

## Choosing books and reading widely

Encourage your child to step outside of their comfort zone and try some genres that they don't normally read (in addition to the ones they already enjoy).

The following books are from a list of recommended books which have been chosen as they are interesting and accessible for children of your child's age.

Some of these books may be available in the school library or you can try and find them in a public library, or online.

See also the tips overleaf on choosing books.

*Torrent* by Bernard Ashley

*Persist* by Melvin Burgess

*Crow Girl Rises* by Kate Cann

*My Name is O* by Sam Enthoven

*2 Die 4* by Nigel Hinton

*You Killed Me!* by Keith Gray

*Hero* by Pete Johnson

*Two Words* by Tanya Landman

*The Night Raid* by Caroline Lawrence

*The Fall* by Anthony McGowan

*Cool* by Michael Morpurgo

*Shadow Girl* by Sally Nicholls

*Ghost Stadium* by Tom Palmer

*Saved* by Eleanor Updale

## Choosing books and reading widely (cont.)

Readers often choose the wrong level of books and can either remain unchallenged or switch off when reading is too hard.

### FIVE FINGER RULE

- Choose a book that you think you will enjoy.
- Read the second page.
- Hold up a finger for each word you are not sure of, or do not know.
- If there are five or more words you did not know, you should choose an easier book.
- Still think it may be too difficult or too easy? Use the five finger rule on two more pages.



## Reading Logs

Your child needs to make time for reading every day – about 20–30 minutes on their own.

Pupils will be expected to write at least a three-sentence summary of their reading every time they read, and to complete a book review every time they finish a book.

Remember, talking with your child about what they have read will make writing about it easier for them.

Your child could have a reading journal to write their summaries and reviews in and you can discuss these with them..



## 7. Helping Your Child with Reading

“The more you **read**  
the more **things** you know.  
The more that you **learn**  
the more **places** you'll go.”  
-Dr. Seuss

 **Hackney**

## The importance of reading and reading comprehension

Reading unlocks the door to endless opportunities for our children. Reading a wide range of genres and text types develops knowledge, vocabulary and language. Reading is also a social and enjoyable activity.

To be able to read effectively and enjoy reading, your child needs to be able to decode or read the words on the page and also understand, or comprehend, what they have read.

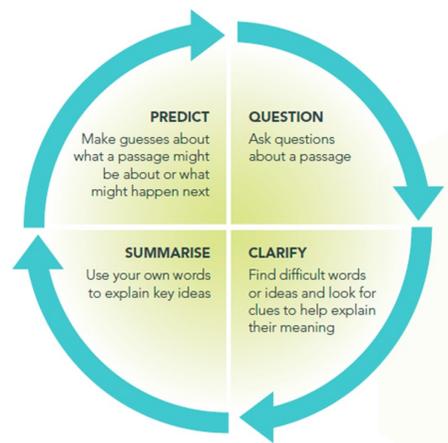
You can help them do this by using a range of reading comprehension strategies and encouraging them to reflect on their own understanding and learning.

Your child may feel they are too old for you to read a book to them now they are in secondary school. However, if they want you to, it can be useful to read some books to them to model fluent reading and to extend their vocabulary by hearing and discussing more difficult texts.

## Reading comprehension strategies

The main reading strategies are:

Predicting	Questioning
Clarifying	Summarising



## Enjoying reading and developing book talk

Extensive reading research indicates that improvements in comprehension take place in settings that promote extensive reading. This creates an environment where high quality talk about texts can be encouraged.

Talking to your child about what they are reading will help them to engage with what they are reading and understand it. Try to keep the conversation chatty and interesting. Read the book yourself so that you can really get involved in the discussion.

You can use the reading strategies overleaf to develop your discussions about books.

You can make predictions, ask questions, clarify and summarise at any point while you are reading. For example, you could look at the cover and predict what the book will be about, whether it is like other books you have read; you could also predict what will happen after you have read the first paragraph or few chapters. You can also summarise a paragraph, a chapter or the whole book.