

# Cooperative Learning and Extensive Reading

by Dr. George Jacobs

## COURSE OBJECTIVE

There are strong, widely disseminated evidence supporting Extensive Reading (ER). Research suggests that ER is precisely the prescription for attaining high scores on reading exams. However, implementation has been infrequent and often less than a success due to problems such as lack of reading materials, and inadequate attention given by teachers as they often face a great deal of pressure to finish the syllabus - to do every single activity on every single page of the textbook or workbook. This workshop aims to prepare teachers with ways for students to motivate each other to read 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 extensive reading can address these problems, because:

1. Students can infect each other with enthusiasm for reading.
2. Students can suggest good and varied ER materials to each other.
3. Students can write ER materials for each other.
4. More proficient students can help other students better understand what they read.
5. Peers provide an audience with whom students can share about what they have read.

## 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

Then, various cooperative learning techniques are presented that can be used in a variety of extensive reading contexts. Teachers have a chance to experience these techniques first hand. The techniques are:

1. Showdown
2. Exchange-A-Question
3. Circle of Speakers
4. Circle of Interviewers
5. Book Wheels

## 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

5 Apr 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

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

**S\$70 for Early Birds who register by 10 Mar 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 latest by 28 Mar 08. A cancellation fee of 25% of the full course fee is applicable for cancellations made after 28 Mar 08.

### 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 EXTENSIVE READING

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

Organisation \_\_\_\_\_

Designation \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Tel \_\_\_\_\_

Mobile \_\_\_\_\_

Fax \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_