



Sir Robert Pattinson Academy

Reading Bulletin 2025
Term 3

Welcome



Welcome to SRPA's first Reading Bulletin.

Last term we received confirmation that we have attained Gold level for the One Education Reading Award. We are absolutely thrilled to receive this recognition at our first accreditation and it wouldn't have been possible without the hard work and support of all the SRPA staff, parents and students, so 'thank you!' Our feedback from One Education confirmed that we are: 'focused on providing children with the skills, the passion, and the enthusiasm needed for reading'. We will continue to build those skills and encourage passion and enthusiasm for reading and hope you enjoy finding out about how we plan to do so in this bulletin.

The Importance of Reading

According to the National Literacy Trust, 'When children and young people enjoy reading, they read more often, helping to build vital reading skills and bringing wider benefits for wellbeing, confidence and learning.'

Through research, they have found that 'twice as many children and young people who enjoy reading in their free time have above average reading skills than children who don't enjoy it (34.2% vs 15.7%)'. This emphasises that positive engagement with reading for pleasure as students grow up has wider positive implications and broader benefits.

The National Literacy Trust's research demonstrated that children and young people who read in their free time at least once a month said it helps them:



(National Literacy Trust, 2024)

Sadly, we know that many secondary students lose their interest in reading but, when it's so vital in so many ways, we must tackle this head-on.

Supporting Reading

Do you have a reluctant reader...?

Reading independently is possibly the single-most important activity your child can undertake to improve achievement in school. Research shows that reading helps cognitive development; recent studies revealed that students who read at home do significantly better across the curriculum – including 9.9% better in maths – than students who don't read. Linked to this is the fact that reading is the best way to improve vocabulary, essential for success in every subject.

Reading also has social and emotional benefits. It increases self-esteem and studies show that students who read are more empathetic. Growing up is tough - reading can help young people explore complex problems from the safe, fictional world of a book.

Here are some tips that may prove useful in engaging and supporting your reluctant reader:

Tip 1: Find books with a connection to something they love. If they are football fans, look for fiction like *Ultimate Football Heroes* or Tom Palmer's books. If they like military/action/war, try any of Alan Gratz's books (*Allies, Grenade, Ground Zero*). If they are into gaming, try fast-paced chapter books or 'choose your own adventure' stories. Our 'Recommended Reads' lists available on the Library Frog page will help them to select just the right book.

Tip 2: Graphic novels are wonderful for reluctant readers. Try graphic novel versions of *The Recruit* by Muchamore or *Silverfin* by Higson. We have an increasingly large collection of graphic novels in our Library that can be borrowed too.

Tip 3: Try audio books: Libraries have free, downloadable audio books plus Audible has a wide range of teen books. Many teens like the idea of being able to do something active while listening to a book. By listening to an audio book, your teen will pick up new vocabulary, hear complex sentence structures and engage with stories.

Tip 4: If your child is ready, you might select a 'grittier' book, then verbally hum-and-haw about whether they are old enough to read the book. Tell them maybe they should wait six months as 'there is some language and some blood'. Pretty soon they will be begging you for the book, and you can eventually give in, saying 'since you are now in Year ..., I guess it is okay'. Charlie Higson's *Enemy* series is a gritty series written for teens and all the books in the series are available in the SRPA Library.

Tip 5: Try a 'phone free' hour or use a timer/concentration App. Research shows that the average concentration span for a 12-year-old is 19 seconds, and the main culprit for reduced concentration is phones.

Drop Everything and Read

D.E.A.R. stands for "Drop Everything and Read," and that is exactly what our KS3 and KS4 students do - they drop *everything* and read for one R2L session each week. Students also have an opportunity to discuss the books they have read at the end of each half-term, to recommend books to peers and to reflect on the books they have read. Not only do our students participate, but our staff also model good reading habits with tutors reading alongside students and sharing conversations about books too.

Mr Evans, Year 8 R2L tutor in York had the following to say about D.E.A.R time:

I think D.E.A.R is a great way to start the day as it enables the students and I to enjoy some reading time, as well as having the opportunity to share book recommendations with each other, discussing their books and what they have read. As a teacher, I also enjoy being able to model reading for pleasure and sharing a love of reading with my tutor group and teaching groups.

His tutees also had the following comments to add about their engagement with D.E.A.R:

I like Drop Everything and Read because it is a nice way to start the day by reading first thing in the morning. I also like being able to share our books with each other and hear about what others are reading.

Dylan V

I enjoy reading as it is a relaxing start to the day and can calm you down. I think D.E.A.R is good motivation to start reading more regularly. Hearing book recommendations from the form helps if you don't know what to read.

Evie W

I enjoy the first fifteen minutes of the day as it's nice and relaxed being able to read a book and get ready for the day ahead.

Sam W

I enjoy reading at the start of the day because it helps me wake up more and it is a nice relaxed way to start the day. It has also helped me to get into reading more. It gives me a chance to get into a book that I really like and then it motivates me and makes me want to read at home.

Sienna D

Student Book Reviews

Our students are invited to share their thoughts through book reviews. Below are a selection of reviews from students who discovered a book they truly loved in the SRPA Library.

Book Review: Percy Jackson and the Lightning Thief

4.6 stars



"I love how this immersive adventure combines the mythical beliefs of ancient Greek gods with the modern spark of the 21st century."

After roping me in with his ridiculously named chapters, Rick Riordan proceeded to retell the traditional Greek fables with twists. Whether that was having Medusa own a garden emporium, selling her statues as garden decorations, to having a chimera disguised as a poodle, travelling on a train with the mother of all monsters – Echidna.

This is a brilliant tale with a blurb reading:

"Look, I didn't want to be a Half-Blood. I never asked to be the son of a Greek god."

I was just a normal kid, going to school, playing basketball, skateboarding. The usual. Until I accidentally vaporized my maths teacher.

Just by adding such simple humour is enough to rope you into one of the best books ever written.

I highly recommend reading this and the rest of the epic series. If I had to read this again I would, so if you are interested in reading about a mythical journey set in the 21st century, this book is for you!

Blake P (Year 7)

Private Peaceful Book Review

Title: Private Peaceful

Author: Michael Morpurgo

What is this book about?

Tommo and Charlie Peaceful are brothers who face an eventful childhood with the death of their beloved father, bullies at school, The Colonel, their wicked grandmother (Grandma Wolf) and much more. Whilst forever looking out for each other, the time comes where they must fight in The Great War.

My favorite part:

My favorite part of this book is when the Colonel insists all men must go over the top. Despite what he says, Charlie stays behind to protect Tommo.

My least favorite part:

My least favorite part is when Charlie sadly gets shot for cowardice even though he does nothing wrong.

My rating:

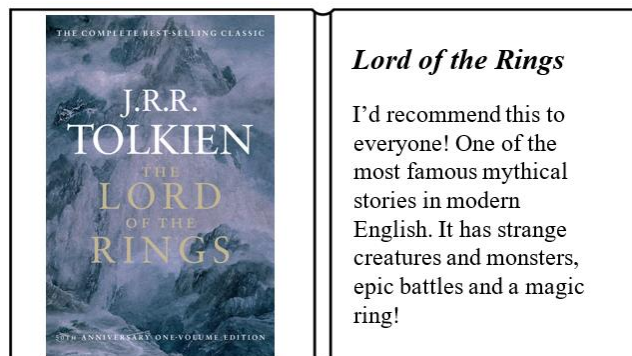
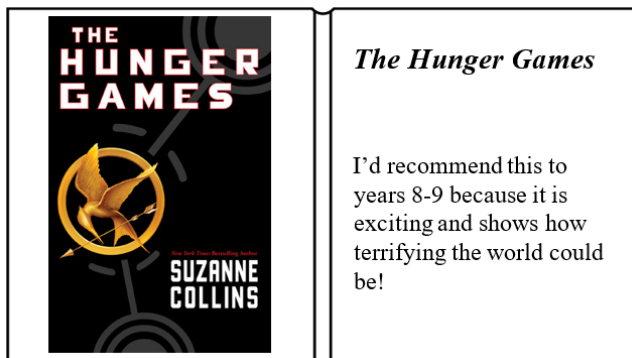
I give this book 4/5 stars.

I recommend it to people who are interested in war, or simply want some entertainment between 9-15 years.

Hannah H (Year 7)

If your child has a book they wish to review please encourage them to visit the English Subject Champion meetings or ask Mrs White, the Librarian, for a book review sheet.

Book Recommendations for Students



If your child has any recommendations they wish to share (or indeed yourself!) please email these to jmurdoch@srpa.co.uk

Book Recommendations for Parents/Carers

Whilst looking to support your child with reading at home, you may wish to consider your next read. Thanks to Mrs Palser, Mrs Selwood, Mrs Gilbert and Mr Manderfield for these recommendations! If you have any book recommendations you wish to share in the next Reading Bulletin, please email these to jmurdoch@srpa.co.uk for consideration.

The Satsuma Complex and **The Hotel Avocado** by Bob Mortimer. Really clever and very funny – tell the story of Gary, a solicitor who is down on his luck yet ends up involved in organised crime and big secrets.

The Maid by Nita Prose. One of the best thrillers I have read in a long time – such a twist and so, so clever. I dived straight into the second one when I finished this!

The Midnight Library by **Matt Haig** – a bit of a twist on the It's a Wonderful Life story where the main character gets to experience different lives through the books in the midnight library. Really clever and reflective. Read it in a day.

Thursday Murder Club series as well as **We Solve Murders** by Richard Osman. All fantastic and easy to read. Very clever and very funny.

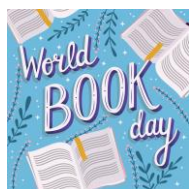
After the Storm by G. D. Wright. A dramatic, fast paced and emotional story that perfectly illustrates how one split second can affect future lives irrevocably.

The Examiner by Janice Hallett. Told in emails, text messages, and essays, this unputdownable mystery follows a group of students in an art master's program that goes dangerously awry. A compelling thriller that you don't want to put down!

The Hobbit by J.R.R Tolkien. Set in the fantastic realm of Middle Earth, the story follows home-loving Bilbo Baggins, the hobbit of the title, who joins a quest to reclaim the dwarves' home and treasure from the dragon Smaug.

The Last Wish by Andrzej Sapkowski. A collection of fantasy themed, interlinked stories, which focus on the the life of Geralt of Rivia. Geralt is a Witcher, someone who has undergone an intensive process to become capable of fighting monsters. Each chapter alternates between a story from Geralt's past and his present.

Opportunities/Upcoming Reading Events



This year, World Book Day falls on **Thursday 6th March 2025**. If your child would like a book token in celebration of World Book Day, they can pop along to the library to collect one from Mrs White, our librarian. These vouchers can be redeemed against the cost of a full-priced book or to purchase one of the [£1 books released for World Book Day](#). As usual, we will have a range of World Book Day themed activities in the Academy on the day. We look forward to seeing the students getting involved!

World Book Night falls on **Wednesday 23rd April 2025**, UNESCO's International Day of the Book and, probably, the birth and death date of William Shakespeare. The purpose of World Book Night is to encourage reading more widely with adults and young people and this year they have introduced the new [Quick Reads](#) series to tempt readers.



To find local bookstore based events in your area, please look on the National Book token website for more information: [Find a bookshop](#)

The SRPA Library




Our Library is at the heart of the Academy and a hub of activity throughout the day.

Not only used as a reading space throughout the day, the Library is also open at both break times and before school for students to visit and make use of the resources and space.

There is a wide range of both fiction and non-fiction books for students to pick from that they can read and borrow on a two-week loan. The


Library also features a revision guide section for students at KS4 who are seeking extra help to support their revision. These resources can be used in the Library space, photocopied or taken out on loan. Students can access our catalogue (via the link: [Access-It](#)) to check to see if there is a copy of the book available before visiting or to reserve a copy if their chosen book is already out on loan.

As part of our ongoing text renewal and to encourage our students to be actively involved in the development of the Library stock, they are invited to request books that we may consider purchasing to add to the Library catalogue. Any students who would like to request a book just needs to fill in the details on a 'wish list' form and drop it in the box in the Library for consideration.



Book wish list:

Is there a book you would really like to see in the SRPA library? Let us know!



My name: _____ My form: _____

Book Title:	Author:

We will try our best to purchase the book(s) and let you know!

Pop any other feedback you wish to share on the back

