



Reading with a Granny

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Abstract

Poor literacy skills have become more common. Reading is not seen as attractive as it used to be partly because other means of communication effectively compete for students' attention. We offer one solution to the problem.

Reading with a Granny (RwG) is a two-phase reading event in which a) the 3rd and 4th grade students read their favourite books with a reading granny for 15 to 20 minutes at a time, four to five times in total (for one month time), and after that b) the students produced book reviews both in written and video forms which were documented on the Internet pages. The project is implemented remotely and is easily scaled both locally and globally.

Keywords:

reading skills; remote learning; book video; 3rd sector; digital drawing; global network; idea scaling

Description

Pedagogical challenges: a) to motivate students to read more, and b) to provide feedback and dialogue. The class teacher doesn't have time to listen each student 1,5 h but grannies do.

RwG pedagogical innovations:

Tranquil places in schools are hard to organize, but there is plenty of room in the cloud.

The remote reading sessions are time efficient hence suit better to the school agenda. It is also ecological and equal to organize the sessions remotely.

Impact:

The devices and remote interaction motivated the students to read, they waited for the RwG Lessons. Nevertheless, the devices were not ends but means of action and dialogue. Smart board revolutionized the teacher's pedagogy.

Digital learning objectives:

- Improving students' video negotiation skills (Chromebooks, Google Meet)
- Learning and practicing methods for creating book videos (iPads, iMovie)
- Learning and practicing digital drawing skills (iPad, Apple Pencil, Procreate)
- Devices as means of interaction

Age group: 9-12 yrs

Number of students: 44

Number of teachers: 6

Partnerships: senior teachers, the City Library, IT support, digi trainers

Feel

We will read books with the reading grannies and make book videos of the books we've read. Let's first watch a book tip video:

The reading dog Sylvi is looking for books for her summer holidays

<https://www.kirjastokaista.fi/lukukoira-sylvi-ja-parhaat-kesalukupaiikat/>

Have you or your friend ever made your own video about any topic? Also find out if any of your classmates have ever made a book video about a book they have read. Furthermore, what kind of videos do you and your friends like? What makes a good video?

Imagine

Reflect yourself and/or discuss with a friend:

- What is a good book video like?
- What kind of book video inspires you to read the book?
- What things are good to include in a book video?

We will make a book video with the following sections:

1. Front page: Book cover and an opening text
2. Video clip 1: The book presentation
3. Video clip 2: The Plot
4. Video clip 3: Your own opinion about the book
5. Last page: Your name and year 2023

Please, use the Book Video Planning Sheet.

Create

Students presented their book videos to the class.



Grannies and students meet live at the end of the project



Remote meeting between Kirkonmäki School, Finland and Kampos Tsakistras School, Cyprus

Share

Check out all book videos and reviews (in Finnish) <https://sites.google.com/edu.somero.fi/lukumummit/etusivu>

The RwG project in the local media (in Finnish, links to the articles on the RwG pages above)

- Now the children read fairy tales and the grannies listen (Somerolehti)
- The undivided attention of the reading granny encourages reading aloud (Salon Seudun Sanomat)
- The reading grannies will go to Athens to tell about the RwG project (Somerolehti)
- The reading grannies in Marathon (Somerolehti)
- Cooperation with Cyprus next year (Somerolehti)

Scaling the RwG idea globally

- In October 2023 we implemented the RwG idea with Finland School in Athens. Students were the 2nd and 3rd generation Finnish students, age 7 to 14 yrs.
- In January 2024 we'll begin co-reading project The Reading World with Christiana Christoforou and her class in Cyprus. Kirkonmäki (Somero, Finland) and Kampos Tsakistras (Cyprus) primary school students read the same books in Finnish and Greek and provide book reviews/videos in their own languages on a shared web page. They may translate the texts by Google Translate to find out what thoughts and ideas each has written about the book. Meetings and discussions will be held remotely via Google Meet.



Link on the portal

<https://www.schoolofthefuture.eu/fi/osos/osos-project/reading-granny>

<https://sites.google.com/edu.somero.fi/lukumummit/etusivu> (book presentations and videos)

<https://sites.google.com/edu.somero.fi/lukumummit/english> (project presentation in English)