

Reading Challenges

YEAR 8

A	B
<p>Google ‘Book review features’, click on the Book Trust link and read about how to write a review. Then write your own review of the book you have just read.</p>	<p>Read out loud to a sibling or parent or carer. Aim to read at the minimum a couple of pages or a chapter – one page isn’t enough. Get a signature as evidence.</p>
<p>Write a speech aimed at students your age, persuading them that they should read the book you have just read. Use AFOREST techniques – remind yourself of these via Google or your English teacher.</p>	<p>Research the author of your latest read. Create a one page handwritten fact file including information such as: background info, inspiration for writing the book, other works, the genre they usually write in, etc.</p>
<p>Create an 8-stage story board of either a chapter or the whole book. They must be key moments and include a quotation and quick sketch or summary for each box.</p>	<p>Read at least one of the Hampshire Book Awards books. You can ask the librarian if you can borrow one or if they can recommend one to you.</p>
<p>Select 5 important quotations from the book and copy them into your exercise book. For each, make a note of why it is significant and explore the effect of key words.</p>	<p>Design a costume for a character in your book. You must annotate your neat sketch with an explanation of why you chose each item and be able to justify your choices.</p>
<p>Design a 15 question Accelerated Reader quiz for your book. You should include a variety of question styles (e.g. multiple choice, true/false, extended answer tasks).</p>	<p>Write the first page of the next book, with events that occur one year on. Try to keep to the style of the original book. Keep your writing neat and watch your SPaG.</p>
<p>‘Get Caught Reading’ – get someone to take a photo of you as you read. Show to your teacher either on your phone or by printing it out. Try to be creative!</p>	<p>Get creative! Create a map of the story’s setting – label key places and the events that occur there.</p>



Popular Series

Alex Rider (16) – Anthony Horowitz
 Abhorsen Trilogy (3) – Garth Nix
 His Dark Materials (3) – Phillip Pullman
 Maximum Ride (9) – James Patterson
 The Blackthorn Key (3) – Kevin Sands
 The Hunger Games (3) – Suzanne Collins
 The Guild of Specialists (3) – Joshua Mowll
 The Power of Five (5) – Anthony Horowitz
 Throne of Glass (6) – Sarah J. Maas

The English Department Recommend...

Miss Allam: Raven's Gate – Anthony Horowitz
Mr Carr: The Wind Singer – William Nicholson
Mrs Cox: I Capture the Castle – Dodie Smith
Mrs Conacher: The Harry Potter Series – J.K. Rowling
Mr Fermor: The Dark Portal – Robin Jarvis
Miss Frost: Sabriel – Garth Nix
Mrs Hillyard: One – Sarah Crossan
Mrs Hoff: A Kestrel for a Knave – Barry Hines
Mr Lock: The Ruby in the Smoke – Philip Pullman
Mrs Mallinson: One of Us Is Lying – Karen McManus
Mrs Perryman: The Adventures of Tom Sawyer – Mark Twain
Mr Stone and Mrs Heaver-Webb: Face – Zephaniah

Dystopian and Science Fiction

Cinder – Merissa Meyer
 Matched – Ally Condie
 Railhead – Philip Reeve
 The 5th Wave – Rick Yancey
 The Giver – Lois Lowry
 The Maze Runner – James Dashner
 The Selection – Kiera Cass
 Time Riders – Alex Scarrow

Relationships and Tough Situations

A Place Called Perfect – Helena Duggan
 Beyond the Bright Sea – Lauren Wolk
 How to Look for a Lost Dog – Ann Martin
 I am David – Anne Holm
 I Spy – David Blythe
 Mum Never Did Learn to Knock – Cathy Hopkins
 Swan Boy – Nikki Sheehan
 The Bubble Boy – Stewart Foster
 The Bombs that Brought Us Together – Conaghan

Recommended Reads



The Outsiders – S. E. Hinton
 Welcome to Nowhere – Elizabeth Laird

Action, Adventure and Thriller

Bullet Catcher – Chris Bradford
 Car-Jacked – Ali Sparkes
 Coram Boy – Jamila Gavin
 Girl, Missing – Sophie McKenzie
 Holes – Louis Sachar
 How I live Now – Meg Rosoff
 Itch – Simon Mayo
 Looking for JJ – Anne Cassidy
 The Girl from Everywhere – Heidi Heilig
 The London Eye Mystery – Siobhan Dowd
 The Recruit – R. Muchamore
 The Ruby in the Smoke – Phillip Pullman
 The Speckled Band (short story) – A.C. Doyle

Fantasy

Mind Writer – Steve Cole
 My Sword Hand is Singing – Marcus Sedgwick
 Sabriel – Garth Nix
 The Box of Demons – Daniel Whelan
 The Day of the Triffids – John Wyndham
 The Hobbit – J.R.R. Tolkien
 The Lie Tree – Frances Hardinge
 The Forbidden Library – Django Wexler
 The Wind Singer – William Nicholson

Classics or Challenging Reads

1984 – George Orwell
 Animal Farm – George Orwell
 Diary of Anne Frank – Anne Frank
 Jane Eyre – Charlotte Bronte
 Great Expectations – Charles Dickens
 The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes – A.C. Doyle
 The Lord of the Rings – J.R.R. Tolkien
 Treasure Island – Robert Louis Stevenson

Note for parents:
some of these books are written for young adult readers, so may contain challenging content. Please check online reviews if you have any queries about suitability.

If you struggle with reading, try a graphic novel such as 'The Recruit' by Muchamore or 'Stormbreaker' by Horowitz, although you cannot read graphic novels all year! You can get books with tinted pages and special fonts from Barrington Stoke Books (www.barringtonstoke.co.uk) if you find it tricky to read comfortably.