

Help your child to maintain the reading habit

If your child has become a reluctant reader, it may be worth going back to Primary School habits. Most people love having stories read to them. **Make time, a few times a week, to read to your child and listen to them reading.**

Perhaps your child used to love reading, but is losing the habit. Take them to the library once a week and enjoy looking at books **together**.

Look at our list of recommended books and choose a few to try. Perhaps you could read it too and have **your own reading group** at home.

Try to direct your child towards more challenging books, or books in a different genre – particularly if they have got stuck on *Diary of a Wimpy Kid*, or the *Harry Potter* series. **A browse round the book shop** as part of a shopping trip might lead them to an exciting cover. Most booksellers are keen to recommend books too.

Put your laptop/phone/tablet away! It is really hard to tell your child they should read if they only see you using the very things you tell them not to. Save that guilty pleasure for when they are out of sight!

Read yourself! You are the best model. Position yourself strategically with your nose in a book as often as you can.

Try some **family reading time**. It may be hard to do this very frequently, but holidays are perfect times to try this. A quiet half hour when everyone reads can be bliss!

Pick up **the local paper** in the supermarket. Encourage your child to read about *Cats being rescued from Trees* in your local area! Then discuss it!

Buy a quality **national newspaper** at the weekend. Even if your child finds reading the news challenging at first, direct them to interesting articles in the magazine. It is much more useful for them to read a paper version than to read it online.

If your child has a particular interest, take out **a magazine subscription**. Perhaps there are **autobiographies or biographies** on the same subject – yet another way to lure them back to novels. If your child loves History, encourage them to read fiction about periods they are interested in.

Try watching **the Film of the novel**, then reading the Novel that inspired the film after. Discuss the differences between them in your own mini-Reading group!

Ignore the *Reading is Boring* cry. It's only boring because, like most skills, it takes work. Don't give up on it. Adopt the '**little but often**' mantra. In time they may want to read for longer because the book is so great!

Enforce **the no phones at bed-time rule**. The endless pinging will not only stop them from sleeping, but it will also mean they cannot concentrate on reading. The 10 or 20 minutes reading before lights out should ensure a good night's sleep.

Year 7 Suggested Reading List

Popular Authors:

Helen Dennis – *Secret Breakers* series

Dan Freedman – a series of *Football* themed books

Bear Grylls – *Mission survival*

Anthony Horowitz – series including *Alex Rider, Diamond Brothers, Groosham Grange*

Derek Landy – *Skulduggery Pleasant* series

Michael Morpurgo – Many wonderful books including *Warhorse, Private Peaceful, The Butterfly Lion,*

Rick Riordan – *Percy Jackson* series

Ali Sparkes – *Shapeshifter* series

Robin Stevens – *Murder Most Unladylike* series

Lemony Snicket – *A series of Unfortunate Events* series

Popular books:

The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas - John Boyne

The Last Wild-Piers Torday

Rooftoppers - Katherine Rundell

Journey to the River Sea- Eva Ibbotson

Boy in the Tower -Polly Ho-Yen

13 Hours -Narinder Dhani

Wonder -R.J. Palacio

Northern Lights (part of *His Dark Materials* series) -Philip Pullman

Sally Lockhart (mystery series) – Philip Pullman

Carnegie Shortlisted books:

Carnegie shortlisted books are always interesting. Here is a selection of Carnegie books that have been read and enjoyed by students and teachers at Manwoods:

The Child's Elephant – Rachel Campbell-Johnston

Ghost Hawk – Susan Cooper

Wed Wabbit – Lissa Evans

Midnight Zoo – Sonya Hartnett

The Fastest Boy in the World – Elizabeth Laird

Salt to the Sea – Ruth Sepytys (Inspired by a true story)

A Boy and a Bear in a Boat – Dave Shelton

Liar and Spy – Rebecca Stead

The Wall – William Sutcliffe

The Weight of Water – Sarah Crossan

Small Change for Stuart – Lissa Evans

<http://www.carnegiegreenaway.org.uk/carnegie.php>