

Every Child a Reader

Supporting Parents to Improve Reading Skills at Home



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Reading together

The following slides are an attempt to model the process of reading with your child not as a teacher but as a co-reader.

This time we are looking at a non-fiction text:

Shackleton's Journey

William Grill

Published by Flying Eye Books

When you are choosing books it is a good idea to go to the Book Trust website (booktrust.org.uk), goodreads.com or kids-bookreview.com they will give you a summary and an age range and also tell you the genre (type) of book and some of the themes. See the next slide for an example of this.

Though I have used this book to model the process you can use any information book that interests your child. Many schools put up the content of their curriculum on their website so you can see what they would have been studying in history, geography science or RE and find books about that to fill the gaps or get ahead.

Show filters

Showing 1 - 5 of 626 results

Relevance



Shackleton's Journey

Author: William Gill

Interest age: 7+

Reading age: 7+

In August 1914, Ernest Shackleton and his brave crew set out to cross the frozen wastes of Antarctica, in what was to be the last expedition of the Heroic Age of Antarctic Exploration.

6-8 years

9-11 years

Non-fiction

Historical

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In August 1914, Ernest Shackleton and his brave crew set out to cross the frozen wastes of Antarctica, in what was to be the last expedition of the Heroic Age of Antarctic Exploration. Ahead of them lay unimaginable danger - ferocious seas, uncharted mountains, ice and snow. This is the true story of how Shackleton and his companions endured the hardships they faced, and ultimately managed to survive their perilous adventure.

To mark the 100th anniversary of the expedition, illustrator William Gill has created a beautiful and sophisticated non-fiction book for children, which retells Shackleton's story. Informative text is combined with a wealth of detailed coloured-pencil drawings in Gill's distinctive style, which create a strong sense of atmosphere. Each page layout is beautifully designed, making clever use of white space that itself seems to evoke the bleak, frozen wastelands of the Antarctic landscape.

The tale of a long-ago, failed Antarctic journey may seem a niche subject for a children's book, but there is plenty here to capture the imagination. Young readers will be intrigued by the heroism of Shackleton and his crew, as well as attracted by some of the quirkier elements. Carefully-researched, with lots of factual detail and a

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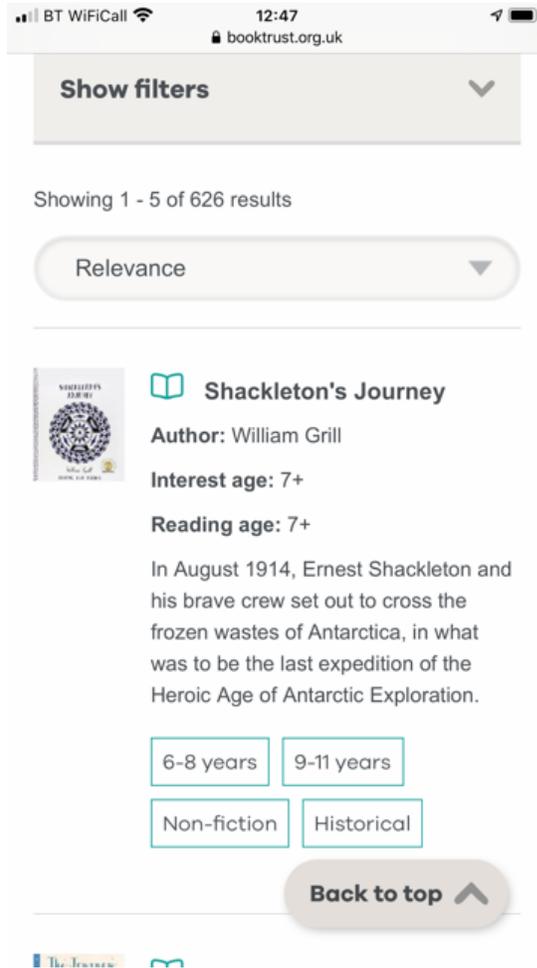
Some key areas to keep in mind

When working with a non fiction text you need to keep in mind the 3 core areas of understanding - on the reading matrices;

- ▶ **Understand vocabulary** -This means understanding the words they are reading and in particular the meaning of words that are new to them.
- ▶ **Retrieve and summarise** -This means to remember key facts and details of a story or some information and be able to talk about it in their own words
- ▶ **Structure and organisation** - This means how the book is organised so it is about the type of book (genre for example an adventure story) and also the plot or main events and in non-fiction books it's about how to find the information you need using the contents, index and glossary

In a book like this you may also think about inference such as how the men felt or how you might feel in these circumstances and of course you can make predictions about what happened next but this will not be true of all non fiction books.

Some key areas to keep in mind



The screenshot shows a mobile app interface for booktrust.org.uk. At the top, there's a status bar with 'BT WiFiCall', signal strength, time '12:47', and battery level. Below that, a 'Show filters' button with a dropdown arrow is visible. The main content area shows 'Showing 1 - 5 of 626 results' and a 'Relevance' dropdown menu. The first result is 'Shackleton's Journey' by William Grill. The book cover is a circular illustration of a polar expedition. The text below the cover states: 'Author: William Grill', 'Interest age: 7+', and 'Reading age: 7+'. A short description follows: 'In August 1914, Ernest Shackleton and his brave crew set out to cross the frozen wastes of Antarctica, in what was to be the last expedition of the Heroic Age of Antarctic Exploration.' Below the description are two rows of filter tags: '6-8 years' and '9-11 years' in the first row, and 'Non-fiction' and 'Historical' in the second row. At the bottom of the result card is a 'Back to top' button with an upward arrow. The footer of the app shows the 'The Trusts' logo and a magnifying glass icon.

There are obviously lots of different types of non-fiction books so it is important to note that this is **Historical, Non-Fiction** and I would add to that it is certainly an **Adventure**

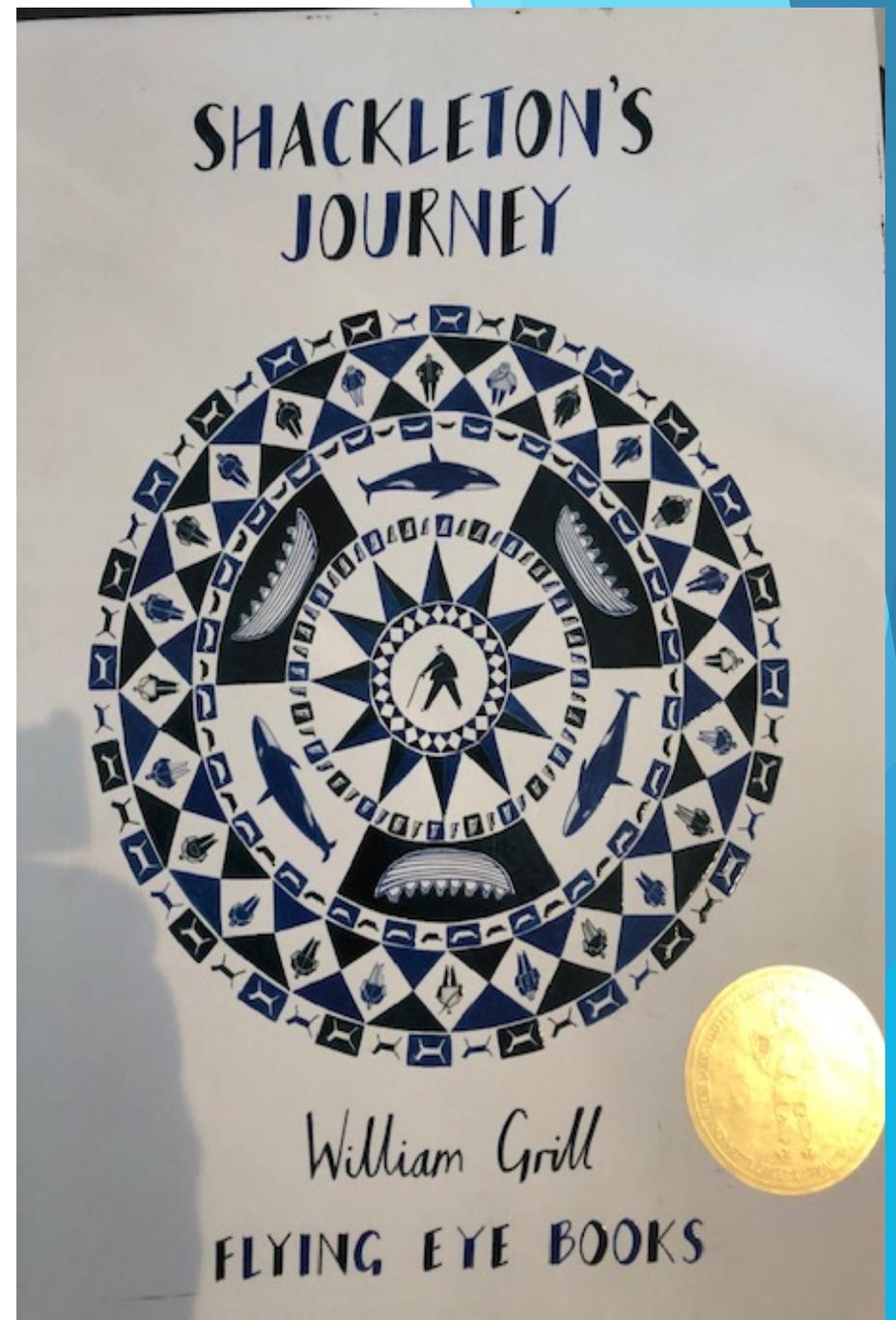
Note that while the interest and reading age are 7+ it is considered suitable for children between the ages of 6 and 11 years - the difference will be the extent to which they can read it independently.

Getting started

Because you will be reading this over several days its important for your child (and you) to make notes - having a book set aside as a reading journal will encourage your child to record key facts and ideas as you go (this should not be about writing things formally or neatly but noting key points - i.e. a new word, a key fact, something you need to look up - a prediction to check out as the story progresses)

As with the picture book you need to use the information on the cover and back of the book to start to set the scene for the story, explore the title:

- ▶ *Where did Shackleton's Journey take him*
- ▶ *Who was Shackleton?*
- ▶ *When did this happen*
- ▶ *Looking at the pictures on the front cover are there any clues?*





CILIP Kate Greenaway Medal winner
A New York Times Best Illustrated Book
AOI Children's Book New Talent Award winner
A Wall Street Journal Best Children's Book



"I felt strangely drawn to the mysterious south. I vowed to myself that some day I would go to the region of ice and snow, and go on and on 'til I came to one of the poles of the Earth, the end of the axis on which this great round ball turns."
– Ernest Shackleton

Beautifully illustrated by William Grill,
Shackleton's Journey is the epic true story of how Shackleton and his crew managed to survive crossing the frozen heart of Antarctica. This book is a testament to their great courage and endurance.



"William Grill eschews panels for wonderfully immersive spreads. A book that captures the rewards and trials of polar exploration in great style."
– *Guardian*



GBP £14.99 / USD \$24.00 / CAD \$32.00
ISBN 978-1-909263-10-9



Now read the blurb
Just like a fiction book there is a summary of what the book is about.

There is also a list of awards that the book has won so it tells you it is a really good book.

Why do you think they have used a quote from Shackleton to introduce the book?

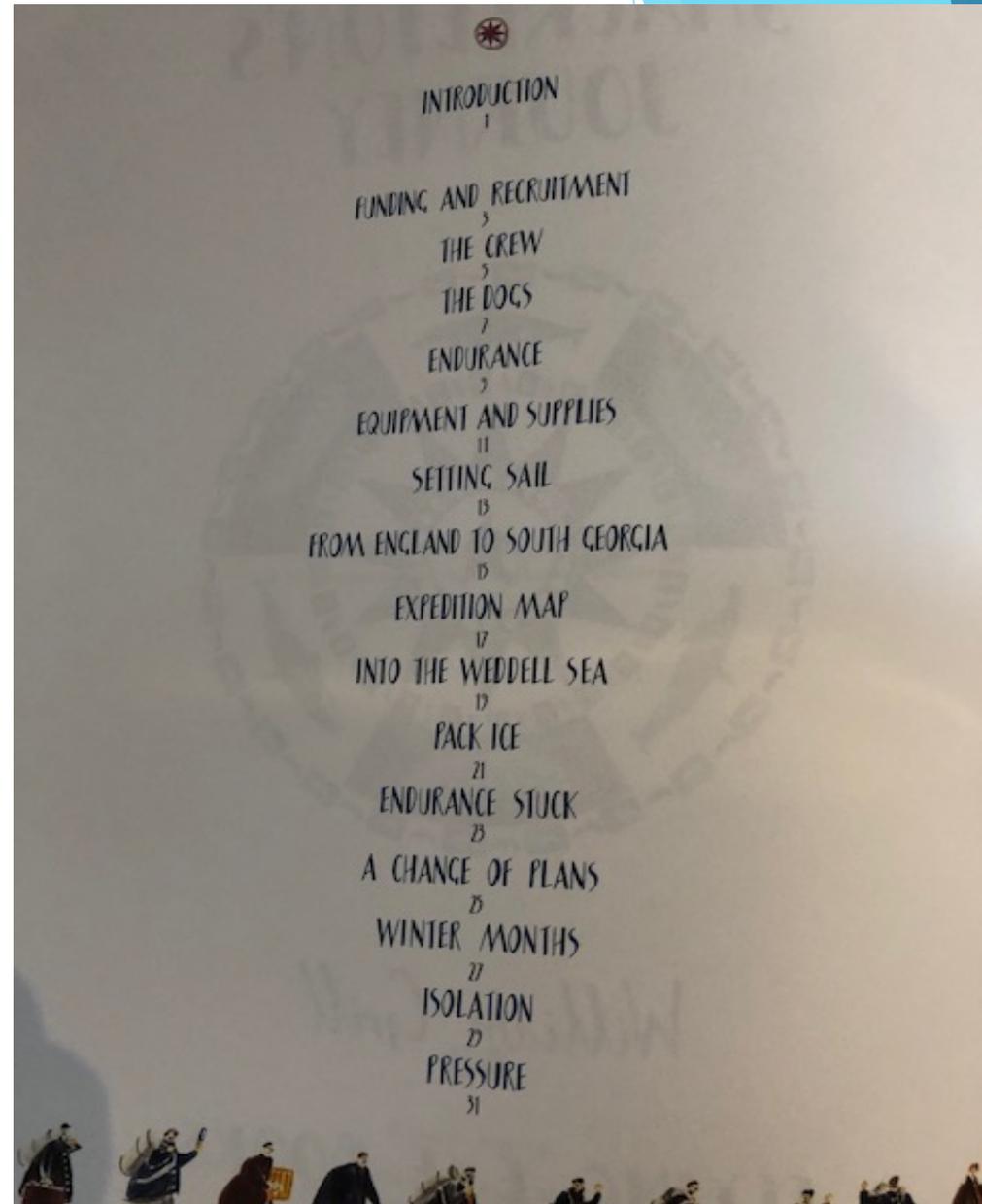
How does the blurb create a sense of excitement and anticipation but also danger?

There are two interesting words to explore "epic and testament"

Contents Page

The contents page is worth exploring here because it tells us there are 65 sections - they are actually very short so don't be put off by that.

I have only shown the first page of the contents but it also gives you a flavour of the expedition - the planning and the start of the journey



GLOSSARY



ANTARCTICA

The most southerly continent on Earth, covered in snow and ice.

BLIZZARD

A heavy snowstorm.

BLUBBER

Animal fat, used as both food and fuel.

CAPSIZE

When a boat is overturned in water.

COMPASS

A magnetic instrument showing north, used in navigation.

CONNING

Directing the steering of a ship.

CREVASSE

A deep crack in ice.

CROSS-BRACING

A system of wooden beams which adds strength to a structure.

CROW'S NEST

A platform at the top of a ship's mast.

DEHYDRATION

The loss of water from the body, especially from illness or physical exertion.

DEPOT

A place where supplies are stored.

FLOE

A sheet of floating ice.

FORESAIL

The sail at the front of a ship.

FROSTBITE

An injury caused by exposure to extreme cold.

GALE

A very strong wind.

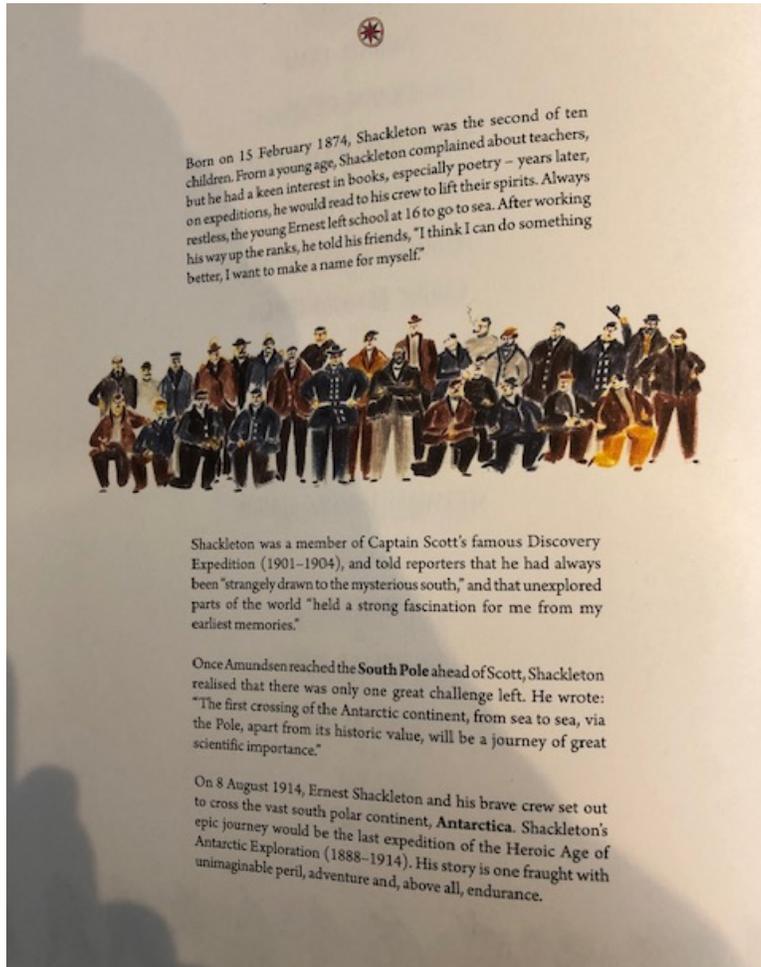
GLACIER

A huge mass of ice and snow, often moving very slowly down from a mountain top.



Another important page to look at, at the beginning and as you come across new words, is the Glossary. This gives you the meanings of words and phrases that you will encounter in the book.

Introduction



Most non-fiction books will have an introduction which sets out the key facts related to the subject. Notes down the key dates included in this summary.

What sort of boy was Shackleton?

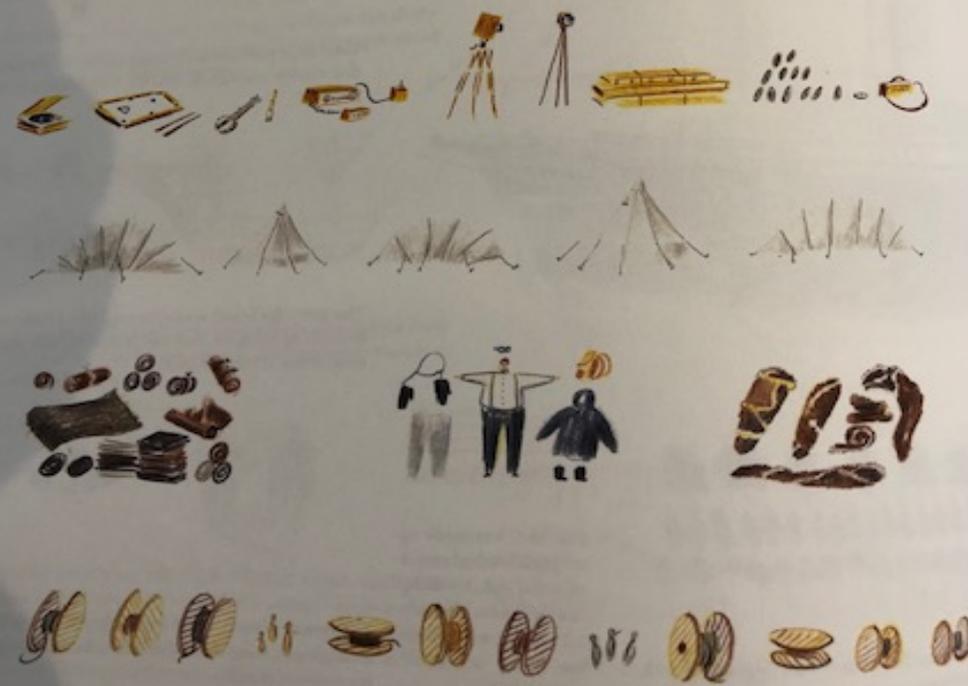
What did he set out to do?

EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES



As well as supporting a crew of 28 men and 69 dogs, *Endurance* carried a large amount of cargo. Journeying into the heart of Antarctica meant that Shackleton would need to carry a whole array of exploration equipment and supplies to keep him and his crew alive in hostile conditions, from sledges and skis to blankets and mitts.

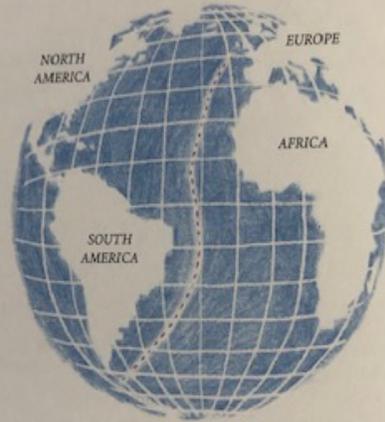
Just before departure, Shackleton was presented with the Union Flag by King George V, who encouraged him to bring it back safely.



FROM ENGLAND TO SOUTH GEORGIA



The journey from Plymouth to Buenos Aires was fairly uneventful. However, a few crew members were dropped due to drunkenness and insubordination. Luckily, the experienced Canadian seaman William Bakewell joined the crew, as did a plucky 19-year-old stowaway, Percy Blackborrow.



The crew then spent a month making final preparations at Grytviken whaling station, the southernmost outpost of the British Empire.



Can you locate Plymouth in England, Buenos Aires and South Georgia in an Atlas.

How far was it from Plymouth to South Georgia?

How long did it take them to get there

Now read on

- ▶ This is only a tiny example but I hope you will all have a go - actually if you choose good books I am sure you will enjoy them as much as your children.
- ▶ This book is available from Amazon
- ▶ Good luck
- ▶ Heather

Key points to remember

- ▶ Read every day with your child for at least 30 minutes - do it when they (and you) are fresh early in the day - they can read independently at any time and you can still enjoy a book at bedtime but this is real learning
- ▶ Ensure that children always understand and frequently revisit the “**big picture**” - what is this story about
- ▶ Start your learning by **testing out what children know already using the rubric to help assess where they are**
- ▶ Reading aloud to your child takes away the barrier of decoding and enables them to engage more fully with the text. Then they can read to practice their decoding or word reading skills.
- ▶ Remember to check that they understand the words they are reading especially words that are new or unusual
- ▶ **Ensure your input is focussed on all the areas of reading**
- ▶ **Ensure you are using questions to check understanding and help them build answers incrementally by asking additional questions or seeking examples from the text**
- ▶ Most of all make it fun with a feeling that you are enjoying the book and learning about it together - if it is a chore for you it will be a chore for them



Every Child a Reader

Of all the things you do to support your child during the current pandemic reading with them is likely to have the most impact on their future so give it all the time and effort you can

Coming soon exploring non fiction texts