

Recommended Reading

How you can help your child
to make real progress
in English

Parent: How can these pages help my child in English?

Teacher: These pages let you know where your child is up to in becoming a fluent reader.

Parent: Weren't they taught that in primary school?

Teacher: Yes they were! But this moves their skills on, so that your child becomes a thoughtful reader who will be able to make considered judgements on any texts they read.

Parent: How can these pages help my child to make progress in English?

Teacher: These pages are an excellent guide to help you and your child find your way to reading success.

Parent: Wasn't my child taught to read in primary school?

Teacher: Yes, he/she was! But there's a difference between being a mechanical reader who merely recognises words and a fluent reader who will be able to make considered judgements on any text they read.

Parent: So... How do I use these pages?

Teacher: Here's how:

- ❖ Read the general advice on [Improving Your Child's Reading Skills](#).
- ❖ Look at the [5 descriptions of readers](#). Which do you think best fits your child's reading skills?



English Department

Improving Your Child's Reading Skills

Q: How can I help my child to improve his /her reading skills at Allerton High?

A: In the first term of each Key Stage 3 Year Group:

Make sure your child has a 'book in a bag' - a suitable reading book in school.

N.B. Yr 7 pupils will have a library lesson once a fortnight to learn how to use the library and how to borrow books.

If your child is not sure what to choose, ask him/her to talk to our friendly, approachable librarian, Mrs A. Walker, who is very knowledgeable and will give excellent advice about possible book choices. [Click here](#) for her book choices.

You could also take them to the local library or bookshop, eg 'Waterstones' and talk to him/her about what he/she enjoys reading about.

Each term your child will :

- Have one reading homework a week.**
- Have a library lesson a fortnight.**
- Keep a reading log in the back of their PO.**

Click on best fit description:

[Developing](#) (approx. Level 3 or less)

[Competent](#) (approx. Level 4)

[Active](#) (approx. Level 5)

[Reflective](#) (approx. Level 6)

[Versatile](#) (approx. Level 7+)

[Librarian's Book Choices](#)

[English Home Page](#)

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English Department: Recommended Reading



Developing Reader (Level 3)

If your child is identified as a **DEVELOPING** reader.

- ❖ **Remember** reading is the key to accessing the whole school curriculum.
- ❖ Take an interest in **every aspect** of reading in your child's environment, e.g. back of the cereal packet, to the geography text book. Keep them reading because practice perfects!
- ❖ Once you've chosen a suitable text **together**, it is important to hear your child read and to make time in your daily routine for this time to be a priority.
- ❖ When approaching a text, **keep praising your child** and **emphasise the 'fun' aspect of reading**.
- ❖ Here are some techniques you could try with your child, to improve his/her reading fluency:
 1. **Break down** the word **and sound it out**.
 2. Use the rest of the sentence to **help figure out** what the word means.
 3. Are there **drawings** and **illustrations** which make it clearer?

Click here for [Librarian's book choices](#) and [Improving Reading Skills](#)

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English Department: Recommended Reading



Competent Reader (Level 4)

If your child is identified as a **COMPETENT** reader.

- ❖ **Reading is always for fun and pleasure.**
- ❖ Encourage him/her to read a more **challenging** book than he/she would normally read.
- ❖ Ask him/her to consider what **genre** the text is (e.g. horror, romance, media, etc.)
- ❖ Why might the **title** be **significant**?
- ❖ **Discuss** with your child what might happen next in the story – **(PREDICT)**
- ❖ Encourage him/her to visit writers' **websites** and to go to **writers' talks and presentations**.
For example, 'Waterstones' in Leeds has an exciting programme of visiting authors. Leeds libraries also organise many author events during school holidays.
- ❖ **Praise and reward** your child if he or she completes a number of books, especially more than usual.
- ❖ **Let him/her see you enjoying reading.**
This will always encourage children to read more.

Click here for [Librarian's book choices](#) and [Improving Reading Skills](#)

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English Department: Recommended Reading



Active Reader (Level 5)

If your child is identified as an ACTIVE reader.

- ❖ Keep encouraging them to read every day.
- ❖ Try challenging teen fiction, such as William Nicholson and Philip Pullman.
- ❖ Make sure they have access to a wide range of non-fiction texts, such as **informative texts** and quality internet sites.
- ❖ Encourage them to read feature articles in quality magazines and Sunday supplements.
- ❖ Discuss:
 1. What is the purpose of the text?
 2. Who is it aimed at?
 3. How is the text laid out? (Presentation)

Click here for [Librarian's book choices](#) and [Improving Reading Skills](#)



English Department: Recommended Reading

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Reflective Reader (Level 6)

If your child is identified as a REFLECTIVE reader.

- ❖ Encourage him/her to broaden the range of texts, both fiction and non-fiction, that they choose.
- ❖ Read different newspapers (**tabloid and broadsheet**) and discuss the differences.
- ❖ **Help him/her** to make fiction choices by encouraging them to read books **linked to those he/she has already read** (books by same writer, on a similar theme, etc.)
- ❖ Read the opening of a challenging novel together and discuss it. Your child will need to be encouraged to persevere.
- ❖ Try **sharing** a novel (reading a part each) and discussing it.
- ❖ A novel linked to a film can be a good option, with the opportunity to watch the film together once the novel is complete. **Don't miss the opportunity to discuss the differences between the novel and the film.**
- ❖ Focus on keeping reading an **enjoyable experience**.
- ❖ Reading is a **voyage of discovery** where children gain experiences of **life** and **people** through the texts they explore.

Click here for [Librarian's book choices](#) and [Improving Reading Skills](#)

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English Department: Recommended Reading

Versatile Reader (Level 7)

If your child is identified as a VERSATILE reader.

- ❖ Encourage him/her to read texts from another **time or culture**.
- ❖ This can lead to research of the **historical or cultural aspect of the text**.
- ❖ Consider different quality Sunday paper supplements and discuss the **reliability** of the **articles** and **issues covered**.
- ❖ **Discuss with your child** how news items are **presented in newspapers** and on **television reports**, and **compare the differences**.
- ❖ **Keep reading fun!**

Click here for [Librarian's book choices](#) and [Improving Reading Skills](#)

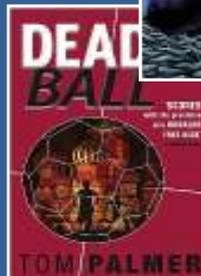
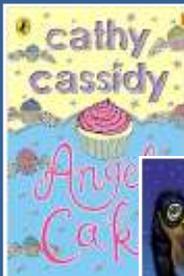
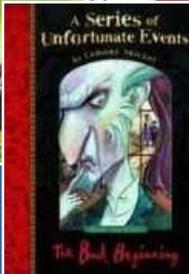
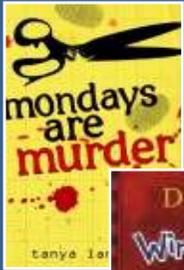
Librarian's Book Choices

Developing Reader

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These books are most appropriate for a Developing Reader

Mondays are Murder	Tanya Landman
Diary of a Wimpy Kid (<i>series</i>)	Jeff Kinney
Boy	Roald Dahl
A Series of Unfortunate Events (<i>series</i>)	Lemony Snicket
The Lottie Project	Jacqueline Wilson
Angel Cake	Cathy Cassidy
Dead Ball (<i>Football Detective series</i>)	Tom Palmer
Monster Mission	Eva Ibbotson
Jimmy Coates: Killer	Joe Craig
Revenge of the Number Two	Bali Rai
The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe	C. S. Lewis
Coraline	Neil Gaiman
Good Dog, Bad Dog (<i>Graphic Novel</i>)	Dave Shelton

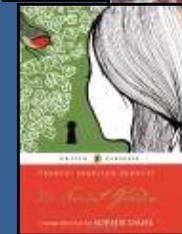
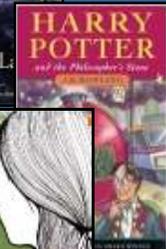
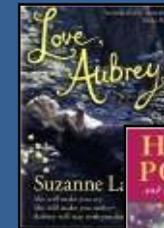
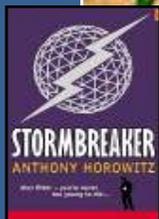
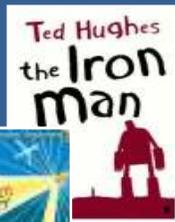
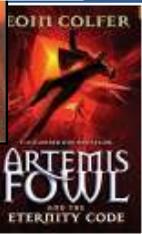


Librarian's Book Choices Competent Reader

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These books are most appropriate for a Competent Reader

Skulduggery Pleasant	Derek Landy
Goodnight Mister Tom	Michelle Magorian
Love, Aubrey	Suzanne La Fleur
Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone	JK Rowling
The Recruit (<i>Cherub series</i>)	Robert Muchamore
The Secret Garden	Frances Hodgson Burnett
Stormbreaker (<i>Alex Rider series</i>)	Anthony Horowitz
Blood Hunters	Steve Voake
Holes	Louis Sachar
The London Eye Mystery	Siobhan Dowd
The Iron Man	Ted Hughes
The Graveyard Book	Neil Gaiman
Shadow	Michael Morpurgo
Artemis Fowl	Eoin Colfer
Trash	Andy Mulligan



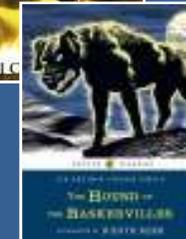
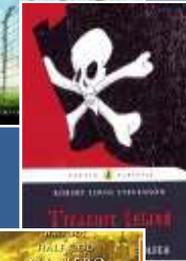
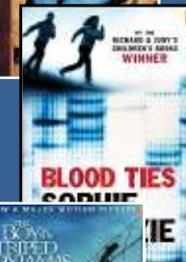
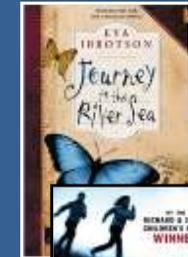
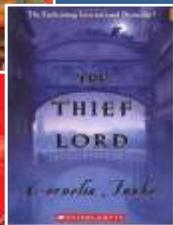
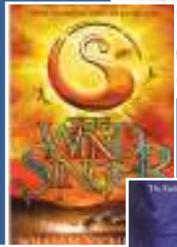
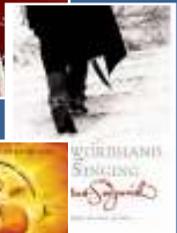
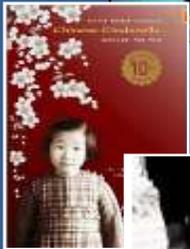
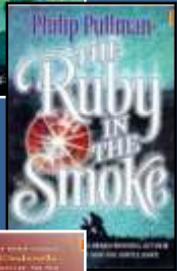
Librarian's Book Choices

Active Reader

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These books are most appropriate for an Active Reader

Malice	Chris Wooding
Journey to the River Sea	Eva Ibbotson
The Silver Sword	Ian Serraillier
Young Sherlock Holmes: Red Leech	Andrew Lane
Blood Ties	Sophie McKenzie
The Ruby in the Smoke	Philip Pullman
The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas	John Boyne
I, Coriander	Sally Gardner
Chinese Cinderella	Adeline Yen Mah
The Thief Lord	Cornelia Funke
The Hound of the Baskervilles	Sir Arthur Conan Doyle
The Wind Singer	William Nicholson
Treasure Island	Robert Louis Stevenson
Percy Jackson and the Lightning Thief	Rick Riordan
My Swordhand is Singing	Marcus Sedgwick



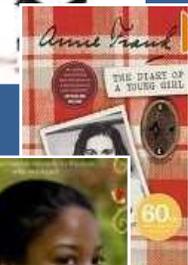
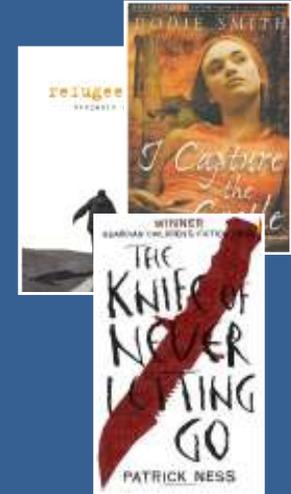
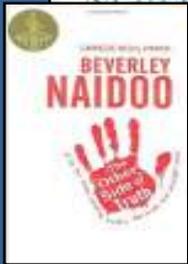
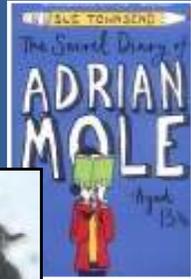
Librarian's Book Choices

Reflective Reader

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These books are most appropriate for a Reflective Reader

Northern Lights	Philip Pullman
I Capture the Castle	Dodie Smith
Revolver	Marcus Sedgwick
The Secret Diary of Adrian Mole	Sue Townsend
The Other Side of Truth	Beverley Naidoo
Refugee Boy	Benjamin Zephaniah
Private Peaceful	Michael Morpurgo
The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time	Mark Haddon
The Knife of Never Letting Go (<i>Chaos Walking series</i>)	Patrick Ness
Diary of a Young Girl	Anne Frank
Noughts and Crosses	Malorie Blackman
Eragon	Christopher Paolini
Chains	Laurie Halse Anderson



Librarian's Book Choices

Versatile Reader

These books are most appropriate for a Versatile Reader

The Book Thief	Markus Zusak
Bog Child	Siobhan Dowd
Rebecca	Daphne du Maurier
The Hunger Games	Suzanne Collins
To Kill a Mockingbird	Harper Lee
Ausländer	Paul Dowswell
Lord of the Flies	William Golding
Mort	Terry Pratchett
The Double Life of Cassiel Roadnight	Jenny Valentine
City of Ghosts	Bali Rai
The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy	Douglas Adams
Nineteen Eighty-Four	George Orwell
Pride and Prejudice	Jane Austen
Great Expectations	Charles Dickens

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