

Documentary Timeline-

Documentary aim-

This documentary will seek to address the decline in reading of children in the UK. Based on findings from the National Literacy Trust Report of 2021, 6% of children said that they did not own a book at home. This equates to approximately 400,000 children across the UK. Further, **only 3 in 10 children read daily in their free time and since the Coronavirus pandemic**, the percentage of children who enjoy reading has lowered. Hence this is a topical issue, especially since reading is an essential skill and very important for cognitive development at a young age.

The documentary will start with a case study of two different children at different reading levels, discussing their difference in reading interest. Then, it will move onto how local charity Leeds Little Free Libraries, a book scheme set up for taking a free book and leaving a free book, is helping to motivate children readers. The boxes have been commissioned into local schools too, which the documentary will focus on primarily. This gives children more access to books who may not have had the opportunity to previously.

Footage I have-

- Interview with Dr Sarah McGeown on the Love to Read intervention to motivate child readers
- Reggie and Betsy reading
- Interviews with Zoe and Gemma
- Building of the Little Free Library
- Opening of the Library
- Interview with two students from St Francis
- Interview with Outer South Councillors
- Bookstore footage

Image ideas-

- Could put statistics graphically into the books

Documentary Structure-

- Introduction- bookstore
- CONFLICT- young children aren't reading as much anymore- some because they struggle to read, some because they don't have access to books and some simply do not enjoy it.
- Case Study- introduce Betsy and Reggie. This is Reggie and Betsy, cousins...
- Reggie likes reading but Betsy does not. Betsy is struggling with her reading and is significantly behind Reggie's reading levels
- Interview with Gemma

- Betsy is not alone in this, a study by the National Literacy Trust identified this group as the ‘forgotten girls’ equating to around 2 million girls across the UK who like Betsy do not enjoy reading.
- Dr Sarah McGeown explains motivation for reading.
- For girls who struggle to read, the study found they generally read at a lower level of difficulty than that of their peers, likewise to Betsy and Reggie.
- Gemma and schools
- The Little Bookshop told me of their increasing rise in trade to supply local schools with books for children and particularly those who do not have access to books at home.
- Alongside this is the well-known World Book Day initiative, which provides children with a free book token to use in shops to encourage reading.
- Another local initiative to get children reading is the Leeds Little Free Library boxes.
- These have recently been implemented into schools allowing for choice and access for children to take home books for free.
- A new box was recently opened at St Francis Catholic Primary school in Morley.
- Councillors and pupil interviews.
- TALK
- Ending

Shot by Shot Script-

Shot	VO/ sync
Opening books sequence CONFLICT	VO- The importance of reading is a tale as old as time. From childhood classics like The Very Hungry Caterpillar to Dear Zoo, we can all remember our favourite childhood reads. And reading in your childhood is an essential skill for cognitive development at a young age. However literacy studies have found that children aren’t enjoying reading anymore. Around 1 in 2 British children are no longer picking up books in their spare time and this has led to worries that their literacy skills are decreasing.
Reggie and Betsy (2 nd Shot/ 3 rd shot)	VO- These are 6-year old cousins, Reggie Sturman and Betsy Cox, both in Year 1 at primary school. Reggie is an advanced reader and enjoys books, but Betsy does not. Betsy is struggling with her reading and is significantly behind Reggie’s reading levels.
Reggie and Betsy split screen reading	Sync
Jemma	Interview
Reggie and Betsy	VO- Betsy is not alone in this, a study by the National Literacy Trust identified this group as the ‘forgotten girls’ equating to around 2

	<p>million young girls across the UK who like Betsy do not enjoy reading.</p> <p>I spoke with Dr Sarah McGeown to understand why children's level of motivation to read changes.</p>
Dr Sarah McGeown	Interview
Betsy reading and Betsy and Reggie	VO- For young girls who struggle to read, the study also found that their reading level of difficulty is significantly lower than that of their peers, likewise to Betsy and Reggie.
Jemma	Interview
Piece to Camera	<p>Here in Chapel Allerton, Leeds, The Little Bookshop is a specialist children's bookstore that has a huge collection of children's books available to buy.</p> <p>However, literacy reports have found that over 413,000 children in the UK do not own a single book in their households.</p>
The Little Bookshop	<p>VO- Book ownership is associated with greater reading enjoyment and frequency. More than twice as many of those who own books say they enjoyed reading compared to those who do not own a book.</p> <p>The Little Bookshop do a lot of work in the community to help give more children access to books</p>
Allison	Interview
Library Boxes	<p>VO-Another creative initiative in Leeds to get children reading are the Leeds Little Free Library boxes.</p> <p>Originally, these boxes were placed in local neighbourhoods and encouraged anyone to take a book or leave a book for free.</p>
School shots	<p>VO-Now the boxes are being put into 8 different schools, commissioned by Leeds City Council, allowing for children and their guardians to take home books for free.</p> <p>A new box was recently opened by David Ayres, one of the Leeds Little Free Libraries team, at St Francis Catholic Primary school in Morley.</p>
Students	Interview
Filling the library sequence	<p>VO- For the students of St Francis Morley, their free book box is a further addition to their already bustling school library.</p> <p>However, with only 3 in 10 children reading daily in their free time, will the implementation of the Little Free Library encourage children to take a book and read more?</p>

	Leeds City Councillors seem to think so, as they believe the inclusion of the libraries into schools will be a success.
Councillors	Interview
Full Library Shot	VO- With the box now complete, only time will tell whether Leeds Little Free Libraries will help to make a small but sure difference.
ENDING Summarise/ conclude/ look to the future	<p>And it's not just the boxes but many initiatives across the country that are helping to encourage the idea of childhood reading again. [SARAH MCGEOWN]</p> <p>As illustrated by Betsy, a lack of motivation to read can result in an absence of literacy skills. And with social media and video games taking up a large portion of children's free time, childhood reading motivation could not be more important right now.</p> <p>The National Literacy Trust Survey of 2022 will soon release its findings and whether some novel ideas to improve children's reading motivation are needed will soon be unveiled.</p>