

Workshop/Seminar — Developing students' reading interest and ability effectively with the equiz platform "Reading Battle"

Through a Quality Education Fund, we've developed an online equiz bank "Reading Battle" that has excited hundreds/thousands of students internationally! This interesting gamification project has effectively motivated MANY primary school students to read & improve their reading ability. You may access it at <http://equiz.cite.hku.hk/> with our trial accounts:

Student - username: test5; password: password

Reading Battle covers over 500 titles of children stories (half are English story books at primary school level and the half are Chinese story books). For each title, we created 30 questions. After a student select a title on Reading Battle, he/she will be asked to take a challenge by answering 10 out of the 30 questions drawn randomly from the system. Those who do well will be awarded with e-badges and be listed on a leaderboard.

We rolled this out in Feb 2014 and many students, who got motivated to use it a lot, have quickly improved their reading ability (& also attained improvement in other areas such as writing ability). You may find interesting sharing from parents, students, and teachers about this by viewing the videos "Case sharing from parent/student", "Videos of Award Ceremony on 30 Jun 2015" and " Ms NC Fung (St Patrick's School)" at <http://battle.cite.hku.hk/project-resources/>

In summer 2015, a number of students from HK, Taiwan, and the U.S. participated in a summer reading program with Reading Battle and quite a few got excited and read many books and performed well on Reading Battle. We awarded the top 10 students with a certificate (from HKU, University of South Florida & National Taiwan Normal University) and small prizes.

Although this project will end officially in June 2016, we're committed to keep running and improving it at no (or low) cost, perhaps like Google and Facebook. With questions created for 30 freely accessible English ebooks from International Children's Digital Library / ICDL (over 20 of them are award winners), Reading Battle is now becoming an excellent reading resource for schools/libraries anywhere in the world. Any school can join any time. For now, our goal is to use Reading Battle to excite students to read and improve their reading ability. In future, we'll use it to promote cross-cultural understanding.

Librarians and teachers are key people in the project. They worked with us to conceive the proposal. There are about 50 schools/libraries (30+ primary schools, 12 kindergartens, 1 public library) joining the project. The main coordinator in these schools/libraries are librarians / teachers. We notice that for librarians/teachers who are good at reading promotion, many students in their schools tend to perform well in Reading Battle.

Reading Battle can benefit teachers and administrators, as well as students, in your school. You are welcomed to join the event to learn more about it.