

# LOVE RUGBY: LOVE READING 2011

A toolkit of ideas to help you use the  
2011 Rugby Union World Cup to encourage  
reading and writing in your school or library.

By Tom Palmer



*Transforming Lives*

## Welcome

The National Literacy Trust is an independent charity and the leading literacy expert in the UK. We have worked with schools since 1993, providing innovative resources, information and support. Over 30,000 teachers, librarians and other professionals have benefited from our networks.

As part of our work with schools, as well as libraries and clubs, we use sport to promote reading and writing to both children and adults. This Rugby World Cup toolkit is designed to help you to engage your class with reading by tapping into the excitement around this September's tournament. We would like to thank the governing body of English rugby, the Rugby Football Union, for kindly providing access to all images in this toolkit. Please see [www.rfu.com/schools](http://www.rfu.com/schools) for more information about the work they do to with schools. Images are supplied by Getty Images.

The Rugby Union World Cup takes place in New Zealand from 9 September to 23 October 2011. All the matches will be on live terrestrial television and it will dominate the news during the first school half-term after the summer holidays. England, Scotland, Wales and Ireland all have teams that could go far in the tournament.

This toolkit is filled with ideas about how schools and libraries can use the tournament to encourage a love of reading. It is designed so that you do not need to know much about rugby to deliver it.

## About the Author

Tom Palmer is normally a football writer. He has written two series of children's books for Puffin: *Foul Play* and *Football Academy*.

In 2010 he wrote the successful *Love Football: Love Reading* toolkit for the football world cup. He also wrote an episodic football story – *The World Cup Mystery* – that was downloaded and enjoyed by thousands of schools.

In October 2011 his new book – *Scrum!* – is published by Barrington Stoke. His website is [www.tompalmer.co.uk](http://www.tompalmer.co.uk).



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## A word from Kenny Logan, ex-Scotland rugby player

In my opinion, literacy is the foundation to learning; it is fundamental to progressing in life and is not to be taken for granted. Having struggled to confront my dyslexia in my early years and into adulthood, I am passionate about the value of literacy to enable you to have a normal life. I know from personal experience that having problems with literacy can affect attainment in other subjects.

Children must be taught that reading and writing can be fun and that it is not just for geeks, but is an essential skill for everyday life. Even professional sportsmen have to send emails, write letters and read books.

The Rugby World Cup starts on 9 September and the excitement is already building for this international tournament that brings the best rugby nations together. With much media coverage, we will all get caught up in the anticipation and expectations of our favourite teams.

With this global simultaneous interest in rugby, there is no better time than now to make use of this World Cup-themed toolkit to stimulate children to improve their reading and writing skills.

So let us capitalise on Rugby World Cup fever and help children achieve what they are capable of achieving.

Kenny Logan, July 2011

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Kenny Logan, ex-Scotland rugby player

# WHAT THIS TOOLKIT IS FOR AND HOW TO USE IT

## The Rugby Union World Cup and reading

Rugby is an extremely popular sport throughout the UK, and will become even more high-profile during the World Cup in **September and October 2011**. In 2015 the Rugby World Cup is coming much closer to home and will be hosted by England. When England won the World Cup in 2003 names like Jonny Wilkinson and Martin Johnson became household names and everybody was talking about the game.

Millions of children play and watch the game every year. Rugby union is seen as a family game, so it is often a thing that whole families will do together.

*Love Rugby: Love Reading* is **a toolkit for schools** to use to promote reading using the buzz around the Rugby Union World Cup. It has ideas for displays, activities, events and book groups you can run with children, as well as lists of great resources you can use to enthuse readers, both reluctant and prolific.



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## A note on sport and literacy

Some children will not be interested in rugby. But most children, especially boys, *are* motivated by competition. If they see other children enjoying the rugby-based activities that you deliver through this toolkit, they will probably want to join in. Keep the door open.

### Understand the Rugby Union World Cup in five easy facts

- 1** The 2011 Rugby Union World Cup begins in New Zealand on 9 September 2011.
- 2** The matches kick off in the early and mid-morning UK time, so they will be on TV either before school or just as school is starting each day.
- 3** 20 teams from Argentina to Wales will play each other in four groups of five. The top two teams from each group will go into quarter-finals to play for the four semi-final places. The final is on 23 October 2011.
- 4** England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales will represent the UK. (Ireland is made up of players from Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland.)
- 5** Rugby union is different to rugby league. Union is played throughout the UK. League is mostly played in the north of England, although not exclusively. In the past there have been a lot of rivalries between the two codes, but both are great games.

# DISPLAYS

**A great way to push your World Cup rugby reading activities to the children, other teachers and librarians, and even the parents, is to have a major display in the school or library. But first of all you need to ask yourself some questions...**

## What?

### What is a World Cup reading display?

A wall-based display of images and words, gathered from various sources that will encourage children and adults to read through their love of rugby.

You could have one large display in the school or, if you like some of the ideas below, several smaller ones.

## Why?

### Why do a rugby reading display?

It would be great if you could create something that everyone will want to consult on every day of the rugby tournament, something that will inspire reading in the school and in the homes of the children going to your school.

That is quite a tall order. But it is what this chapter is about.

## Where?

**The first question is where do you want to put your rugby reading display. Should it be in a major corridor in the school? Or the library? Or in the entrance area? Or the hall?**

It is a big decision. You want it somewhere the children can visit daily. Maybe somewhere parents might be able to see it. Also, somewhere you can have a display of book or other materials that children can read.

## When?

Ideally from the beginning of term. The tournament runs from 9 September to 23 October 2011, so it will have massive media coverage from 1 September onwards.

## Who?

### Who is going to do it?

Good question. You could do it. Or you and some other teachers or classroom assistants. Maybe the key person should be the librarian, literacy coordinator or even sports teacher. But you might need help. It could be worth asking a small group of rugby mad kids to help you, to act as rugby display monitors.

## How?

### How do you make the perfect World Cup display? What do you put in it?

The following ideas should help. Think of it like pick and mix or a tapas menu. You will not be able to use all the ideas overleaf, but a combination of some of them might really work to encourage your children – and adults – to read more because of the World Cup.



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# ELEMENTS OF THE DISPLAY

## Match Reports

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How many children will have had the chance to read match reports from the games the day before? Not many. Why not cut out and display match reports, especially of games involving teams children in your school support? Replace them every day with the next day's match reports.

## Scores and league tables

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The tournament statistics should be the centre of the display. An easy-to-look-at chart that details match results and league tables will be the first thing people come to see. Especially if their team is doing well.

## Get caught rugby reading

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A lot of schools display images of their children and teachers reading their favourite books. Include pictures of rugby fans in the school reading newspapers, magazines and books to do with rugby. Include these on the display to give it a sense that it is unique to your school.

## Other pictures

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You can cut images of rugby players and teams out of magazines or newspapers. You can download front cover images of rugby books and print them out. You could even have a rugby drawing competition to decorate your display. National Governing Body websites often have pictures and player profiles e.g. [www.rfu.com/squadsandplayers](http://www.rfu.com/squadsandplayers).

## Book reviews or “match reports”

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There is a rugby ball shaped review sheet available on [www.literacytrust.org.uk](http://www.literacytrust.org.uk). These can be placed round your display with children's and teachers' thoughts on rugby reading. You could have a try line to place the best ones over, meaning they have scored. Or, you could have a sin bin, to put books the reader has not enjoyed.

## Free goodies

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It is worth asking local rugby clubs, supermarkets, magazine shops, etc. for anything free that could go on your display. What have they got? You will get something. To find your local club in England go to the RFU's club finder [www.rfu.com/takingpart/clubfinder](http://www.rfu.com/takingpart/clubfinder).

## Other things

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Does anyone on the staff have an old, or new, rugby shirt? Or anything related to the game? If so, they would help give the display a lift, make it come off the wall a little. If you have a table area, a ball, a pair of boots, a gumshield, or even a section of turf! These would be great additions!

## An excerpt from another book

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Choose one of the rugby books from the school library, find an interesting section, then photocopy it and put it up on the wall. It might encourage someone to read the whole book.

## Reading photos

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Take a group of children to some playing fields. Take a camera and get the kids to wear rugby tops. Encourage them to do a few rugby moves. A tackle. Handling the ball over the line for a try. Close passing. A line out. But rather than using a ball, use a rugby book. You could get some really good photos to make the display look even more exciting. But remember: most books do not like to be kicked!

## Away from rugby

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There will be a lot of children who are not into rugby. Why not involve them and ask them to do country profiles on some of the more interesting countries taking part: Fiji, Samoa, Namibia. They would add another angle to the display.

# ELEMENTS OF THE DISPLAY

## Things to get people to come to the display every day

- A daily quiz question about the countries involved – whoever gets most questions right at the end of the tournament wins a prize.
- Update the scores and league tables.
- Challenge each class to read the most books during the tournament (any kind of books) and keep a score chart on the display – maybe mimicking the length of the pitch, or you could fill in the trajectory of a ball going over the bar of the goal. Download a template from [www.literacytrust.org.uk](http://www.literacytrust.org.uk).



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## Finally, some other things to consider:

What could you use as a **background to the display**? If you have the space and the resources, the green of the rugby pitch and some white line marking might look good. Or the rugby goal - a towering H shape.



### Can you actually **lay out something under the display**?

Books that could be borrowed. Newspapers to be read. Activity sheets like the ones in the next section of this guide. Or, if you have chosen to do some of the interactive aspects from above, the sheets relating to those.

# ACTIVITIES

**The following ideas are short, to medium, length activities you can do with a class of children. They do not involve visitors or much other input. They can also be used to warm up a group of children before an event or longer activity.**

## Pass the Book

Rugby is a game to do with passing the ball from hand to hand. Choose a book to read as a class read. It could be a novel or non-fiction. Then ask the children to throw it, rugby-style, to one another. Once a child catches it, they have to read a page, then pass it on. This could be a way of giving a lift to a traditional read-around-the-classroom activity.

## The Haka

The Haka is an unusual pre-match display famously performed by the New Zealand national team. They stand and chant at their opponents. If you have never seen it, look it up on YouTube. Most children find the Haka fun to watch and even perform. But you could add a reading dimension to this.

- Ask the children to choose an author they like, even giving them a week or so to read the book.
- Put them in teams, each team to represent an author.
- Ask them to choose reasons they like the author.
- Work with them to produce a poem or chant to present in the style of the Haka.
- Stage a Haka slam, where the best Haka wins a prize – do it in front of the whole school or parents.

## On the pitch

Rugby players need different skills to play in different positions. Props need to be big and powerful. Wingers need to be fast and exciting. On this page is a list of the main rugby positions.

Work with the children to come up with a list of authors they have enjoyed reading. Now decide which author fits into the rugby position descriptions here.

Perhaps Anthony Horowitz's books could be described as being like a rugby winger: fast-paced and thrilling. Maybe Philip Pullman is like a prop. He is solid and is a strong writer. It is for you to decide.

And if they are not well up on authors, try suggesting characters from film or TV, as they are all stories.

### The 10 key rugby positions are:

**FULL BACK:** a lot of pace, brave, good at kicking

**WING:** lightweight player, works hard, plenty of pace

**CENTRE:** really tough and strong, good at taking knocks

**FLY HALF:** in control of what he does, very skilful

**SCRUM HALF:** intelligent and confident

**PROP:** brave, hard and strong

**HOOKER:** not afraid of painful subjects, strong and powerful

**SECOND ROW:** athletic, good at reaching the heights in the lineout

**FLANKER:** robust, good at keeping the ball's attention

**NUMBER 8:** creative, understands what people are doing

Not all the authors will fit the positions exactly, but this activity might introduce children to new authors, spurred on by their classmates' enthusiasm. One alternative you could do is apply the positions to the author's prose or choice of subjects or their personality.

On page 20 of this guide is a template of where the players might stand on the pitch that you can use as a wall chart to put pictures of the authors the children choose.



# ACTIVITIES

## Match Reports

The World Cup gives you a great chance to encourage the children to find out about other countries. There are some very interesting countries such as Tonga taking part. Charge a group of children or each class to find out about each country. Maybe use the results to add to your World Cup display.

The countries taking part are: Argentina, Australia, Canada, England, Fiji, France, Georgia, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Namibia, New Zealand, Romania, Russia, Samoa, Scotland, South Africa, Tonga, USA and Wales.

## Video Ref

The video ref is a fourth official on the pitch that has to decide, by looking at video footage, if a try was a legal try. They watch the footage, deliberate, then deliver a verdict. Try or No Try.

Ask the children to take on this role, but to give their verdict on a book. Rather than writing a review on paper, they have to deliver it to camera.

Show the videos in assemblies, on the school website and in other places. You could even incorporate a video ref screen into your World Cup display.

## Library Treasure Hunt

You can find rugby (or all sports) reading materials in six places in the library. The treasure hunt is a great way of raising awareness of these sections.

### Set individuals or groups of children six questions:

- Where will you find the life stories of famous rugby players? (Biography)
- Where can you find fictional stories about rugby? (Fiction)
- Where can you read match reports about yesterday's rugby games? (Newspapers)
- Where can you read today's latest rugby news? (Internet)
- Where are the books about how to play rugby? (Kids sport section)
- Where are magazines about rugby kept? (Magazines)

As long as your public, or school, library has the right section this can work.

Put a letter of the alphabet in each section, so that when the children work out the clue, they can collect six letters. The six letters should form the name of a rugby player of a team (Ireland, for instance), or rugby word; hooker, for example. The first child or team to get the right word wins a prize.

## Crosswords

See [http://www.literacytrust.org.uk/resources/our\\_resources/rugby\\_world\\_cup\\_toolkit](http://www.literacytrust.org.uk/resources/our_resources/rugby_world_cup_toolkit) for crosswords about rugby.

## Word Searches

See [http://www.literacytrust.org.uk/resources/our\\_resources/rugby\\_world\\_cup\\_toolkit](http://www.literacytrust.org.uk/resources/our_resources/rugby_world_cup_toolkit) for word searches about rugby.

## Match reports

Cut out a match report on one of the key games in the tournament. Then go through it and find up to ten words to black out. Choose ones that the children might be able to guess, like sporting clichés, players' names or any other words you might be focusing on in class, such as connectives, etc.

## Rugby Buddies

The Rugby World Cup is a good time to launch a reading buddy scheme in the school. Match an older child with a younger child, encouraging the older child to help the younger to develop their interest in reading.

Find a common interest between the children, in this case, rugby.

Finding an older rugby enthusiast to enthuse a younger one could work wonders. But if you have children who are not into rugby, choose football, dance, animals, cars, Doctor Who. Use the stock in your library and the book lists later in this guide to help you decide topics.

Hold all the buddying sessions in the library. It will encourage children to come back if they have a positive experience there.

# EVENTS

**Would you like to hold an event at your school or library to help you to promote reading through rugby? Perhaps it could be used as a launch to enthuse the school for the activities you have planned for the tournament ahead.**

Alternatively, it could be staged as a reward or celebration towards the end of the World Cup.

By an event, we mean something more than an activity in a classroom. Maybe something with larger numbers. Even something with a guest speaker.

Whatever event you are planning, try to think of who you are aiming it at. Is it just for the rugby fans? Is it for the children generally? Or could you design some of the events to appeal to families? The most effective way of helping children become lifelong readers is, after all, through their parents.

**Here are some ideas to help you devise the perfect centre piece for your rugby reading activities.**

## Live rugby in school

Because the World Cup is being hosted in New Zealand this time, the games kick off at what could be seen as useful times for schools. Some of the kick-offs are at 07.30, so that could be good for some early school activities, such as a rugby breakfast club. Others kick off at 09.30 which would allow you to devise some classroom activity based around a match as it happens.

For instance, you could read the newspaper match previews before a game, then watch it in the classroom or a school hall. After this you could work with the children to talk about whether the match previews interpreted the game correctly. Maybe the children could have guessed the final score or the key player based on what they have read in the previews. The most informed perhaps could win a prize.

Alternatively, you could use the game to help the children write their own match reports, asking them to take notes during the game.

## Rugby reading with training

How about mixing literacy work with elements of rugby training? If you have a games teacher at school – or a local friendly rugby coach or parent – they might be happy to join you. Try out some of the activities in the ‘Activities’ section in conjunction with some rugby training. A structure like this might work:

- 1 10 minute warming up exercises
- 2 [add activity]
- 3 A training session based around passing the ball
- 4 [add activity]
- 5 10 minute cool down session

It would help to do the whole activity out on the school playing fields or in the school hall. That way, you are not moving from one space to another. Doing reading activities outside – especially in September – can be quite rewarding.

And trying out short, focused, reading activities – with sport activities either side – is a good way of keeping the children engaged.



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## EVENTS

### Rugby reading quiz

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A rugby reading quiz is a great way of talking about rugby and enthusing children about things to read about the game. In the back of this guide – and on [www.literacytrust.org.uk](http://www.literacytrust.org.uk) – please find a template for a Rugby reading quiz. The basic idea is to use rugby newspaper articles, rugby magazines and a variety of books to use as a basis for a quiz, but also as a discussion about rugby reading.

#### Ask:

Who has read a good rugby biography?

Did anyone read any World Cup reports in the newspaper over the last few days?

Has anyone seen any special Rugby World Cup magazines around?

You can use the quiz format to encourage children to talk about what they like to read – about rugby – but also more broadly. The quiz format is also a great way to involve parents and their older siblings by creating teams in a pub quiz format. The result: a vigorous – and competitive – discussion about reading.

### Panel discussion

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Can you get together three or four guests to talk about rugby for an in-school or after school event?

Try a local player, a sports journalist, a senior player from the school team, a dad who might be involved in the game or just a big fan, your games teacher.

Get the audience to ask them questions about the World Cup and their thoughts on it. But also ask them about what they like to read in newspapers, magazines, books and online.

Again, you could invite parents to come along and attend this.

### What the papers say

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A variation on the panel above is to host a ‘What the Papers Say’ style event. Encourage a panel of speakers to say what stories they have enjoyed from that day’s papers.

### Make a play out of Scrum! by Tom Palmer

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Tom’s book *Scrum!* has a lot of dialogue and all the scenes are short. It is perfect for getting a few children to make a play. A simple story.

There are about eight roles in the play. Deciding what to put in the play, practising, and then performing it would be great fun. You could even invite Tom to come and see it: he would be very interested.

### Rugby trips out of school

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School trips can be a very useful way of exciting your students and grabbing their attention. New environments can help children to take in new things – or remember things because of the context they have been learnt in.

**There are at least four places you could visit to enthuse readers through rugby:**

**Visit a rugby stadium.** Do your local rugby union team do stadium tours? Do they even have a Study Support Centre in the stadium? If you visited the stadium would they be able to provide a player or coach who could speak about how reading is important in their life? Why not visit Twickenham Stadium, the home of English rugby, and combine a tour with a curriculum based workshop? For more details see [www.rfu.com/museum](http://www.rfu.com/museum).

**Go to your local public library.** Ask your library if you can bring a class in for a visit. Libraries are very keen to do this. Warn them a couple of weeks before to make sure they have some rugby books in. They might have fiction, biographies, histories, local rugby stories and books on how to play the game. If they have an archive or local history section, there may be material on the history of rugby in your area. (See Rugby Treasure Hunt in ‘Activities’ for a good idea for an activity once you are in the library.)

**Check out the local bookshop.** Is there a bookshop near your school? A visit there during the World Cup will introduce children who are not familiar with bookshops to all the amazing resources available. Ask a bookseller to give the children a tour of the bookshop, highlighting where sports titles are kept, responding to the children’s questions. Then, maybe, set a quiz about what the bookseller told them.

## EVENTS

**Play rugby on a council park.** The council may have some rugby pitches and, perhaps, may know a rugby coach. Take the children to play rugby, then ask the coach to talk briefly about what he likes to read. More than one coach would make that even more effective. Young men talking about books can have a very powerful impact on boys – and girls. Contact your local Rugby Development Officer who can provide local playing and coaching opportunities [www.rfu.com/abouttherfu/contactus/rdocontactlist](http://www.rfu.com/abouttherfu/contactus/rdocontactlist).

### Visitors

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One of the most successful events you could do is to have a visitor come into school. Someone who can talk about rugby and reading. Someone who can inspire the children. Any outsider who is invited into school can give the children a new perspective on things and can create excitement. Here are some ideas:

### An author

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There are many rugby books available. Fiction. History. How to play the game. Some of the authors of those books will be used to going into schools to talk.

Others will be keen to. Authors can be very inspiring visitors: they can talk about how they write, what motivates them to write, how reading is central to their being writers. Also, they can do writing workshops.

Essentially they are aspirational: if a child meets an author they will realise that authors are just normal people who try hard to write and are not celebrities or specially gifted people that they could never be like.

To contact an author, find out who publishes them, look up their website and find a telephone number, then telephone and ask for the publicity department.

Alternatively find the author online. Many authors have websites or twitter feeds, so you can contact them directly.

### A journalist

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If you can encourage a local or national journalist to come to your school and talk it can be really inspiring. The children can hear about their job, how they go to watch sport, read about it, write about it and get paid to do it. How they meet players and go to games all over the country. That it can be quite a glamorous job. But they will also learn about deadlines and editors and how you have to work from the bottom to get higher up the journalistic food chain. A sports journalist could just talk, answer questions or even run a rugby writing workshop.

Get in touch with them through the newspaper they write for. Most journalists put their emails in newspapers now. If not, you could find them on Twitter and contact them directly. Ask a rugby fan which local or national journalist they particularly respect.

### Rugby personality

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Is there someone who lives nearby that has some role in rugby? A player? A coach? A commentator? They do not need to be with a major club. It could just be a player from a local team. If you can find such a person they could be invited into school to talk about their role in rugby, what they know, and, most importantly, what they like to read about the game and how it helps them. Do they read books, newspapers, websites? How does it help them with their job?

### Combine the events

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How powerful would it be to “catch” a player at your local library?



# READING GROUPS

**The first rule of a reading group – in this context – is not to call it a reading group, especially if you are working with reluctant readers. The choice of a name will affect who you can recruit to join you, who you want to target and why you want to target them.**

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**Here are some ideas for names:**

- The Pack
- Bookscrum
- Rugby Readers
- The Secret World Cup Club
- The Champions

This might be a good time to recruit two or three keen rugby fans to help you shape things. They will be able to help you choose a relevant-sounding name and will create the word of mouth you need to get the group going, especially if you are not into rugby.

Or, you could work with the sports teacher or someone in the school who has their finger on the rugby pulse.

For the purposes of the World Cup and this toolkit, remember you are not setting up a conventional reading group where a dozen children talk for an hour about the latest literary book for kids. Glorious though those groups are, this is different.

## **Is it going to be a straight reading group or more?**

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One way to add value to the reading group is to have it before or after a rugby training session. If you can work this, try 40 minutes talking about reading and 40 minutes training. It might attract children who are less keen to come to the library.

## **Where to hold the group?**

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There are huge advantages in holding the group in the school library. Getting the children used to, and excited in, that environment can make them library users for life.

Or, would you rather hold it in the school gym? Or are there some changing rooms, used normally for rugby? That might be a more exciting venue for the children. Think about where to host the group. It could make all the difference.

## **How and who to recruit**

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**First, you need to ask yourself some questions:**

Why do you want a rugby reading group?

Who do you want in it – rugby lovers, reluctant readers, both?

Is it just for children or will you involve parents?

Will it be exclusive to the members or can anyone join in?

There is something to be said for making it an exclusive, even secret, reading group. That can add a level of excitement to a reading group that can help hold it together.

Once you have the answers to some of the questions above, you will have a better idea of how to go about it. Bearing all that in mind, here are some techniques you could use:

- Find an in-school rugby champion, maybe a teacher who can inspire children to join the group.
- Put up posters in the library, corridors and entrances.
- Make rugby ball shaped flyers and distribute them via teacher.
- Ask the rugby team coaches to put the word out.
- Create word of mouth through your small team of helpers.
- Send letters home.
- Host a big event to kick it all off and create the interest. (see the event section)

Perhaps start by running the group only for the duration of the World Cup. This could make it seem more of a fun and temporary thing, not a heavy-duty commitment. It is likely that if things go well members of the group will want to keep things going. At that point you will be able to plan for its future, if you want to.

# READING GROUPS

## How many members?

That is difficult to say. Ten? Fifteen? Twenty? It depends on what the children are like. Fifteen is a good number for a reading group. But will it meet outside school time? If so, then you may want to have more members, in case some do not show.

## Getting started

Starting is the hardest part of running a group. It is good to have a structure of how you are planning to run the first one.

## Group structure

It is better to break things up and have several short sessions within a reading group session, than perhaps holding just one long discussion. Try a blend of the following:

- Ask members to bring something in to tell the others about – magazines, a newspaper clipping, something they read on the internet.
- Do one of the activities in the activity section above.
- Talk about one book or chapter you have all read – ask the children questions about what they liked about it.
- Read Tom Palmer’s episodic rugby story.
- Play a game, like throwing a screwed up piece of paper between you, to warm up.

## What to read

There are some great books and other rugby reading lists at the end of this toolkit. You can read newspaper reports, magazine articles, fact books and fiction.

Probably the most satisfying thing to read in a group is a novel. A story gives you more to talk about than plain facts. It is also a good way of encouraging readers to feel more comfortable about reading fiction.

But you could start by asking the children to bring something rugby-related that they have read in the last week. Ask them to explain why it appealed to them. Be ready to photocopy it for the other group members.

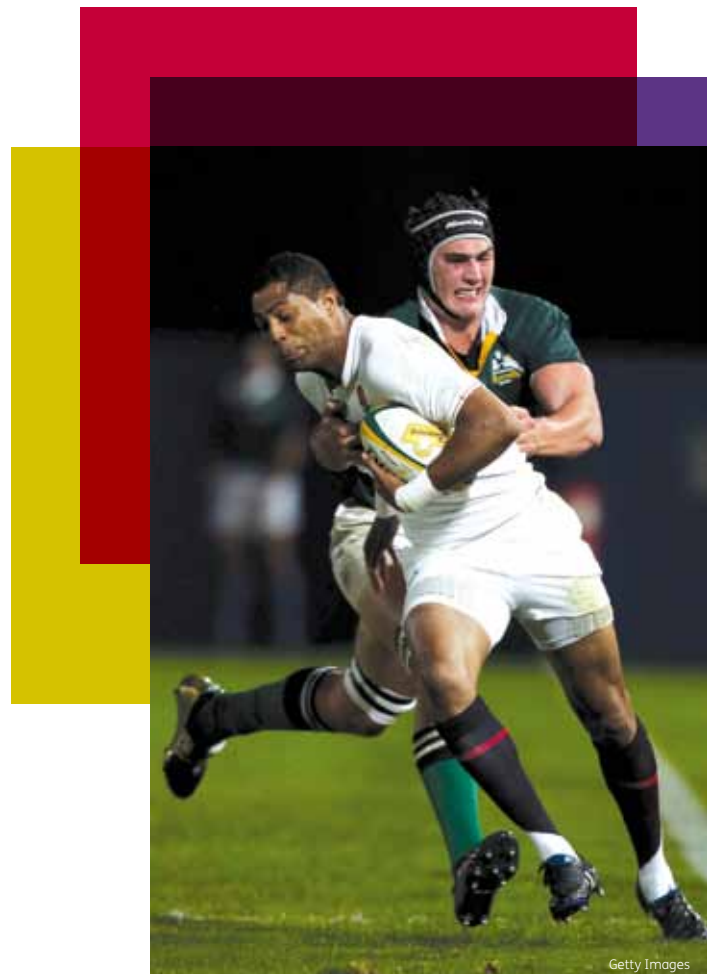
Photocopying books, or parts of books, for educational purposes, is perfectly legal.

## Live Rugby

Because the World Cup is in New Zealand this time, the games kick off at useful times for schools. Some of the kick-offs are at 7.30 a.m., so could be good for some early school activities. Others kick off at 9.30 a.m. and may be good for designing a morning’s work around. For the full world cup fixture list go to [www.rugbyworldcup.com/home/fixtures](http://www.rugbyworldcup.com/home/fixtures).

Use the group to promote reading in the school.

Once the group is established, you have a very powerful weapon: a group of children who are passionate about reading. Would they be willing to do more to promote reading around the school?



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# POSSIBLE PARTNERS

**Working with partners could be a great way of getting the most out of Love Rugby: Love Reading. As well as the nationally available resources that you can tap into, there are possibilities locally:**

## Local rugby team

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Contact a local rugby union team to ask if they would like to offer you support. They could help you plan what will work best for your children. They might be able to offer support, such as match tickets for prizes, or club merchandise, like shirts and posters. Also, they may have an outreach officer or coach who can come into the school and work with the children. The sight of a sportsperson in a tracksuit can have an enormous impact on children. Check the rugby pages of your local newspaper for teams you can approach.

There are some good examples of rugby clubs leading the reading charge, so you might like to wave these at your local side to show that it is possible. Warrington Wolves set up its own version of Premier League Reading Stars and ran it with several local schools.

Rotherham Titans had their first team players trained as reading buddies, and over the course of several terms visited local primary schools where they read with children.

## Local rugby club

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It is very likely that some of your pupils play for local rugby teams. Ask them to put you in touch with their team managers and coaches. Meet up and work out how you can dovetail your needs and their needs. They may be looking to recruit new players or may want to take a greater interest in their existing players' schooling. To find your local club in England go to the RFU's club finder [www.rfu.com/takingpart/clubfinder](http://www.rfu.com/takingpart/clubfinder).

## Local media

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Is there a rugby expert on your local paper or at your local radio or TV station? They might be willing to offer some support or coverage of your activities. A sports journalist, for instance, might be happy to come and talk about how to get into rugby writing.

## Local sports shops

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Ask at a local sports shop if they can support you with rugby objects for your school display. Maybe they have some prizes they could donate for some of your activities.

## Parents

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It is worth putting a letter out to parents to ask for help. An enthusiastic rugby-loving mum, dad, grandparent or older sibling of one of your pupils may be able to help you plan and deliver the activities in this toolkit, especially if you are not confident about talking about rugby.

## In school

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Are there staff in your school who like rugby? They could help you plan what to do, who to approach for support and which children might benefit most from the activities.

## The kids

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If you are struggling to get help, how about forming a group of children from the school who are interested in rugby? Three or four children might be all you need to help you plan and deliver the activities in the toolkit. You could give them a name – such as, The Scrum – and reward them for their support and expertise.

# RUGBY READING

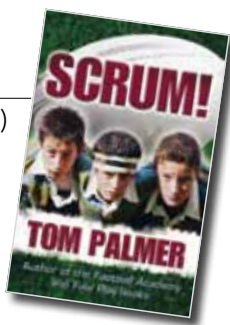
There are hundreds of books on rugby. And with the World Cup, there will be dozens more. This is a brief guide to some of the best. Your local library and bookshops will, of course, have more:

## Rugby Fiction for children

**Scrum!** by Tom Palmer (Barrington Stoke)

**The Flea Thing** by Brian Faulkner (Walker Books)

**The Rugby Zombies** by Dan Anthony (Gomer Press)



## Rugby histories

**World Rugby Records**, Carlton

**IRB Rugby Yearbook 2011** by John Griffiths

**Thirty Bullies: a History of the Rugby World Cup** by Alison Kervin

**How to Watch the Rugby World Cup 2011** by Spiro Zavos (Awa Press)

**International Rugby Union: the illustrated History** by Peter Bills (Carlton Books)

**IRB Rugby World Cup Guide** by Chris Hawkes (Carlton Books)

**World Cup Rugby Tales** by Lawrence Dallaglio (Simon and Schuster)

## Player biographies

Kenny Logan – **Just for Kicks, the autobiography**

Scott Quinnell – **The Hardest Test**

Jonny Wilkinson – **My World**

## How to play rugby

**Rugby Union for Dummies** by Nick Cain

**Rugby Union Manual: Official Guide to Playing the Game** by Martin Johnson

**Know the Game: Rugby Union**

**101 Youth Rugby Drills**, A&C Black

**Tag Rugby**, A&C Black

**Rugby Union Manual: The Official Guide to Playing the Game**, Haynes

**IRB Laws of the Game**, IRB

**Rugby Games & Drills**, Human Kinetics (new launches Oct 2011)

## Factual

**England Rugby Annual 2012**, Grange Communications  
**Rugby Miscellany** (new edition launches Oct 2011), Vision Sport Publishing

## Historical

**Twickenham Centenary Book**, Vision Sport Publishing

**The Treasures of International Rugby Union**, Carlton Publishing (includes removable items of Rugby Memorabilia)



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## OTHER RUGBY READING

### Magazines

**Rugby World magazine** – the most widely available rugby union magazine

**England Rugby Official Magazine**

**International Rugby News magazine**

There will also be several special magazines published for the World Cup, available from mid-August. Remember not to confuse rugby union with rugby league.

Game on is an electric magazine for junior supporters of England rugby - [www.rfu.com/FanZone/JSC/GameOn](http://www.rfu.com/FanZone/JSC/GameOn).

### Newspapers

All the newspapers will be covering the Rugby Union World Cup in September and October in some depth. Traditionally the best coverage is in newspapers such as the Telegraph and the other broadsheets. But you will find no shortage of match reports, previews, photos and statistics in all the national press.

### Websites

Finding good – and bad – rugby websites is as easy as Google. Four we would recommend are:

[www.rfu.com](http://www.rfu.com)

[www.rugbyworldcup.com](http://www.rugbyworldcup.com)

[http://news.bbc.co.uk/sport1/hi/rugby\\_union/default.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/sport1/hi/rugby_union/default.stm)

[www.rugbyworld.com](http://www.rugbyworld.com)

[www.planetrugby.com](http://www.planetrugby.com)

[www.irb.com](http://www.irb.com)

For more, have a look at

[www.world-newspapers.com/rugby.html](http://www.world-newspapers.com/rugby.html)

### Twitter

Follow [@worldcupreader](https://twitter.com/worldcupreader) before and during the world cup for updates about rugby reading and for links to the best player and newspaper apps.

[@Official\\_RFU](https://twitter.com/Official_RFU)

[@rugbyworldcup](https://twitter.com/rugbyworldcup)

[@5LiveRugby](https://twitter.com/5LiveRugby)

### Apps

There are some excellent rugby apps for phones and computers. Just search under rugby in the App Store (or equivalent) to find the most recent, including the official RFU app.

### Online resources

There are several resources available on the [www.literacytrust.org.uk](http://www.literacytrust.org.uk) website relating to this guide.

The Rugby Football Union are launching a number of primary and secondary cross-curricular Rugby World Cup resources, download them free of charge at [www.rfu.com/schools](http://www.rfu.com/schools).



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# ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

We hope that you have enjoyed using this toolkit. If you are keen to build on your success then we have a number of additional resources available.

See [www.literacytrust.org.uk](http://www.literacytrust.org.uk) for more information.

Join the Schools Network and get a 10% discount on all resources ordered! See [www.literacytrust.org.uk/schools](http://www.literacytrust.org.uk/schools) for more information.

## Reading Champions Resource Pack

Get children reading more to improve reading and writing skills. This resource targets reluctant readers using peer influence to increase their enjoyment of reading and to impact positively on the rest of the school.

### Includes

- Bronze, silver and gold Reading Champions certificates and pin badges
- A comprehensive toolkit on how you can get pupils to promote and celebrate reading themselves
- Ideas for classroom and library activities and initiatives

### Cost

£90 for the Reading Champions pack (includes certificates and badges for 20 pupils)

£65 for supplementary packs of certificates and badges for 20 pupils

## Premier League Reading Stars Pack (available late 2011)

Do you wish your pupils enjoyed reading more? Turn football fans into reading fans and use exciting challenges to support reading and literacy skills. See [www.literacytrust.org.uk/premier\\_league\\_reading\\_stars](http://www.literacytrust.org.uk/premier_league_reading_stars) for full details.

### Includes

- “Tactics Book” for teachers (which supports the National Curriculum)
- Exclusive access to online videos of high-profile players to inspire pupils
- Branded football resources

### Cost

If you meet our criteria you may be eligible for a free pack! Otherwise it’s £290 for the Premier League Reading Stars Project pack (enough materials for 32 pupils)

£320 for pack with materials for 37 pupils



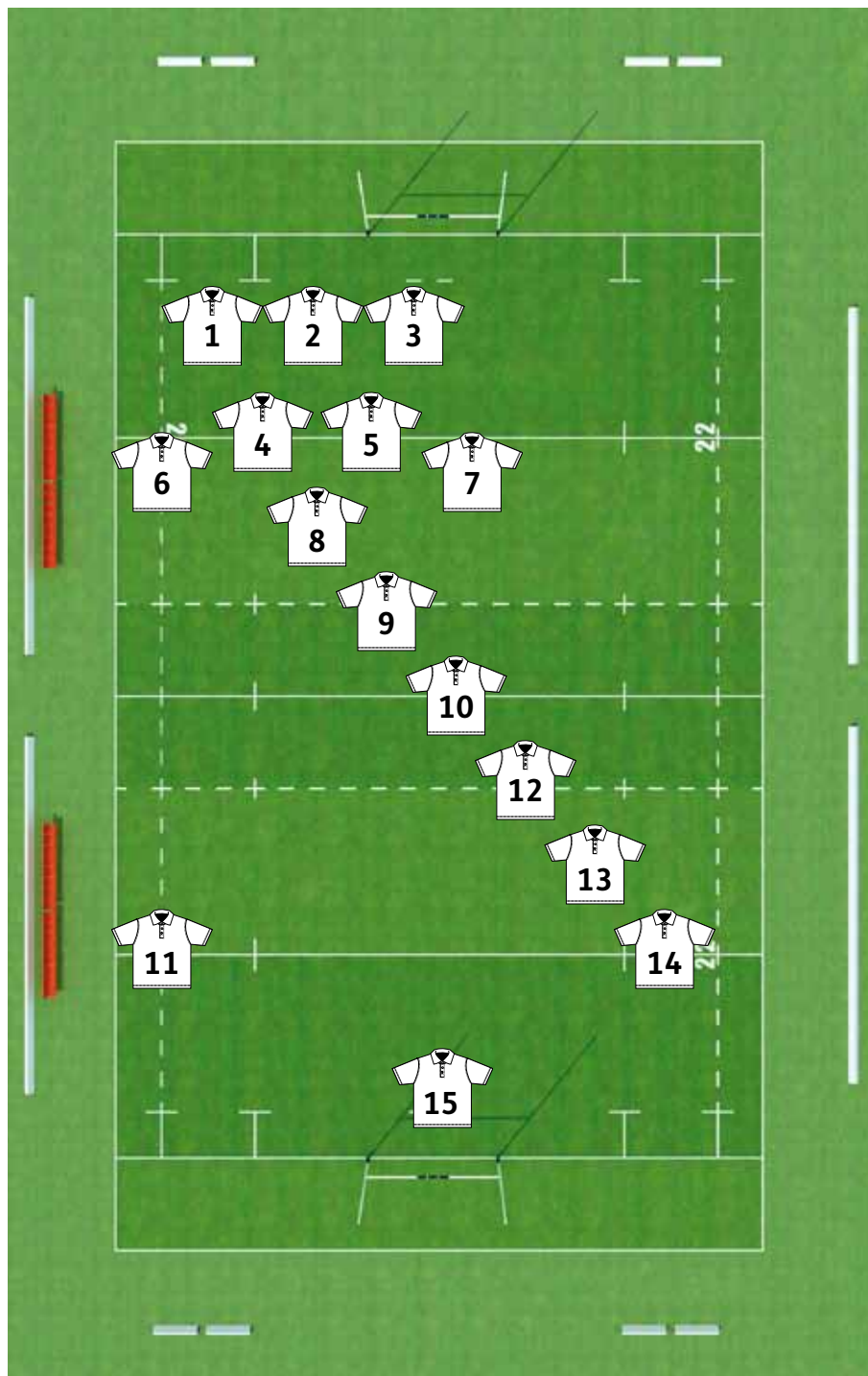
*“Without our involvement with Premier League Reading Stars I honestly believe that we would have continually struggled to engage the children in reading.”*

Sarah Poole, Subject Leader of English, Cornfield School, Sussex



# RUGBY POSITIONS TEMPLATE

In rugby union there are 15 players who take to the pitch (field) and they fall into one of two categories: forwards or backs. Use the image below for a reference to each of the positions. The image shows how the players would (traditionally) form in a scrum situation.



The 15 rugby positions are:

- 1 LOOSE-HEAD PROP
- 2 HOOKER
- 3 TIGHT-HEAD PROP
- 4 SECOND ROW
- 5 SECOND ROW
- 6 BLIND-SIDE FLANKER
- 7 OPEN-SIDE FLANKER
- 8 NUMBER 8
- 9 SCRUM HALF
- 10 FLY HALF
- 11 LEFT WING
- 12 INSIDE CENTRE
- 13 OUTSIDE CENTRE
- 14 RIGHT WING
- 15 FULL BACK

To learn more about the positions please go to [www.rfu.com/thegame/positionguide](http://www.rfu.com/thegame/positionguide).

# LOVE RUGBY: LOVE READING 2011



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**This toolkit was written by Tom Palmer on behalf of the National Literacy Trust.**

**For more information on the National Literacy Trust's sports-based literacy work, visit: [www.literacytrust.org.uk/sport](http://www.literacytrust.org.uk/sport).**

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*Transforming Lives*



The Rugby Football Foundation is a charity set up to support community participation in rugby and as part of its work is keen to support school curriculum learning.

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