



Parent Information Evening

Reading for Pleasure



Reading
SHOULD NOT BE
Presented
TO
Children AS A
CHORE OR DUTY.
IT SHOULD BE
Offered
AS A
Precious
Gift.



- KATE DICAMILLO





Aims of tonight

- What do we mean by '*Reading for Pleasure*'?
- How do we *teach reading* and *promote RfP* in school?
- Share *strategies to encourage* reading at home
- Support for *reluctant readers*



What do we mean by 'Reading for Pleasure'?

Reading for Pleasure is *'reading that we do of our own free will, anticipating the satisfaction that we will get from the act of reading'* (Clark and Rumbold, 2006).

It is the reading you do for pure **enjoyment**, for **relaxation**, for the **suspense**, **thrill** or **emotion** you **experience** or for the **information** that you seek.





Why is Reading for Pleasure our focus?



Report finds 'shocking and dispiriting' fall in children reading for pleasure

National Literacy Trust finds only 35% of eight to 18-year-olds enjoy reading in their spare time, a sharp drop on last year to the lowest figure yet recorded

Children's reading enjoyment has fallen to its lowest level in almost two decades, with just one in three young people saying that they enjoy reading in their free time, according to a new survey.

Only 34.6% of eight- to 18-year-olds surveyed by the National Literacy Trust (NLT) said that they enjoy reading in their spare time. This is the lowest level recorded by the charity since it began surveying children about their reading habits 19 years ago, representing an 8.8 percentage point drop since last year.

It is also part of a broader downward trend since 2016, when almost two in three children said that they enjoyed reading.

Reading frequency is also at a historic low, with 20.5% of eight- to 18-year-olds reporting reading daily in their free time, compared with 28% last year.

NATIONAL YEAR OF READING 2026

If you're into it, read into it

Everyone knows reading expands worlds, sharpens minds, and fuels creativity. But fewer of us are making time for it.

It's time for the nation to Go All In.

The Decline in Volitional Reading

Evidence-Informed Ways Forward

Chin Ee, Loh
Teresa Cremin
Anežka Kuzmičová
Sarah McGeown
Laura Scholes

Global Decline in Reading

The global decline in young people's attitudes to reading and the frequency with which they read represents serious cause for concern¹. Multiple factors contribute to this situation, which is paralleled in some countries by a decline in adult reading². Are we facing an intergenerational cycle of disinterest and disaffection? Without adult reading role models in homes, schools and wider society, it is likely children will find it harder to develop the reading habit.



Why is Reading for Pleasure our focus?


Department
for Education

Books vs Television

28% words never
appeared on TV



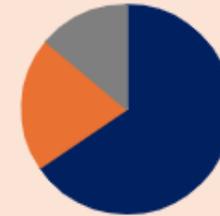
■ On TV ■ In books

40% age 10-12 book
words were not on
CBBC



■ On TV ■ In books

Word types that
appear on screen



■ Nouns ■ Verbs



Why is Reading for Pleasure our focus?



Department
for Education

Closing the 'word gap'

“

When we talk of closing the word gap, we actually mean something much bigger than that unassuming phrase implies. We mean welcoming a child into a world of new ideas, insights and emotions, into a world that we, the word-rich, take for granted, and which we will routinely guarantee for our own children.”

Geoff Barton

”



Rights of the Reader

The Rights of the Reader

by Daniel Pennac
illustrated by Quentin Blake



1 The right not to read.



2 The right to skip.



3 The right not to finish a book.
I'm keeping some for tomorrow!



4 The right to read it again.
Again! again!



5 The right to read anything.



6 The right to mistake a book for real life.
It's just SO me!



7 The right to read anywhere.



8 The right to dip in.
Try this page - it's fantastic!



9 The right to read out loud.

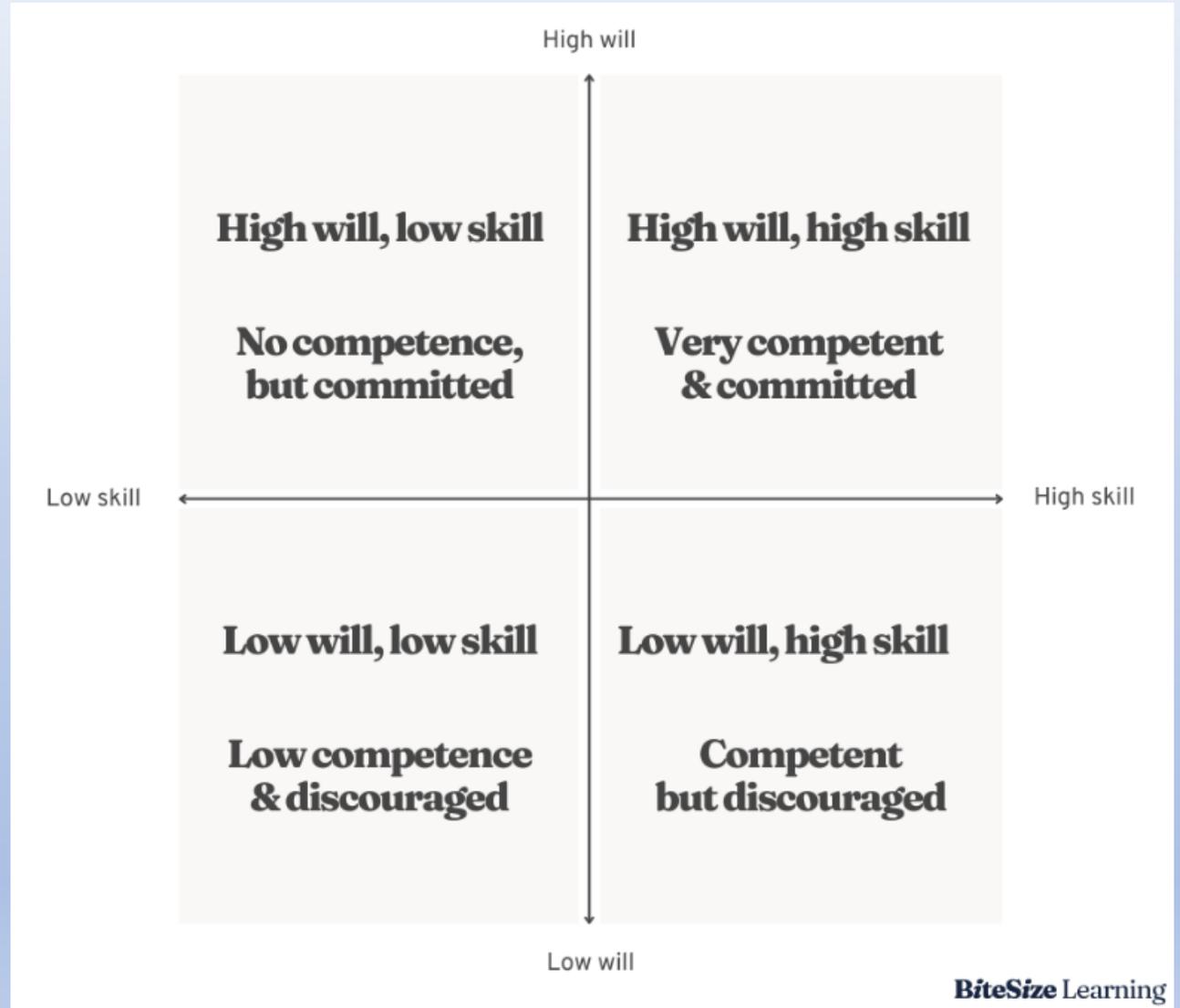


10 The right to be quiet.



10 rights - 1 warning -
Don't make fun of people who don't read - or they never will.

Reproduced by permission of Walker Books Ltd, London SE11 5HJ • illustrations © 2006 Quentin Blake

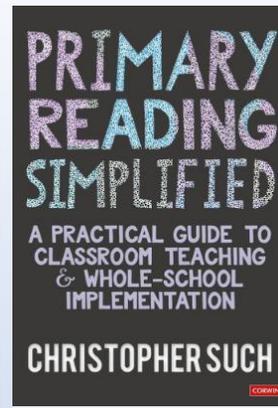




How do we teach reading in **KS2 at Abbey Road?**



Whole Class Reading



fluency read - fluency practice

extended read - reading breadth

close read - text discussions



Year Group Reading Spines

Year 5 Reading Spine							
Term:	Autumn 1	Autumn 2	Spring 1	Spring 2	Summer 1	Summer 2	
Whole Class Reading Texts	 	 	 	 			
Inspiring texts used in English lessons	<p>The Orchard Book of Greek Myths</p> <p>Theseus and the Minotaur</p>						
Poetry: Classic Poetry	From a Railway Carriage – Robert Louis Stevenson	Night Mail – WH Auden	The Tyger – William Blake	Daffodils – William Wordsworth	The Juggs	The Juggs	

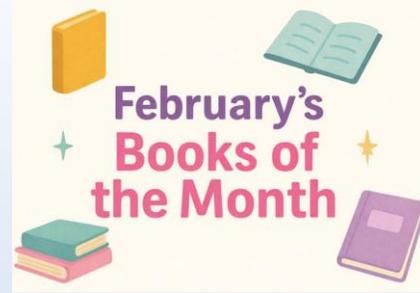
Year 6 Reading Spine							
Term:	Autumn 1	Autumn 2	Spring 1	Spring 2	Summer 1	Summer 2	
Whole Class Reading Texts	 	 	 	 	 		
Inspiring texts used in English lessons	 	 	 	 	 	 	
Poetry	Maya Angelou – Caged Bird	Rhyme and Rhythm	The City of my Birth – Karl Nova	POETS FOR THE PLANET		THE FINAL YEAR	



How does Abbey Road promote Reading for Pleasure?



Monthly newsletters published on school website



Book of the Month Newsletter – February

Welcome to our **February** edition of the **Book of the Month** newsletter!

It has been wonderful to see the enthusiasm for reading continue into the new year, particularly following our focus on *poetry* in January. Pupils have enjoyed exploring poems, performing them aloud and discovering how powerful and playful language can be. Our Reading Ambassadors have been busy sharing favourite verses and encouraging others to join in, helping to build confidence and enjoyment in reading across the school.

This month's selection of books has been carefully chosen to capture imaginations, encourage discussion and celebrate the joy of storytelling. We hope these new titles will spark curiosity whilst providing a sprinkle of kindness and a dash of humour too! The Reading Ambassadors can't wait to share them with their peers and maybe help peers discover a new favourite read!

Here are the books that have been shared this month:

The Museum of Shapes

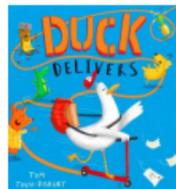


Acorns – The Museum of Shapes

Welcome to the Museum of Shapes. Alma is the curator of the museum. She decides which shapes should go where. Triangles have three sides and three angles. Can you help Alma find all the triangles on the shelf? Alma's favourite shape is a circle. All the points on the edge of a circle are the same distance from its centre. Not all shapes are geometric; some are wiggly and messy. Can you make a wiggly line with your body?

Conkers – A million chameleons

The world is home to millions of colourful chameleons. What do you think they get up when no one is watching? From cheeky flicking-pea-leons to cute-as-cute-can-be-leons and even always-needs-a-wee-leons, there's SO much more to these creatures than meets the eye!



Holly – Duck Delivers

Duck is a home bird. He likes splashing in the bath, eating bread in bed, and organising his sock collection. Yet, there comes a time when even the most unadventurous birds must fly the nest. And what better way to see the world, than as a Delivery Duck for Feather Force?! Soon, with his uniform, parcel and STRICT instructions from Osstrich Bosstrich, Duck is scooting off on his very first adventure. . . what could go possibly wrong?

Hazel – The Mushroom of Doom!

Mushroom is having the worst day EVER. First, he's not picked to go on the pizza (and Pineapple is chosen instead of him - can you BELIEVE it?! PINEAPPLE!). Then, Milk spills all over him. And then he's thrown in the compost bin. The indignity! I know exactly what you're thinking . . . it's time to build a mushroom army and take revenge!

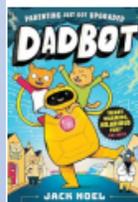


Willow – Super Goat Girl!

On Super Goat Girl's first day, she's met with a LOT of stares! After all what kind of superhero doesn't have a fancy costume or a funky cape? While the other children are having fun writing with lasers, doing lightning-fast math, and being super stretchy, Super Goat Girl doubts she can measure up. As weird events happen throughout the day, will she be able to figure out what her special superpower is and work out how not to feel super strange?

Cherry – The café at the edge of the woods

Welcome to the Café at the Edge of the Woods, the utterly charming and mesmerising new picture book from BAFTA award-winning writer Mikey Please. Rene's dreams have finally come true! She's opened a café beside an enchanted wood, and with the help of a newfound waiter, Glumfoot, she is ready to serve the finest cuisine! But the locals seem to favour a most peculiar palette, requesting all sorts of disgusting things. Can Glumfoot's quick-thinking save the day? Join Rene and Glumfoot in this incredible other-worldly story full of magical humour, mythical creatures and culinary curiosities.

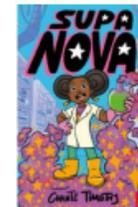


Birch – Dadbot!

What do you get when you mix workaholic parents, a car boot sale and a mad scientist together? DADBOT, that's who! With super-strength, hot chocolate on tap and a printer for a butt, Dadbot might be the most exciting thing Josh and Daisy discover - and he only cost £3! With this major parenting upgrade, Josh and Daisy's summer holidays just went from dull to dynamite. But the evil Doctor Egg is lurking to steal Dadbot for his own plans of world domination . . . Can Josh and Daisy protect their new robo-parent before it's too late?

Rowan – Supa Nova

Meet Nova! She's a scientist. Some people say she's a genius. Some people even call her Supa Nova - get it? Like a supernova. Basically she's a huge star, exploding right at you with her adventures! When Nova invents a plastic-eating monster, she thinks she's solved the world's pollution problem. But she doesn't expect her monster to start rampaging through the city! Can Nova find a way to save the day? It will take a genius to figure it out!



Chestnut – Fox goes North

An extraordinary house on wheels is being towed along a forest track by doleful Moose. On board the house are philosophical Fox; distinguished Bear; theatrical Toucan, with his magnetic beak that always points north; argumentative Little Owl, and loving, excitable Young Llama. With nothing but her little blue suitcase, Fox has left home to join the animals' expedition to the Snowlands to see the Northern Lights. They encounter many ups and downs on their travels - and their journey's end will require the most courage of all...By turns funny and thoughtful, this is a brave, touching and timeless children's fable about friendship, art and the journey of a lifetime.

Maple – Marnie Midnight and the Moon Mystery

Marnie Midnight is SO excited to be starting at Minibeast Academy. She adores everything about the moon and she can't wait to learn about its magic. But Marnie soon discovers that nobody believes in moon magic anymore! Marnie is determined to get to the bottom of this moon mystery. The little moth and her minibeast friends explore far and wide in their search for the truth. But will they survive a run-in with a rebellious rat or an out-of-this-world trip with the terrifying Early Bird ... ? One thing is for sure, Marnie is a little bug having a BIG Adventure!



Lime – The Infinite

FIGHT CRIME, ACROSS TIME! Leaplings, children born on the 29th of February, are very rare. Rarer still are Leaplings with The Gift - the ability to leap through time. Elle Bibi-Imbelé Ifè has The Gift, but she's never used it. Until now. On her twelfth birthday, Elle and her best friend Big Ben travel to the Time Squad Centre in 2048. Elle has received a mysterious warning from the future. Other Leaplings are disappearing in time - and not everyone at the centre can be trusted. Soon Elle's adventure becomes more than a race through time. It's a race against time. She must fight to save the world as she knows it - before it ceases to exist . . .

Sycamore – Dracula and Daughters

The only way to make the city safe again is by culling the undead with a stake through the heart. But vampire slayers are in dangerously short supply. Then three girls, Mina, Buffy and Bella, discover a mindblowing secret. Could they alone have the powers to cure - not cull - vampires? Temstown is about to welcome its very own vampire healing company, and their first case is perilously close to home . . .



Elder – A dog called Hero

Haley has withdrawn from the world and retreated into her shell ever since her police officer dad was killed in the line of duty a year ago. Hero is a young police dog who has been retired early - his handler was injured in the line of duty and he cannot seem to bond with anyone else. But when Haley and Hero meet, two lost souls find one another. As they settle into their new lives, they quickly learn that old habits die hard when Hero is instantly onto a clue when the Whittaker Diamond is stolen. And Haley is furious when DI Doyle, a former rival of her dad's, is assigned the case and immediately accuses ex-offender Dylan - an employee of her mum's catering business which offers second chances and rehabilitation. Can Hero and Haley crack the case?

Oak – The game I will never forget

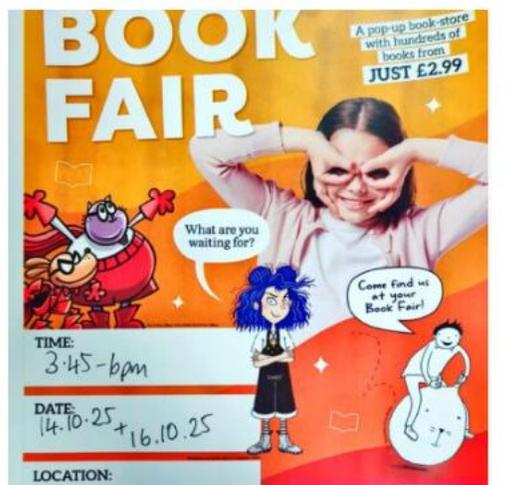
Just after his tenth birthday, the last thing Zak expects to hear is that his mum is having a baby and he has to give up his room for an ageing old grandmother who is coming to live with them! With the help of his friends and a series of cheeky pranks, Zak is convinced it'll be no time before he can reclaim his rightful territory! But Zak soon discovers that his Nani is no ordinary old grandma but a former chess prodigy, able to outwit and outdo him - and his friends - at every turn. Just as both players begin to forge a mutual respect and a friendship that might finally overcome all obstacles, Zak begins to notice things. Like how Nani sometimes forgets where she is... Or who Zak is... In a desperate bid to ensure his Nani never forgets again, Zak enters her into the chess competition of a lifetime. But will Zak's Nani remember long enough to play?



Happy reading!



'Reading Zone' area on our website



Scholastic Book Fair



Second Hand Book Sale for World Book Day



MC Grammar Brings Words to Life!



Waterstones Children's Book Festival



Children's Literature Events at Waterstones Nottingham



Magazine subscriptions across school





Recommended reading lists in diaries

Year 3 Reading List

The Firework Maker's Daughter – Phillip Pullman	
The 13 Storey Treehouse – Andy Griffiths	
Arthur and the Golden Rope – Joe Todd Stanton	
The Dragon – Helen Ward	
The Worst Class in the World – Joanna Nadin	
Jelly Boots, Smelly Boots – Michael Rosen	
Oceans Meet Sky – The Fan Brothers	
The Bad Guys: Open Wide and Say Arrrrgh! – Aaron Blabey	
The Great Chocopot – Chris Callaghan	
A Day in the Life Of ... a Caveman, a Queen and Everything in between – Mike Barfield	
Nothing to See Here Hotel – Steven Butler	
Charlotte's Web – EB White	
Grimwood – Nadia Shireen	
The Abominables – Eva Ibbotson	
The Puffin Keeper – Michael Morpurgo	
The Hundred Mile an Hour Dog – Jeremy Strong	
The True Story of the 3 little pigs – Jon Scieszka	
The Creakers – Tom Fletcher	
The Boy who Grew Dragons – Andy Shepherd	
Leonora Bolt: Secret Inventor – Lucy Brandt	
Where the Mountain meets the Moon – Grace Lin	
Oscar's Lion – Adam Baron	
Ollie Spark and the Accidental Adventure – Gillian Cross	
The Worst Witch – Jill Murphy	
The Invisible Boy – Trudy Ludwig	
After the Fall – Dan Santat	
Tiger Tiger Burning Bright – Fiona Waters	
You're a Bad Man Mr Gum – Andy Stanton	
Toto the Ninja Cat and the Great Snake Escape – Dermot O'Leary	
The Wild Robot – Peter Brown	

We will read these books from our list together, in school, over the year:

- Toto the Ninja Cat
- Leonora Bolt
- The Boy who Grew Dragons
- Where the Mountain meets the Moon
- The Wild Robot

These books are part of a series and you might like to read others from the range:

- Toto the Ninja Cat
- Leonora Bolt
- The Boy who Grew Dragons
- The Bad Guys
- Mr Gum
- A Day in the Life Of ...
- The 13 Storey Treehouse
- The Hundred Mile an Hour Dog
- The Worst Witch
- Grimwood
- Nothing to See Here Hotel
- The Wild Robot

Year 4 Reading List

Desirable - Frank Cottrell – Boyce	
How to train your Dragon – Cressida Cowell	
Ice Palace – Robert Swindells	
Planet Stan – Elaine Wickson	
Fox – Margaret Wild	
Viking Voyagers – Jack Tite	
It's a Wonderful World – Jess French	
The Girl who Stole an Elephant – Nizrana Farook	
Dragons of Crumbling Castle – Terry Pratchett	
The Land of Roar – Jenny McLachlan	
Barry Loser: I am not a Loser – Jim Smith	
Varjak Paw – S F Said	
The Boy Who Biked The World - Alastair Humphreys	
Fantastically Great Women Who Changed <u>The World</u> - <u>Kate</u> Pankhurst	
Krindlekrax - Philip Ridley	
The Lost Happy Endings – Carol Ann Duffy	
Illumanatomy – Kate Davies	
Olympic Poem – Brian Moses	
The Highland Falcon Thief – M. G. Leonard	
Operation Gadgetman – Malorie Blackman	
Frank Einstein and the Antimatter Motor– Jon Scieszka	
The Secret of Platform 13 – Eva Ibbotson	
The Sandman and the Turtles – Michal Morpurgo	
Down with the Romans – Ross Stewart	
How to Live Forever – Colin Thompson	
The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe – CS Lewis	
The Lost Words – Robert MacFarlane	
Grandpa Frank's Great Big Bucket List – Jenny Pearson	
The Glorious Race of Magical Beasts – Alex Bell	
Rainbow Grey – Lauren Ellen Anderson	

We will read these books from our list together, in school, over the year:

- Ice Palace
- Fox
- Krindlekrax
- The Lost Happy Endings
- Down with the Romans
- How to Train your Dragon
- The Girl who Stole an Elephant
- The Highland Falcon Thief

These books are part of a series and you might like to read others from the range:

- Desirable
- How to train your Dragon
- Frank Einstein
- The Complete Chronicles of Narnia
- The Land of Roar
- The Girl who Stole an Elephant
- The Highland Falcon Thief
- Illumanatomy



Recommended reading lists in diaries

Year 5 Reading List

You are a Champion -Marcus Rashford	
The Boy at the Back of the Class – Qnjali Q. Rauf	
The London Eye Mystery – Siobhan Dowd	
Street Child – Berlie Doherty	
The Storm Keeper’s Island – Catherine Doyle	
There’s a Boy in the Girls’ Bathroom – Louis Sachar	
Wonder – RJ Palacio	
Percy Jackson – Rick Riorden	
The Haunting of Aveline Jones – Phil Hickes	
The Silly Book of Side-Splitting Stuff - Andy Seed	
Who Let the Gods Out? – Max Evans	
Arctic Star – Tom Palmer	
The Good Thieves – Katherine Rundell	
My Brother is a Superhero - David Solomons	
Overheard in a Tower Block – Joseph Coelio	
Goodnight Stories For Rebel Girls - Elena Favilli and Francesca Cavallo	
The Boy who made Monsters – Jenny Pearson	
101 Poems for Children - Carol Ann Duffy	
Skulduggery Pleasant- <u>Derek</u> Landy	
The Demon Headmaster – Gillian Cross	
King of the Forest Clouds – Michael Morpurgo	
Harry Potter and the Philosopher’s Stone – JK Rowling	
The Rescue of Ravenwood – Natasha Farrant	
Brightstorm – Vasti Hardy	
Dragon Rider – Cornelia Funke	
Iguana Boy – James Bishop	
Amazon River – Sangma Francis	
Epic Adventures – Sam Sedgman	
The Green Planet – Leisha Stewart Sharpe	
The Princess Blankets – Carol Ann Duffy	

We will read these books from our list together, in school, over the year:

- Who Let the Gods Out?
- The Good Thieves
- Storm Keeper’s Island
- The Haunting of Aveline Jones

These books are part of a series and you might like to read others from the range:

- Percy Jackson
- Who Let the Gods out?
- Skulduggery Pleasant
- The Demon Headmaster
- My Brother is a Superhero
- Iguana Boy
- The Storm Keeper’s Island
- The Haunting of Aveline Jones

Year 6 Reading List

Letters from the Lighthouse – Emma Carroll	
Holes – Louis Sachar	
The Silver Sword – Ian Serrailier	
Once – Morris Gleitzman	
Shackleton’s Journey – William Grill	
A Library of Lemons – Jo Cotterill	
Artemis Fowl - Eoin Colfer	
Boy 87 – Ele Fountain	
Beetle Boy – MG Leonard	
Survivors – David Long	
Goodnight Mr Tom – Michelle Magorian	
Amulet – Kazi Kibushi	
Impossible Creatures – Katherine Rundell	
Journey to Jo’burg – Beverley Naidoo	
The Last Bear – Hannah Gold	
The Soup Movement – Ben Davis	
Windrush Child – Benjamin Zephaniah	
The Diary of Anne Frank – Anne Frank	
The Boy Who Sailed the Ocean in an Armchair - Lara Williamson	
Kensuke’s Kingdom – Michael Morpurgo	
Tales of Ancient Worlds – Stefan Milosavljevic	
Kay’s Anatomy – Adam Kay	
Space Maps – Lara Albanese	
The Island – Armin Greder	
Malamander – Thomas Taylor	
Frankie’s World – Aoife Dooley	
Dreadwood – Jennifer Killisick	
Tom’s Midnight Garden – Philippa Pearce	
Belonging Street – Mandy Coe	
Miss Peregrine’s Home for Peculiar Children - Ransom Riggs	

We will read these books from our list together, in school, over the year:

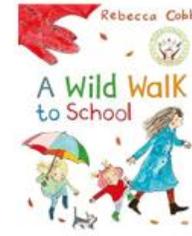
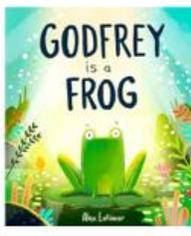
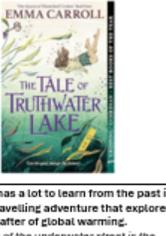
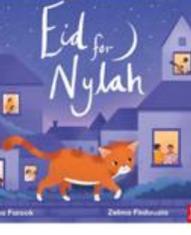
- Letters from the Lighthouse
- Survivors
- Windrush Child
- The Nowhere Emporium
- Shackleton’s Journey
- Boy 87
- The Last Bear
- Belonging Street

These books are part of a series and you might like to read others from the range:

- Once
- Beetle Boy
- Miss Peregrine’s Home for Peculiar Children
- Artemis Fowl
- Survivors
- Amulet
- Frankie’s World
- Impossible Creatures



Second-hand book sale and class vote

								
<p>In this spellbinding story, we meet a little girl excited for the end of term. No more school! However, she's given the very unreasonable task of reading a whole book over the holidays. A whole book? But she HATES books. But her sister takes her to the library – she says she has just the thing.</p> <p>Slowly, the little girl is drawn into a world of adventure: a little fennec fox leads her to meet fairy-tale witches and creatures, as they find ingredients to cast a special spell at the end of her book. At first, the little girl is dismayed to learn that this spell seemingly hasn't changed a thing... however, the little fox points out that she HAS transformed: discovering the power of her imagination has changed her forever.</p>	<p>It's time to walk to school and mum wants the children to get there on time. But what Mum doesn't realise is that the hill is in fact the tummy of a sleeping giant and it's important to tread carefully when the floor turns to lava! It's just as well Mum has these two Brave Explorers with her...</p> <p>A charming, relatable and beautifully illustrated story that's full of fun: recognisable to children and their grown-ups everywhere!</p> <p>Can Brinley the minnow, Radcliffe the snail, and Penelope the shrimp convince Godfrey that a frog is a pretty special thing to be?</p>	<p>Godfrey used to be an egg, then he was a tadpole. Now, Godfrey is a frog. He changed quickly and it was all very exciting. He's waiting for the next change... but it seems there isn't one.</p> <p>Is this it? Godfrey thinks. It's not very exciting. Bear has wonderful claws, Deer has impressive antlers, Heron has majestic wings. Godfrey buries himself in the mud and hides away from the world. He doesn't want to be just a frog.</p>	<p>Believing is just the beginning... When Arthur and Rose were little, they were heroes in the Land of Roar, an imaginary world that they found by climbing through the folding bed in their grandad's attic. Roar was filled with things they loved – dragons, mermaids, ninja wizards and adventure – as well as things that scared them (including a very creepy scarecrow...) Now the twins are eleven, Roar is just a memory. But when they help Grandad clean out the attic, Arthur is horrified as Grandad is pulled into the folding bed and vanishes. Is he playing a joke? Or is Roar... real?</p>	<p>When a new boy joins the class, everyone thinks he's a bit strange, but he's brilliant at football and loves crisps, and that's all that matters to Dan and Maxie. However, the truth about George is stranger than anyone could have imagined... and more sinister, too. Can his new pals help him to become truly free?</p>	<p>Get ready to meet Luna Brownstone: the most devious Brownstone of all. When a tragedy strikes her family, she decides that she will only ever look out for herself. She runs away and begins her search for riches to steal. Whilst travelling, she stumbles across a village ravaged by drought and hears rumours of a palace filled with great gold treasures. When a young girl, Atzi, volunteers to journey to the palace of the rain god Tlaloc with an offering to save her village, Luna develops a cunning plan: befriend Atzi, steal her map, and find the god herself. Yet, when Luna is forced to work with Atzi to find the palace, and when Atzi finds herself in danger, Luna needs to decide what matters most.</p> <p>But... can you ever really trust a thief?</p>	<p>Follow Twill Twist on this gripping story for 9+ readers! This is the tale of Twill Twist, a girl brought into this world moments ahead of her more famous brother - Oliver Twist, the rag-to-riches orphan who became heir to the Brownlow fortune. Journey with Twill on her own adventure through the gambling dens and workhouses of London, as she attempts to uncover the mystery of her past, make a life for herself, and rescue her friends. Along the way discover with Twill the likes of Artful Dodger and Fagin, and a host of fantastic new heroes and villains!</p> <p>Compelling adventure with incredible atmosphere and vividly realistic setting come together in this bravantly imagined, no-ringing 'sequel' to Dickens' much-loved classic from the author of the award winning 'No Ballet Shoes in Syria', Catherine Britton.</p>	<p>Deep in the heart of Swansea, Wales, lives a small girl with some big secrets to keep. Secrets that make her one of the best actresses on the planet - because no-one would ever think that, away from school, Audrey is the sole carer for her increasingly sick mum and her two younger siblings... or a seasoned thief. With her worlds threatened by the arrival of a mysterious, invisible neighbour, behind whose closed curtains and shut front door may lie a spy, Audrey must take matters into her own hands to save her family.</p> <p>Inspired by her beloved collection of stamps, her friendly neighbourhood postman (and fellow stamp collector), and her two best friends, off Audrey must go: on an adventure that will lead her to places - and hearts - she never knew existed.</p> <p>Celebrating the hidden army of Young Carers daily keeping their loved ones alive behind closed doors, and the everyday sacrifices that surround them, The Letter with the Golden Stamp delves into the fears and hopes of Young Carers everywhere, and the invisible sources of kindness knocking on all our doors.</p>	<p>The future has a lot to learn from the past in this time-travelling adventure that explores the before and after of global warming. On one side of the underwater street is the remains of a house... it's beautiful here, and eerie, a lost kingdom, a ghost village... It's the near future and Britain is having yet another heatwave. Of course, the government have put in the normal curfews for this kind of weather, and shops are forced to shut again. For Polly, it's the sort of heat that makes her do wild, out-of-character things just to cool down. Like face her fear of deepwater. Essential when she and her brother have been sent to their aunt's eco lake-side house for the summer. But Truthwater Lake is beginning to dry up. As the water level diminishes, a lost village emerges. Swimming over the rooftops at midnight, Polly dives down and is suddenly able to breathe, to hear church bells and birdsong... Polly has discovered an underwater gateway... to the past!</p>
								
<p>Badger is ready to ROCK! The music inside him is ready to burst out. He just needs to find a band. But recorder class isn't right. Neither's the choir. Nor the marching band! Will Badger ever find his musical tribe? Perhaps it's been there all along...</p>	<p>The world was too bright for Leo.</p> <p>And too loud.</p> <p>"I must be living on the wrong planet," Leo thought.</p> <p>Leo struggles to make sense of the world. He doesn't understand the other children in his class, and they don't seem to understand him. But then one day, Leo meets Maya.</p> <p>Maya is an octopus, and the more Leo learns about her, the more he thinks that perhaps he isn't alone in this world, after all.</p>	<p>Nylah the cat is making her usual visits to the homes in her street, but something is very different today... Families are creating decorations or making food, some are trying on new clothes or decorating their hands with henna. Everyone is very busy, and they don't seem to want her help either! But why does nobody have any time for Nylah? Finally, all is revealed as they come together for a big Eid celebration, where everyone is welcome - especially Nylah!</p>	<p>Fern has spent her whole life in the rainforest, and loves nothing more than climbing, exploring and talking to the trees. When she suddenly has to leave all that behind and move to London, with only an eccentric uncle for company, Fern feels entirely uprooted.</p> <p>But when she meets a little plant that can understand her every word, it seems that things are looking up! That is until strange things start happening in the city: giant lily pads on the Thames, monkey vines on the London Eye, and now her new friend is starting to wilt...</p> <p>Can they solve this growing mystery together - before it's too late?</p>	<p>The first in a brand-new sensational spacey, action-packed and adventure-filled middle grade series written by the incredible Lorraine Gregory - perfect for fans of MG Leonard and David Baddie!</p> <p>Nothing exciting ever happens on twelve-year-old Danny's estate. That is until he falls through a locker in his grandad's workshop and finds himself in an interdimensional Lost Property Office! And - even weirder - his new boss is a giant purple squid on a segway!</p> <p>Now Danny, best mate Gregor and annoying cousin Inaya find themselves in charge of returning alien items to all corners of the universe. But someone - or something - is determined to stop them. And there's NOTHING these evil aliens won't stop at to achieve complete multi-dimensional domination... even trapping Danny and his friends on a planet a million light years away from Earth.</p> <p>If the fate of the entire multiverse was in your hands, what would YOU do?</p>	<p>Twelve-year-old Eli is an apprentice librarian at the largest library in the world. But when his grandmother falls ill, he enters the Glorious Race of Magical Beasts to raise money for her treatment.</p> <p>This annual race is always held in the most perilous places and is full of spiky dangers. Most participants seek out unicorns and dragons to help them on their conquest. But not Eli. He embarks on this journey with his trusted pet and friend, Humphrey, his moon tortoise. Moon tortoises aren't suited to returning alien items to all corners of the universe. But someone - or something - is determined to stop them. And there's NOTHING these evil aliens won't stop at to achieve complete multi-dimensional domination... even trapping Danny and his friends on a planet a million light years away from Earth.</p> <p>If the fate of the entire multiverse was in your hands, what would YOU do?</p>	<p>My own Yara, if you are reading this, then something terrible has happened, and you are on your own. To return to the city of Zababa, you must read out the words on the back of this letter... Good luck, my brave girl.</p> <p>When Yara's mother passes away, she leaves behind a letter and a strange set of instructions. Yara must travel from the home she has always known to a place that is not on any map - Zababa, a world of sorcerers, alchemists and simmering magic. But Zababa is not the land it used to be. The practice of magic has been outlawed, the Sultan's alchemists are plotting a sinister scheme - and the answers Yara is searching for seem to be out of reach.</p> <p>Yara must summon all of her courage to discover the truth about her mother's past and her own identity... and to find her place in this magical new world.</p>	<p>Nancy's parents are acting weird. Their eyes are blank, they won't eat - it's like they're no longer themselves. Pete and Kris are obsessed with unexplained phenomena and when they offer to help Nancy investigate, they're sure they can crack the case. But the deeper the trio dig, the darker the mystery gets... Crooked Oak is under attack from a dangerous foe, and they're the only ones who can stop it.</p>	<p>BROTHERS. ROBOTS. SUPERHEROES.</p> <p>ALEX AND FREDDY are two normal bickering brothers - who also happen to be SUPER-POWERED ROBOTS! They're off on school trips, going to the theme park, and annoying each other in the playground.</p> <p>But when ROBOT ATTACKS take place over London, it's time for the boys to step up! Will they be able to foil the plans of the EVIL ROBOT 23?</p>



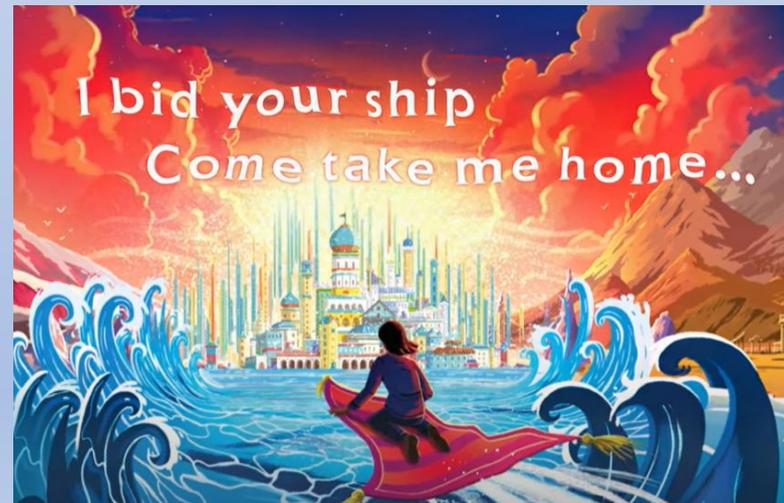
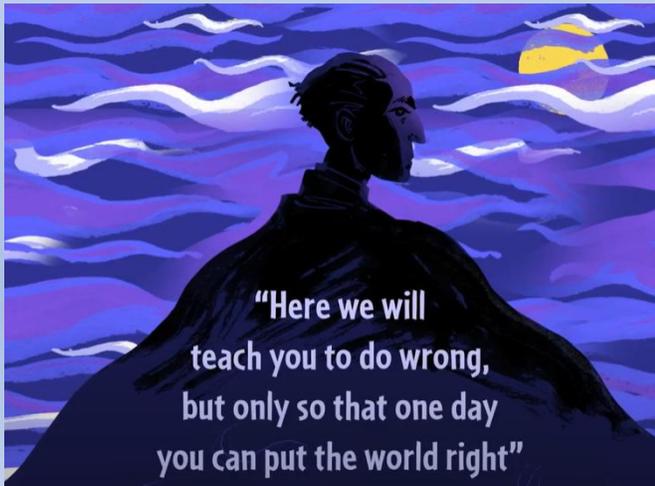
Use of book trailers

[AFTER THE FALL Book Trailer - YouTube](#)



[Welcome to Grimwood](#)

[Watch the trailer for Crookhaven: The School for Thieves - YouTube](#)



[The Kingdom over the Sea by Zohra Nabi - Official Trailer \(2023\)](#)



HSA Neurodiversity Library





More to come...



READING
BUDDIES

Historically, reading has been viewed as a solo activity – a description of individual engagement. Education systems tend to affirm this, minimizing the social nature of reading and the pleasures in reading together. Yet children’s reading can never be separated from their engagement with others; family, friends, peers, librarians, and teachers all influence children’s interests and identities as readers in diverse ways.

Motivation is social: Motivation is not simply an individual internal characteristic, it is experienced in a social context, so attention needs to be paid to reading environments. Developing a sense of connectedness around reading supports the growth of reading networks, on and offline, which can nurture and sustain young people’s volitional reading¹⁷. Successful school-based communities are characterized by high degrees of interaction and reciprocity.¹⁸



Sharing reading experiences: Sharing the experience of reading with others prompts closer reading and enhances the depth of young people’s understanding of texts¹⁹. Enabling child-led conversations about being a reader and texts matters²⁰. Informal interactions nurture social and relational connections between readers and strengthen children’s interest in and commitment to volitional reading.



‘Reading is how we make sense of texts through conversation, stretching what we know and understand about the world’ (Cremin. T, 2026).



How can home promote **Reading for Pleasure?**



Top tips for reading at home

“Reading aloud not only nurtures children’s pleasure in reading, it offers them models of how a book should sound and feel, helping them develop expressive reading in their own heads. Reading aloud to children prompts them to listen actively and process more challenging texts and vocabulary than they could possibly achieve on their own.” (Cremin.T, 2018)

- **Time** – dedicate a protected time in your day to read
- **Turns** – take it in turns to read to and be read to
- **Talk** – share your opinions and ask questions



Time – how much is ‘enough’?

20 is plenty!

Children who read for 20 minutes a day...

- Will have a world of imagination & creativity opened to them
- Will be exposed to 1.8 million words a year
- Will have better general knowledge
- Will improve their communication skills
- Will have reduced stress levels
- Will improve their test results
- Will learn how to develop empathy
- Will have a broad vocabulary
- Will improve critical thinking skills

SILLY SCHOOL EDUCATION

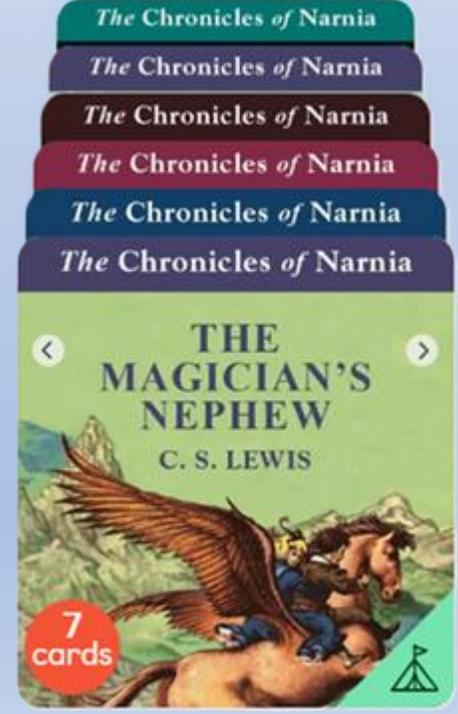
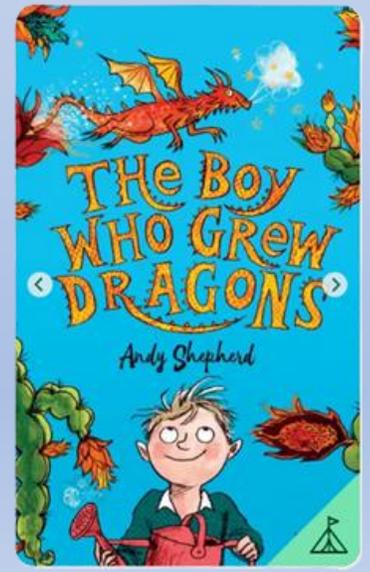
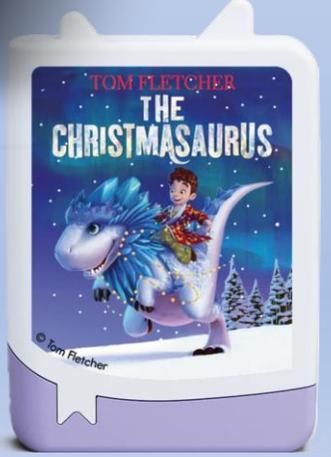
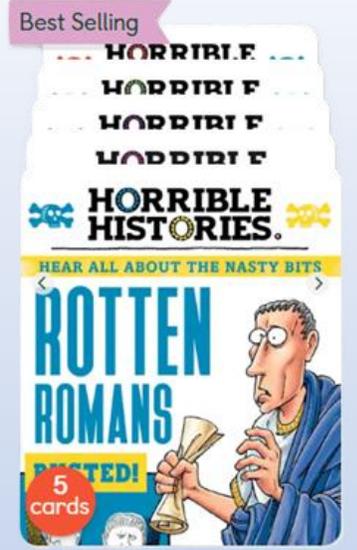
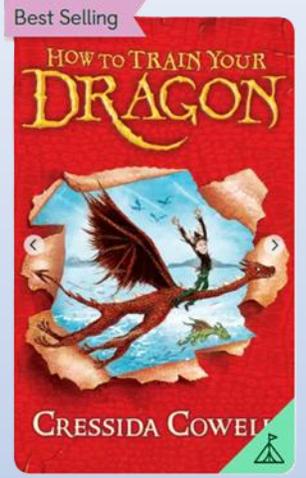
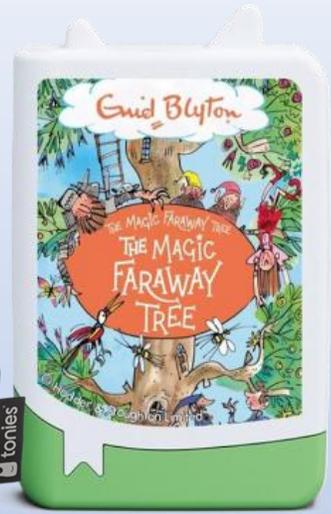
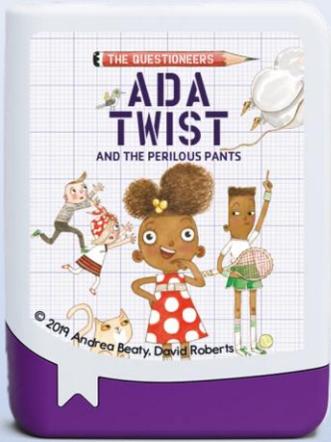
Unexpected Benefits of Reading Every Day

- Reduces Stress and Promotes Relaxation
- Boosts Your Brain Power
- Improves Concentration and Focus
- Enhances Vocabulary and Writing Skills
- Boosts Mental Stimulation and Cognitive Function
- Expands Your Knowledge
- Improves Emotional Intelligence and Empathy
- Strengthens Imagination and Creativity
- Helps with Goal Achievement
- Improves Sleep

Read More On HAVENREAD.BLOG



Turns – what about audio books?





Talk – why does it matter?



*“Book talk turns reading into something **social and meaningful**. It is those everyday conversations where children share what made them **laugh**, what left them **wondering** or what they would **recommend** to a friend. These chats do not need a big stage.” (National Literacy Trust, 2025.)*

“While there is often and rightly a focus on the mechanics of learning to read, talking is a vital part of literacy and the reading process.” (Taylor. J, 2022).



Where to look for other recommended reads?

Books for Topics



BOOKLISTS BY
Age



BOOKLISTS BY
Topic

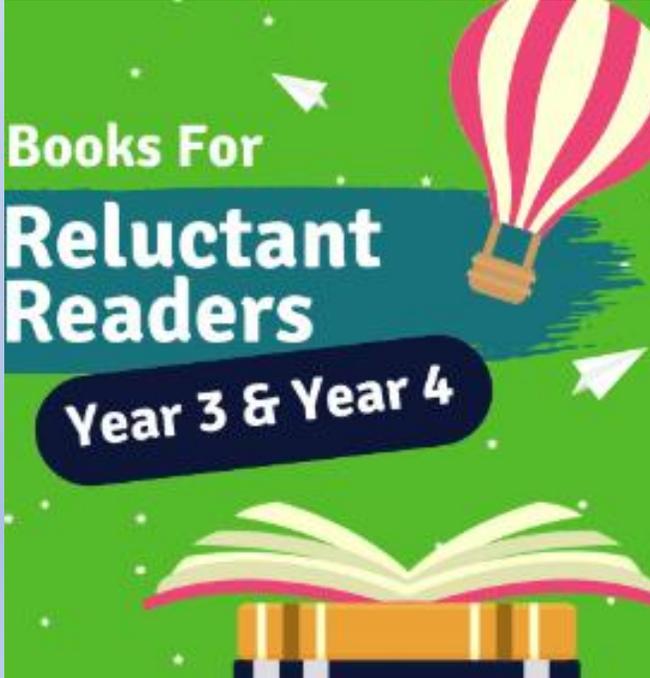


READING FOR
Pleasure

Books We LOVE This Month
February 2026



Books For Reluctant Readers
Year 3 & Year 4



Books for Topics Booklist
National Year of Reading Booklist

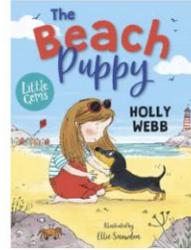
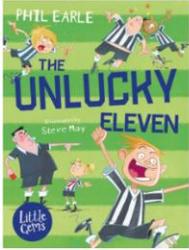
GO ALL IN.





Where to look for other recommended reads?

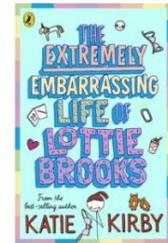
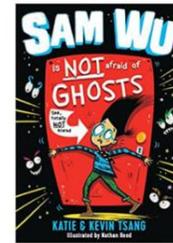
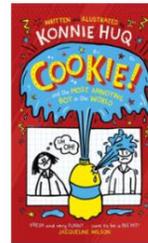
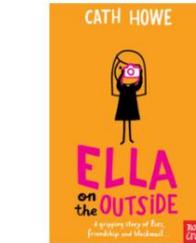
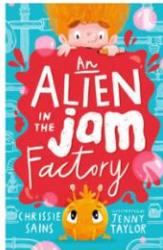
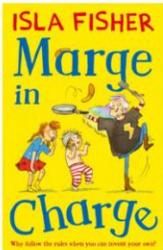
Books with dyslexia-friendly formatting



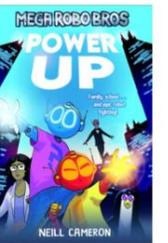
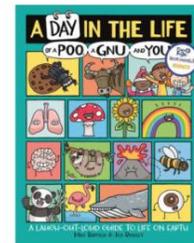
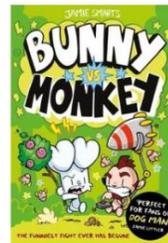
Books for Topics



Our favourite books for reluctant readers



Popular graphic novels





Where to look for other recommended reads?

Books for Topics

SCAN ME

If you like...

Tom Gates

...try these!

Visit www.booksfortopics.com for more ideas!

Books for Topics

SCAN ME

If you like...

Lottie Brooks

...try these!

Visit www.booksfortopics.com for more ideas!

Books for Topics

SCAN ME

If you like...

Bunny vs Monkey

...try these!

Visit www.booksfortopics.com for more ideas!



Thank you.

Any questions?



**“Reading aloud
to your children
is a gift that will
last a lifetime.”**



- Maya Angelou
Author and Poet

SCHOLASTIC