

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
THE LONDON EYE MYSTERY, Siobhan O'Dowd	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

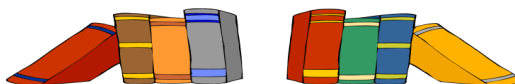
ROLL OF THUNDER, HEAR MY CRY, Mildred D. Pierce

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.

FURTHER SUGGESTIONS

Primarily KS3 (but might be enjoyed by KS4)

Elizabeth Acevedo *The Poet X*

Kwame Alexander *Booked*

David Almond *The Colour of the Sun*

Malorie Blackman *Chasing the Stars*

Sita Brahmachari *Artichoke Hearts / Red Leaves / Kite Spirit / Tender Earth*

Sarah Crossan *Moonrise*

Timothee de Fombelle *Vango series / Toby series*

Zana Fraillon *The Bone Sparrow*

Neil Gaiman *Odd and the Frost Giants; The Sleeper and the Spindle*

Sally Gardner *Tinder*

GR Gemin *Cowgirl / Sweet Pizza*

Kiran Millwood Hargrave *The Girl of Ink and Stars*

Sonya Hartnett *Thursday's Child; The Children of the King*

Muhammad Khan *I Am Thunder*

Richard Kurti *Monkey Wars*

Elizabeth Laird *Welcome to Nowhere; A Little Piece of Ground*

Tanya Landman *Buffalo Soldier*

Marie Lu *The Legend Trilogy*

Geraldine McCaughrean *When the World Ends*

Patrick Ness *And the Ocean Was Our Sky; Knife of Never Letting Go* trilogy

Jewell Parker Rhodes *Sugar*

Daniel Pennac *The Eye of the Wolf*

Katherine Rundell *Rooftoppers; The Wolf Wilder*

SF Said *Phoenix*

Nicky Singer *Island*

William Sutcliffe *We See Everything; The Wall*

Janne Teller *War: If It Were Here*

Ann Turnbull *Room For a Stranger*

Maria Turtshchaninoff *Maresi (Red Abbey chronicles)*

Nahoko Uehashi *Moribito series*

Cao Wenxuan *Bronze and sunflower*

Alex Wheatle *Liccle Bit; Crongton Knights*