers with fun and creative activities that they can do by themselves. These activities have a direct link to an article in the magazine and makes reading and creating a fun combination.
- Our '*Get Active*' articles will inspire new and exciting outdoor games and sports!
- Puzzles and hidden pictures will entice and encourage the reluctant reader.

*Supernova* will provide you and your classroom with an excellent resource with high quality content, ready to use in any classroom or home education scenario. Enjoy!