



Dear Parents and Carers,

As the end of the academic year approaches, you and your child will likely be excitedly looking forward to plans for the summer. This academic year has been a challenging one, and so this break from routine will provide opportunities for children to go out and enjoy activities, hopefully including reading! As your child moves into their final year of secondary school and gears up for GCSEs from September, their well-being and academic achievement is paramount. In addition to switching off, it would be beneficial for students to continue their reading to enhance their outcomes and happiness throughout their final year. We hope you have a wonderful holiday and enjoy some magical stories along the way.

## Why should we read?

Reading widely and for pleasure has many scientifically proven benefits, including:

- Strengthening the brain;
- Increasing empathy;
- Building vocabulary;
- Enhancing imagination;
- Reducing stress;
- Developing a sense of 'self', self-esteem and identity;
- Aiding sleep;
- Increasing spelling accuracy;
- Helping academic achievement, including in Maths;
- Preventing cognitive decline and boosting working memory;
- Alleviating depression;
- Lengthening lifespan;
- Improving creativity and communication skills

Reading is vital to students' understanding of the world around them and their life chances. Reading also makes us better writers and speakers, improving our capability in the workplace and wider community. Did you know research shows that a child who reads/is read to for 5 minutes a day will expose them to around 400,000 words a year? Increasing that to 21 minutes exposes them to 1,823,000 words a year. 40 minutes results in 3,646,000 words a year. Also, did you know that research shows children who read for pleasure achieve better, regardless of whether their reading material of choice is a novel or magazine? Please do encourage your child to read a variety of texts that they are interested in. Of course, the increase in screen-time and social media has been shown to have decreased our focus and concentration levels as people are so used to flicking between apps and scrolling through various websites. Reading can help counter this by providing one thing to focus on.

## Ways to encourage reading at home:

- If you'd like support choosing a book for your child, do get in touch with the librarians or visit a website, such as [www.bookheads.org.uk](http://www.bookheads.org.uk), or visit a site like

## Seaford Learning Trust

Mr R Ellis, Headteacher

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Twitter - [@Seaford\\_Head](https://twitter.com/Seaford_Head)



[www.barringtonstoke.co.uk](http://www.barringtonstoke.co.uk) which produces books for reluctant, under-confident and dyslexic readers.

- Did you know that parents who talk to their children about books, TV programmes and films help their child to develop an interest in reading? Consider when might be a good time in your day/week to ask your child about what they've watched or read recently.
- Sharing podcasts and audiobooks
- 'Turn the Sub-Titles On' – this campaign encourages people watching film and TV to use sub-titles to assist with reading and vocabulary acquisition.
- Having books, magazines and other texts at home makes a difference to children's interest in reading and their achievement.
- Exploring your local library is a great way to bring new texts into the home at no cost to you and it allows your child to encounter a variety of text types.
- None of us like everything we read; it's important for us to be open about that with our children. We can help them to find texts they're interested in by talking about the passions, their hobbies and what they're interested in doing in the future.
- Many students prefer reading non-fiction, such as autobiographies, magazine articles or blog posts.
- If you have a computer at home, you could set the homepage to a website your child might be interested in. For example, a website about jazz music, race cars or kite boarding. You could ask them about what they've read or even read some together.
- Reading isn't just important for English lessons; it's important for every subject. If you know your child is interested in a particular subject or topic area, you could find articles about this to share with them and ask their view on what they've read.

#### What should students be reading, and how can you get hold of reading material?

One great way to acquire books is by visiting charity shops and buying books second-hand. Not only is this method more sustainable, it is also much cheaper.

Hachette publishers are also offering 20% off book titles. To place your order and pay via card, please ring our customer services team on +44 (0)1235 759555 or email [hukdcustomerservices@hachette.co.uk](mailto:hukdcustomerservices@hachette.co.uk) including your name, delivery address and contact telephone number, along with the ISBNs that you would like to order. Please quote the promotional code PIXLSUMMERNEWSLETTER over the phone for 20% off your order.

#### Reading recommendations:

Below are some suggestions that we have collated. Please note that unless otherwise stated, the texts are suitable from Year 7 upwards, but please do research the books before selecting them to ensure that they are appropriate for your child.

**Macbeth** – William Shakespeare

**An Inspector Calls** – J.B. Priestley

**A Christmas Carol** – Charles Dickens

**AQA Power and Conflict Poetry Anthology** –

Various poets (The school will provide a free copy of the anthology to all students)

*(We will study the texts above during the GCSE course. We have copies of the texts available at school, but students may want to purchase their own copy to make notes in while reading in school. Students may also want to pre-read these books in preparation for their lessons.)*

#### **Recommended texts for KS4 Students**

**The Colour Purple** – Alice Walker

**The Dark Lady** – Akala

**Rani and Sukh** – Bali Rai

**The Stolen Ones** – Vanessa Curtis

**I, Ada** – Julia Gray

**Cane Warriors** – Alex Wheatle

**Remembered** – Yvonne Battle Felton

**Animal Farm** – George Orwell

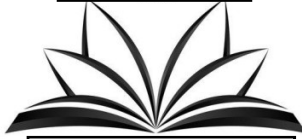
**The War of the Worlds** – H.G. Wells

**Frankenstein** – Mary Shelly

**Middlesex** – Jeffrey Eugenides

“Reading is to the mind what exercise is to the body.” – Richard Stead

Seaford Head  
School...



Read, Lead,  
Succeed!

### **KS4 Reading List**

*We have many of these texts, as well as a range of dyslexia friendly and adapted texts, available for students to borrow in our school library.*

**The Truth about Alice** – Jennifer Mathieu

**In the Dark, In the Woods** – Eliza Wass

**Here the Whole time** – Vitor Martin

**Run, Riot** – Nikesh Shukla

**The Black Flamingo** – Dean Atta

**Beloved** – Toni Morrison

**The Handmaid’s Tale** – Margaret Atwood

**Slay** – Brittney Morris

**Eight Pieces of Silva** – Patrice Lawrence

**Moxie** – Jennifer Mathieu

**This Book Will (help You) Change the World** – Sue Turton

**The Memory Book** – Lara Avery

**We’re All Mad Here** – Claire Eastham

**The Trap** – Alan Gibbons

**Orangeboy** – Patrice Lawrence

**The Boxer** – Nikesh Shukla

**A Jigsaw of Fire and Stars** – Yaba Badoe

**Wolf Light** – Yaba Badoe

**The Monsters We Deserve** – Marcus Sedgwick

**The Outrage** – William Hussey

Shorter, more accessible texts, ideal for students aged 11-14 with dyslexic friendly font and engaging stories:

**I am the Minotaur**  
ANTHONY MCGOWAN

Matthew wants to fit in, but it's hard when you're avoiding the bullies and trying to impress your dream girl, Ari. When Ari's bike is stolen, he tries to make a good impression by getting it back. Will it lead to trouble or will he learn that heroes are found in unlikely places?

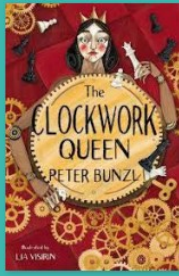
EVERY OUTSIDER HAS STRENGTH  
**I AM THE MINOTAUR**  
ANTHONY MCGOWAN  
CARNegie MEDAL WINNING AUTHOR

**Lightning Strike**  
TANYA LANDMAN

Summer 1888 and Eliza is angry. Angry that conditions at the factory where she works are so harsh. Angry that no one seems to care. When Eliza speaks out, her words spark fury among the other workers and the flame of rebellion is lit. Can one girl inspire an uprising that will change her world?

**Rat**  
PATRICE LAWRENCE

When his mum is sent back to prison, Al knows exactly who's to blame: Mr Brayley from downstairs has been making trouble for Al's mum ever since they moved in. Al's determined to get his revenge, but things don't turn out exactly as he'd imagined.



**The Clockwork Queen** PETER BUNZL  
PRE-ORDER FOR RELEASE ON MARCH 3<sup>RD</sup>

Chess prodigy, Sophie Peshka, inherited her love of the game from her grandmaster father. But now that he has been imprisoned in the dungeons of the Winter Palace in St Petersburg, by powerful Empress Catherine the Great, Sophie must use all her strategic skill and cunning to help him escape. Part of Sophie's plan involves an incredible chess-playing automaton called the Clockwork Queen, but will the Queen be able to outwit the Empress in a game where the stakes are a matter of life and death?

**Needle**

PATRICE LAWRENCE (12+)

Charlene is a demon knitter. It's the only thing she enjoys and the only thing she believes she's really good at. So, when her foster mum's son destroys her latest creation, Charlene loses it and stabs him in the hand with her knitting needle. It damages a nerve and she gets sucked into the criminal justice system for assault. Charlene's not sorry and she's never apologised to anyone in her life. But people keep telling her that if she says sorry, they'll go easier on her. Can she bring herself to say it and not mean it when her freedom's at stake?



**The Humiliations of Welton Blake**

ALEX WHEATLE (12+)

Welton Blake has done it! He's asked out Carmella McKenzie—the 'best-looking' girl in school—and she's only gone and said yes! But just as he thinks his luck is starting to change, Welton's phone breaks, kick-starting a series of unfortunate and humiliating events. With bullies to avoid, girls ready to knock him out and all the drama with his mum and dad, life for Welton is about to go very, very wrong...



**The Disconnect**  
KEREN DAVID (13+)

Could you disconnect from your phone for six weeks? An eccentric entrepreneur has challenged Esther's year group to do just that, and the winners will walk away with £1,000. For Esther, whose dad, sister and baby nephew live thousands of miles away in New York, the prize might be her only chance to afford flights for a visit... But can she really stay disconnected for long enough to win?

Some Classics, perhaps for those students who wish to be stretched and challenged:

**Treasure Island**

ROBERT LOUIS STEVENSON

Join the adventurous Jim Hawkins as he stumbles across a mysterious treasure map, sails a schooner and braves fearsome pirates in this exciting, swashbuckling tale.



**The Jungle Book**

RUDYARD KIPLING

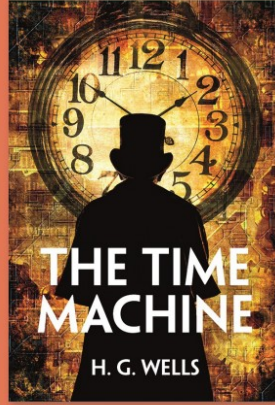
The extraordinary tale of Mowgli, the abandoned 'man cub', who is raised by wolves in the depths of the Indian jungle. As he grows up, he embarks on a series of thrilling adventures with his friends Baloo the Bear and Bagheera the Panther.



**The Time Machine**

HG WELLS

When the Time Traveller explains his theory about travelling through time to his dinner guests, they are initially sceptical. He returns a week later with an astonishing tale about encountering strange new worlds and different species. The guests are left wondering if he sets foot in his Time Machine again, will he ever return?



Longer reads:

**Contender: The Chosen**

TARUN MATHARU £7.99 9781444938944

In a world far from our own, where enemies come in many forms, the ultimate battle for survival is about to begin... An epic new trilogy from the bestselling author of the Summoner series.



**Lore**

ALEXANDRA BRACKEN  
£8.99 9781786541529

A lifetime ago, Lore Perseus left behind the brutal, opulent world of the Agon families - ancient Greek bloodlines that participate in a merciless game every seven years. A game that is about to begin again...



**Splinters of Sunshine**

PATRICE LAWRENCE  
£7.99 9781444954777

After a fun Christmas Eve decorating the tree and singing along with his mum to Queen, fifteen-year-old Spey wakes up on Christmas morning to find the ex-prisoner father he's never met asleep on the sofa. On a road trip like no other, can Spey and his dad find his missing friend Dee, and will they be ready to confront a criminal gang together?





## Yesterday Crumb and the Storm in a Teacup

ANDY SAGAR

Yesterday Crumb is no ordinary girl. She was born with fox ears that have cursed her to a lonely life working in the circus and her origins are a complete mystery. But she is about to escape into the adventure of a lifetime when she learns that she's a strangeling who's lost her magic. Taken in by Miss Dumpling the flamboyant Tea Witch, Yesterday is introduced to a magical, walking teashop filled with fantastical customers, a flying teapot turtle called Pascal and powerful spells in every teacup! Yesterday starts to rediscover her magic and to feel a sense of belonging. But a mysterious figure of darkness is working hard to ensure her new life comes crashing down - and it all starts with a deadly shard of ice in Yesterday's heart...



## While the Storm Rages

PHIL EARLE

September 1939. The world is on the brink of war. As his dad marches off to fight, Noah makes him a promise, to keep their beloved family dog safe. When the government advises people to have their pets put down in readiness for the chaos of war, hundreds of thousands of people do as they are told. But not Noah. He's not that sort of boy. With his two friends in tow, he goes on the run, to save his dog and as many animals as he can. No matter what.

WATCH PHIL TALK ABOUT HIS BOOK, AND THE ORIGINS OF THE STORY, HERE:

If you like this book, you may also like his book *When the Sky Falls!*



## Girl

TAMSIN WINTER

Most parents try to limit their kids' online exposure. But not Eva's. Her parents run a hugely successful YouTube channel, and Eva is the star of the show. But Eva is getting sick of being made to pose in stupid mum-and-daughter matching outfits for sponsored posts. The freebies aren't worth the teasing at school. And when an intensely humiliating "period party" post goes viral, Eva is outraged. She's going to find a way to stop the channel, even if she has to sabotage it herself.



## This Wicked Fate

KALYNN BAYRON (12+)

The sequel to *This Poison Heart*.

Briseis's mother is dead, but there is one chance to bring her back: find the last piece of the deadly Absyrus Heart. If Bri is to locate the missing piece, she must turn to the blood relatives she's never known, learn of their secret powers and take her place in their ancient lineage. But Bri is not the only one who wants the Heart, and her enemies will stop at nothing to fulfill their own ruthless plans. Can she harness her power to save the people she loves most?

WATCH KALYNN TALK ABOUT HER BOOK HERE:



## The Shark Caller

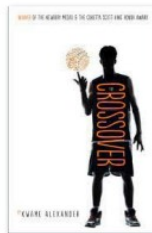
ZILLAH BETHELL

Blue Wing is desperate to become a shark caller, but instead she must befriend infuriating newcomer Maple, who arrives unexpectedly on Blue Wing's island. At first, the girls are too angry to share their secrets and become friends. But when the tide breathes the promise of treasure, they must journey together to the bottom of the ocean to brave the deadliest shark of them all...



## The Crossover

KWAME ALEXANDER (12+)



12-year-old Josh and his twin Jordan have basketball in their blood. They're kings of the court, star players for their school team. Their father used to be a champion player and they each want nothing more than to follow in his footsteps.

Both on and off the court, there is conflict and hardship which will test Josh's bond with his brother.

## The Summer We Turned Green

WILLIAM SUTCLIFFE (12+)



It's the summer holidays, and thirteen-year-old Luke's life has been turned upside down. First his older sister Rose moved 'across the road', where a community of climate rebels is protesting the planned airport expansion. Then his dad followed her. Dad only went to get Rose back, but now he's out there building totem poles, wearing sandals and drinking mead (whatever that is) with the best of them.

## Only on the Weekends

DEAN ATTA (13+)



Fifteen-year-old Mack is a hopeless romantic - he blames the films he's grown up watching. He has liked Karim for as long as he can remember and is ecstatic when Karim becomes his boyfriend - it feels like love.

But when Mack's dad gets a job on a film in Scotland, Mack has to move, and soon he discovers how painful love can be. It's horrible being so far away from Karim, but the worst part is that Karim doesn't make the effort to visit. Love shouldn't be only on the weekends.

Then, when Mack meets actor Finlay on a film set, he experiences something powerful, a feeling like love at first sight. How long until he tells Karim - and when will his old life and new life collide?

## Glorious Poison

KAT DUNN (13+)

As Royalist strength grows, the Duc de L'Aubespine plots a coup that will consign the revolution to history. With Olympe in his clutches, he believes nothing can stop him. But he's reckoned without the intrepid Battalion of the Dead! Reunited in Paris, Ada is poised for action - but if she plays her hand too soon, everything she's sacrificed to gain his trust will be lost. Meanwhile, an unlikely alliance with an old enemy might be Camille's only option to save Olympe and stop the duc in his tracks.

The glittering and macabre bals des victimes and the eerie catacombs make the perfect backdrop for the final episode of the Battalion's tale.

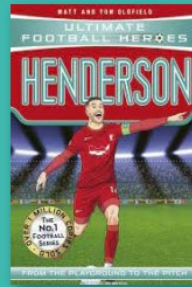


Shorter reads:

**Ultimate Football Heroes - Henderson**

MATT & TOM OLDFIELD

This is the story of Jordan Henderson, captain of Liverpool Football Club and midfield powerhouse for the England national team. Follow his exciting journey from kicking a football on the Sunderland streets to hearing his name boom on a Champions League winning night under the bright Anfield lights. *The Ultimate Football Heroes* series contains a number of biographies telling the life stories of footballers and their journeys from childhood fan to professional player.

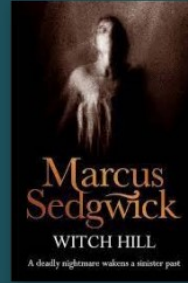


**Witch Hill**

MARCUS SEDGWICK

The fire was a family tragedy that Jamie can't forget, even in his dreams. And now there is something terrifying happening to him in Crownhill, the village where he's been sent to get over his problems. Something to do with an evil old witch who gets into his nightmares and a frightened girl, the victim of a long-ago witch hunt, whose presence lingers on. As the dark secrets of Crownhill are revealed, Jamie has to confront his worst fears in order to free himself from the horrors of the past.

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Non-fiction texts:

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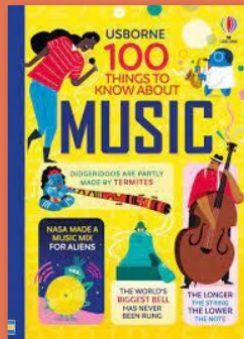


[www.pixl.org.uk](http://www.pixl.org.uk)



## 100 Things to Know About Music

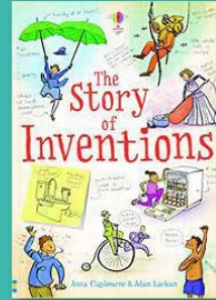
VARIOUS AUTHORS



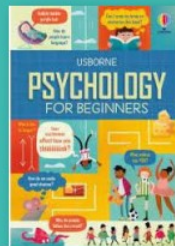
Which tunes could save a life, and which should come with a health warning? How do talking drums tell the history of Africa? What happens in your brain when you listen to music? Find the answers to these questions and more in this exciting book exploring all corners of the diverse world of music.

## The Story of Inventions

ANNA CLAYBOURNE



From toilets, bread and blue jeans to aeroplanes, microwaves and computers, this title explains how, when and why the ingenious inventions that surround us were created. The development of one invention is detailed over each double page, revealing the real-life stories behind each creation, as well as how they have been influenced by other discoveries over the ages. Humorous illustrations by Adam Larkum show how the inventions work.



## Psychology for Beginners

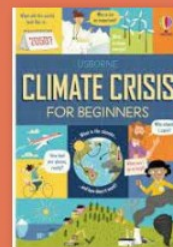
VARIOUS AUTHORS

Fully-illustrated and filled with real-world examples, this book explains the basics of psychology, from how people think, feel and behave to how scientists can study and be sure about what is actually going on in other people's brains.

## Climate Crisis for Beginners

VARIOUS AUTHORS

The climate crisis is real. Climate change is having an enormous impact on the world around us. This book uses simple language and vivid illustrations to explain complex questions clearly. How does the climate work? What are we doing to change it? What can we do differently to avoid the worst outcomes? Why do we all find change so hard? The climate crisis is a troubling and sensitive topic, especially for children, so the book includes vital tips on how to set realistic goals and not get overwhelmed by bad news.



### Other suggestions:

Exploring a wide variety of experiences and activities helps to introduce your child to knowledge and interests they may not otherwise have acquired. You may already have lots of ideas for getting out and about over the summer, but we have also collated a few ideas to start you off below. These may spark an interest in something your child may then want to read about, either through a story book or through non-fiction texts.

- Explore the National History Museum through a virtual tour: <https://www.nhm.ac.uk/visit/virtual-museum.html>
- In this ten-part podcast series, the most frequently asked questions about Shakespeare's life are explored: <https://www.shakespeare.org.uk/explore-shakespeare/podcasts/lets-talk-shakespeare/>
- Watch this video by the puppeteers behind Joey, the horse from the stage production of War Horse: [https://www.ted.com/talks/handspring\\_puppet\\_co\\_the\\_genius\\_puppetry\\_behind\\_war\\_horse?referrer=playlist-talks\\_to\\_watch\\_with\\_kids&language=en](https://www.ted.com/talks/handspring_puppet_co_the_genius_puppetry_behind_war_horse?referrer=playlist-talks_to_watch_with_kids&language=en)
- Watch this interview event with Tim Peake, focusing on his experience in space: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ekQtOdz2\\_G4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ekQtOdz2_G4)
- Explore the use of colour and shape in art on the Tate website. As you read, carefully view the artworks presented and consider the questions: <https://www.tate.org.uk/art/teaching-resource/colour-and-shape>
- National Geographic for kids have a range of articles about geography, science and history for you to explore: <https://www.natgeokids.com/uk/category/discover/geography/>
- Read about the history of Stonehenge, possibly the world's most famous prehistoric site: <https://www.english-heritage.org.uk/visit/places/stonehenge/history-and-stories/>
- Explore the English Timeline on the British Library website: <https://www.bl.uk/englishtimeline>