

## 'Reading is reading' 2025

As we look beyond 900 years at Reading School, we encourage you to look beyond your curriculum. Our aim this Reading Week is to publish a collection of brief book reviews to encourage scholarship – learning at a high level. These will help students navigate their way towards a broader and richer variety of texts.

The expectation is for each student to contribute to this, to be shared with all the Reading School community.

Review options are as follows, and The form for submissions is here <a href="#">Reading Week Student Form</a>		
Quickfire book/podcast/documentary review	'Challenging' book/podcast/documentary review	Creative Piece (video/podcast/art/cartoon/poetry/music/ to sum up your experiences of a book/podcast/documentary)
Standard book/podcast/documentary review	Your 'discovery journey'	

We highly recommend students getting into the LRC soon to borrow their selected books from the amazing student librarians. Additionally here are the main web links for access to texts over Reading Week:

[Oliver - our library catalogue \(not readable online\)](#)  
[Reading Lists for your year group](#)  
[Find your local library](#)

[LRC E-Resources such as journals and magazines](#)  
 Reading posters to inspire you – COMING SOON

The following 'menu' is a suggestion of what each student is expected to read during Reading Week. One text of your choice from each section will make for a rich and varied diet, appropriate for your age.				
	Text 1	Text 2	Text 3	Text
Year 7	Choose something exciting from subject reading lists	Choose something intriguing from subject reading lists	How about something by MG Leonard, who is coming in to see you?	Read your Book Buzz book
Year 8	Choose something fascinating from subject reading lists	Choose something unique from subject reading lists	Read from an unfamiliar genre that is new to you e.g. why not try a book by Sue Wallman (who is coming to see you)	Choose from our 'Empathy' reading list <a href="#">LINK</a>
Year 9	Watch a classic theatre show from the National Theatre <a href="#">Login Details on Reading List</a>	Choose a non-fiction documentary or autobiography eg. A book by Alex Hibbert (who is coming in to see you)	Choose something that is related to a possible area of research for your HPQ	Choose a fiction book from one of the reading posters <a href="#">LINK</a>
Year 10	Choose something from the reading list of your weakest subject	Choose something from the reading list of a subject about which you are most passionate	Read something beyond your experience: <a href="#">LINK</a>	Get into dystopian fiction by reading a book by Sarah Govett (who is coming to see you!)
Year 11	Choose something from the reading list of your weakest subject	Choose something from the reading list of a subject you are most likely to choose for A Level <a href="#">LINK</a>	Choose something from the reading list of your weakest subject	Create a research presentation on a topic of interest that is not covered in your curriculum (see creative reading info below)

<b>Year 12</b>	Lose yourself in a fiction book from one of the reading posters	Choose something from the reading list of your weakest subject	Create a research presentation on a topic of interest that is not covered in your curriculum (see creative reading info below)	Read something from the Careers section of the library to broaden your horizons <a href="#">LINK</a>
<b>Year 13</b>	Read something on leadership before you embark on your next steps <a href="#">LINK</a>	Choose something from the reading list of your weakest subject	Use JStor to read an academic journal from your likely degree subject	Use the online subject magazines to read around your likely degree subject <a href="#">LINK</a>

### **Details of the 'Reading is reading' Challenges**

#### **Quickfire Book Review:**

Write the full title (including series) of the book you have read plus its author in brackets eg. Harry Potter: Philosopher's Stone (JK Rowling)

Write a 5 word book review eg. Strange worlds collide in space

Copy and complete this sentence "You'll enjoy reading this if you like.....(book / author / interest)"

#### **Standard Book Review**

Write a 150 word review of the book - include the title and the author. Summarise the storyline (without giving too much away!)

What did you like? What did you not like?

Who would you recommend the book to and why them?

#### **Challenging Book Review**

Write a 250 word review of a book that particularly challenged you.

Perhaps it was a book that was 'outside your comfort zone' - a genre or style that you are not used to.

Perhaps it was about a concept or idea that you were unfamiliar with and made you think differently.

Perhaps the language and vocabulary used was more difficult than you typically encounter.

Tell us the book title and author, plus your experiences of reading it, and its impact on you.

#### **Your reading journey**

Tell us about your reading experiences in 500 words, and how they differ from when you were younger.

Include specific examples of books/authors/genres.

Describe how your reading habits have changed and why this is - have books changed you, or has your life changed which books you read?

Write some advice for someone younger than yourself about how/what to read and why.

## Creative Reading

At Reading School we pride ourselves on the academic potential and scholarly approach of our students. During your time here you will have many opportunities to stretch yourself to see how far you can go. We want you to think of the curriculum for each subject as being the starting point for your studies; the tool that will enable you to discover independently more and more over the next two years. Mr Cooper should like to present you all with an exciting challenge:

*"I am strongly recommending that you use Reading Week to take the opportunity to explore an aspect from at least one of your subjects beyond the curriculum. Any area directly or indirectly relating to your subject is fine, as long as it sparks your interest. You will find that Heads of Department have provided you with stimuli through the suggested reading for your subject(s).*

*You may well find that when you start reading around your subjects that it ignites a passion for you, which you have not known before. As well as fueling your love for the subjects, it has the side benefit of you understanding your courses better and often allows you to contribute in greater depth to class discussions by drawing parallels from what you have studied at home to that which you are encountering in the classroom. It will take your lessons to another level."*

For those that take up the challenge, you will need to do the following:

1. Select an area to research. This should be from one of the categories below (Humanities, Performing Arts & Languages, and STEM) – you should aim to complete a piece of research from each category throughout the year. If you are studying A levels, then pick one of your A levels for Reading Week.

<b>HUMANITIES</b>	<b>PERFORMING ARTS &amp; LANGUAGES</b>	<b>STEM</b>
Ancient History	Art	Advanced Mathematics
English Language	Drama	Biology
English Literature	French	Chemistry
Geography	German	Computer Science
History	Latin	Economics
Religion and Philosophy	Mandarin	Electronics
	Music	Mathematics
	Physical Education	Physics
	Spanish	

2. Try to use a variety of sources to glean your information (books, podcasts, documentaries, online lectures, youtube videos etc – using the subject reading lists as a potential stimulus. Subject teachers will also be happy to discuss areas of research that you could undertake e.g. French: Stromae, a Belgium singer; Algeria's war of independence; economical or environmental impact of the recent Paris Olympics; Thomas Pesquet, a French Astronaut, working for the European Space Agency)
3. Present your scholarly research on video (8-15mins in length) and submit it to Mr Cooper

Students at Reading School are encouraged to be community minded and to leave the school a better institution than the one they found on their arrival. Therefore, the format of the research that you will submit should be a video file, as the best pieces of research will be made a part of a Digital Research Library\* for all students (present and future) to be informed and be inspired.

The reason for the video file, is not so that you can be on camera, rather you can display images, graphs, text, embed videos etc with your commentary over the top. All presentations must consist of a bibliography – a slide which outlines where you got your information from. This is to enable those that are interested in your scholarly work to read up on it in more detail later. You should use [wetransfer.com](http://wetransfer.com) to submit your research to me at [mcooper@reading-school.co.uk](mailto:mcooper@reading-school.co.uk)

At Reading School we pride ourselves on striving for excellence in all that we do. We look forward to viewing your research with great pleasure.

\*The digital library will be through VIMEO, vimeo supports just about any kind of video file, including these common formats: MP4, MOV, WMV, AVI or FLV.