

Abingdon Prep School
Middle School Suggested Reading;
for boys entering Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 in September 2012

It is important that your son continues to read daily throughout the holidays. Younger or less confident readers should read aloud to an adult to ensure that they are taking note of punctuation as they read and understanding what they read. It is a good idea to ask a few questions as they read but not too many – reading should always be pleasurable and not seem like a chore!

Suggested authors and titles have been organised, below, in ascending order of difficulty (both in terms of reading skills and content) in each category. You may wish to guide your son on his selection and skim through each book first to ensure that it is a book that is suitable for his level of understanding and maturity.

Remember that these are only suggestions. It is not a list to be worked through and there are plenty of other good books not on this list so please do not worry if your son chooses other books to read.

Please continue to encourage your sons to read an array of non-fiction books alongside their fiction books.

Above all, please encourage your son to read a variety of books by different authors. If he becomes entrenched in the work of a particular author, you may wish to encourage him to intersperse each book with that of a different author.

Action and Adventure...

...with a touch of espionage

Jack Stalwart Secret Agent series- Elizabeth Singer Hunt

Bubblegum Tree; Bursting Balloons Mystery – Alexander McCall Smith

Secret Seven; Famous Five series – Enid Blyton

Spy Dog; Spy Pups series- Andrew Cope

Laura Marlin Mysteries (Dead Man's Cove; Kidnap in the Caribbean) – Lauren St John

Young Bond series – Charlie Higson

Alex Ryder series- Anthony Horowitz

Joshua Files series- M G Harris

The Adventures of the New Cut Gang - Philip Pullman

... with a touch of magic

Ms Wiz series – Terence Blacker

Magic Tree House Adventures series – Mary Pope Osbourne

Ghost Goblins; Shadow Goblins; Puddle Goblins; Tree Goblins – David Melling

Mr Majeika series – Humphrey Carpenter

The Stone Mouse; The Snow Spider Trilogy – Jenny Nimmo

The Worst Witch series – Jill Murphy

The Secret of Platform 13; Which Witch? – Evan Ibbotson

Harry Potter series – J K Rowling

Chronicles of Ancient Darkness (Wolf Brother etc) – Michelle Paver

...with a touch of comedy

Flat Stanley series – Jeff Brown

Posh Watson – Gillian Cross

The Giggler Treatment; Rover Saves Christmas – Roddy Doyle

The Last Polar Bears; The Last Gold Digger (and others in the series) – Harry Horse

The Great Cat Conspiracy – Katie Davies

The Hundred Mile an Hour Dog; There's a Viking in My Bed – Jeremy Strong

Cliffhanger – Jacqueline Wilson

Eddie Dickens Trilogy – Philip Ardagh

A Series of Unfortunate Events books – Lemony Snicket

How to Train Your Dragon series – Cressida Cowell

...with a touch of history

Time Detectives series – Terry Deary

Britannia: 100 Great Stories from British history; Daedalus and Icarus – Geraldine McCaughrean

Roman Mysteries series – Caroline Lawrence

Journey to the River Sea- Eva Ibbotson

War Boy – Michael Foreman

Tim Oliver Evacuee – Tom Farrell

Hitler's Canary – Sandy Toksvig

Once and Then – Morris Gleitzman

...with a touch of fantasy

Dinosaur Cove series – Rex Stone

S.W.I.T.C.H series – Ali Sparkes

The Snow Maze – Jan Mark

The Dragon's Child – Jenny Nimmo

Lion Boy – Z Corder

Skulduggery Pleasant series – Derek Landy

The Shapeshifter series/Frozen in Time – Ali Sparkes

Fighting Fantasy series – Steve Jackson, Ian Livingstone

Toby Alone – Timothee de Fombelle

Dark is Rising – Susan Cooper

Animal based fiction

The Gorilla Who Wanted to Grow Up (and others in this series); The Cat Who Wanted to Go Home – Jill Tomlinson

Harry the Poisonous Centipede series – Lynne Reid Banks

The Guard Dog; Happy Mouseday; Invisible Dog – Dick King-Smith

Meerkat Madness – Ian Whybrow

Tom's Sausage Lion - Michael Morpurgo

Wild Rescue series – Jan Burchett

Warrior Cats series – Erin Hunter

The White Giraffe; The Elephant's Tale; The Last Leopard; The Dolphin's Song- Lauren St John

Classics

The Magic Finger, Esio Trot, The Enormous Crocodile, The Giraffe the Pelly and Me – Roald Dahl

Robinson Crusoe – Daniel Defoe, retold by Angela Wilkes

Gulliver's Travels – Jonathan Swift, retold by Beverly Birch

The BFG, Danny Champion of the World, James and the Giant Peach, Matilda, The Witches – Roald Dahl

Beowulf – Michael Morpurgo, Michael Foreman

Dr Dolittle series – Hugh Lofting

Just William Series – Richmal Crompton

The Secret Garden – Frances Hodgson Burnett

The Hobbit – J R R Tolkien

Sport fiction

Cool – Michael Morpurgo

The Big Match; The Big Kick; The Big Game – Rob Childs

Boy Overboard – Morris Gleitzman

General

The Marble Crusher; Conker; The Best Christmas Present in the World – Michael Morpurgo

Tales of Trotter Street – Shirley Hughes

Clarice Bean series – Lauren Child

Bill's New Frock; Care of Henry – Anne Fine

The Owl Tree – Jenny Nimmo

Dinosaur's Packed Lunch; Monster Story Teller – Jacqueline Wilson

Unusual Day – Sandy Toksvig

Black Queen; Kensuke's Kingdom – Michael Morpurgo

Flour Babies – Anne Fine

Demon Headmaster – Gillian Cross

The Exiles at Home – Hilary McKay

Count Karlstien; Clockwork; The Firework Maker's Daughter – Philip Pullman

Grania O'Malley series – Michael Morpurgo

Tom's Midnight Garden – Philippa Pearce

Poetry

Word Whirls and Other Shape Poems – J Foster

Revolting Rhymes/Dirty Beasts – Roald Dahl

Book of Nonsense – Michael Rosen

The Barefoot Book of Classic Poems – Jackie Morris

Please Mrs Butler – Allan Ahlberg

Kingfisher Book of Children's Poetry – Michael Rosen

The Young Inferno – John Agard

Something different - a selection of recent prize winners...

All the Water in the World - George Ella Lyon

A Ball for Daisy - Chris Raschka

The Strange Case of Origami Yoda - Tom Angleberger

Soldier Bear - Bibi Dumon Tak

Young Freddie - Cynthia Voigt

The Unforgotten Coat - Frank Cottrell Boyce

Wonder - R. J. Palacio

Ninth Wind - Jewell Parker Rhodes

The following books will be read in class next year as group or whole class reading books and we would ask, please, that your son does not read these in advance unless he has already done so. This will enable him to engage with each book fully within class:

Year 3: The Butterfly Lion; Adolphus Tips (Michael Morpurgo); Charlie and the Chocolate Factory; George's Marvellous Medicine; Fantastic Mr Fox; The Twits (Roald Dahl); The Sheep Pig; The Hodgeheg; The Finger Eater (Dick King Smith); The Owl Who Was Afraid of the Dark (Jill Tomlinson); Gorilla; The Tunnel – Antony Browne

Year 4: The Iron Man (Ted Hughes); War Game (Michael Foreman); Stig of the Dump (Clive King). Year 4 will also read a range of guided reading books to fit in with their themes of Monsters, World War 1 and Children's Classics.

Year 5: A selection of the following books: An Elephant in the Garden (Michael Morpurgo); Midnight for Charlie Bone (Jenny Nimmo); Brind and the Dogs of War (Christopher Russell); The Dragon Keeper (Caroline Wilkinson); The Conch Bearer (Chitra Bannerjee Divakaruni); Charlotte's Web (E B White); The Borrowers (Mary Norton); Lord of the Flies (William Golding)