

KEY STAGE 3 READING LIST

YEARS 7 & 8



WHY DO I NEED TO READ?

The only way to improve your vocabulary and comprehension is to practise reading regularly. It may be difficult at first, but the more you practise and the more effort you put in, the better you will get and the easier, and the more fun reading will become. Repeating any activity strengthens the parts of the brain associated with that activity and helps us to improve our performance. Reading well is important for understanding the questions in examination papers as well as any source texts which need to be analysed and commented upon, and better reading is also the key to better writing.

WHAT SHOULD I READ?

In order to keep making progress, it is important to choose books that will continue to stretch and challenge you. Try to move on from the books you enjoyed at Primary School so that you continue to develop your vocabulary and comprehension skills. Try to read at least ten of the books on the Core List over the next two years, as well as plenty of others. Twenty books a year is a good target to aim for: anything much less than ten may damage your chances of a good pass at GCSE English. The website www.lovereadings4kids.co.uk is a good place to look for recommendations and reviews of books for children, and if you enjoy reading, you can even sign up to be sent free copies of books to review for the site.

CORE READING LIST, YEARS 7 & 8

- | | |
|------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|
| ALL THE WRONG QUESTIONS SERIES, Lemony Snicket | THE FALCON'S MALTESER, Anthony Horowitz |
| STORMBREAKER, Anthony Horowitz | MORTAL ENGINES, Philip Reeve |
| SKULDUGGERY PLEASANT, Derek Landy | ABOMINATION, Robert Swindells |
| SWALLOWS AND AMAZONS, Arthur Ransome | THE HOBBIT, J. R.R. Tolkien |
| FACE, Benjamin Zephaniah | PRIVATE PEACEFUL, Michael Morpurgo |
| REFUGEE BOY, Benjamin Zephaniah | THE RAILWAY CHILDREN, E. Nesbit |
| COW GIRL, G. R. Gemin | THE ADVENTURES OF TINTIN, Herge |
| CIRQUE DU FREAK, Darren Shan | THE AMAZING MAURICE AND HIS EDUCATED RODENTS, Terry Pratchett |
| ARTEMIS FOWL, Eoin Colfer | HAROUN AND THE SEA OF STORIES, Salman Rushdie |
| DEAD MAN'S COVE, Lauren St John | WATERSHIP DOWN, Richard Adams |
| SONG FOR A DARK QUEEN, Rosemary Sutcliffe | PIG HEART BOY, Malorie Blackman |
| CORALINE, Neil Gaiman | STONE COLD, Robert Swindells |
| HARRY POTTER SERIES, J. K. Rowling | STARSEEKER, Tim Bowler |
| TIME RIDERS, Alex Scarrow | |



FURTHER SUGGESTIONS

Developing readers:

SOCCER STARS SERIES, Bali Rai

OPAL PLUMSTEAD, Jacqueline Wilson

TOM GATES SERIES, Liz Pichon

GROOSHAM GRANGE, Anthony Horowitz

FRAMED, Frank Cottrell Boyce

HOLES, Louis Sachar

ALONE ON THE WIDE, WIDE SEA, Michael Morpurgo

Secure Readers:

PERCY JACKSON AND THE LIGHTNING THIEF, Rick Riordan

JOURNEY TO THE RIVER SEA, Eva Ibbotson

VARJAK PAW, S. F. Said

CHERUB SERIES, Robert Muchamore

MISSION SURVIVAL SERIES, Bear Grylls

THE INDIAN IN THE CUPBOARD, Lynne Reid Banks

THE TWELFTH DAY OF JULY, Joan Lingard

GOODNIGHT MR TOM, Michelle Magorian

CARRIE'S WAR, Nina Bawden

WONDER, R. J. Palacio

THE BOY IN THE STRIPED PYJAMAS, John Boyne

MURDER MOST UNLADYLIKE, Robin Stevens

GOTH GIRL SERIES. Chris Riddell

Confident Readers:

THE SEEING STONE, Kevin Crossley Holland

THE EAGLE OF THE NINTH, Rosemary Sutcliffe

THE DIARY OF ANNE FRANK, Anne Frank

THE CHANGELING, Margaret Mahy

ASTERIX THE GAUL, Goscinny and Uderzo

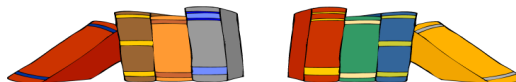
ROLL OF THUNDER, HEAR MY CRY, Mildred D. Pierce

THE FIFTH WAVE, Rick Yancey

TAMAR, Mal Peet

THE BOOK THIEF, Marcus Zusak

NORTHERN LIGHTS, Phillip Pullman



WHEN SHOULD I READ?

You will get opportunities to read a book of your choice in form time at least once a week, and in some English lessons too. You should also aim to read at home four or five times a week. In bed last thing at night before you go to sleep is often a good time to read. You could also sit quietly and read at lunchtime in the school library.

HOW SHOULD I READ?

You might find it helpful to read with someone who could help you with the pronunciation or meaning of new, difficult or unfamiliar words. This could be an adult, an elder sibling, a friend or neighbour. It might even be fun to form a reading group with some of your friends, so that you are all reading the same book at the same time. Then you could talk about what you are reading, to help make sense of it or to share the way you feel about it.

WHERE CAN I GET HOLD OF THESE BOOKS?

Many of these books can be borrowed from the school library, which is open to students at lunchtime and after school. There are also good public libraries locally in Hall Green, Sparkhill, and Acocks Green. The Central Library in Centenary Square is also well worth a visit. Many older books which are out of copyright are now available for free online. If you prefer to buy your own books, Waterstones has branches in Solihull and Birmingham, and there is a branch of Foyles in Grand Central. Take your time to browse, or ask for a recommendation: booksellers are usually keen readers and will jump at the chance to talk about their favourite books. Books can also easily be ordered online through Amazon.co.uk, which can sometimes be cheaper than high street book stores.