# Strategies to increase enthusiasm for English reading among Malaysian school children by producing appropriate, high quality, locally relevant reading materials

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**Abstract:**

Learning to read can be tough for kids, and of course reading in a second language even harder. Children learn to read because they want to read. Some children apply themselves simply because they are eager to be rewarded with approval from the teacher. However, an engaging tale that creates a burning desire to know what happens next stirs their natural curiosity and builds up intrinsic motivation.

This workshop builds on preliminary research undertaken among primary school children at the IPGKDRI ‘Teaching School’ (in Kuala Terengganu). Children answered a questionnaire (in Bahasa Malaysia) about their interests, and follow-up interviews were conducted with selected students.

Based on these results, stories in English were created around the children’s ideas, developing adventures for believable characters that they can readily relate to. The stories were then presented for the children to read.

In this workshop we will present the questionnaire, results, and stories, as well as practical ideas for various methods of creating and publishing stories. It is hoped that at least some of the workshop participants will become involved in continuation of this research and production of materials.