



# LAWRENCE SHERIFF SCHOOL LIBRARY

## READING LIST YEARS 7 & 8

### WHY DO I NEED TO READ?

The only way to improve your vocabulary and comprehension is to practise reading regularly. It may be difficult at first, but the more you practise and the more effort you put in, the better you will get and the easier, and the more fun reading will become. Repeating any activity strengthens the parts of the brain associated with that activity and helps us to improve our performance. Reading well is important for understanding the questions in examination papers as well as any source texts which need to be analysed and commented upon, and better reading is also the key to better writing.

### WHAT SHOULD I READ?

In order to keep making progress, it is important to choose books that will continue to stretch and challenge you. Try to move on from the books you enjoyed at Primary School so that you continue to develop your vocabulary and comprehension skills. Try to read at least ten of the books on the list over the next two years, as well as plenty of others. Twenty books a year is a good target to aim for: anything much less than ten may damage your chances of a good pass at GCSE English. The web-site [www.lovereadng4kids.co.uk](http://www.lovereadng4kids.co.uk) is a good place to look for recommendations and reviews of books for children, and if you enjoy reading, you can even sign up to be sent free copies of books to review for the site.

### WHEN SHOULD I READ?

You should get opportunities to read a book of your choice in form time at least once a week, and in some English lessons too. You should also aim to read at home four or five times a week. In bed last thing at night before you go to sleep is often a good time to read instead of playing games! You can also sit and read at break and lunchtime in the school library. However, bear in mind these are the busiest periods of the library school day, so after school is usually the best time to find a quiet period in which to lose yourself in a book.

### HOW SHOULD I READ?

You might find it helpful to read with someone who could help you with the pronunciation or meaning of new, difficult or unfamiliar words. This could be an adult, an elder sibling, a friend or neighbour. As well as participating in established school reading groups (e.g., Y7 Reading Group, Carnegie Reading Group), it might be fun to form a reading group with some of your friends, so that you are all reading the same book at the same time. Then you could talk about what you are reading, to help make sense of it or to share the way you feel about it.

### WHERE CAN I GET HOLD OF THESE BOOKS?

Many of the books on the list can be borrowed from the school library, which is open to students from 8.30am until 4.30pm, including break and lunchtime. There are also good public libraries locally: Rugby Library in the centre of town is well worth a visit. If you prefer to buy your own books, Waterstones has branches in Coventry and Birmingham, with many other independent stores located throughout the county. Take your time to browse, or ask for a recommendation: booksellers are usually keen readers and will jump at the chance to talk about their favourite books. Books can also easily be ordered online through Amazon.co.uk, which can sometimes be cheaper than high street book stores.

## **CORE READING LIST: YEARS 7 & 8**

ALL THE WRONG QUESTIONS SERIES, Lemony Snicket

STORMBREAKER, Anthony Horowitz

SKULDUGGERY PLEASANT, Derek Landy

SWALLOWS AND AMAZONS, Arthur Ransome

FACE, Benjamin Zephaniah

REFUGEE BOY, Benjamin Zephaniah

COW GIRL, G. R. Gemin

CIRQUE DU FREAK, Darren Shan

ARTEMIS FOWL, Eoin Colfer

DEAD MAN'S COVE, Lauren St John

SONG FOR A DARK QUEEN, Rosemary Sutcliffe

CORALINE, Neil Gaiman

HARRY POTTER SERIES, J. K. Rowling

TIME RIDERS, Alex Scarrow

THE FALCON'S MALTESER, Anthony Horowitz

MORTAL ENGINES, Philip Reeve

ABOMINATION, Robert Swindells

THE HOBBIT, J. R.R. Tolkien

PRIVATE PEACEFUL, Michael Morpurgo

THE RAILWAY CHILDREN, E. Nesbit

THE ADVENTURES OF TINTIN, Herge

THE AMAZING MAURICE AND HIS EDUCATED RO-DENTS, Terry Pratchett

HAROUN AND THE SEA OF STORIES, Salman Rushdie

WATERSHIP DOWN, Richard Adams

PIG HEART BOY, Malorie Blackman

STONE COLD, Robert Swindells

STARSEEKER, Tim Bowler

**Developing readers:**

SOCCER STARS SERIES, Bali Rai

OPAL PLUMSTEAD, Jacqueline Wilson

TOM GATES SERIES, Liz Pichon

GROOSHAM GRANGE, Anthony Horowitz

FRAMED, Frank Cottrell Boyce

HOLES, Louis Sachar

ALONE ON THE WIDE, WIDE SEA, Michael Morpurgo

**Secure Readers:**

PERCY JACKSON AND THE LIGHTNING THIEF, Rick Riordan

JOURNEY TO THE RIVER SEA, Eva Ibbotson

VARJAK PAW, S. F. Said

CHERUB SERIES, Robert Muchamore

MISSION SURVIVAL SERIES, Bear Grylls

THE INDIAN IN THE CUPBOARD, Lynne Reid Banks

THE TWELFTH DAY OF JULY, Joan Lingard

GOODNIGHT MR TOM, Michelle Magorian

CARRIE'S WAR, Nina Bawden

WONDER, R. J. Palacio

THE BOY IN THE STRIPED PYJAMAS, John Boyne

MURDER MOST UNLADYLIKE, Robin Stevens

GOTH GIRL SERIES. Chris Riddell

**Confident Readers:**

THE SEEING STONE, Kevin Crossley Holland

THE EAGLE OF THE NINTH, Rosemary Sutcliffe

THE DIARY OF ANNE FRANK, Anne Frank

THE CHANGELING, Margaret Mahy

ASTERIX THE GAUL, Goscinny and Uderzo

ROLL OF THUNDER, HEAR MY CRY, Mildred D. Pierce

THE FIFTH WAVE, Rick Yancey

TAMAR, Mal Peet

THE BOOK THIEF, Marcus Zusak

NORTHERN LIGHTS, Phillip Pullman

**HAPPY READING!**

**Miss Torrens (Librarian)**