

THE READING GAP

38%

38% of 11 year-olds in England from disadvantaged backgrounds leave primary school unable to read to the expected standard (DfE, 2022)

43%

43% of English adults can't read well enough to understand basic health information (NHS)

1 IN 5

1 in 5 children aged 5-8 don't own a single book (National Literacy Trust, 2022)

x3

Three times as many 6- to 7-year-olds are now very low attaining readers than before Covid (NFER, Nov 2022)

£80 BILLION

£80 billion is the annual cost of illiteracy to the UK economy (World Literacy Foundation)



**Chapter
One**

It all starts with literacy