



Salcombe Preparatory – English Department

Reading is the single most important activity with regards to overall academic progress. While establishing a frequent and rigorous reading routine is important, it is also important to focus on exposing your child to different types of literature (poems, non-fiction, classics, magazines, letters, newspaper articles, etc...)

It is also crucial that the children are given the opportunity to discuss what they have read, even if this means reading fewer pages. Questions should ask children to predict what is going to occur, to comment on techniques the author has used, to comment on a character's qualities (using evidence from the text to back up their opinions) and finally to recommend specific texts to specific groups of people.

Writing a book report (see template below) is a great way for a child to reflect on what they have read. The act of reading doesn't end with the last page; reflection is a vital step in this process.

Attached is a list of suggested books. Please note that books like Tom Gates and Diary of a Wimpy Kid should be read sparingly. They can be great to hook new readers and foster a love of literature but they also have severe limitations. As mentioned above, please try to ensure a variety of texts are read.

Miss Antoniou
Head of English and Drama

Suggested Reading List

Classics

- The Wind in the Willows by Kenneth Grahame
- Emil and the Detectives by Erich Kastner
- Charlotte's Web by E B White
- Heidi by Johanna Spyri
- The Borrowers by Mary Norton
- The Wonderful Wizard of Oz by L. Frank Baum
- Alice's Adventures in Wonderland by Lewis Carroll
- Stig of the Dump by Clive King
- The Children of Green Knowe by Lucy Boston
- Ballet Shoes by Noel Streatfield
- Five Children and It by E. Nesbit

Fantasy

- The Invisible Boy by Sally Gardner
- Witch Dispatcher by Jessica Haggerthwaith
- The Afterdark Princess by Annie Dalton
- The Worst Witch by Jill Murphy
- I'm Telling You, They're Aliens by Jeremy Strong
- Spacebaby by Henrietta Branford
- The Ice Palace by Robert Swindells
- The Golden Goose by Dick King-Smith

Animals

- Trouble with Animals by Jeremy Strong
- Varjak Paw by S F Said
- He's Not My Dog by Dyan Sheldon
- The Hedgehog by Dick King-Smith
- The Silver Swan by Michael Morpurgo
- Olga Moves House by Michael Bond
- War Horse by Michael Morpurgo

Sports

- There's Only One Danny Ogle by Helena Pielichaty
- Ryan's United by Dennis Hamley
- The Big Time by Rob Childs
- Booby, Charlton and the Mountain
- Cup Run by Martin Waddell
- Here We Go! By Diane Redmond

Traditional Stories (collections)

- Classic Fairy Tales to Read Aloud by Naomi Lewis
- Fairy Tales by Berlie Doherty
- Hidden Tales from Eastern Europe by Antonia Barber
- Russian Folk Tales by James Riordan
- The Orchard Book of Vikings by Robert Swindells
- Tales from Africa by Mary Medicott
- Tales of Wisdom and Wonder by Hugh Lupton
- Orchard Book of Magical Tales by Margaret Mayo
- When the World Began by Elizabeth Laird
- The Story Giant by Brian Patten
- Orchard Book of Greek Myths by Geraldine McCaughrean
- Tales from Old Ireland by Malachy Doyle and Niamh Sharkey

Suggestions from Pupils

- The Twits by Roald Dahl
- Matilda by Roald Dahl
- The Witches by Roald Dahl
- The Magic Finger by Roald Dahl
- Danny The Champion of the World by Roald Dahl
- Cookie by Jacqueline Wilson
- Tracy Beaker by Jacqueline Wilson
- Worry Website by Jacqueline Wilson
- Bad Girls by Jacqueline Wilson
- Beast Quest Series by Adam Blade
- Harry Potter by J K Rowling
- The Chronicles of Narnia by C S Lewis
- The Claws of Christmas by Steve Cole
- Five on a Treasure Island by Enid Blyton
- The Secret Seven by Enid Blyton
- Black Beauty by Anna Sewell
- Double Trouble by Jenny Dale
- Waiting for Anya by Michael Morpurgo
- Born to Run by Michael Morpurgo
- Why the Whales Came by Michael Morpurgo

- Little Manfred by Michael Morpurgo
- A Mouse Called Wolf by Dick King-Smith
- Dolphin in the Deep by Lucy Daniels
- Megastar Mysteries by Annabelle Starr
- Pirate Girl by Cornelia Funke and Kerstin Meyer
- The One Hundred Mile an Hour Dog by Jeremy Strong
- My Dad's Got an Alligator by Jeremy Strong
- The Last Cowboys by Harry Horse
- Horrible Histories by Terry Deary
- Evolution Revolution by Robert Winston
- Spy Dog by Andrew Cope
- Alex Ryder Series by Anthony Horowitz
- The Indian in the Cupboard by Lynne Reid Banks
- Gobbolino the Witches Cat by Ursula Moray Williams
- How to Train Your Dragon Series by Cressida Cowell
- How to Ride a Dragon's Storm by Cressida Cowell
- Koyasan by Darren Shan
- Wonder by R. J Palacio

Book Review

Information to include: author, title, pages, date published

Your report should have a minimum of three main sections.

Section 1: Write a brief summary of the book. Mention the main characters and the main conflict or problem that the character faces. Remember to use interesting adjectives to describe the characters. Try not to spoil the book for the reader!



Section 2: This section should include what you liked/disliked about the book. Comment on the author and what you liked or disliked about the author's style. Be specific about certain techniques the author may have used and its effect on the reader (repetition, alliteration) and GIVE EXAMPLES!

Section 3: Your final portion of the report should include a recommendation. Who would you recommend the book to and why? Remember to include the genre, what kind of people would like it and what age groups would enjoy it.

Success Criteria

- 1) My summary (paragraph 1) contains the main idea of the book without going into too much detail
- 2) I have commented on at least 2 of the characters
- 3) I have commented on the author's style and mentioned at least one example of a device use
- 4) I have identified the genre of the book
- 5) I have identified which age-group would enjoy the book and why