



## Why is reading so important?

### Academic

- There is a significant correlation between reading ability and GCSE results across all subjects. This was not just the case in English, but in maths and science too. (GL Assessment: Why Reading is Key to GCSE Success, 2018)
- Reading improves teenagers' vocabulary by 26% regardless of background (Centre for Longitudinal Studies, November 2017)
- Reading for pleasure has been revealed as the most important indicator of the future success. (OECD/PISA 2009)

### Wellbeing



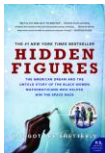






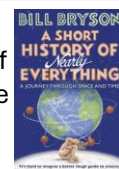
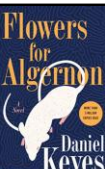

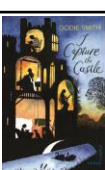



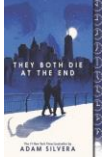

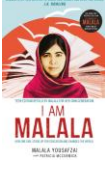
- 44% of regular readers said reading had improved their mental health and wellbeing. (The State of the Nation's Adult Reading, 2024)
- Reading for pleasure enhances empathy, understanding of the self, and the ability to understand one's own and others' identities. (Reading between the Lines: the Benefits of Reading for Pleasure, 2015)
- Reading for pleasure leads to higher levels of self-esteem, a greater ability to cope with difficult situations and is also associated with better sleeping patterns. (Literary Reading and Mental Wellbeing, 2021)

*"The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you'll go." Dr. Seuss*

## How can you support reading at home?

- **Model Reading:** Let your child see you reading a book, newspaper, or article.
- **Choice Matters:** Give them freedom to pick what interests them, even if it's not "classic" literature.
- **Small Steps:** Even 10–15 minutes a day builds habits.
- **Celebrate Progress:** Talk about what they've read, ask questions, or let them explain the story to you.
- **Link to Interests:** If they like football, suggest autobiographies of players; if they enjoy science, look for popular science books.
- **Audiobooks Count Too:** Listening can boost comprehension and support reluctant readers.
- **Create a Reading Environment:** Having lots of relevant books, magazines, newspapers around the house.
- **Create a Reading Space:** A quiet, comfy spot—even just a chair with good light.
- **Ask Open Questions:** Instead of "Did you like it?", try "What surprised you?" or "What do you think the writer was trying to show?"
- **Discuss Vocabulary:** Encourage them to note down unfamiliar words and look them up together.
- **Link Reading to GCSEs:** Highlight how strong reading helps in English exams but also in history, geography, and science.
- **Set Routines:** Agree on a regular time (before bed, after dinner) for reading.
- **Make it Social:** Read the same book and chat about it, or watch the film adaptation together and compare.
- **Visit Libraries & Bookshops:** Let them explore, choose, and discover new titles.



<p><b><i>To Kill a Mockingbird</i> by Harper Lee</b> – A young girl in the segregated American South learns about justice and prejudice through her father's defense of a Black man wrongly accused of rape.</p>	 <p><b><i>Fahrenheit 451</i> by Ray Bradbury</b> – In a dystopian future where books are banned, a fireman begins questioning society as he secretly seeks knowledge.</p> 
<p><b><i>Hidden Figures</i> by Margot Lee Shetterly</b> – The true story of Black female mathematicians whose calculations were vital to NASA's space program.</p>	 <p><b><i>More Than This</i> by Patrick Ness</b> – A boy drowns and wakes up in a mysterious, desolate world where he must confront truth and memory.</p> 
<p><b><i>Great Expectations</i> by Charles Dickens</b> – An orphan named Pip rises from poverty with the help of a secret benefactor, learning hard truths about love, class, and ambition.</p>	 <p><b><i>The Book Thief</i> by Markus Zusak</b> – In Nazi Germany, a young girl finds solace in stealing books and sharing stories while death narrates her world.</p> 
<p><b><i>The War of the Worlds</i> by H. G. Wells</b> – Earth is invaded by technologically superior Martians, forcing humanity to confront its fragility.</p>	 <p><b><i>Play</i> by Luke Palmer</b> – Four boys in a small town drift into crime, drugs, and violence as one risky decision pulls them into a dangerous spiral of masculinity, family, and survival.</p> 
<p><b><i>I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings</i> by Maya Angelou</b> – Maya Angelou recounts her early life, navigating trauma, racism, and identity while finding strength in literature and resilience.</p>	 <p><b><i>A Short History of Nearly Everything</i> by Bill Bryson</b> – A witty and accessible exploration of science, from the origins of the universe to the quirks of human discovery.</p> 
<p><b><i>Flowers for Algernon</i> by Daniel Keyes</b> – A man with a low IQ undergoes an experimental surgery to increase his intelligence, only to face tragic consequences.</p>	 <p><b><i>The Inheritance Games</i> by Jennifer Lynn Barnes</b> – A teenage girl inherits a billionaire's fortune and is thrust into a dangerous puzzle with the man's heirs.</p> 
<p><b><i>I Capture the Castle</i> by Dodie Smith</b> – A teenage girl journals her eccentric family's struggles and romantic entanglements in a crumbling English castle.</p>	 <p><b><i>The Lord of the Rings</i> by J. R. R. Tolkien</b> – A fellowship of heroes sets out to destroy a powerful ring to save Middle-earth from darkness.</p> 
<p><b><i>All Quiet on the Western Front</i> by Erich Maria Remarque</b> – A German soldier describes the brutality, disillusionment, and human cost of World War I.</p>	 <p><b><i>Six of Crows</i> by Leigh Bardugo</b> – A crew of outcasts attempts an impossible heist in a dangerous fantasy world.</p> 
<p><b><i>They Both Die at the End</i> by Adam Silvera</b> – Two strangers meet on the day they're destined to die and spend their last hours living fully.</p>	 <p><b><i>We Were Liars</i> by E. Lockhart</b> – A privileged girl unravels dark family secrets during a summer on her family's private island.</p> 
<p><b><i>I Am Malala</i> by Malala Yousafzai</b> – Malala Yousafzai tells her story of growing up in Pakistan, standing up for girls' education, and surviving a Taliban attack.</p>	 <p><b><i>Needle</i> by Patrice Lawrence</b> – A teenage girl makes a reckless decision with her knitting needle, leading to serious consequences and a fight to be heard.</p> 