

Reading for Enjoyment

How can I help my teenager get into reading?



What should my teenager be reading?

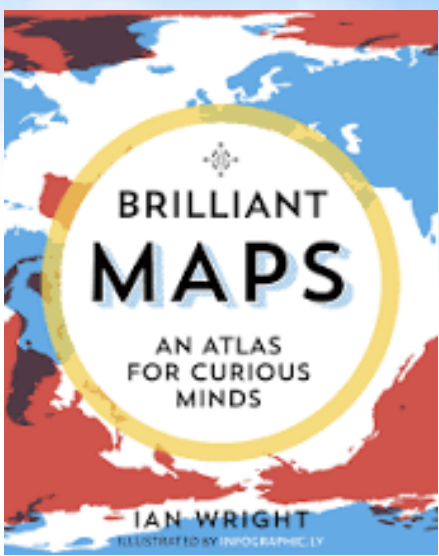
- Often children are great readers in primary school, but this falls away when they are teenagers.
- Parents often tell us they want to encourage their young people to read, but don't know where to begin.
- There is a misconception that reading outside of school **has** to be novels, but there is so much more that can encourage teenagers to read for enjoyment if novels aren't their thing.
- The bottom line is that young people who are readers are successful learners across the curriculum.



Different types of text to consider

- Non-fiction – biography, autobiography, travel writing, science...
- Magazines – quality monthly publications on topics of interest (*rugby, dancing, fishing, music, films, photography...*)
- Newspapers
- Comic books/graphic novels
- Poetry
- Blogs
- Short stories
- Books of films/tv shows

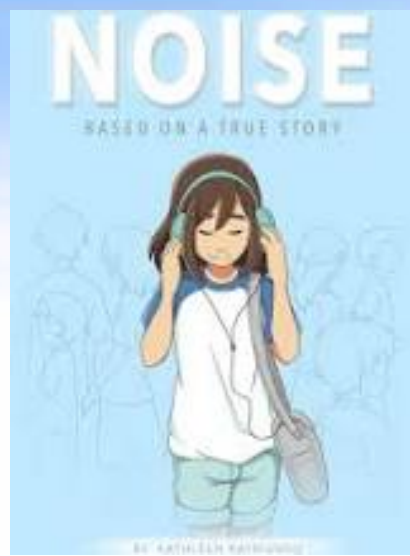




Non-fiction



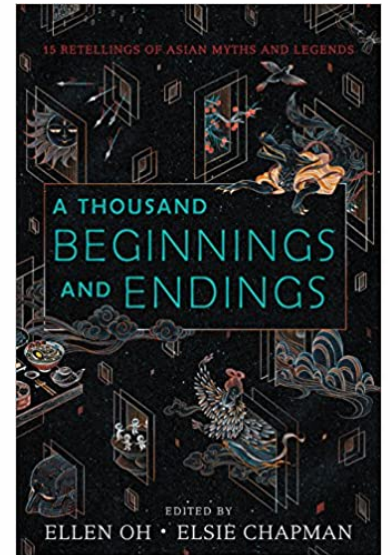
Magazines



Graphic Novels



Short Stories



Where can I go for help?

- **The Scottish Book Trust** is a fantastic organisation which is dedicated to all things books, reading and literacy.
- There is a wealth of information on the site for teachers, learners and parents.
- To help your teenagers at home, there is a very useful section for parents on how to encourage reading, as well as information on books to help you understand your teenagers!



BBC Authors Live

- The Scottish Book Trust along with the BBC runs events called “Authors Live” in which writers are invited to talk to young people about their writing, reading and lots of subjects in between.
- These events are broadcast live online, and the site has all previous broadcasts available to view.
- St Margaret’s attended one of these events at the BBC in Glasgow to be the audience, and we have also watched others as they were broadcast.
- Pupils have found these events extremely engaging, and it helps them to see reading in a wider context. Writers sharing their love of words, books and reading is an excellent way to encourage reading.



Share

Looking for more in [Authors Live on Demand?](#)



Anthony Horowitz

Language: English

Genre: Adventure, Thriller

Age group: 9-11, 12-14



Anthony Horowitz discusses his phenomenally successful Alex Rider series, 15 years on from the publication of the first book, *Stormbreaker*. You can [download a transcript of this event](#) if needed.

Age recommendation

Search for Authors Live – there are 82 to choose from!

Each event is categorised by age group as well as interest



Libraries



- Your local library and librarians are an excellent source of help and advice selecting suitable reading material. Best of all – it's free!
- Libraries also stock audiobooks, which can be an excellent way to get into reading.
- Books can still be borrowed from our school library.
- Books can be requested from any other West Lothian library if what you want isn't in school.
- English staff also have book trolleys full of different reading materials.



Engaging with media

- A great way to get young people into reading is to watch tv or film adaptations of literature, such as the Harry Potter films or the Hunger Games.
- There are also many book series which are adapted from tv and film source material, such as Pirates of the Caribbean, Star Wars and Dr Who.
- Parents should aim to talk to their children and teenagers about what they are watching too, as this is proven to improve literacy skills.
- Young people are often able to think critically about media texts at quite an advanced level, even if they struggle with reading and writing, so it's worth engaging them in discussion.
- <https://www.panmacmillan.com/blogs/literary/the-best-book-to-film-adaptations>



Films adapted from books



Popular tv shows adapted from books



YA Reading Lists



Here are some places where you can find suggestions of what to read:

- <https://www.womansday.com/life/entertainment/g24454288/best-books-for-teens/?slide=38>
- <https://www.booktrust.org.uk/booklists/s/short-stories-ya/>
- <https://seattle.bibliocommons.com/list/share/76033342/89006646>
- <https://reedsy.com/discovery/blog/young-adult-books>
- <https://www.goodreads.com/list/tag/young-adult>
- <https://www.penguinrandomhouse.com/the-read-down/ya-books-that-are-also-great-reads-for-adults>



Every child can be a reader

Barrington Stoke



<https://www.barringtonstoke.co.uk/>

- If your child is a reluctant reader or has learning needs such as dyslexia, Barrington Stoke is an excellent publisher which specifically caters for them.
- All of their books are short, not on bright white paper, in dyslexia friendly fonts and age appropriate for various reading ages.
- Often, teenagers who struggle with reading find the material they can access is for younger children, so Barrington Stoke's books are ideal.
- Their catalogue includes work by many well known authors who write for them specially.



If you follow this link, you will see Barrington Stoke's catalogue of texts for teenagers:

<https://www.barringtonstoke.co.uk/product-category/teen/>

They have a mixture of classic texts adapted specially and books which have been written for them with reluctant readers and those with dyslexia in mind.

This is an example of some of their catalogue:



ONE SHOT

£7.99

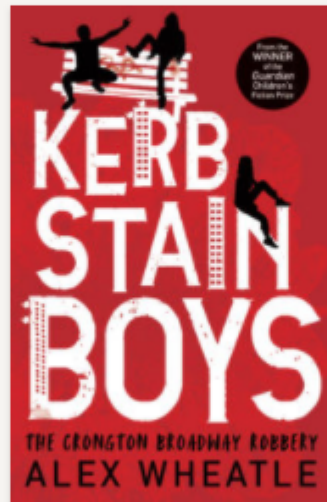
RA 8 | IA Teen



GOOD BOY

£7.99

RA 8 | IA Teen



KERB-STAIN BOYS:
THE CRONGTON
BROADWAY ROBBERY

£7.99

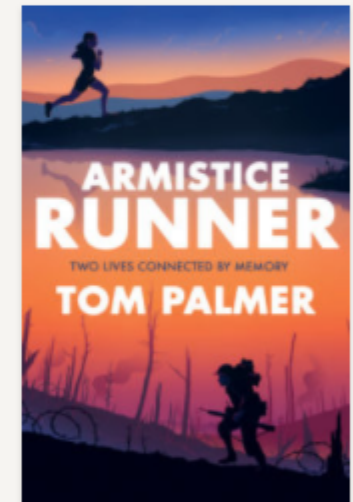
RA 9 | IA Teen



STAY A LITTLE
LONGER

£6.99

RA 8 | IA Teen



ARMISTICE RUNNER

£6.99

n/a | IA 8-12