

# Motivating Teen & Preteen Readers: How Teachers & Parents Can Lead the Way

## Dazzling Your Mind With Reading

From the moment you hear that new CD or song, or the awesome images you see on that latest DVD, you get hooked, all lit up. Your mind and body tune in. You revel in excitement and fun.

But what about reading books? Where do books fit in your picture of fun and entertainment? How do books compare with the speeding electronic, technological and outrageous visual world that's firing up your brain? Do they belong to the same universe and operate on the same channel?

The minute you open up a book and your fingers touch its pages, a feeling jumpstarts within you as you beam down on the first word, and then blast off. Almost magically, you leave the outside world behind and you're off to another reality—the world of reading.

Your reading self takes over quickly: it has been waiting along with an imaginary inner eye to help you scan, find and create pictures from words. The imaginary, silent narrator tells you the story as images dart across a mental TV screen in the mind's magic reading theater. Characters, settings, conversations and facts bombard your imagination. These visualizations, this make-believe, normally invisible dream world is made visible through the enchantment, mystery, wonder, and hypnotic reality that is reading.

So there you are, thinking thoughts, feeling feelings, seeing mind-pictures, off on a pleasure cruise that begins with making contact with a book. After reading that very first paragraph, you slide into one of the millions of galaxies of writers' imaginations, where you meet, challenge and re-create your own imagination.

Welcome to true reading. Welcome to an honest and a loyal friend. Welcome to your reading life.

*Motivating Teen and Preteen Readers* (Rowman & Littlefield, 2011) includes over 1,000 diverse questions about your reading and reading life experiences. By the time you finish answering questions from Books 1, 2, 3, and 4 (not all the questions, of course), you will have a greater understanding of and appreciation for the reading process, your reading life, and your desire to read.

Each book of questions will increase your awareness of and insight into your reading life—where it fits in and how it affects you. They bring up important everyday reading experiences that go beyond tests and test scores. Through these creative, absurd and challeng-

ing questions you will realize an awesome reading life made up of memorable, or not so memorable reading experiences, waiting to be expressed to your classmates, friends, teachers, and/or parents in group discussions.

The book triggers a search into your reading self and takes you on a one-year journey into reading life. By answering the questions honestly, digging deeply, reflecting on and visualizing different reading experiences, it will inspire reading from the inside out.

Most of the questions below are from the book. See if they prepare you for the trip that you might take.

What do you like or dislike to read? Do you read *outside of school*? How *deep* and *far* does reading take you? Has a book been your *friend* lately? Have you forgotten that reading is *fun*? What makes reading *worth it*?

Does reading shine a *warm* or *cold* light inside you? What happens in your mind and imagination when reading?

Are words important to you? What makes words jump off a page? Where can words take you? What *word-trips* have you taken recently? How do books like "Harry Potter" make time stop? Do you enjoy the solitude of reading? Do you reflect on what you read? How does poetry reveal unimaginable worlds?

Can reading energize your brain and be entertaining like computer and video games? When does reading become boring? If you do not like to read, or if you read because you *have to*, can you create a love for reading and motivate yourself? Whose responsibility is your reading? What can you do for your reading and reading life? Will you be a lifelong reader?

*Have these questions started you thinking about reading?*

Even at this early stage in your life, you have had many reading experiences, more than you think, which live inside your mind or are hidden in your memory. *Motivating Teen and Preteen Readers* will guide you through your reading life with its probing questions. Let the questions help you discover the real story of your reading self, mind and world. You will amaze yourself by what you find out.

Go to [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com) and "Click to **Look Inside!** to find out more information about my book. Also, feel free to ask me questions or contact me: [jeffreypflaum@gmail.com](mailto:jeffreypflaum@gmail.com).

—Author Jeffrey Pflaum has taught for 34 years, New York.