


READING *for* PLEASURE



SCHEME



NB - This document is in addition to our whole school's Reading Policy.

Anita Forde – Head of English
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Reading is Knowledge – Knowledge is Power!

At Southover we are passionate about getting students reading! It is the best and simplest way to improve your knowledge, grades and exam results across almost all your subjects! Reading is important because research has proven that:

- Reading daily improves vocabulary by 26% compared to those who never read at all in their spare time
- The more you read, the more you enjoy it
- Reading improves future academic and career success
- You become a confident speaker
- It is entertaining
- Reading improves spelling, grammar, writing and communication skills

There are no disadvantages to reading!

We Reward Reading!



To encourage students to read regularly, **we will reward you with a £5 Amazon voucher** when you submit your review to your English teacher. **The maximum reviews that you can submit is one per fortnight.** It must be written/typed in your own words and a minimum of two paragraphs. There are also writing frames to support this.

What counts as reading?

We understand that our students are not always ready to read big books independently, and/or, have busy lives. So, to encourage you, we have put a list of what counts as suitable reading material. You can choose any of these to write a review about:

- Novels (including ones you may have read in class with your teacher)
- Short stories
- Non-fiction textbooks (can be school related)
- Comics
- Graphic novels (age appropriate)
- Newspaper articles (including the Sport section)
- Website articles (e.g. The Guardian Opinion have some great debate topics)
- Magazines
- Podcasts
- Audiobooks (many people do not have time to read in the traditional way, audiobooks however can inspire both busy people and reluctant readers in a different way. Research shows that audiobooks can be just as effective as books in engaging the language processing part of the brain and learning new vocabulary! Readers Digest 2023, Bloomsburg University 2022)
- Radio programmes/channels e.g., BBC Radio 4, BBC Sounds
- Websites (This could be for research purposes that you've come across in school or like to use frequently at home. Is it easy to read and navigate etc?)
- Comparing a film adaptation to a novel/play

The Southover Partnership School's Recommended Reading List:

Adventure/Fantasy Books:

Storm breaker Alex Rider Series- Anthony Horowitz

Skulduggery Pleasant - Derek Landy

Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone (& sequels) - JK Rowling (+)

The Girl of Ink and Stars - Kiran Millwood Hargrave

Cirque Du Freak (& sequels) - Darren Shan

Percy Jackson and the Olympians (& Sequels) - Rick Riordan

Hatchet – Gary Paulsen

The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe – C.S Lewis

Stardust – Neil Gaiman

The Graveyard Book – Neil Gaiman

Coraline – Neil Gaiman

Horror /Gothic Books:

Point Horror Series – (numerous authors)

Goosebumps Series – R L Stine

The Demon Headmaster series - Gillian Cross

Room 13 – Robert Swindells

The Woman in Black – Susan Hill

Rebecca – Daphne Du Maurier

A Series of Unfortunate Events – Daniel Handler/Lemony Snicket

Funny Books:

Gangsta Granny – David Walliams

The Blunders – David Walliams

Bad Dad – Davis Wallaims

Joey Pigza Swallowed the Key (& sequels) – Jack Gantos

The Twits – Roald Dahl

Dodger – Terry Pratchett

The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy – D Adams

The Accidental Diary of B.U.G – Jen Carney

The Extremely Embarrassing Life of Lottie Brooks – Katie Kirby

War and Conflict Books:

Private Peaceful – Micheal Morpurgo

The Bone Sparrow – Zana Frailion

The Kite Runner – Khalid Hosseini

A Thousand Splendid Suns - Khalid Hosseini

Refugee Boy – Bejamin Zephaniah

The Book Thief – Marcus Zusak

Graphic Novels:

Hazardous Tales Series – Nathan Hale

Diary of a Wimpy Kid series – Jeff Kinney

Danger Really is Everywhere – David O'Doherty & Chris Judge

Percy Jackson and the Lightning Thief: The Graphic Novel – adaptation by Robert Venditti, Attila Futaki & José Villarrubia

Auto/biographical/Non-Fiction Books:

I am Malala – The Girl Who Stood Up For Education and was Shot by The Taliban
Malala Yousafzai

Who is Muhammed Ali? (Who was?) – James Buckley

Survivors – David Long (short stories from explorers all around the world and their near-death experiences)

Daring Deeds: World War II Short Stories for Kids – KLG History

Horrible Histories series – Terry Deary & Peter Hepplewhite

Visual Books:

<https://chertseysch.s3.amazonaws.com/uploads/document/Visual-books-for-reluctant-readers-.pdf?ts=1699880746>

Other Reading lists:

<https://www.chertseyhighschool.co.uk/1748/reading-for-pleasure>

<https://uk.accessit.online/stw01/ais/downloadfile/Qj00MzIyMjMxJlU9MQ==/KS3%20Reading%20List.pdf>

<https://schoolreadinglist.co.uk/category/reading-lists-for-ks3-pupils/>

<https://schoolreadinglist.co.uk/category/reading-lists-for-ks4-school-pupils/>

<https://www.booktrust.org.uk/books-and-reading/our-recommendations/>

[Twinkl Book List - Twinkl](#)

[Book lists | Centre for Literacy in Primary Education \(clpe.org.uk\)](#)

Early Years:

<https://www.thereaderteacher.com/year-groups>

Where can I listen/read for free?

- **Your school:** ask your English teacher where the borrowing bookshelf is
- **Your local library**
- <https://www.audible.co.uk/ep/free-listens>
- **Youtube** – find many free audio books here
- **Spotify** – great for podcasts and audiobooks on a range of topics
<https://open.spotify.com/genre/0JQ5DAqbMKFETqK4t8f1n3>
- **Bookbub** <https://www.bookbub.com/> (Free books available to download on Kindle)

- **Borrowbox** – is an app that links you with local libraries, they can source hard copies of books for you but also download ebooks and eAudiobooks for free.
- **Libby App** (borrow and download eBooks and audiobooks for free with your local libraries)
- **BBC Radio 4** (short stories/plays/adaptations)
- https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/live:bbc_radio_fourfm
- <https://simonteen.com/> (free Ebook when you sign up)
- <https://librivox.org/>
- https://www.barnesandnoble.com/b/free-ebooks/ebooks-nook/graphic-novels-comics/_/N-ry0Z8qaZuch
- <https://www.commonsensemedia.org/> - Free Podcasts
- <https://schoolreadinglist.co.uk/> (for reading recommendations)
- <https://www.booktrust.org.uk/booklists> (for reading recommendations)

Advice for Parents

The problem, of course, is convincing young people of the importance and joy of reading. In a world of electronic distractions, we understand how difficult this can be. Here are some tactics that you may find useful:

- **Find books with a connection to something they love.** If they are football fans, look for footie fiction for teens – try *Booked* by Kwame Alexander; *Football School Star Players* by Bellos; or Dan Freedman or Tom Palmer's books. If they like military/action/war, then try the *Dog Tag* series by CA London or Andy McNab's teen books. If they like to watch Youtubers, try Zoella's book club. And if they are into gaming, try fast-paced chapter books or 'choose your own adventure' stories. (Tip: try teen/YA author Alex Scarrow's books – he was a professional video-game developer before he turned to

writing; or Jeff Norton's *MetaWars* series, billed as 'a video game you can read').

- **Look at our 'Recommended Reading list' above:** we have lists broken down by genre rather than by age groups to support the interests of our learners. More comprehensive lists can be found in the attached links above. Other booklists include ideas for those that enjoy 'visual' books; a list for Percy Jackson fans; dystopian fiction; tear jerkers; difficult issues and thrillers.
- Any type of reading is helpful, so **try graphic novels**. Graphic novel versions of *The Recruit* by Muchamore, *Silverfin* by Higson and *Stormbreaker* by Horowitz are popular. Likewise, it is absolutely fine to read *Wimpy Kid* books if this is what sparks the interest of your reluctant reader.
- **Try Barrington Stoke books:** these are produced with tinted pages, special fonts and spacing, thicker paper and editing to reduce comprehension barriers and/or issues resulting from dyslexia. <https://www.barringtonstoke.co.uk/>
- **Visit the library with your child** when you go into town. Ask your child to meet you in the library and then take your time selecting a book to read yourself.
- **Try a 'phone free' hour.** Eventually (out of boredom) he/she might start exploring books
- **Be enthusiastic** about what they are reading: Ask them to describe a character or to read aloud an exciting bit. You might read a teen/YA book yourself; the plot-driven nature of many of these books means they are relatively easy reads – perfect after a day at work.
- **Model behaviour:** Let your children see you reading for pleasure and talk about what you read and how you choose books.

- **Sibling Guided Reading:** If you have younger children, ask your older (reluctant reader) child to read aloud to them. This is a big confidence booster and it helps with sibling bonding. Michael Morpurgo is a particularly enjoyable shared read, as his books have something for everyone; I highly recommend *Kensuke's Kingdom* or *Private Peaceful* for sibling read-aloud.
- **Offer incentives:** Summer reading rewards programme for children works really well. For example, if they read a certain number of books or pages, you could take them to a theme park. Whilst we don't want our children to only read for rewards, but it works for summers or for times when a 'breakthrough' is necessary.
- Another idea is to **find the book version of a movie:** *Stormbreaker*, *Eragon*, *Harry Potter*, *The Book Thief*, *I am Number Four*, *The Princess Diaries*, *The Chronicles of Narnia*, *Percy Jackson*, *The Hunger Games*, *Divergent*, *Maze Runner*, *Fault in Our Stars*, *Twilight* and *Inkheart* and *Wonder* are all films based on children/YA books. Both of you can read the book, go to the movie together — then discuss the differences.
- Have them pick up a device – **an e-reader!** Then check with your local library about borrowing e-books **or try the Kindle** daily deal.
- **Try audio books:** Libraries have free, downloadable audio books plus Audible has a wide range of teen books. Many teens like the idea of being able to do something active while listening to a book. By listening to an audio book, your teen will pick up new vocabulary, hear complex sentence structures and engage with stories.
- **Listening to audio books as a family** is another good idea. Sharing a story together is a fabulous way to bond; *Stop the Train* by McCaugrean and *Mort* by Terry Pratchett are good places to start.

- **Visit a bookstore** and allow your child to select a book of their choice. The visually appealing marketing and layout of best-selling books can attract even reluctant readers.
- **Try biographies/autobiographies** that interest your child. Recent student favourites have been *Maddie Diaries* by Ziegler & *The Greatest* (Muhammed Ali) by Walter Dean Myers.
- **Non-fiction books** linked to a child's interests are a great way to spark a desire to read.
- Gentle encouragement works best.
- Further reading:
 - <https://www.booktrust.org.uk/books-and-reading/tips-and-advice/>
 - <https://literacytrust.org.uk/blog/reading-children-so-powerful-so-simple-and-yet-so-misunderstood/>
 - <https://childmind.org/article/why-is-it-important-to-read-to-your-child/>
 - <https://www.southbury.enfield.sch.uk/files/0F12F7E1F1D76FF961B60A316DE2988C.pdf>
 - <https://wordsforlife.org.uk/parent-support/reading-your-child/>
 - <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/10-top-tips-to-encourage-children-to-read/10-top-tips-to-encourage-children-to-read>