

# Summer Reading Activities for incoming Year 7 to Ark Acton Academy Summer 2020



## **1. Visit your local library**

Encourage your child to choose books relating to a topic that they're really interested in. Librarians are a good source of information for popular books and most libraries also run schemes and competitions during the holidays as well as having a range of activities that your child can join in with - so use them!

## **2. Internet fun**

Use the internet to search out author blogs and sites, book previews and trailers as well as general articles or reports on books. Many websites have great ideas and links to suitable topics to engage and encourage older readers. Try [CBBC](#) or [YouTube](#) for a preview of a Horrible Histories book. Visit the [Oxford Owl Library](#) for a range of free eBooks that will appeal to older children.

## **3. Out and about**

When travelling, encourage your child to help when reading directions, looking out for road signs and talking about how long they have to travel or how far they have left. Reading timetables is also a great skill for them to develop - bus, train and tube - and will encourage their independence as well. [Boys](#) often particularly enjoy this.

## **4. Cooking**

If your child likes to cook, encourage them to read the instructions in recipes and plan for what is needed. Some fun ones include Roald Dahl's *Revolting Recipes* (Puffin), *The Silver Spoon for Children*, Jamie Oliver and school dinner lady Nora Sands' *Nora's Kitchen* (Collins), or *Grow it, Eat it* (RHS and Dorling Kindersley). But if you don't know these, any will do.



## 5. Shopping

When doing your weekly shop, encourage your child to help with the shopping by writing and reading the list as well as finding products in store or online. If they need new school shoes or new school uniform, get them to do some research online first to make the trip to the shops more efficient. [Boys\\_](#) may respond particularly well to this idea and it's all good reading practice.

## 6. In the news

Encourage your child to read newspapers and find out what is going on in the world. Try [First News](#) , a children's paper aimed at 7–14 year olds, or [CBBC Newsround online](#) , as a change from television. You may want to be around if stories are of a sensitive nature, but talk to your child about what they have read. Use local papers to read about local events.

## 7. Holiday online scrapbook

Suggest making an up-to-date scrapbook online, using a blog [www.blogger.com](http://www.blogger.com) that enables your child to upload pictures of their holiday and write about their experiences which can then be shared with family and friends and even the wider world. You may want to check the site your child is using for safety.

## 8. Creating

If your child enjoys making up their own stories, encourage this by using [www.storybird.com](http://www.storybird.com) to help them design their own picture book. The site was started for families so is well monitored and very safe. The professional-looking end product can be printed in a proper hardback book for your child to keep and share with others.

## 9. Sharing

If your child is reading a chapter book, consider reading the same book at the same time – this gives you the chance to compare your impressions of the book and talk about the plot. Ask your child questions, e.g. Which character they liked best, who would they like to be? Ask them to write you a short quiz about the book to check you've read it properly!

## 10. Relaxing

Help your child create a 'reading and dreaming' place in your home. This could be a window seat with comfy cushions, an indoor pop-up tent with a cosy blanket, or even a corner in a garden shed with a seat. Let the rest of the family know that if your child is in her/his special place they should try not to disturb them. You may even get some peace then too!



## Children in Year 7 at Ark Acton Academy shared their ideas on what encourages them to read:

“I need a space to read – a bedroom or garden, somewhere of my own choosing.”

“I want to choose my own books not have them chosen for me.”

“I want to read all sorts of things including comics and graphic novels, information about Gaming.”

“I like reading series of books like *Diary of a Wimpy Kid*.”

“I like reading to my younger brothers.”

“The blurb and illustrations catch my eye first.”

“I like reading magazines and websites about my favourite authors so I can find out more about them and why they write.”

## Here are some recommendations of titles from different genres for inspiration:

### Fantasy and Magic

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Fantasy, magic, and horror provide tech-free escapism for young people. Readers can travel to other worlds to experience illusions, ghosts, dragons, and more.

- Eragon by Christopher Paolini
- His Dark Materials by Philip Pullman
- The Hobbit by J.R.R. Tolkien
- Lockwood & Co.: The Screaming Staircase by Jonathan Stroud
- Doll Bones by Holly Black
- Over Sea, Under Stone by Susan Cooper
- A Wizard of Earthsea by Ursula Le Guin
- The Wind Singer by William Nicholson
- Wolf Brother by Michelle Paver

- Truckers by Terry Pratchett
- Mortal Engines by Philip Reeve
- Harry Potter series by J K Rowling
- Beyond the Deepwoods by Paul Stewart and Chris Riddell

## Mystery and Adventure

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Young people love to imagine themselves as the main characters, especially in kids-can-do-anything adventure and mystery stories like these selections. These books are great confidence boosters and great fun.

- Spaced Out by Stuart Gibbs
- Where the Mountain Meets the Moon by Grace Lin
- Hoot by Carl Hiaasen
- The Alex Rider series by Anthony Horowitz
- The Dark is Rising by Susan Cooper
- Murder at the Museum by Agatha Oddly
- Percy Jackson series by Rick Riordan
- Artemis Fowl by Eoin Colfer
- The boy At The Back of the Class by Onjali Rauf
- Skellig by David Almond
- A Series of Unfortunate Events series by Lemony Snicket
- Refugee Boy by Benjamin Zephaniah

## Humour

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More than anything, kids want to read books that make them laugh. Who can blame them? A daily dose of laughter is good for the soul.

- You're a Bad Man, Mr Gum by Andy Stanton
- Framed by Frank Cottrell-Boyce
- The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy by Douglas Adams
- The Secret Diary of Adrian Mole Age 13  $\frac{3}{4}$  by Sue Townsend
- Bad Dad by David Walliams

- Boy and Going Solo by Roald Dahl
- The Misadventures of Max Crumbly by Rachel Renee Russell
- Tom Gates series by Liz Pichon
- Dork Diaries by Rachel Renee Russell
- The 13 Storey Treehouse series by Andy Griffiths and Terry Denton
- The Fudge series by Judy Blume
- Gangsta Granny by David Walliams

## Classics

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Through classics that have spoken to readers for generations, young people can come to see the myriad ways that people across the globe and through time have met the challenges of the human condition.

- The Narnia series by C S Lewis
- The Machine Gunners by Robert Westall
- The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas by John Boyne
- I am David by Anne Holm
- Swallows and Amazons by Arthur Ransome
- Kidnapped and Treasure Island by Robert Louis Stevenson
- The Adventures of Tom Sawyer by Mark Twain
- Watership Down by Richard Adam
- The Wolves of Willoughby Chase by Joan Aiken
- Fahrenheit 451 by Ray Bradbury
- A Kestrel for a Knave by Barry Hines
- Lord of the Flies by William Golding
- To Kill A Mockingbird by Harper Lee
- Little Women by Louisa May Alcott
- The Knife of Never Letting Go by Patrick Ness
- Catcher in the Rye by J D Salinger
- Of Mice and Men by John Steinbeck
- The Colour Purple by Alice Walker

## Life Issues

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These characters grow and change by facing life's challenges. Readers will connect with the struggles of daily life and growing up. What's more, you're more likely to develop empathy and understanding after walking a mile in someone else's story.

- The Goldfish Boy by Lisa Thompson
- Stone Cold by Robert Swindells
- Pig Heart Boy by Malorie Blackman
- The Fault in Our Stars and An Abundance of Katherines by John Green
- Al Capone Does My Shirts by Gennifer Choldenko
- The Best Man by Richard Peck
- The Crossover by Kwame Alexander
- Stargirl by Jerry Spinelli
- Return to Sender by Julia Alvarez
- Pax by Sara Pennypacker
- The Seventh Most Important Thing by Shelley Pearsall
- Touching Spirit Bear by Ben Mikaelson
- Wolf Hollow by Lauren Wolk