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Reluctant readers...

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Learning & Teaching Fest
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Student Success: Adding Value through ‘Learning Gain’
Aim of presentation

• To share my experiences of attempting to engage reluctant readers

• To explore your experiences

• To suggest ways to understand and overcome this reluctance

Mark Smith (2012) suggests that ‘... a good way of exploring pedagogy is as the process of accompanying learners; caring for and about them; and bringing learning into life.’

So in that spirit...
If you’re sitting comfortably, I will begin...

“I’ve only ever finished one book in my life. It was the last Harry Potter – and I only read it ‘cos I wanted to know what happened, and I didn’t want to wait for the film to come out to find out…”

I look at the student as she speaks, and wonder how she has made it into the third year of a degree course....
Explore your experiences...

Consider your own experiences in teaching:
• Have you encountered similar challenges?
• How have you addressed them?

Discuss these with the person next to you:
• Are there any common themes?
• How does this contribute to learning gain?
  For example, through improvement in knowledge, skills, work-readiness and personal development.

Share these with the rest of the group.
Ways to understand & overcome reluctance...

- Recognising difference – not everyone likes reading – however we need to engage with literature in order to learn
- Identifying a topic starting point, based on what students do enjoy for example:
  - Watching films, video clips
  - Fiction, poetry, music
- Reading together, for example:
  - Book clubs
  - Journal clubs
  - Unpicking an article together in a session
  - Collaborating on a topic – each find and contribute an article
## Methods I plan to try next...

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<tr>
<td>Critiquing picture books for young people and adults - designing own versions</td>
<td>Writing stories – fiction and creative non-fiction</td>
<td>Incorporating educational visits into assessed course work</td>
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Revisiting the start...

Once more, I am reminded of Smith words ‘... a good way of exploring pedagogy is as the process of accompanying learners; caring for and about them; and bringing learning into life.’

We can do this by:

• Being responsive
• Being supportive
• Caring for and about students
• Being honest and (when needed) firm
• Collaborating with colleagues to provide cohesive support
To continue the conversation...

Please contact me if you:

• Are interested in helping me to explore this further;

• Have other ideas for me to consider;

• Want to know more about my research.

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