



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:

- Great Expectations by Charles Dickens retold by James Riordan
- Shakespeare Stories by Leon Garfield.
- A Selection from Canterbury Tales retold by Selina Hastings
- Mary Poppins by P.L. Travers
- Little Women by Louisa May Alcott
- The Secret Garden by Frances Hodgson Burnett
- Treasure Island by Robert Louis Stevenson
- The Silver Sword by Ian Serrailier
- The Wind in the Willows by Kenneth Grahame
- The Borrowers by Mary Norton
- Just William by Richmal Crompton
- Black Beauty by Anna Sewell
- The Hobbit by J. R. R. Tolkien
- The Diary of Anne Frank by Anne Frank
- A Christmas Carol by Charles Dickens
- Animal Farm by George Orwell
- The Jungle Book by Rudyard Kipling
- Moby Dick by Herman Melville
- Peter and Wendy by J. M. Barrie
- The Old Man and the Sea by Ernest Hemingway
- The Wonderful Wizard of Oz by L. Frank Baum

Witches and wizards, fairies, other worlds:

- Harry Potter Series by J.K. Rowling Pub: Bloomsbury
- Howl's Moving Castle by Diana Wynne Jones Pub: Collins
- A Handful of Magic by Stephen Elboz Pub: Oxford University press.
- The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe by C.S. Lewis Pub: Collins
- The Wizard Of Earthsea by Ursula Le Guin Pub: Puffin
- Magyk by Angie Sage
- The Shapeshifter: Finding the Fox by Ali Sparkes
- Inkheart By Cornelia Funke
- Skullduggery Pleasant Series by Derek Landy
- The Spook's Apprentice by Joseph Delaney
- Charmed Life by Diana Wynne-Jones
- The Indian in the Cupboard by Lynn Reid Banks
- The Borrowers series by Mary Norton

Space & Time Travel:

- A Traveller in Time by Alison Uttley Pub: Puffin
- My Friend Walter by Michael Morpurgo Pub: Egmont
- Charlotte Sometimes by Penelope Farmer Pub: Red Fox
- Gideon the Cutpurse by Linda Buckley-Archer
- The Number Devil by Hans Magnus Enzensberger
- Cosmic by Frank Cottrell Boyce
- Gideon the Cutpurse by Linda Buckley-Archer
- Tom's Midnight Garden by Phillipa Pearce
- George's Secret Key to the Universe by Lucy and Stephen Hawking

Humour:

- Joey Pigza Swallowed the Key by Jack Gantos Pub: Corgi Yearling
- The Killer Underpants by Michael Lawrence Pub: Orchard
- Awful End by Phillip Ardagh Pub: Faber
- Ordinary Jack by Helen Cresswell Pub: Hodder
- The Incredible Adventures of Professor Bwanestawm by Norman Hunter
- Just William by Richmal Crompton
- The Falcon's Malteser by Anthony Horowitz
- A Series of Unfortunate Events by Lemony Snicket
- Urgum the Axeman by Kjartan Poskitt & Phillip Reeve

School:

- There's a Boy in the Girls' Bathroom by Louis Sachar Pub: Bloomsbury
- The Cat Ate My Gymsuit by Paula Danziger Pub: Hodder
- Ten of the Best edited by Wendy Cooling Pub: Collins
- How to Write Really Badly by Anne Fine Pub: Egmont
- The Naughtiest Girl in the School by Enid Blyton
- Malory Towers series by Enid Blyton
- The Invisible Friend by Louise Arnold
- Flour Babies by Anne Fine
- The Demon Headmaster by Gillian Cross
- My Sister Lives on the Mantelpiece by Annabel Pitcher
- Wonder by R.J Palacio
- Feather Boy by Nicky Singer

Sport:

- Frances Fairweather – Demon Striker by Derek Smith Pub: Faber
- The Transfer by Terence Blacker Pub: Macmillan
- Ganging Up by Alan Gibbons Pub: Dolphin
- The Kick Off by Dan Freedman

Mystery/Adventure:

- Stormbreaker by Anthony Horowitz. Pub: Walker
- The Thief Lord by Cornelia Funke. Pub: Chicken House
- The Thieves of Ostia by Caroline Lawrence. Pub: Dolphin
- Bug Muldoon and the Garden of Fear by Paul Shipton. Pub: Oxford University Press
- The Famous Five series by Enid Blyton
- Airman by Eoin Colfer
- Swallows and Amazons by Arthur Ransome
- Hatchet by Gary Paulsen
- Titanic 2020 by Colin Bateman
- ANTIDOTE by Malorie Blackman
- Skellig by David Almond
- My Name is Mina by David Almond

Ghosts:

- Coraline by Neil Gaiman Pub: Bloomsbury
- Ghost Writer by Julia Jarman Pub: Hippo
- Favourite Ghost Stories chosen by Aiden Chambers. Pub: Kingfisher
- The Graveyard Book by Neil Gaiman

The World at War:

- Goodnight Mr. Tom by Michelle Magorian
- Hitler's Canary by Sandi Toksvig
- The Machine Gunners by Robert Westall
- Rubies in the Snow by Kate Hubbard
- I am David by Anne Holm
- The Silver Sword by Ian Serrailler
- When Hitler Stole Pink Rabbit by Judith Kerr

Other Times:

- Roman Mysteries Series by Caroline Lawrence
- The Diamond of Drury Lane by Julia Golding
- I Coriander by Sally Gardner
- The Seeing Stone by Kevin Crossley-Holland
- Lady Grace Mysteries A is for Assassin by Grace Cavendish
- Little House on the Prairie by Laura Ingalls Wilder

Wider World:

- Journey to the River Sea by Eva Ibbotson
- The Kite Rider by Geraldine McCaughrean
- The Breadwinner by Deborah Ellis
- The Garbage King by Elizabeth Laird
- Spilled Water by Sally Grindley
- Invisible City by M.G.Harris

Animals in Action:

- The Hundred and One Dalmations by Dodie Smith
- The White Giraffe by Lauren St. John
- Wolf Brother by Michelle Paver
- Doctor Dolittle Stories by Hugh Lofting
- Varjak Paw by S.F. Said
- The Little White Horse by Elizabeth Goudge
- Marley by John Grogan
- A Dog Called Grk by John Grogan
- Animal Ark Series by Lucy Daniels
- Hoot by Carl Hiassen
- The Great Elephant Chase by Gillian Cross

Spies:

- Alex Rider Series by Anthony Horowitz
- Young Bond Series by Charlie Higson
- Cherub Series by Robert Muchamore

Family Life:

- The London Eye Mystery by Siobhan Dowd
- The Penderwicks by Eanne Birdsall
- Ways to Live Forever by Ally Nichols
- The family from One End Street by Eve Garnett

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