

READING FOR PLEASURE

Reading for pleasure means reading of your own free will, simply to enjoy the act of reading.

Reading for pleasure has been proven to improve:

- Reading attainment and writing ability
- Text comprehension and grammar
- Breadth of vocabulary
- Positive reading attitudes
- General knowledge

Title	Author	Genre	Summary
13 Little Blue Envelopes	Maureen Johnson	Young adult fiction	When 17-year-old Ginny receives a bequest — a packet of mysterious envelopes — from her favourite aunt Peg, she leaves New Jersey to crisscross Europe on a whirlwind tour and scavenger hunt that transforms her life.
A Ring of Endless Light	Madeleine L'Engle	Young adult fiction	Struggling to confront her grandfather's impending death, 16-year-old Vicky Austin finds herself the centre of attention for three young men, one of whom is a dolphin researcher. When the inevitable crisis comes, she must rely on the love of others — both human and dolphin — to overcome her grief.
A Separate Peace	John Knowles	Historical fiction	Mica Area High School has never seen anything like Susan "Stargirl" Caraway, a classic Manic Pixie Dream Girl who wears Native American buckskins, plays the ukulele and cheers for both teams at sporting events. A story about the perils of popularity, the courage of nonconformity, and the thrill of first love.

A Thousand Paper Cranes	Eleanor Coerr	Historical fiction	This short novel based on a true story brings history, empathy, and culture into one moving story that you (or your kids) will always remember.
Abhorsen Trilogy	Garth Nix	Fantasy	In the Old Kingdom, magic is real and the dead walk — and sometimes, they walk right across the magical Wall and into the New Kingdom. The series follows skilled necromancer Sabriel and her companions as they fight to send the dead back into the realm of Death.
Along for the Ride	Sarah Dessen	Young adult fiction	When Auden goes to stay with her father, stepmother and new baby sister the summer before she starts college, all the trauma of her parents' divorce is revived, even as she is making new friends and learning that there's more to life than schoolwork and perfectionism.
Anna and the French Kiss	Stephanie Perkins	Young adult fiction	When Anna's romance-novelist father sends her to an elite American boarding school in Paris for her senior year of high school, she goes reluctantly — and meets the amazing Etienne St. Clair. Will their year of near-misses lead to love?
Anne of Green Gables	L.M. Montgomery	Young fiction	Anne is well-known, well-loved, and never at a loss for words. When Anne, an orphan, is mistakenly sent to Marilla and Matthew Cuthbert, an elderly brother and sister who wanted a boy to help with the farm, she shakes up their lives and the lives of others in Avonlea with her sense of adventure and optimistic spirit.
Before I Fall	Lauren Olivia	Young adult fiction	Popular, thoughtless Samantha dies in a fiery car crash — but wakes up the next morning, and ends up living out her last day alive seven times in a row, until she finally unravels the mystery of her death.
Brown Girl Dreaming	Jacqueline Woodson	Young fiction	Raised in South Carolina and New York, Woodson always felt halfway home in each place. In vivid poems, she shares what it was like to grow up as an African American in the 1960s and 1970s, living with the remnants of Jim

			Crow and her growing awareness of the Civil Rights movement.
Confessions of Georgia Nicolson series	Louise Rennison	Young adult fiction	The lives and loves of British teenager Georgia Nicolson and her friends in the "Ace Gang," and also Georgia's mad cat Angus. Can Georgia choose between hunky Robbie, Italian stallion Masimo and close friend Dave? And can she keep Angus out of trouble?
Counting by 7's	Holly Goldberg Sloan	Young fiction	Willow Chance is a twelve-year-old genius, obsessed with nature and diagnosing medical conditions, who finds it comforting to count by 7s. It has never been easy for her to connect with anyone other than her adoptive parents, but that hasn't kept her from leading a quietly happy life . . . until now.
Delirium series	Lauren Oliver	Fantasy	In a dystopian near future America, the government has classified love as a disease. All citizens, once they turn 18, receive a government operation to cure the unwanted emotion. Lena looks forward to her operation and a safe, predictable and happy life — until, just a few months before her 18th birthday, she meets the mysterious Alex and falls in love.
Divergent Series	Veronica Ruth	Dystopian	In a future Chicago, 16-year-old Beatrice Prior must choose among five predetermined factions to define her identity for the rest of her life, a decision made more difficult when she discovers that she is an anomaly who does not fit into any one group, and that the society she lives in is not perfect after all.
Dune	Frank Herbert	Science Fiction	Paul Atreides, the son of a betrayed duke, is given up for dead on a treacherous desert planet and adopted by its fierce, nomadic people, who help him unravel his most unexpected destiny.
Earthsea series	Ursula K. Le Guin	Fantasy	Yearning for knowledge and power, Sparrowhawk, a young student at the School for Wizards, becomes overanxious and tries his dangerous powers too soon,

			unleashing a terrible evil throughout the land, as he prepares for his destiny as the greatest sorcerer in the history of Earthsea.
Fallen series	Lauren Kate	Fantasy	Luce ends up at reform school after her boyfriend dies in a mysterious fire. While there, she finds herself drawn to Daniel — feeling almost as if she'd met him before. That feeling turns out to be true: Luce and the supernatural Daniel are doomed lovers, fated to lose each other in lifetime after lifetime.
Fish in a Tree	Lynda Mullaly Hunt	Young fiction	Ally has been smart enough to fool a lot of smart people. Every time she lands in a new school, she is able to hide her inability to read by creating clever yet disruptive distractions. She is afraid to ask for help; after all, how can you cure dumb? However, her newest teacher Mr. Daniels sees the bright, creative kid underneath the troublemaker.
Flowers for Algernon	Daniel Keyes	Science fiction	When brain surgery makes a mouse into a genius, dull-witted Charlie Gordon wonders if it might also work for him. It does ... but then the mouse begins to regress.
From the Mixed up Files of Mrs Basil E. Frankweiler	E. L. Konigsburg	Young fiction	When Claudia and her brother, Jamie decide to run away, they don't just run anywhere: they make their home in the Metropolitan Museum of Modern Art in New York. While there, they sleep in opulent beds, bathe in the fountain, and stumble on an art mystery that captures their imaginations.
Gallagher Girls series	Ally Carter	Romance/adventure	Cammie Morgan can speak 14 different languages, hack CIA computer codes and kill a man seven different ways. She and her friends are students at the elite Gallagher Academy for Exceptional Young Women, where martial arts and chemical warfare are on the curriculum, and the real mission is training spies.
Gone series	Michael Grant	Science fiction	When everyone over the age of 14 suddenly disappears from a California

			town, a battle erupts between the remaining residents and the students from a local school, as well as those who have "The Power" and those who do not.
Graceling series	Kristin Cashore	Fantasy	In the Graceling realms, rare people are Graced with a special skill — cooking, fighting, singing, building, lying — and all the Graced are marked with eyes of two different colours. Katsa, niece of the tyrannical king, is graced with fighting — or so she thinks.
Harry Potter series	J.K. Rowling	Adventure/fantasy	The adventures of Harry Potter, the Boy Who Lived, and his wand-wielding friends at the Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry. Harry, Ron and Hermione must master their craft and battle the machinations of the evil wizard Voldemort and his Death Eaters.
His Dark Materials series	Phillip Pullman	Science Fiction	In this hit series, young Lyra Belacqua tries to prevent kidnapped children from becoming the subject of gruesome experiments; helps Will Parry — a boy from another world — search for his father; and finds that she and Will are caught in a battle between the angelic forces of the Authority and those gathered by her rebel uncle, Lord Asriel.
Howl's Moving Castle	Diana Wynne Jones	Fantasy	The eldest of three sisters in a land where being the eldest is considered a misfortune, Sophie is resigned to her fate as a hat shop apprentice — until a witch turns her into an old woman, and she finds herself in the castle of the greatly feared wizard Howl.
I am the Messenger	Markus Zusak	Young adult fiction	The dull and drab life of Ed, an underage cab driver with a coffee-addicted dog, takes an unexpected turn when he accidentally stops a bank robbery and finds himself being placed in charge of watching out for the entire town.
If I Stay	Gayle Forman	Young adult fiction	Seventeen-year-old Mia is in a coma after a terrible car accident that killed her parents. Awakening, she has no memory of the accident, and must put her life back

			together piece by piece — and decide what to do with it.
Just Listen	Sarah Desse	Young adult fiction	Suddenly unpopular 16-year-old Annabel finds an ally in classmate Owen, whose honesty and passion for music help her to face what really happened at the end-of-the-year party that changed her life.
Little Women	Louisa May Alcott	Young fiction	The story of four very different sisters and their steadfast mother living in genteel poverty in Concord, Massachusetts, while Mr. March is away as a chaplain in the Civil War continues to enchant.
Looking for Alaska	John Green	Young adult fiction	Sixteen-year-old Miles' first year at Culver Creek Preparatory School in Alabama includes good friends and great pranks, but is defined by the search for answers about life and death after a fatal car crash.
Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children	Ransom Riggs	fantasy	After a family tragedy, Jacob feels compelled to explore an abandoned orphanage on an island off the coast of Wales, discovering that the children once kept there — including his own grandfather — may have been dangerous, and may be still alive.
My Sisters Keeper	Jodi Picoult	Young adult fiction	Paul Atreides, the son of a betrayed duke, is given up for dead on a treacherous desert planet and adopted by its fierce, nomadic people, who help him unravel his most unexpected destiny.
Out of My Mind	Sharon M. Draper	Young fiction	Melody is an eleven-year-old girl who has never walked, fed herself, or gotten herself dressed. She has also never spoken a word, though her head is filled with them. Melody has cerebral palsy, and many of the most basic aspects of her life present a challenge. But what she longs for most is the ability to communicate and show the world that the person inside is smart and feeling.
Paper Towns	John Green	Young adult fiction	One month before graduating from his Central Florida high school, Quentin "Q" Jacobsen basks in the predictable

			boringness of his life, until the beautiful and exciting Margo Roth Spiegelman, Q's neighbour and classmate, takes him on a midnight adventure and then mysteriously disappears.
Shiver Trilogy	Maggie Stiefvater	Fantasy	Grace has been visited each winter by a yellow-eyed wolf — a werewolf, it turns out, who becomes her boyfriend in his human form as Sam. Grace and Sam must fight to stay together, while fellow werewolf Cole wrestles with his attraction for rich girl Isabel.
Something Wicked this Way Comes	Ray Bradbury	Horror	When a sinister carnival comes to town just before Halloween, two boys unearth the terrifying and horrible secrets that lurk within Cooger & Dark's Pandemonium Shadow Show — and learn the consequences of wishes, as an evil force is at work in Green Town, Ill.
Song of the Lioness series	Tamora Pierce	Fantasy	Eleven-year-old Alanna wants to be a knight. Her brother Thom wants to be a wizard. So she disguises herself as a boy and the two switch places, leading Alanna to a lifetime of adventure as the Kingdom of Tortall's first Lady Knight.
Stargirl	Jerry Spinelli	Young Adult Fiction	Mica Area High School has never seen anything like Susan "Stargirl" Caraway, a classic Manic Pixie Dream Girl who wears Native American buckskins, plays the ukulele and cheers for both teams at sporting events. A story about the perils of popularity, the courage of nonconformity, and the thrill of first love.
The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian	Sherman Alexie	Young adult fiction	Sherman Alexie's humorous, semiautobiographical novel, illustrated by Ellen Forney, follows 14-year-old Junior — poor, skinny and with a freakishly big head — as he leaves his school on the Spokane Indian Reservation for a mostly white school in a nearby town. Alexie captures the pain and awkwardness of adolescence while also meditating on the devastation that poverty, racism and alcoholism have wreaked on Native American communities.

The Book Thief	Markus Zusak	Historical fiction	Trying to make sense of the horrors of World War II, Death relates the story of Liesel — a young German girl whose book-stealing and storytelling talents help sustain her family and the Jewish man they are hiding, as well as their neighbours.
The Boy in the Striped Pajamas	John Boyne	Young fiction	<i>The Boy in the Striped Pajamas</i> tells the story of Bruno, a young boy whose father works at Auschwitz. Bruno knows very little about Auschwitz or what his father does; he only knows that he is separated from all of the people behind the fence. He strikes up a friendship with another boy on the other side of the fence, which provides much-needed companionship for them both.
The Bridge to Terabithia	Katherine Paterson	Young fiction	This story of Jess and Leslie's friendship and their magical forest kingdom is wonderful—and heartbreaking.
The Chocolate War	Robert Cormier	Young adult fiction	The world of Trinity School is turned upside down when freshman Jerry Renault refuses to sell chocolates for the school's annual fundraiser. Jerry becomes a nonconformist hero for some — and a target of hatred for others.
The Dark is rising sequence	Susan Cooper	Fantasy/historical fiction	Five novels steeped in British and Welsh mythology follow the story of 11-year old Will Stanton, seventh son of a seventh son and last of the Old Ones, in his quest to vanquish the powers of the Dark.
The Fault in Our Stars	John Green	Romance/drama	Despite the tumor-shrinking medical miracle that has bought her a few more years, Hazel has never been anything but terminal, her final chapter inscribed upon diagnosis. But when a gorgeous plot twist named Augustus Waters suddenly appears at the Cancer Kid Support Group, Hazel's story is about to be completely rewritten.
The Giver	Lois Lowry	Young fiction	Jonas lives in a seemingly perfect world—no pain, no inconveniences, and everyone contributes equally. But when he is given the role of Receiver,

			he must now learn and hold the collected memories of all past societies. Suddenly, he has a whole new perspective on his world and what makes a life meaningful.
The Giver Series	Lois Lowry	Dystopian	In the future, society has eliminated discord, converting everyone to "Sameness." In three linked stories, Jonas, destined to hold memories of the time before Sameness; Kira, an orphan with a twisted leg; and healer Matty must discover the truth about their society and restore emotion, meaning and balance to their world.
The Hitchhikers Guide to the Galaxy	Douglas Adams	Science Fiction	In the future, society has eliminated discord, converting everyone to "Sameness." In three linked stories, Jonas, destined to hold memories of the time before Sameness; Kira, an orphan with a twisted leg; and healer Matty must discover the truth about their society and restore emotion, meaning and balance to their world.
The Hobbit	J.R.R. Tolkein	Adventure/fantasy	Bilbo Baggins, a respectable, well-to-do hobbit, lives comfortably in his hobbit hole until the day the wandering wizard Gandalf chooses him to take part in an adventure from which he may never return.
The Immortals series	Patricia C. Wrede	Fantasy	Thirteen-year-old Daine's magic allows her to speak to animals, hear their thoughts, and shift into their forms. She uses her powers to help battle an invasion of terrible immortal creatures and prevent the overthrow of her king.
The Inheritance Cycle	Christopher Paolini	Fantasy	The series that began with <i>Eragon</i> follows poor farm boy Eragon as he grows into a master swordsman who fights alongside his dragon, Saphira, to help save the Empire from evil and darkness.
The Last Unicorn	Peter S. Beagle	Fantasy	The last unicorn leaves the protection of her enchanted lavender forest to search for her own kind, with the assistance of Schmedrick, the only occasionally

			successful magician, and dreamer Molly Grue.
The Maze Runner series	James Dashner	Science fiction	Sixteen-year-old Thomas wakes up in the middle of a maze, with no memory, and realizes he must work with the community in which he finds himself if he is to escape. But once he escapes, he discovers the outside world is a new and dangerous place.
The Mortal Instruments series	Cassandra Clare	Fantasy	Able to see demons and those who hunt them, Clary Fray is drawn into the world of the Shadowhunters when her mother slips into a coma and travels to the City of Glass, the capital of their secretive country, where she uncovers important truths about her family's past.
The One and Only Ivan	Katherine Applegate	Young fiction	Winner of the Newbery Medal and inspired by the true story of a captive gorilla known as Ivan, The One and Only Ivan is told from the point of view of Ivan himself. Having spent twenty-seven years behind the glass walls of his enclosure in a shopping mall, Ivan has grown accustomed to humans watching him. He hardly ever thinks about his life in the jungle. Instead, Ivan occupies himself with television, his friends Stella and Bob, and painting. But when he meets Ruby, a baby elephant taken from the wild, he is forced to see their home, and his art, through new eyes.
The Princess Diaries chronicles	Meg Cabot	Young adult fiction	Fourteen-year-old Mia, who is trying to lead a normal life as a teenage girl in New York City, is shocked to learn that her father is the Prince of Genovia, a small European principality, and that she is a princess and the heir to the throne.
The Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants	Ann Brashares	Young adult fiction	During their first summer break spent apart, long-time friends Lena, Tibby, Carmen and Bridget each embark on adventures that they share with each other through a pair of jeans that they have decided will be worn by all, and so will absorb all of their stories.

The Thing About Jellyfish	Ali Benjamin	Young fiction	Everyone says that it was an accident... that sometimes things “just happen”. But Suzy won’t believe it. Ever. After her best friend dies in a drowning accident, Suzy is convinced that the true cause of the tragedy was a rare jellyfish sting. Retreating into a silent world of imagination, she crafts a plan to prove her theory—even if it means traveling the globe, alone. Suzy’s achingly heartfelt journey explores life, death, the astonishing wonder of the universe...and the potential for love and <i>hope</i> right next door.
The Truth About Forever	Sarah Dessen	Young adult fiction	The summer after her father's death, Macy plans to work at the library and wait for her brainy boyfriend to return from camp; instead, she goes to work at a catering business where she makes new friends and finally faces her grief.
The War that Saved my Life	Kimberly Brubaker Bradley	Young fiction	Ada has never seen the world beyond the dirty London street that she sees outside of her window. She’s never seen grass or trees, and she’s not exactly sure how old she is (she guesses nine). Her abusive mother has kept Ada locked inside her entire life, ashamed of her club foot.
Tuck Everlasting	Natalie Babbitt	Fantasy	The Tuck family is confronted with an agonizing situation when it discovers that a 10-year-old girl and a malicious stranger now share their secret, about a spring of magical water that prevents the drinker from ever growing any older.
Twilight Series	Stephanie Meyer	Fantasy Romance	When 17-year-old Bella Swan leaves Phoenix to live with her father in Forks, Wash., she meets Edward, an exquisitely handsome boy at school, for whom she feels an overwhelming attraction, and who she comes to realize is not wholly human. Bella must choose between vampire Edward and werewolf Jacob, while avoiding the attentions of less friendly vampires.
Uglies series	Scott Westerfield	Science fiction	Scott Westerfeld's four-part series follows teenage Tally as she uncovers the truth

			about her future world, where a mandatory operation at age 16 converts natural "Uglies" into conformist "Pretties."
Unwind	Nick Shusterman	Science fiction	In a future world where those between the ages of 13 and 18 can have their lives "unwound" and their body parts harvested for use by others, three teens go to extreme lengths to survive until they turn 18.
Vampire Academy series	Richelle Mead	Fantasy	Two years after a horrible incident made them run away, vampire princess Lissa and her guardian-in-training Rose are found and returned to St. Vladimir's Academy, where one girl focuses on mastering magic, the other on physical training, while both try to avoid the perils of gossip, cliques, gruesome pranks and sinister plots.
Wolf Hollow	Lauren Wolk	Young fiction	Twelve-year-old Annabelle is content with her life in school and on her family farm until Betty shows up in town. Betty quickly proves herself a cruel bully who has it out for Annabelle and anyone near her, including Toby, a reclusive World War I veteran who has befriended Annabelle and her family. As the stakes rise, Annabelle's strength and compassion are put to the test.
Wonder	R.J. Palacio	Young fiction	After years of home schooling, August Pullman is going to a mainstream school for the first time. He was born with a facial difference that required several surgeries per year since his birth, and while he is now quite healthy, his face always stands out in a crowd. In the 5th grade, when cliques are forming an image is important, these differences are not treated kindly.