

READING LIST FOR KEY STAGE 2 HIGH LEARNING POTENTIAL CHILDREN

Summary

This advice sheet offers a list of some materials suitable for Key Stage 2 readers who are significantly advanced. Materials are listed according to maturity of theme and/or language. In the fiction list a single asterisk* denotes that part of a series or individual titles by an author are of more advanced content; a double asterisk** denotes works that overlap Key Stage 3 material in school. Additional advice sheets containing lists of reading material for high learning potential Key Stage 1 and Early Years readers are also available.

Introduction

We are often asked for ideas for reading material for advanced readers. Whilst we acknowledge that children have diverse tastes in their reading, this list can be used as a general guide to age-appropriate more advanced reading material. In order for children to develop as readers, it is a good idea for them to broaden their horizons by varying the subject, format and media.

Supporting a High Learning Potential Key Stage 2 Reader

High learning potential children's emotional development is often out of line with their reading ability and anyone supporting them needs to consider the appropriateness of the subject of the book, along with the level of difficulty. It is important that high learning potential children are given opportunities to read aloud even though they can read well and fluently, since they will come across unfamiliar words in their reading and they may get into the habit of mispronouncing them.

High learning potential children will also benefit from practising new vocabulary by incorporating them in written work after checking the meaning with an adult or using a (virtual) dictionary (<http://www.thesaurus.com> or <http://www.visuwords.com>) and looking for synonyms.

Theme reading on particular topics of interest will help to develop these and broaden the scope of their reading: moving from a book they have enjoyed to information books about the theme then back to another fiction book.

To support the development of comprehension skills, set tasks that ask about the feelings of the characters, why they did things, and other questions that help your child to read between the lines and provide examples from the text to back up their ideas. Open-ended questions can also be asked about a book: Why did X happen? What do you think will happen next? and (if not part of the story), What do you think happened before? Use higher order thinking skills to set tasks based on books: Compare the characters X and Y (analyse). How would you rate this book in terms of plot, entertainment value, etc? (evaluate). Come up with a new story verbally with the same theme but in a different setting (create).

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Periodicals

- *First News*. A weekly newspaper for children.
- *The Week Junior*. A weekly current affairs magazine for ages 8-14.
- *How it Works*. A monthly science and technology magazine for young minds.
- *Aquila*. A monthly magazine for children aged 8-12 with brain-stretching ideas covering science, history and general knowledge.
- *National Geographic Kids*. A monthly children's magazine including animals, science and nature, history, geography
- *BBC Focus*. A monthly science and technology magazine
- *Whizz Pop Bang*. A monthly science magazine for ages 6-11

Non-Fiction

- *Timelines of World History* by Jane Chisholm. An Usborne book of information, comparisons and illustrations, from wars and revolutions to ground-breaking inventions, discoveries and artistic movements.
- *A Really Short History of Nearly Everything* by Bill Bryson. The wonder and mysteries of time and space; scientists and the methods they used; theories which held sway for far too long; accidental discoveries; how the universe exists and life came to be on our planet.
- *Daily Life In Ancient Egypt* by Don Nardo. One of a series of books exploring what life was really like for everyday people in Ancient Egypt. Using primary sources and information from archaeological discoveries, it uncovers some fascinating insights and explodes some myths.
- *Children's Book of Philosophy* by Sarah Tomley and Marcus Weeks. Delve into the minds of the world's most famous philosophers and discovers the answers to the world's big questions, from Socrates and Aristotle to Kant and Confucius.
- *Philosophy for Kids: 40 Fun Questions That Help You to Wonder* by David White. Inspire animated discussions of questions that concern all of us with this interactive book.
- *All About Politics* by Andrew Marr and Dorling Kindersley. A straight-talking guide to how politics really work. Examines political structures and ideas from ancient Greek philosophy to modern governments.
- *Treasury of Greek Mythology: Classic Stories of Gods, Goddesses, Heroes and Monsters* by Donna Jo Napoli. Timeless stories of Greek myths brought to life with lyrical text and artwork.
- *Basher Science* by Simon Basher, Dan Green and Adrian Dingle. A series of illustrated books, examining science topics such as the periodic table, technology and microbiology.
- *The Story of the Olympics* by Richard Brassey. A lowdown on the modern Olympic games, packed full of records and reputations, cheats and champs, victors and venues.
- *Knowledge Encyclopedia Space!* by Dorling Kindersley. Amazing space facts and NASA images revealing the wonders of the cosmos, from black holes to the big bang.

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- *The Worst Children's Jobs in History* by Sir Tony Robinson. Stories of all the children whose work fed the nation, kept trains running, and put clothes on everyone's backs, over the last few hundred years of Britain's history.
- *Story of the Titanic* by Steve Noon. Cutaway artworks provide a full insight into the 'unsinkable ship' - from its planning, building and fateful maiden voyage, to attempts to reclaim it from the ocean.
- *Hello World! Computer Programming for Kids and Other Beginners* by Warren and Carter Sande. An introduction to computer programming in Python.
- *Get Coding! Learn HTML, CSS, and JavaScript and Build a Website, App, and Game* by Young Rewired State. Help Professor Bairstone and Dr Day keep the Monk Diamond safe from dangerous jewel thieves; learn coding skills in bite-size chunks.
- *13 Photos Children Should Know* by Brad Finger. Some of the world's most renowned pictures. Other books in this series include *13 Paintings Children Should Know*, *13 Sculptures Children Should Know* and *13 Buildings Children Should Know*.

Fiction

Classics (Pre-1970)

- *Emil and the Detectives* by Erich Kästner
- *The Railway Children, Five Children and It, The Story of the Amulet and The Phoenix and the Carpet* by Edith Nesbit
- *Charlotte's Web* by E. B. White
- *The Wind in the Willows* by Kenneth Grahame
- *The Borrowers* by Mary Norton
- *Peter Pan* by J. M. Barrie
- *Just William* series by Richmal Crompton
- *What Katy Did Next* by Susan Coolidge
- *Anne of Green Gables* series by Lucy Maud Montgomery
- *Tom's Midnight Garden* by Philippa Pearce
- *Stig of the Dump* by Clive King
- *The Chronicles of Narnia* series by C. S. Lewis
- *Swallows and Amazons* by Arthur Ransome
- *The Little Prince* by Antoine de Saint-Exupéry
- *Charlotte Sometimes* by Penelope Farmer
- *Tintin* books by Hergé
- *The Changes* trilogy by Peter Dickinson
- *I am David* by Anne Holm
- *The Silver Sword* by Ian Serraillier

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- *The Hobbit and The Fellowship of the Ring* by J. R. R. Tolkien
- *The Call of the Wild* and *White Fang* by Jack London
- *A Christmas Carol* and *Oliver Twist* ** by Charles Dickens
- *Little Women* by Louisa May Alcott
- *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* by Mark Twain

Modern

- *I Am a Tree* by Kaye Umansky
- *The Meanwhile Adventures* by Roddy Doyle
- *A Handful of Magic* series by Stephen Elboz
- *How to Train your Dragon* series by Cressida Cowell
- *Flood and Fang (Raven Mysteries series), My Swordhand is Singing** by Marcus Sedgwick
- *Beaver Towers* series by Nigel Hinton
- *Moondial, Lizzie Dripping* series by Helen Cresswell
- *The Diamond Brothers* series, *Groosham Grange* series, *The Devil and his Boy, Granny** by Anthony Horowitz
- *The Haunting of Charity Delafield* by Ian Beck
- *Superfudge* by Judy Bloom
- *Fruit and Nutcase* by Jean Ure
- *At the Firefly Gate* by Linda Newberry
- *The City of Ember* series by Jeanne DuPrau
- *Araminta Spook* series by Angie Sage
- *Roman Mysteries* series by Caroline Lawrence
- *Model Under Cover* series by Carina Axelsson
- *The Great Brain, More Adventures of the Great Brain* and *Me and My Little Brain* by John D Fitzgerald
- *Asterix and Obelix* graphic novels by Goscinny and Uderzo
- *Encyclopedia Brown* series by Donald J Sobol
- *The Animals of Farthing Wood* series by Colin Dann
- *The Snow Spider, The Chestnut Soldier, Emlyn's Moon, The Charlie Bone* series by Jenny Nimmo
- *The Midnight Gang, Grandpa's Great Escape, Gangsta Granny* by David Walliams
- *The Bromeliad* trilogy, *The Tiffany Aching* series, *Johnny Maxwell* trilogy by Terry Pratchett
- *The Various* by Steve Augarde
- *Journey to the River Sea* and *Dial-a-Ghost* by Eva Ibbotsen
- *The Indian in the Cupboard* by Lynne Reid Banks
- *The Ghost of Thomas Kempe* and *A Stitch in Time* by Penelope Lively
- *When Hitler Stole Pink Rabbit* by Judith Kerr

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- *Rose* series by Holly Webb
- *Diary of a Wimpy Kid* by Jeff Kinney
- *Ruby Redfort* series by Lauren Child
- *Inkheart* series and *Dragonrider* by Cornelia Funke
- *Howl's Moving Castle*, *House of Many Ways*, *Chrestomanci* series by Dianna Wynne Jones
- *The Familiars* series by Adam Epstein and Andrew Jacobson
- *The Phantom Tollbooth* by Norman Juster
- *Aquila* by Andrew Norriss
- *The Weirdstone of Brisingamen*, *Elidor* and *The Owl Service* by Alan Garner
- *Percy Jackson* series by Rick Riordan
- *A Series of Unfortunate Events* by Lemony Snicket
- *Harry Potter** series by J.K. Rowling
- *The Demon Headmaster* series by Gillian Cross
- *Dog Zombies Rule* by Tom Gates
- *Lion Boy* series by Zizou Corder
- *Carrie's War* and *Peppermint Pig* by Nina Bawden
- *Noah Barleywater Runs Away*, *The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas*** by John Boyne
- *The Wonderful Story of Henry Sugar* by Roald Dahl
- *The Suitcase Kid* by Jacqueline Wilson
- *Awful End* by Philip Ardagh
- *The Eighteenth Emergency* by Betsy Byars
- *The Other Side of Truth* by Beverley Naidoo
- *The 10pm Question* by Kate di Goldi
- *Pig-heart Boy* and *Hacker* by Malorie Blackman
- *Millions* by Frank Cottrell Boyce
- *Holes* by Louis Sachar
- *The Firework Maker's Daughter*, *The Tin Princess*, *Clockwork*, *His Dark Materials** trilogy by Philip Pullman
- *Skellig* by David Almond
- *The Machine Gunners* by Robert Westall
- *The Crowstarver* by Dick King-Smith
- *Once* by Morris Gleitzman
- *Watership Down* by Richard Adams
- *The Last Dragon Chronicles* by Chris d'Lacey
- *Goodnight Mister Tom* by Michelle Magorian
- *The Young Bond* series by Charlie Higson
- *The Witches* by Roald Dahl
- *The Spiderwick Chronicles* by Tony DiTerlizzi and Holly Black
- *The Surya* trilogy by Jamila Gavin

READING LIST FOR KEY STAGE 2 HIGH LEARNING POTENTIAL CHILDREN

- *The London Eye Mystery* by Siobhan Dowd
- *Moon Bear, White Dolphin, Sky Hawk* by Gill Lewis
- *Oranges in No Man's Land* by Elizabeth Laird
- *Flour Babies* and *The Tulip Touch** by Anne Fine
- *Chronicles of Ancient Darkness* series by Michelle Paver
- *Predator Cities* series by Philip Reeve
- *Seraphina* and *Shadow Scale* by Rachel Hartman
- *Inventing Elliot** by Graham Gardner
- *Uncle Montague's Tales of Terror* by Chris Priestley
- *Artemis Fowl* series, *Supernaturalist** by Eoin Colfer
- *Skullduggery Pleasant** series by Derek Landy
- *Tanglewreck* by Jeanette Winterson
- *Double Identity* by Margaret Peterson Haddix
- *Hunger Games*** trilogy by Suzanne Collins
- *Divergent*** series by Veronica Roth
- *Kensuke's Kingdom and Private Peaceful*** by Michael Morpurgo

Autobiography

- *Boy***, *Going Solo*** by Roald Dahl

Poetry

- *Poetry Pie* by Roger McGough. Over 50 poems full of wit and wisdom, with word play, puns and sharp observations on themes ranging from food and animals to school and ghouls.
- *Classic Poetry: An Illustrated Collection* selected by Michael Rosen. Over eighty of the most memorable poems written in the English language, from William Blake's "The Tyger" to Lewis Carroll's "Jabberwocky".
- *Silly Verse for Kids* by Spike Milligan. A collection of absurd, ridiculous, sublime and characteristically anarchic verse for children.
- *The Highwayman* by Alfred Noyes. Ride with the highwayman and recoil from the terrible fate that befalls him and his sweetheart Bess, the landlord's daughter.
- *The Lady of Shalott* by Lord Alfred Tennyson. A romantic poem, t the story of the mysterious Lady of Shalott.
- *Beowulf* by anon., retold by Kevin Crossly-Holland. Beowulf is an epic poem from Anglo-Saxon England. It recounts the heroic struggles of one man against supernatural monsters.
- *Peacock Pie* by Walter de la Mare. The finest of his poems for children, accompanied by original illustrations from Edward Ardizzone.

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- *The Barefoot Book of Classic Poetry* by Jackie Morris and Carol Ann Duffy. Classic poems from English literary tradition that trace our journey through life with a thoughtful blend of humour and playfulness, poignancy and nostalgia.
- *The Complete Nonsense of Edward Lear* by Edward Lear. Includes the limericks, longer verses, alphabets and his own illustrations.

Further Information

PA107 Reading List for Key Stage 1 High Learning Potential Children	Comprises a list of some materials suitable for confident Key Stage 1 readers who are ready to move on. The materials are listed in ascending order of difficulty.
PA401 Supporting High Learning Potential in English (Primary)	Covers how to recognise high learning potential in English at the Primary level, as well as how parents and carers can support a child with high learning potential and/or a strong interest in this. There are also links to further resources in this subject area.
www.commonsemmedia.org/book-lists	Common Sense Media recommends children's books for families
www.lovereadng4kids.co.uk	Love Reading 4 Kids offers reviews of books and a search facility.
www.thebookbag.co.uk/reviews/index.php?title=Category:Confident_Readers	Bookbag includes reviews and top ten lists. Books are sorted by subject and type of book, rather than being age specific.
schoolreadinglist.co.uk	The School Reading List suggests reading books for primary and secondary aged children in the UK.
<i>Some of My Best Friends Are Books: Guiding Gifted Readers from Preschool to High School</i> by Judith Wynn Halsted	Books can be wonderful bridges for communications on feelings, values and decision-making. The extensive indexing makes it easy to select appropriate books that are interesting to a particular child.

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