The following article appeared in the Belconnen High School Newsletter for Week 5, Term 2, 2012.

**Some ways you can support your child in reading a class novel**

Choosing one or more of the following ideas can help increase your child’s understanding of, engagement with and skills in analysing a novel.

Model good reading by reading the novel yourself.

Keep positive about the book.

Encourage your child to read a chunk a day – 1 or 2 chapters or 15 minutes or so.

Read each section with your child or separately, talk about each section at its end.

If your child is having trouble reading or understanding, offer to help.

Encourage using an online or print dictionary.

Make predictions about the author’s writing.

Encourage your child to ask questions before, during and after reading a section – this helps your child’s understanding of the writing and increases engagement with the novel – use sticky notes.

Look for issues in the book which your child can relate to or make connections with their prior experience or knowledge.

With your child, do a concept map of the main characters – write names and information about the characters inside circles and show connections between the circles by linking them with arrows.

With your child, do a story map – look for the main points – draw them on a timeline or a concept map. How the main themes or characters are developed could be included.

Some of the above ideas are from:

**Questions before, during and after reading** 2012, <http://www.teachervision.fen.com/skill-builder/reading-comprehension/48617.html>

**Class novels, make them a positive reading experience** 2012, <http://content.boomerangbooks.com.au/kids-book-capers-blog/class-novels-a-positive-reading-experience/2012/02>

Parker, Fiona 2012, **Tips for studying the school set text**, <http://blogs.abc.net.au/victoria/2012/01/tips-for-studying-the-school-set-text.html?site=westernvic&program=western\_victoria\_mornings>

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