

Sora



'Reading to Read' and Free Entertainment @ St John's Preparatory

“Reading was a joy, a desperately needed escape – I didn't read to learn, I was reading to read.”
– Christian Bauman

Nicky Sulter, St John's Preparatory Librarian, is dedicated to enthuse the boys to read and read for pleasure. She goes to endless lengths to provide the books the boys want to read.

Bauman's quote encapsulates how passionately Nicky feels about reading for pleasure. She emphasizes that: “As a librarian I think that our primary task is to get children to fall in love with reading for its own sake, not because it is going to make you smarter.”

“I believe we should spend less time worrying about the quantity of books children read and more time introducing them to quality books that will turn them on to the joy of reading and turn them into lifelong readers.”

Research has found that “active” screen time – time spent using the creative side of our brains as opposed to passive, unengaged scrolling or viewing - is beneficial to overall health.

Nicky encourages the boys to participate on screen time by reading in Sora the Overdrive Reading App.

NO WORRIES! JUST READING!

When In Conversation with Teachers at St John's Preparatory School, Nicky explains to them that:

- Sora Reading App is a wonderful way of getting the boys to read because
 - It is a digital platform a lot of them prefer.
 - It is easy to navigate.
 - It gives them an alternative window into the world of books and the written word.
- To a very great extent reading quality books in Sora contributes in no small measure in their success when participating in fun literary activities.

SORA BIG PLUS!

- **One-tap reading:** Boys put a hold on their next book of interest to read. Once available, the keen reader is good to indulge!
- **Quick access to favourite reads:** There is no time wasted in search for something to read because it is on Sora Reading App!
- **Tools to track reading progress:** Every boy knows and can show what they have read. Teachers and parents may monitor progress!
- **Fun reading achievements:** Prolific readers receive awards at the end of each term. Everything in Sora or on physical shelf counts!
- **Near-Instant Purchase orders:** OverDrive is wonderful for replacing popular lost or damaged physical copies! - says Nicky Sulter with contentment.

EDITOR'S NOTE

Nicky Sulter's efforts bear fruit. Her success in inspiring boys to read has manifest itself in the incredible results the St John's boys have achieved in the **International Kids Lit Quiz**:

2011 - 3rd in South African national finals
2012 - 2nd in South African national finals
2013 - 2nd in South African national finals
2014 - 1st in South African National finals **winner South African National finals**
2016 - 1st in South African National finals **winner South African National finals**
2017 - 1st in South African National finals **winner South African National finals**
2018 - 2nd in South African National finals
2019 - 1st in South African National finals **winner South African National finals**

AND

2017 - **International winner of KIDS LIT QUIZ.**
2019 - 3rd in International finals of Kids Lit Quiz

"We were delighted when St John's College signed up with OverDrive giving the boys a further source of reading material." – Kirston Hoets: (Founder and CEO of Booktalk Pty Ltd.)

With tools to make every student's reading more pleasurable and a support team excited to help you, getting started with Sora has never been made easier. *Email: Booktalk@booktalk.co.za Telephone: 011 325 2266*

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Compiled by Sibusisiwe Thembela – Former Academic and School Librarian in conversation with Nicky Sulter.