

# Cooperative Learning and Reading Aloud by Teachers

by Dr. George Jacobs

## COURSE OBJECTIVE

Cooperative learning is by no means a new idea. For thousands of years, humans have recognised the value of cooperation in a broad range of endeavours, including education. However, the term *cooperative learning* seems to date back to the 1970s when a great deal of research and practical work began on discovering how best to harness peer power for the benefit of learning. This work continues to this day. Reading aloud by parents and teachers is a well-known practice for enhancing literacy. Many benefits have been proposed for reading aloud to students. This workshop aims to prepare teachers with ways to motivate students to read more and to speak more.

## COURSE RATIONALE

Some students are not very interested in reading. Others who do read, do not read challenging or varied books.

Combining cooperative learning with reading aloud by teachers can address these problems, because:

1. Reading aloud by teachers can excite students to read more and to read a greater variety of books and other materials
2. Cooperative learning involves more students in the discussions that take place before, during and after reading aloud by teachers, thereby encouraging more students to think and to talk

## COURSE OUTLINE

This workshop introduces/reviews basic principles of cooperative learning:

1. Positive interdependence
2. Individual accountability
3. Equal opportunity to participate
4. Maximum peer interaction.

This workshop also reviews basic ideas as to how teachers should read aloud to students.

Then, various cooperative learning techniques are presented that can be used as part of a session in which teachers read aloud to their students. Teachers have a chance to experience these techniques first hand. The techniques are:

5. Exchange-A-Question
6. Circle of Speakers
7. Circle of Writers
8. Write-Pair-Switch
9. Everyone Can Explain.

## TARGET AUDIENCE

For educator and parents of Primary school students and preschool children (K1 and K2), and anyone working to improve the language skills of learners at different levels.

## ABOUT THE WORKSHOP LEADER

Dr. George Jacobs, an education consultant based in Singapore, holds a doctorate in educational psychology from University of Hawaii at Manoa. His books include *Learning Cooperative Learning Via Cooperative Learning* (published by Kagan), *The Teacher's Sourcebook for Cooperative Learning* (forthcoming from Corwin), and *Successful Strategies for Extensive Reading* (RELC). George has conducted workshops and courses on cooperative learning and reading in Asia and the United States. He is co-editor of the newsletter of the *International Association for the Study of Cooperation in Education*.

## DATE & TIME

10 May 2008 (Sat), 10.00am to 1.00pm

## VENUE

Merpati Hall, Level 3, Geylang East Community Library

Organised by:

Supported by:



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## COURSE ADMINISTRATION

### Registration Fees

S\$85 per person includes light refreshment and course materials.

**S\$70 for Early Birds who register by 14 Apr 2008.**

### Ways to register

1. Register online by visiting [www.bookcouncil.sg/clap.htm](http://www.bookcouncil.sg/clap.htm)  
or
2. Complete the form below and fax it to (65) 6742 9466.

### Cancellation & Substitution

Fees paid are non-refundable but transferable. Requests for substitution must be made on/before 2 May 2008. A cancellation charge of 25% of the full course fee is applicable for cancellations made after 2 May 2008

### Payment

Payment is required before the workshop commences or within 30 days of receipt of invoice, whichever is earlier. Payment to be made in Singapore Dollars, by cash, cheque or bank draft, payable to "NBDCS" and mail the payment together with your form to us. Alternatively you may deliver your payment, with your name and contact details attached, immediately after you have faxed/emailed/submitted your online registration.

### Mailing Address

National Book Development Council of Singapore  
Geylang East Community Library  
50 Geylang East Avenue 1  
Singapore 389777

### Enquiries

Email : [clap@bookcouncil.sg](mailto:clap@bookcouncil.sg)  
Tel : (65) 6848 8290

## ABOUT THE ORGANISER

NBDCS is a non-profit umbrella body inaugurated in 1969 to promote storytelling, reading, writing and publishing, with a current objective to establish and develop Singapore as the Asian centre for publishing and the literary arts. NBDCS brings Singapore book industry and literary community together through industry events, courses, seminars, conferences and author lectures. NBDCS has been organising the prestigious Singapore Literature Prize since 1990 and also manages the Centre for Literary Arts and Publishing and Singapore Writers Centre.

## REGISTRATION FORM - COOPERATIVE LEARNING AND READING ALOUD BY TEACHERS

Mr/Mrs/Ms/Dr \_\_\_\_\_

Organisation \_\_\_\_\_

Designation \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Tel \_\_\_\_\_

Mobile \_\_\_\_\_

Fax \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_