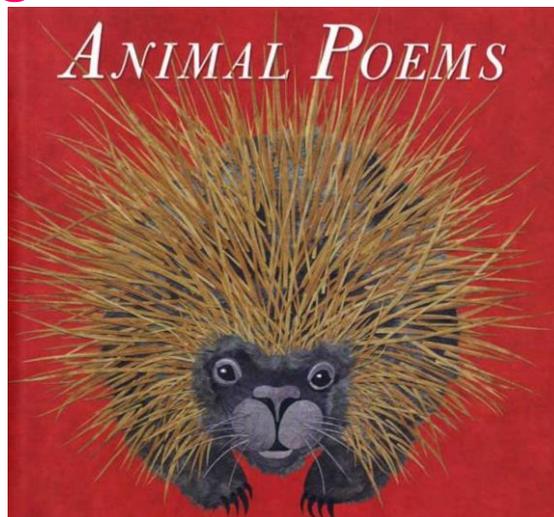




St John Bosco

ARTS COLLEGE

KS3 Reading for Pleasure Challenge Year 7 Animal Poetry Unit



A guide for parents & students

The Reading Challenge

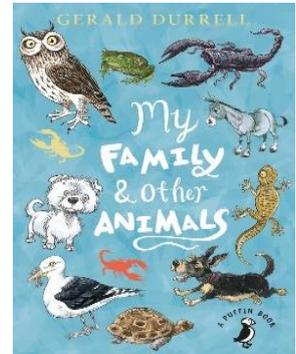
To encourage frequent reading, we are setting some challenges to KS3 students. Below is a reading list ranked in challenge order from Bronze to Silver & Gold. These books can be used as your 10 mins reading book or you could read them at home. You can earn prizes and certificates from your teacher if you read titles from these lists:



Gold reads Animal stories

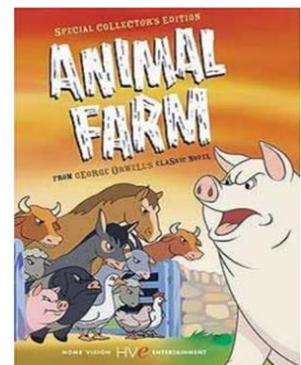
1. My Family and Other Animals by Gerald Durrell

My Family and Other Animals is an autobiographical work by naturalist Gerald Durrell published in 1956, telling of the part of his childhood he spent on the Greek island of Corfu between 1935 and 1939. The book was recently made into a television series and brings to life what it was like for Gerald Durrell as a young boy to live on a beautiful Greek island, free to roam the woods and swim in the blue seas of the Mediterranean. Apart from many humorous incidents starring his crazy family, the book is a must for anyone who loves animals of all kinds.



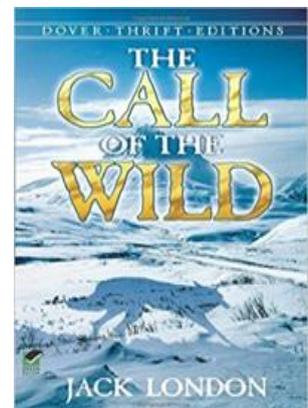
2. Animal Farm by George Orwell

This is a classic short novel which can be read on a number of levels. One night, all the animals at Mr. Jones' Manor Farm assemble in a barn to hear old Major, a pig, describe a dream he had about a world where all animals live free from the tyranny of their human masters. Old Major dies soon after the meeting, but the animals — inspired by his philosophy of Animalism — plot a rebellion against Jones. A very interesting short book which raises all sorts of questions about who has power and how they should use it. This connects well to some of the animal poems under study which also explore the ideas of power and conflict.



3. The Call of the Wild by Jack London

The Call of the Wild is a short adventure novel about a sled dog named Buck. It is a novel by Jack London published in 1903 and set in Yukon, Canada during the 1890s Klondike Gold Rush, when strong sled dogs were in high demand. The central character of the novel is a dog named Buck. The story opens at a ranch in Santa Clara Valley, California, when Buck is stolen from his home and sold into service as a sled dog in Alaska. He becomes progressively feral in the harsh environment, where he is forced to fight to survive and dominate other dogs. By the end, his experiences and adventures enable him to emerge as a leader in the wild. London spent almost a year in the Yukon collecting material for the book. Its great popularity and success made a reputation for London; much of its appeal derives from its simplicity as a tale of survival.

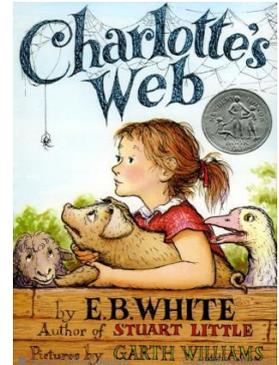




Silver Reads Animal Stories

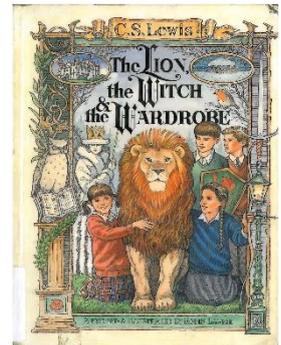
1. Charlotte's Web by E.B. White

This beloved book by E. B. White, author of *Stuart Little* and *The Trumpet of the Swan*, is a classic of children's literature that is "just about perfect." *Charlotte's Web* is the story of a little girl named Fern who loved a little pig named Wilbur—and of Wilbur's dear friend Charlotte A. Cavatica, a beautiful large grey spider who lived with Wilbur in the barn. E. B. White's book is a tender novel about the nature of love, friendship and life. The book has been made into a very successful film in 2006.



2. The Lion, The Witch and the Wardrobe by C.S. Lewis

Four children travel through a wardrobe to the land of Narnia and learn of their destiny to free it with the guidance of a mystical lion. Set around the background of World War 2, the novel explores many themes such as war, loyalty and sacrifice. It can also be read as a Christian allegory to challenge your ability to read a text on a number of levels. You have probably seen the film *Narnia* which is an adaptation of the novel. The book is even better!



3. The Velveteen Rabbit by Margery Williams

The Velveteen Rabbit (or *How Toys Become Real*) is a children's book written by Margery Williams. It chronicles the story of a stuffed rabbit and his desire to become real, through the love of his owner. Given as a Christmas gift to a young boy, the Velveteen Rabbit lives in the nursery with all of the other toys, waiting for the day when the Boy will choose him as a playmate. In time, the shy rabbit befriends the tattered Skin Horse, the wisest resident of the nursery, who reveals the goal of all nursery toys: to be made "real" through the love of a human. "Real isn't how you are made," said the Skin Horse. "It's a thing that happens to you. When a child loves you for a long, long time, not just to play with, but REALLY loves you, then you become real."

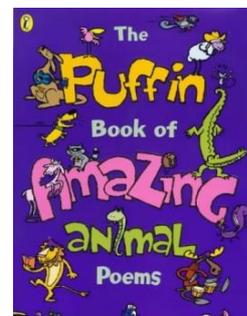




Bronze reads Animal stories and poems

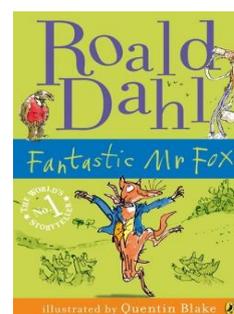
1. The Puffin Book of Amazing Animal Poems

There are over 100 traditional and contemporary poems about all sorts of animals from many different cultures in this great collection. Each of the six sections is illustrated by a different artist and combine to produce a lively colourful adventure through the animal kingdom. From Shel Silverstein's delightful 'It's Dark in Here' - 'I am writing these poems from inside a lion and it's rather dark in here' to the less familiar traditional Australian rhyme about the kangaroo 'Old Jumpety-Bumpety-Hop-and-Go-One', there is something here for everyone.



2. The Fantastic Mr Fox by Roald Dahl

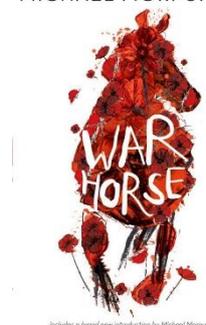
When Mr Fox needs to feed his family, he usually just raids the storehouses of one of his vile neighbors, Boggis, Bunce, and Bean. All three were farmers, and all were particularly nasty and mean people. But when Boggis, Bunce and Bean finally get fed up with Mr Fox stealing their chickens, ducks, geese, and turkeys, they decide that Mr Fox, and anyone who happens to be in the way, must be destroyed. But no matter what they do, how much they obsess, or how much damage they do, that clever Mr Fox seems to be able to stay one step ahead.



3. War Horse by Michael Morpurgo

In 1914, Joey, a young farm horse, is sold to the army and thrust into the midst of the war on the Western Front. With his officer, he charges towards the enemy, witnessing the horror of the frontline. But even in the desolation of the trenches, Joey's courage touches the soldiers around him." War Horse also tells the plight of the soldiers, both German and English and the horrors that they went through. It will make you cry but the ending will make you smile as well.

MICHAEL MORPURGO



What else can we do?

There are lots of things that families can do together to support the improvement of reading ability and enjoyment – and not all of them require a book.

Talk as a family about reading

By secondary school most students are competent readers and are less likely to read aloud to an adult. That's a natural progression, but it doesn't mean that parents don't have a part to play. The higher level skills of inference and understanding the craft of an author can be supported by talking about what has been read.

Share a book

Just because you don't necessarily read together doesn't mean that parents and children can't share a book. Young Adult fiction is excellent and well worth a read as a parent. Why not both read the same book?

Model what it is to be a reader

Many parents will read, whether it be fiction, newspapers, online or in any other context. Get in the habit of being seen to read, and valuing reading.

Good Reading

Fiction books aren't the only sort of reading material that will help you improve your reading ability.

Reading these will help:



Newspapers



Websites



Non-fiction



Magazines



Graphic Novels



Audio books