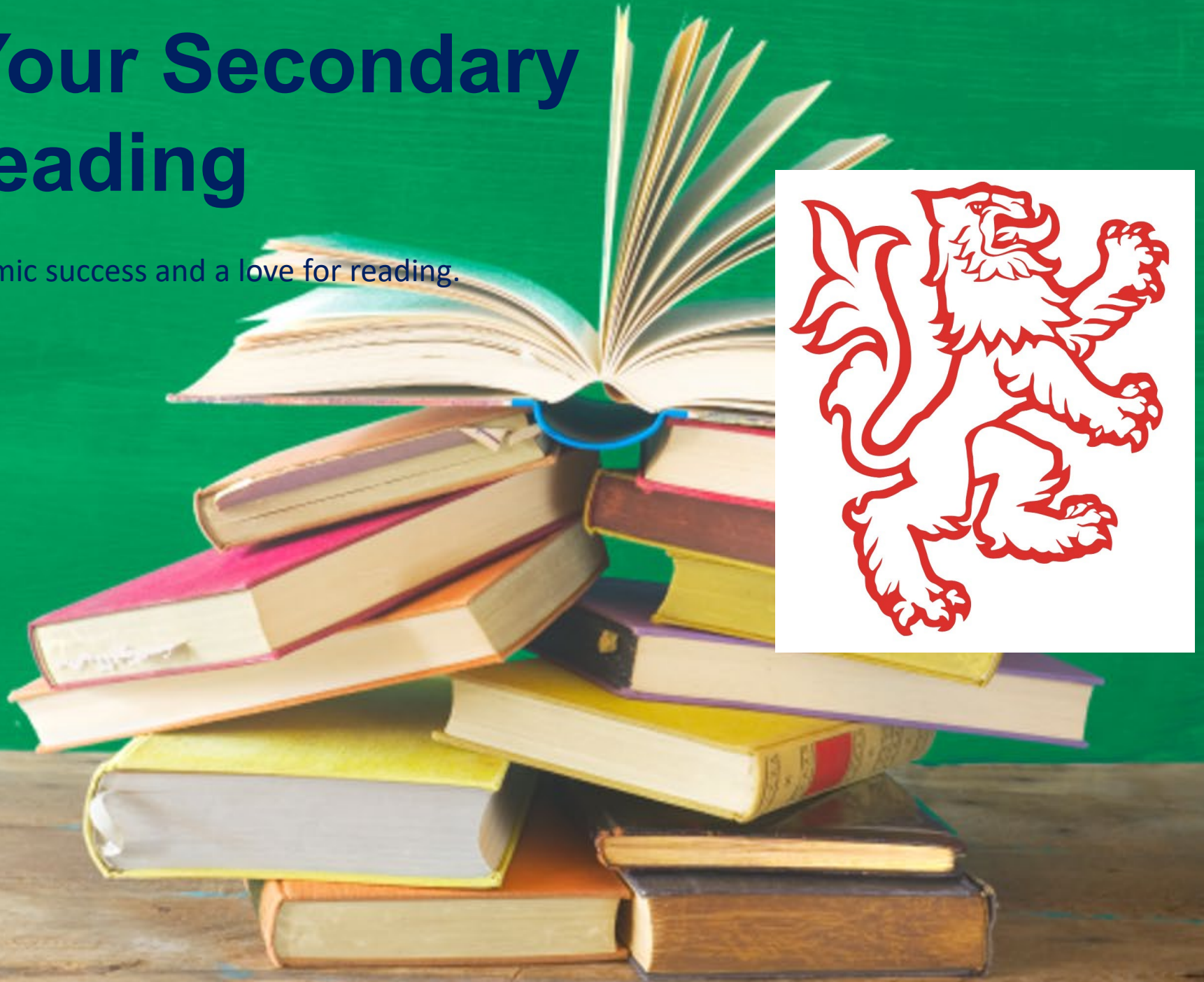


Supporting Your Secondary Child With Reading

Partnering together to unlock academic success and a love for reading.

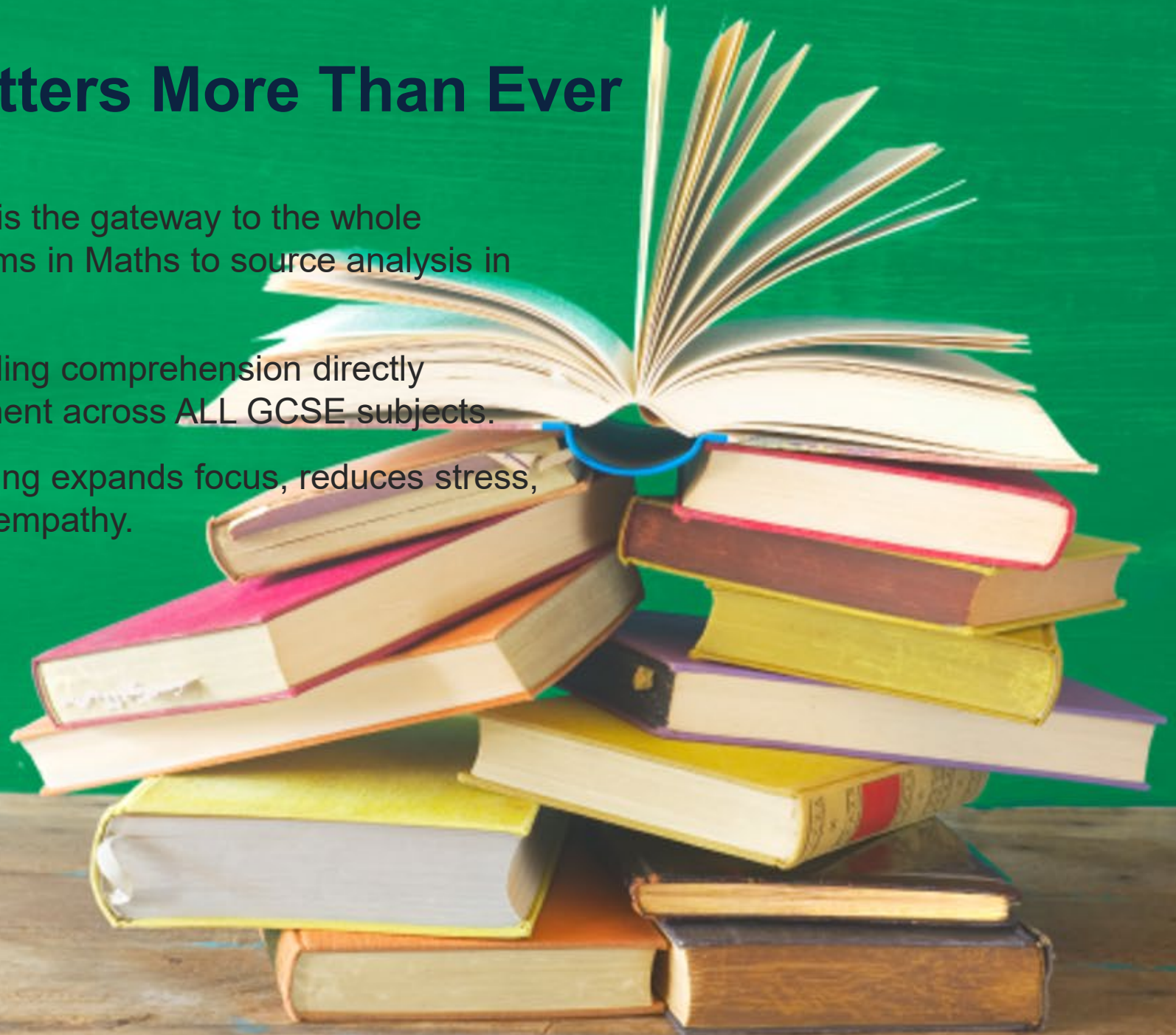


Why Reading Matters More Than Ever

Academic Impact: Reading is the gateway to the whole curriculum, from word problems in Maths to source analysis in History.

The GCSE Link: Strong reading comprehension directly correlates with higher attainment across ALL GCSE subjects.

Future Proofing: Deep reading expands focus, reduces stress, and builds essential modern empathy.



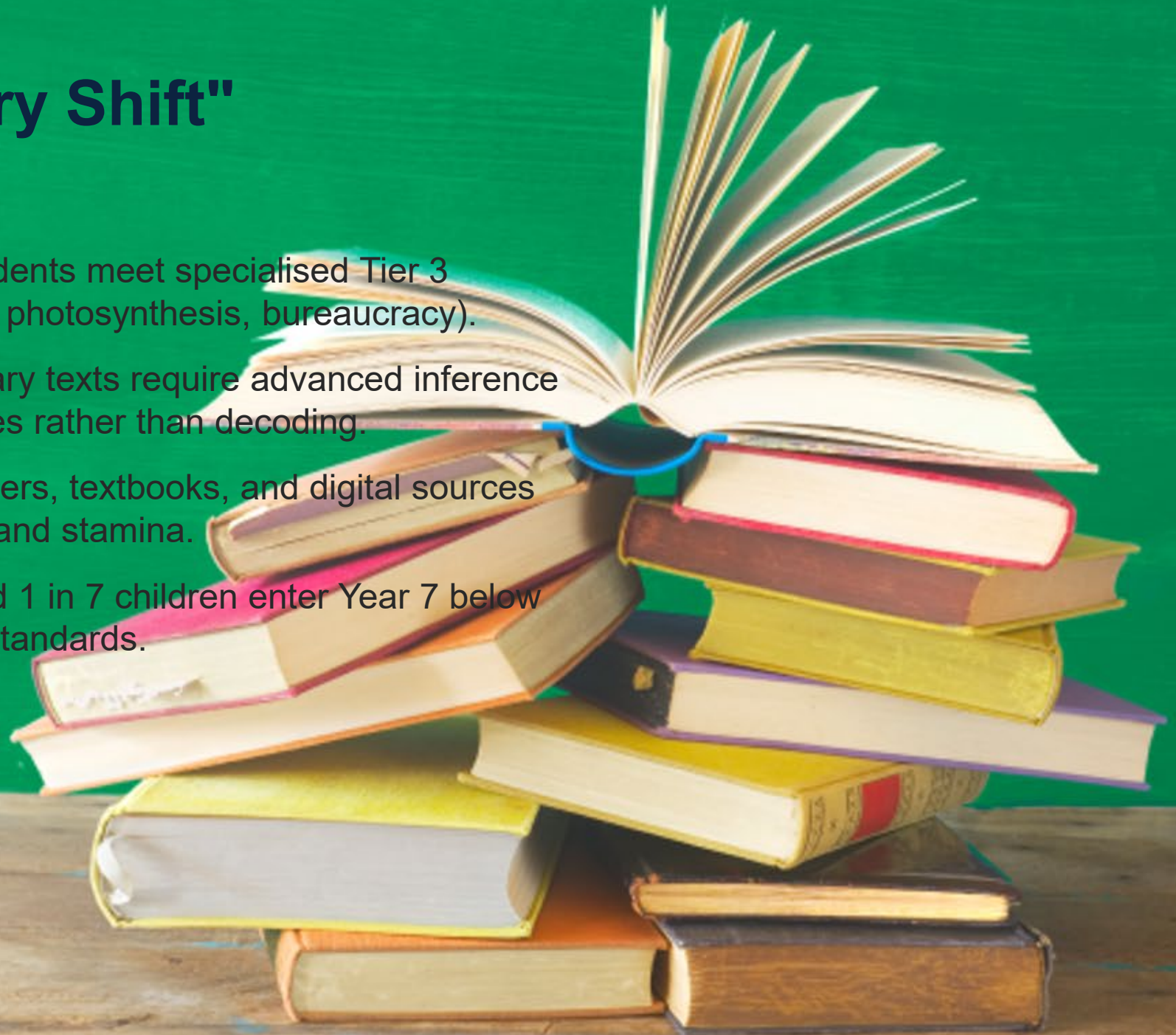
The "Secondary Shift"

Complex Vocabulary: Students meet specialised Tier 3 academic words daily (e.g., photosynthesis, bureaucracy).

Implicit Meaning: Secondary texts require advanced inference skills—reading between lines rather than decoding.

Dense Layouts: Exam papers, textbooks, and digital sources require quick skim-reading and stamina.

The Reality Check: Around 1 in 7 children enter Year 7 below expected national reading standards.



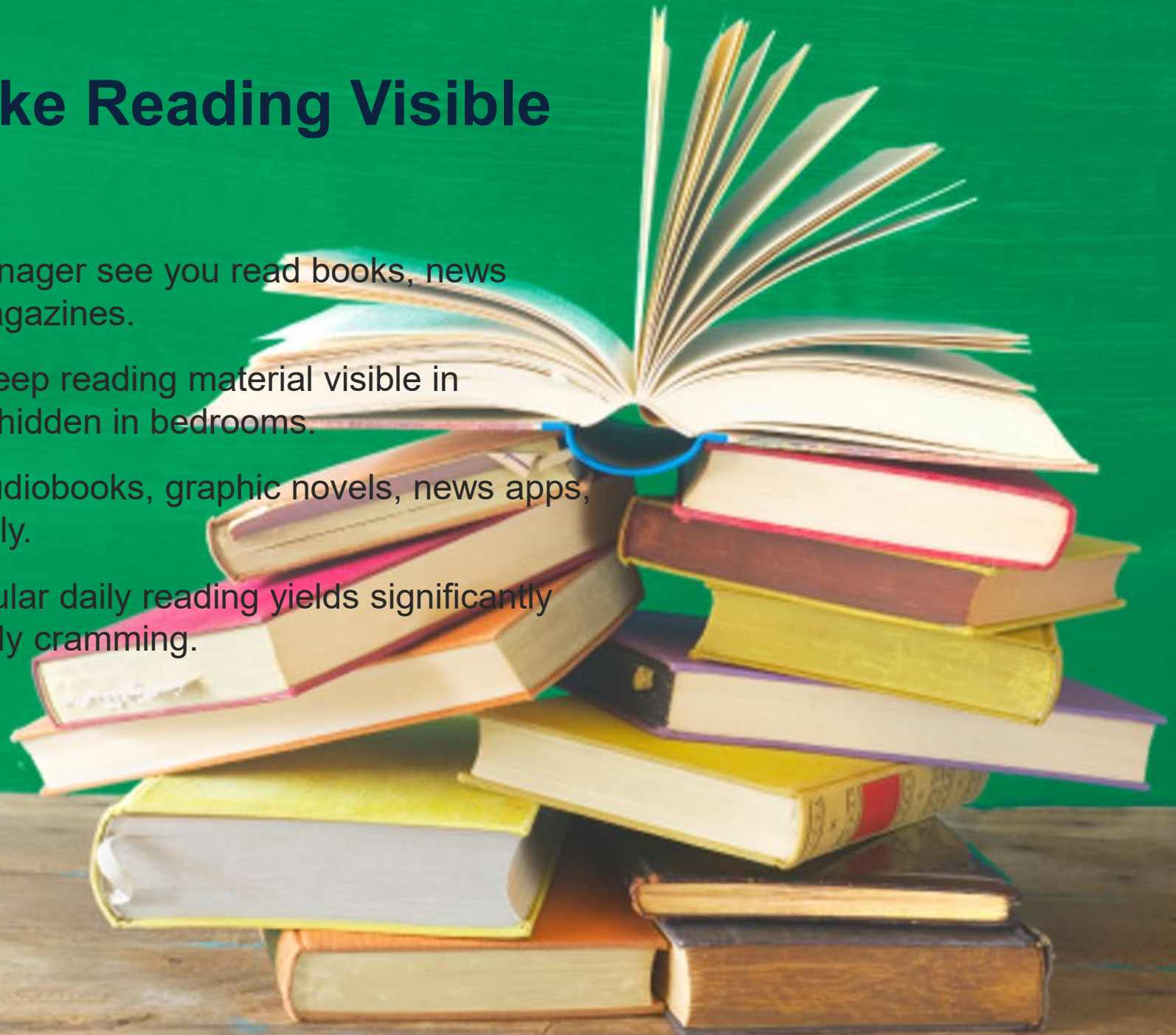
Strategy 1: Make Reading Visible

Be the Model: Let your teenager see you read books, news articles, work reports, or magazines.

Environmental Access: Keep reading material visible in communal spaces, not just hidden in bedrooms.

Diverse Formats: Value audiobooks, graphic novels, news apps, and sports journalism equally.

The 10-Minute Habit: Regular daily reading yields significantly greater progress than weekly cramming.



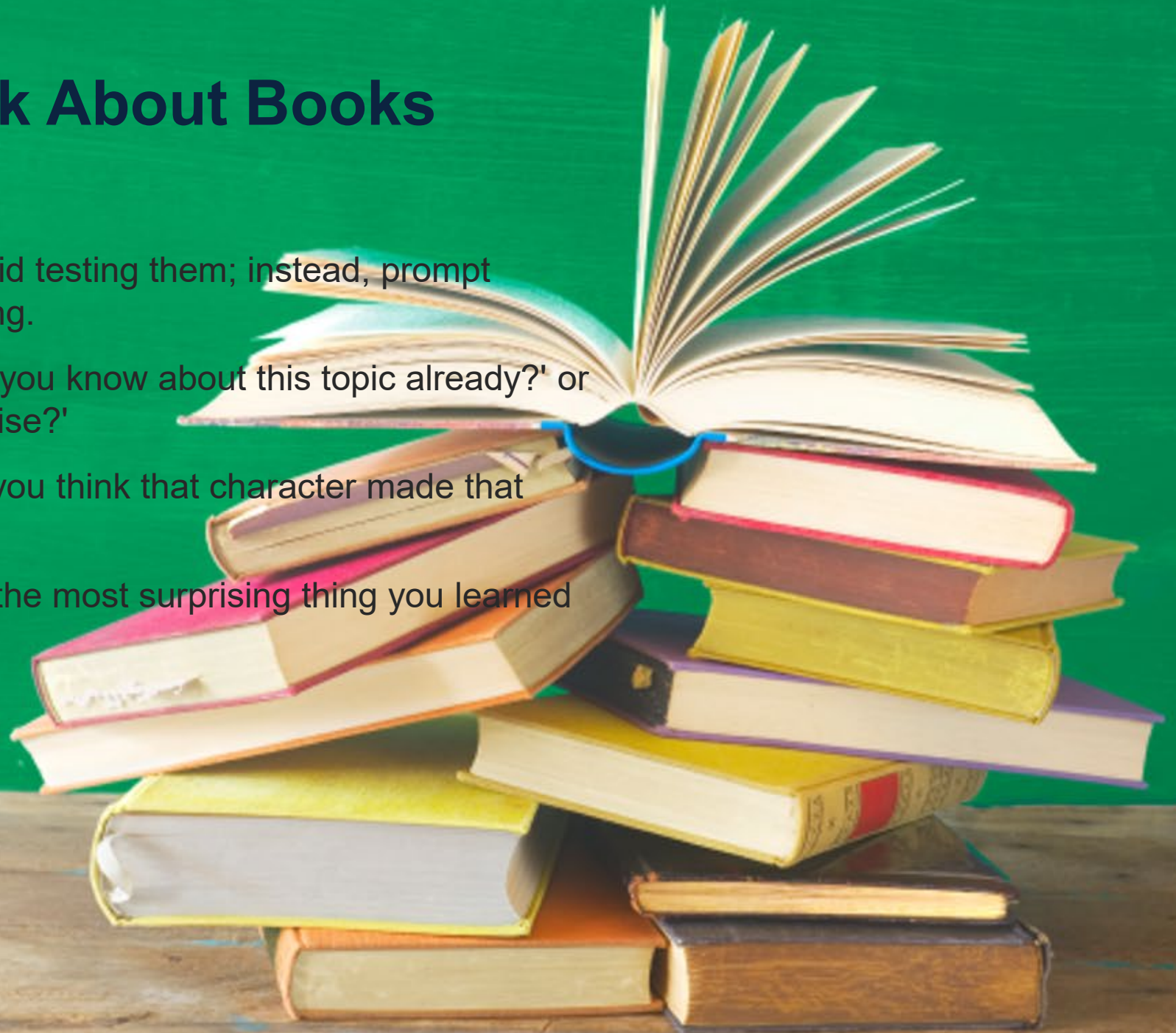
Strategy 2: Talk About Books

Ask Open Questions: Avoid testing them; instead, prompt analytical and critical thinking.

Before Reading: 'What do you know about this topic already?' or 'What does the layout promise?'

During Reading: 'Why do you think that character made that specific choice?'

After Reading: 'What was the most surprising thing you learned or read?'



Strategy 3: Tackling Challenging Words

Don't Skip: Encourage your child to highlight, underline, or note down completely unfamiliar words.

The 3-Step Method:

1. Read the word in context to guess the meaning.
2. Break it down into roots, prefixes, or suffixes (e.g., Biology).
3. Look it up or discuss the real meaning together.

Word Play: Incorporate advanced vocabulary into everyday dinner table family conversations.



Supporting Struggling Readers

Read Aloud: Take turns reading paragraphs (paired reading) to build initial confidence.

Audio Assist: Let them listen to an audiobook while tracking along with the physical text layout.

Focus on Fluency: Accuracy and speed breed comprehension; decoding struggles block meaning processing.

School Support: Reach out to our SEND department or English department to discuss reading interventions.



How Our School Supports Literacy

Tutor Time Reading: Dedicated school slots for shared reading and structural vocabulary building.

Learning Resource Centre (LRC) access: library visits, borrowing systems and reading challenges.

Digital support: Read Aloud and reading pens

Cross-Curricular Literacy: Every teacher is a teacher of reading, ensuring vocabulary is explicitly taught.



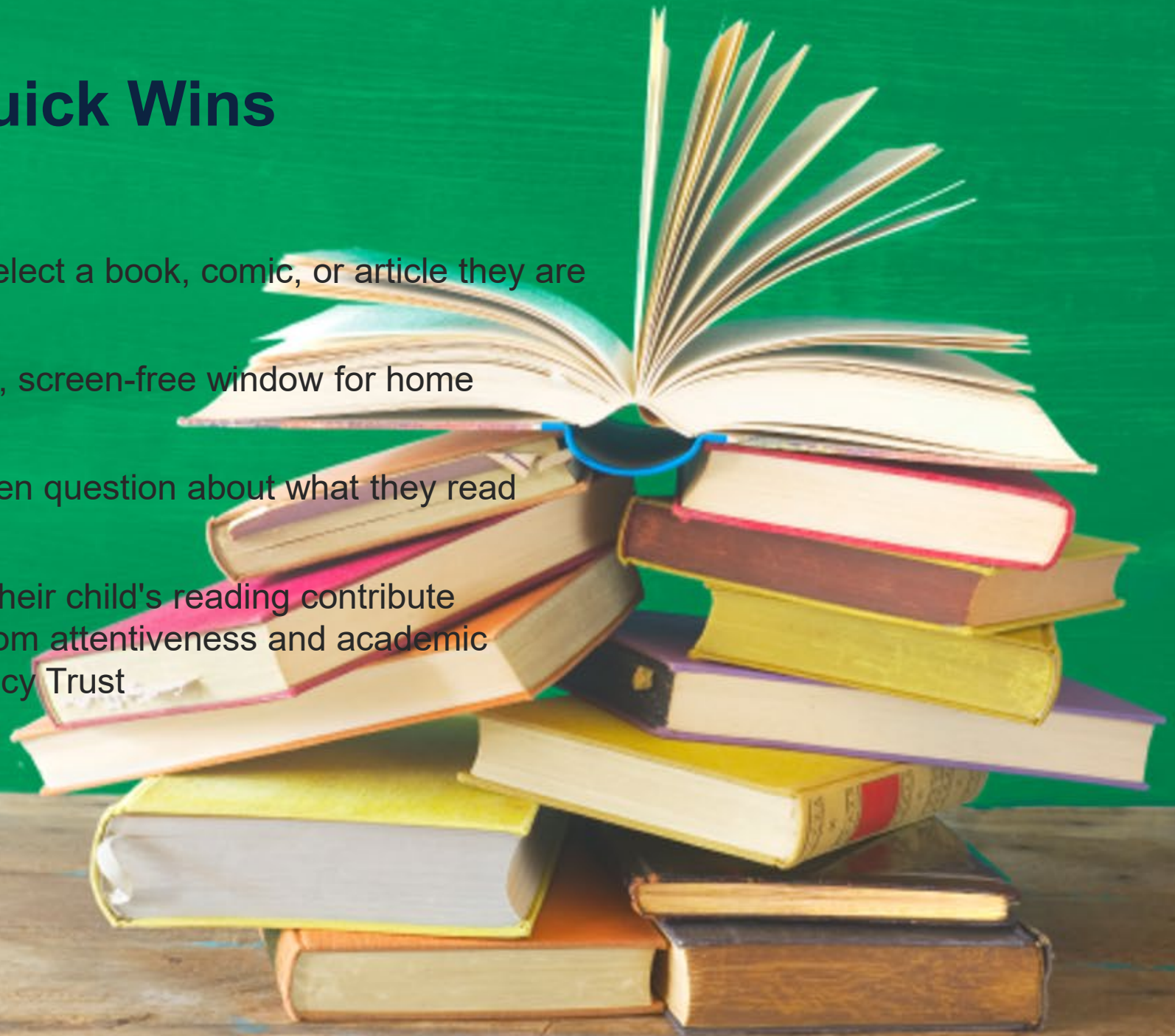
Summary & Quick Wins

Action 1: Help your child select a book, comic, or article they are genuinely interested in.

Action 2: Carve out a quiet, screen-free window for home reading tonight.

Action 3: Ask them one open question about what they read today.

"Parents who engage with their child's reading contribute significantly to their classroom attentiveness and academic success." — National Literacy Trust



Questions & Support

School Contact: Natalie Nowell (Assistant Headteacher: Inclusion and Belonging) and the English department

National Resources: Explore BookTrust (booktrust.org.uk)

National Literacy Trust (literacytrust.org.uk) for age-appropriate KS3/KS4 book lists.

Look at our '16 before 16' reading list

