The more you read, the better you'll become at reading. Here are some reading recommendations: books, series and authors. We've divided them by genre. Some are new, some are classics.

1. **Choose a book** from the reading list in this booklet. They are all available from the school library. Alternatively, borrow a book from a public library, or bring in your own book. Choose a **novel** (not a comic book) for your **reading class**.
2. Bring the **book** and your planner to each reading class. Note what you're reading.
3. Each term, we'd like you to write at least one well-written, carefully considered book review. (One side of A5 or A4 paper). You can hand this to your teacher or librarian. **Notes on how to write reviews at the back of this booklet.**
4. **Merits** You can gain merits for your reading and for well-written reviews.

**Awards**

You will get a merit for each book you read and review.

Fill in your reading card, including a few books from **Star Categories**

There will be merits and prizes for adventurous reading and well-written reviews

**Remember**

to set aside some time for reading each day. Your ability to read and enjoy all sorts of texts will improve, as will your written work. It’s fun, absorbing and relaxing.
**Adventure**

**Action adventure**

*Young Bond* series by Charlie Higson

*Skeleton Key* and *Alex Rider* series by Anthony Horowitz

*Raven’s Gate* and Power of Five series by Antony Horowitz

*Way of the Warrior* + Young Samurai series by Chris Bradford

Jimmy Coates series by Joe Craig

H.I.V.E. series by Mark Walden

Medusa project series by Sophie McKenzie

*Tiger Wars* and Falcon's Chronicles series by Steve Backshall

*The Reluctant Assassin* – Eoin Colfer

*Itch* series by Simon Mayo

The Mysterious Benedict Society series by Trenton Lee Stewart

**Adventure**

*The Letter for the King* – Tonke Dragt

*Pirates!* by Celia Rees

*Apache* by Tanya Landman

*Rooftoppers* by Katherine Rundell

*An Island of Our Own* by Sally Nicholls
Fantasy

*The Knife of Letting Go* and *Chaos Walking* Trilogy by Patrick Ness

*Harry Potter* series by J. K. Rowling

*Percy Jackson* series by Rick Riordan

The *Kane Chronicles* by Rick Riordan

*Artemis Fowl* series by Eoin Colfer

*Northern Lights* series by Philip Pullman

*The Outsiders* (Gods and Warrriors) by Michelle Paver

*Mortal Engines* trilogy by Philip Reeve

*Wind on Fire* trilogy by William Nicolson

*Stone Heart* trilogy by Charlie Fletcher

*Stravaganza* series by Mary Hoffman

Chronicles of Ancient Darkness (*Wolf Brother*) series by Michelle Paver

*Inheritance* cycle (*Eragon*) by Christopher Paolini

*Gabriel’s Clock* by Hilton Pashley
Crime and detective stories

*Skulduggery Pleasant* series by Derek Landy

*Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time* Mark Haddon

*The House of Silk* by Antony Horowitz

*Foul Play* series by Tom Haddon

*Hacker* by Malorie Blackman

*Framed* by Frank Cottrell Boyce

*Emil and the Detectives* by Erich Kastner

*Small Change for Stuart* by Lissa Evans

*Artemis Fowl and the Lost Colony* by Eoin Colfer

*The London Eye Mystery* by Siobhan Dowd

*South by South East* (Diamond Brothers Detective Agency) by Antony Horowitz

*Murder on the Orient Express* by Agatha Christie

*Young Sherlock Holmes* series by Andrew Lane

*The Hound of the Baskervilles* by Arthur Conan Doyle (Classic)

*Smart* by Kim Slater

*Smith* by Leon Garfield
Ghost and horror stories


*Coraline* by Neil Gaiman

*A Ghost Story* by Cliff McNish

*Tales of Terror* by Chris Priestley

*The Enemy* series by Charlie Higson

*Horowitz Horror* by Antony Horowitz

*Ghost Trouble* by Pete Johnson

*Scared, The Phone Goes Dead, Killer Camera, Burnt* by Anthony Horowitz

*The Demon’s Lexicon* by Sarah Rees Brennan

*The Crowfield Curse* by Robert Walsh

*Room 13* by Robert Swindells

The Saga of Darren Shan (starts with *Cirque du Freak*)

*Demonata* series by Darren Shan (starts with *Lord Loss*)

*The Company of Ghosts* by Berlie Doherty

*The Book of Dead Days* by Marcus Sedgwick

*Boy in Darkness* by Mervyn Peake

*Under My Hat* (short stories) edited by Jonathan Strahan
Animal Stories

Black Beauty by Anna Sewell
Blitzcat by Robert Westall
Tarka the Otter by Henry Williamson
Watership Down by Richard Adams
Charlotte’s Webb by E. H. White
Saving Finnegans by Sally Grindley
Cowgirl by G. R. Gemin
Warhorse by Michael Morpurgo
The Wolf Wilder by Katherine Rundell
Dreaming the Bear by Mimi Thebo
Call of the Wild by Jack London
Butterfly Lion by Michael Morpurgo
Wild at Heart: Animal Stories by M Morpurgo
Varjak Paw/The Outlaw Varjak Paw S F Said
Wilderness by Roddy Doyle
Love That Dog and Hate That Cat by Sharon Creech
My Family and Other Animals by Gerald Durrell
Loyal Creatures by Morris Gleitzmann
Into that Forest by Louis Nowra
The Child’s Elephant by Rachel Campbell-Johnston
Historical

*Lydia* by Natasha Farrant

*Once, Then, Now* by Morris Gleitzmann

*War Stories for Boys* by Chris Priestley

*War Horse* by Michael Morpurgo

*War Girls* – short stories, Teresa Breslin and others

*The Roman Mysteries* series by Caroline Lawrence

*Here Lies Arthur* by Philip Reeve

*Crusade* by Elizabeth Laird

*The Ghost of the Trenches* by Helen Watts

*The Sword and the Circle* by Rosemary Sutcliffe

*The Phantom of the Opera* by Gaston Leroux

*Gatty’s Tale* by Kevin Crossley-Holland

*Montemorency* by Eleanor Updale

*I, Coriander* by Sally Gardner

*Poppy/ Poppy in the Field* by Mary Hooper

*The First of Midnight* by Malorie Darke

*Five Children on the Western Front* by Kate Saunders

*Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry* by Mildred D. Taylor
Sport

*Total Football* series by Alan Gibbons (*Some You Win, Divided You Fall, Under Pressure*)

*Julie and Me...and Michael Owen Makes Three* by Alan Gibbons

*Jamie Johnson* series by Dan Freedman (*Kick, Off, Shoot to Win, Man of the Match*)

*Foul Play* series by Tom Palmer

(*Foul Play, Dead Ball, Off Side, Killer Pass*)

*Extra Time* by Morris Gleitzman

*The Fastest Boy in the World* by Elizabeth Laird (running)

*The Bubble Wrap Boy* by Phil Earle (skateboarding)

(Non-fiction titles about sports are at 796)
Life, love and relationships

*We Are All Made of Molecules* by Susin Nielsen

*Drawing with Light* by Julia Green

*Ways to Live Forever* by Sally Nicholls

*The First of Midnight* by Marjorie Darke

*The Bubble Wrap Boy* by Phil Earle

*The Glass Swallow* by Julia Golding

*The Fault in our Stars* by John Green

*Daddy-Long-Legs* by Jean Webster

*Six Steps to a Girl* series by Sophie McKenzie

*Across the Barricades* by Joan Lingard

*Burning Bright* series by Sophie McKenzie

*Girl with a White Dog* by Anne Booth

*Annexed* by Sharon Dogar

*You, Me and Michael Owen Makes Three* by Alan Gibbons

*Cowgirl* by G. R. Gemin

*Tall Story* and *Shine* by Candy Gourlay

*The Nest* by Kenneth Oppel

*Head Over Heels* by Colette Victor
Humour

*Geek Girl* by Holly Smale

*Framed, Millions and Cosmic* by Frank Cottrell Boyce

*Small Change for Stuart* by Lissa Evans

*The Hitchhiker’s Guide to the Galaxy* series by Douglas Adams

*Jiggy McCue* series (*Ryan’s Brain, The Killer Underpants*)

*The Other Side of the Galaxy* by Jamie Thomson

*Georgia Nicholson* series by Louise Rennison

*A Terrible Thing that Happened to Barnaby Brocket* by John Boyne

*Socks are not Enough* by Mark Lowery

*Dark Lord: The Teenage Years* by Jamie Thomson

*The Boy in a Dress* by David Walliams

*Goblins* by Philip Reeve
Not sure what to pick? Here is a Top Ten selection of books that are very popular with Year 7 readers

*The Recruit* (Cherub) by Robert Muchamore

*The Way of the Warrior* by Chris Bradford

*Percy Jackson and the Lightning Thief* by Rick Riordan

*After Iris* by Natasha Farrant

*Noughts & Crosses* by Malorie Blackman

*Once* series by Morris Gleitzman

*Geek Girl* by Holly Smale

*The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy* by Douglas Adams

*Opal Plumstead* by Jacqueline Wilson

*War Stories* by Chris Priestley

*Skellig and My Name is Mina* by David Almond
What shall I read next?

- Try another book from the list.
- Try something different! The more widely you read, the better.
- Ask your friends for their recommendations.
- Visit a bookshop or your local library and browse.
- Charity bookshops are an excellent source of cheap books.
- Research an author you have enjoyed. What else have they written?
- Check out teenage reading websites including:
  - www.lovereading4kids.co.uk
  - www.spinebreakers.co.uk
  - mykindabook.com
  - www.booktrust.org.uk

eLibrary – we now have a selection of teenage and classic novels available to borrow from The Latymer School Library (Wheelers eplatform). (NB if you are dyslexic, you may find it handy to change the colour of the screen.)

Reading on a tablet or smartphone

Students might find it easiest to read books on a mobile device such as a smartphone or tablet.

- In your Android or Apple App store, simply search for ‘ePlatform by Wheelers’ to find the App.
- Once downloaded, search for ‘Latymer’ within the ‘Find Your Library’ link.
- This then takes you to the school’s eBook library where you can browse for a book to read.
- Alternatively go to https://latymer.wheelers.co/help/apps/eplatform-app
- Sign In or Register to borrow the book using your school login details, and if at home include @latymer.co.uk
- Once you’ve opened your eBook, it will save to the homepage of your app, ready for offline reading.

NB – all school rules about mobile phones/tablets still apply. We’d recommend using this app for some handy extra reading at home. Any queries about eLibrary: ask at the Library desk.
You can write (or illustrate) a book review on a page of A5 or A4 paper. Make sure it’s well written, with excellent grammar and punctuation. It should also be independent – don’t copy anyone else’s reviews or opinions.

How to review a book

We always welcome well-written or illustrated book reviews for display in the Library. It’s a good way of sharing a book that you’ve enjoyed, and recommending it to others.

You can receive merits for reading and reviewing books – ask the Librarians.


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Book read:</th>
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<tr>
<td>What happened in the novel? Write a short summary of the plot.</td>
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<tr>
<td>What did you like about the novel? Or what didn’t you like? Who was your favourite character? Describe, and say why.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What did you think about the ending of the novel? Was it effective? Surprising? Disappointing? Why?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Would you recommend the novel to others? Why?</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>MARK OUT OF 10:</strong></td>
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This is your own reading journey. Remember to log the books you’ve read in your planner or on your reading chart, plus whether you enjoyed reading them. If you have read everything on this Year 7 list, ask your teacher/librarian for more suggestions.
Why did I like this book?
Take your reading challenge a step further

- TASK: Re-read the **opening paragraph** of your favourite novel.

**Consider and write down some notes about:**
- What was it about the story that made it so interesting? Find an example and describe what made it interesting.
- What do you notice about the language they have used? Find an example of an unusual description or a particular phrase or sentence that made an impression on you. Why did it have this effect on you?
- Does the writer use any interesting narrative hooks?
- Think about who your favourite character is in your favourite novel.

**Consider and write down some notes about:**
- Why you found the character appealing or interesting?
- How the writer has presented the character – how do they describe them? What details does the writer reveal about them?

**Creative Task**

- Re-read the **first couple of paragraphs** of your favourite **chapter** in the novel.
- TASK: Write down what characterises the author’s writing. Think of **5 ways** that make the author’s writing distinct/unique.

**Here are some ideas to help you think about what characterises the author’s writing:**
- Is the narrative written in first or third person?
- Is the perspective from the character or the narrator?
- Is the language used informal or formal? Slang or dialect?
- Is there a lot of dialogue or description?
- Is the narrative written in present or past tense?

- TASK: Imagine that you are working for a publishing company and your favourite author is sick. You have been asked to take their place! Have a go at writing in the same style as your favourite author.
  - It can be the opening of a new novel.
  - A new ending of the novel you have just read.
Remember...

**Everyone moves at their own pace with reading.** As you read more, you should notice differences. You may feel more confident about choosing books, or be more prepared to try different books and authors.

**Do you find that your written work is also influenced by what you’ve read?** Maybe you will find that you are writing more fluently since you’ve been reading more. If you make a habit of looking up unfamiliar words in a dictionary, as you read, you’ll extend your vocabulary.

**We can support each other by swopping recommendations about books that we have enjoyed.** Chat to your friends about what you are reading, and read the reviews. Lots of authors have websites – another good source of info. You could join a book club, as that gives you an opportunity to talk about what you're reading with friends.

**Remember to set aside some time to find good books, and to read them.**

Aim to read for some time each day (form time, lunch time or before bedtime are all good options).