

MReader Privacy and Other Policies

Cost

MReader is a free service of the Extensive Reading Foundation to any recognized educational institution.

Schools that value the service and have a budget for student software, however, are encouraged to support the system financially to whatever extent is possible.

Publishers support MReader and the Extensive Reading Foundation through their annual support payments. Quizzes, however, are made available regardless of whether the publisher financially supports the MReader and/or the ERF.

Information We Collect

Mreader maintains a highly secure database that contains only the information about each student that you, as the school site administrator, has input into the system. For maximum functionality, we recommend that the students' school ID number is used as their username, and that their given and family names plus their email address are listed for each student.

None of the above, however, is absolutely required. You may use anything for their usernames. Use of student number allows students to be reregistered the following year with a predictable username. This, in turn, allows their previous quiz record to follow them and prevents them from taking the same quiz a second time.

Email addresses allow students to receive a new password by email, which saves teachers and the administrators time.

Student information, even if it appears to have been deleted on the school site, it is maintained perpetually in case the student re-enrols at a later date. It also allows us to analyze the responses since the user record also identifies the school and geographical location. Students' personal names may be deleted upon request after the course has been completed, but the record with the students' usernames will be maintained).

Student Quiz Results

Student quiz results are also maintained perpetually and are used for item analyses in order to improve the quality and accuracy of the quizzes.

Student Agreement

The first time students log into the MReader system, they receive a pop-up that reads:

1) MReader needs your data in order to improve MReader and to do research about Extensive Reading. Your name will never be used. Do you agree to allow MReader to use your data? Please click \"Agree\" below.

2) I also agree that I will only take quizzes on books that I have completely read myself and only take the quiz on the book that matches the cover image on MReader. I understand that I may be penalized for dishonest conduct.

Students who do not agree to these conditions immediately logged out and cannot use the system.

Passwords

Passwords are encrypted and the original text-based version is not stored. Password may be changed by the site administrator, but teachers and students may

also change passwords if this functionality has been permitted by the site administrator.

Email addresses

Student email addresses may be only used to send students reminders and information concerning the operation of the system through a built-in messaging functionality. Similarly, the site administrator can send messages to all teachers. The MReader site administrator can send messages to all current school site administrators concerning MReader functionality and periodically, information on "best practices" for using MReader or Extensive Reading in general. Supporting publishers do *not* have access to any email addresses on the MReader system.

Advertisements

Users of the book selection function, "View Available Quizzes" will see advertisements from Google AdSense. The income from the advertisements helps support MReader development and maintenance.

Teachers will see advertisements from our the supporting publishers, whose logos appear on the MReader top page. This is a service to the publishers in partial return for their support of MReader and the Extensive Reading Foundation.

Cookies

The only cookie that MReader places in the student device is one that indicates that they are currently logged in.

MReader does, however, use Google AdSense advertisements, although these only appear in the "View Available Quizzes" page. These adverts, if clicked upon, may result in a cookie being placed in the students' device (but will help tailor future advertisements to items that appear to be of interest to the student).

IP Address and other technical information

The IP address used by the student is recorded in the access log and may be used for troubleshooting. A "cheating detection function" built into MReader uses the IP address to help determine if two students might have used the same device in the same time frame to take the same quiz.

Data is also stored in the logs concerning:

- Browser type
- Language preference and time zone
- Referring site, and the date and time of each visitor request
- Connection information like ISP or mobile operator
- Log-in and Log-out times
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Security of the MReader Quizzes

MReader strives to keep the quiz data secure, since once the contents of a quiz is published on the Internet or elsewhere, the quiz loses its value as an assessment tool. For this reason, the full question set for quizzes is not made available to 3rd parties and students are allowed to take a quiz only once, with a single user ID to make it difficult for the to harvest the full question set.

Access to stored information

- Teachers have access to their own student records on the teachers' "class page" and optionally on other teachers' class pages if this functionality is permitted by the school's MReader site administrator.
- The site administrator has access to all information for that particular site but cannot view data on other school sites.
- The MReader administration team has direct access to the database for maintenance and research purposes but personal information is never divulged to others.
- Parents cannot view student data unless their child tells them the relevant password.

Denial of Service

The Extensive Reading Foundation reserves the right to deny service to any institution whose usage does not conform to MReader policies or which jeopardises the integrity of the quiz database.

Further information:

Contact admin@mreader.org for any queries or suggestions.