

# GROW@KS3 Literacy



Transformative learning  
for students struggling  
with literacy in KS3

## What is GROW@KS3 Literacy?

Growth in Reading, Oracy and Writing is a literacy programme for learners in KS3, who find reading and writing difficult in English classes and who also struggle to use literacy for learning in other subject areas.

- GROW@KS3 Literacy is suitable for Y7 & 8 students who are working below age-related expectations in reading and writing.
- The goal is independent, motivated learners, whose literacy continues to improve every time they read and write.
- Professional learning in GROW@KS3 Literacy equips teachers to understand theories of literacy development for older students and to find effective ways to teach those who have struggled to become fully literate during primary education.
- Students make at least double the normal rate of progress.

Developed for struggling readers & writers in KS3

30-45 min lessons,  
3 or more times a week  
in a 6 lesson cycle from  
reading to writing

Lessons for individuals or  
up to groups of 3

Led by teachers, HLTAs,  
Librarians following 3 day  
GROW@KS3 Literacy PD

Grounded in academic  
research - developed &  
piloted by the  
International Literacy  
Centre at University  
College London

The causes of literacy difficulty are multiple – they differ from student to student and each student has a different profile of strengths and weaknesses. Programmes focusing on just one aspect of literacy may not be successful in addressing complex needs. KS3 students’ literacy problems **can** be effectively targeted by direct, explicit and systematic fluency, vocabulary and comprehension instruction, in one to one situations (Houge et al, 2008).

# GROW@KS3 Literacy Progress

Most students accelerate learning at least double the normal rate of progress - Average 38 month gain in reading accuracy (SWRT) and 16 month gain in comprehension (Salford). Joshua is a typical student benefiting from the programme.

Joshua’s assessments	Pre GROW@KS3 Literacy	Post GROW@KS3 Literacy
Single Word Reading	8y9m	13y3m
Salford Sentence Reading	10y1m	11y2m
Salford Comprehension	10y7m	12y0m
Writing	NC L3	NC L4a
Peters’ Spelling	84/100	92/100

## A typical student who would benefit from GROW@KS3 Literacy

- lacks fluency when reading aloud
- rarely monitors own reading for meaning & accuracy
- is less likely to notice or know how to correct errors
- has a limited range of spoken vocabulary
- finds inferential comprehension difficult
- might write at length but lack cohesion or control over sentence & text structure
- is unclear how to improve reading & writing
- rarely reads for pleasure

## GROW@KS3 Literacy students

- ✓ Improve reading accuracy, phonic decoding, fluency and comprehension
- ✓ Improve writing – planning and talk for writing, text structure, grammar, spelling & on-line revising
- ✓ Learn goal setting and self-regulation
- ✓ Develop independent strategic processing when reading and writing
- ✓ Develop higher self-efficacy and aspiration
- ✓ Become confident participants in class, applying what they have learned and practiced during GROW@KS3 lessons
- ✓ Feel enthusiastic and motivated as readers and writers

*‘GROW@KS3 has been a good learning process for me. We worked with students on a one to one basis and the results in confidence and independent strategies were apparent from the first lesson cycle’. HLTA in pilot school*

### For more information

**Website:** <http://ilc.ioe.ac.uk/grow-ks3.html>

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