



St John Bosco

ARTS COLLEGE

KS3 Reading for Pleasure Challenge Year 8 'Alice in Wonderland'



A guide for parents & students

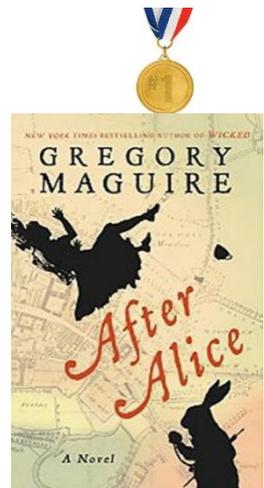
The Reading Challenge

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:

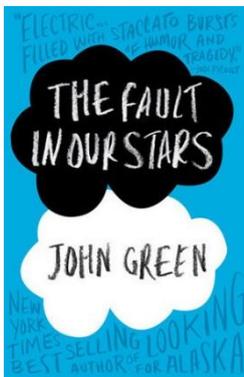
Gold reads

1) *After Alice* (Gregory Maguire)

Published to coincide with the 150th anniversary of Lewis's Carroll's beloved classic, *After Alice* offers a dazzling twist on the original story whilst keeping with the fantasy genre. Here, we see Ada, a friend of Alice's mentioned briefly in *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*, off to visit her friend, but she arrives a moment too late — and tumbles down the rabbit hole herself. Join Ada as she attempts to rescue Alice from this surreal 'wonderland' and embarks on her own journey of self-discovery just as Alice once did herself.



2) *The Fault in Our Stars* (John Green)



One of the key themes in *Alice in Wonderland* is adolescence as Alice struggles with the responsibilities and physical changes that growing up can bring. Despite not being a typical bildungsroman, Carroll portrays how Alice strives to be treated as an adult in certain situations and experiences a multitude of intellectual and emotional phases.

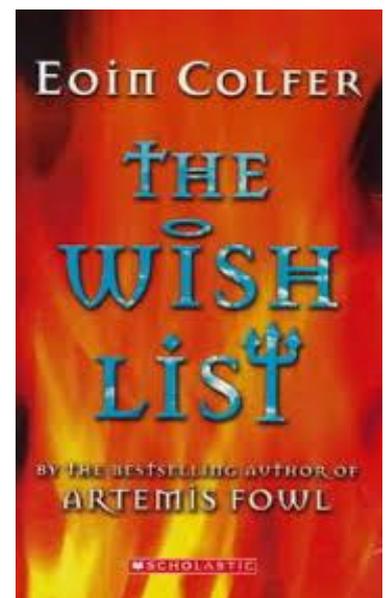
Another book in which we see the physical and emotional developments of the main characters is in John Green's award winning *The Fault in Our Stars* which was first published in 2012. In what is a significantly more modern and heartbreaking tale of adolescence than *Alice in Wonderland*, Green takes the reader on an emotional journey as both of the main characters, Hazel and Augustus, are diagnosed with cancer. However, as they each embark on their own battle, they find strength in their friendship and the love they have for each other.

Just like with *Alice*, avoid skipping the book to watch the film; despite how well the directors interpret each story, the raw emotion felt by each character on their journey only comes to life as you turn each page.

3) *The Wish List* (Eoin Colfer)

Alice gets herself into trouble, but Meg Finn's trouble is on a whole different scale!

Meg Finn is in trouble-uneearthly trouble. Cast out of her home by her stepfather after her mother's death, Meg is a wanderer, a troublemaker. But after her latest stunt, finding a place to sleep is the least of her worries. Belch, her partner in crime, has gotten her involved in the attempted robbery of an elderly man, Lowrie McCall. And things go horribly wrong. After an accidental explosion, Meg's spirit is flung into limbo, and a race begins between the demonic and the divine to win her soul.

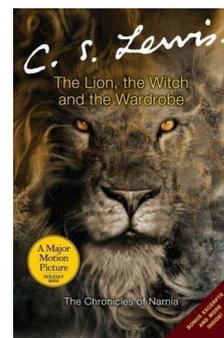


Silver reads

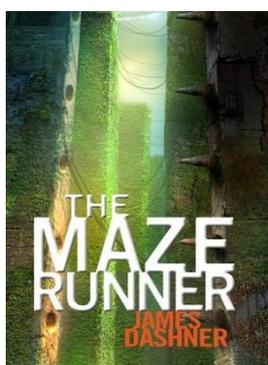


1) The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe (C.S. Lewis)

Alice in Wonderland is undoubtedly one of the greatest classics from the fantasy genre and C.S. Lewis' first instalment in *The Chronicles of Narnia*, first published in 1950, is no different. Whereas Alice embarked on her adventures by falling down a rabbit hole, Lewis has created a world of mystery and wonder, in which four siblings discover the bewitched land of Narnia at the back of wardrobe! However, just like how Alice meets a host of mythical creatures and talking animals who both help and hinder her on her journey, the Pevensie children join forces with the mighty Aslan in an attempt to overcome the White Witch, with all children experiencing a journey that will stay with them for the rest of their lives.



2) The Maze Runner (James Dashner)

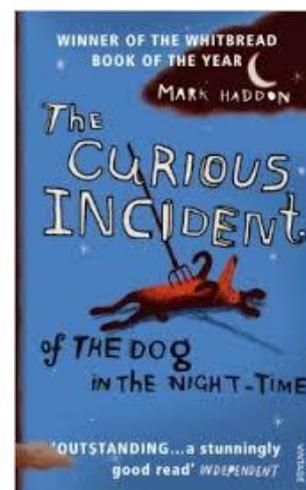


In *Alice in Wonderland*, we see Alice come crashing down into a whole new world with little warning and face what, to her, feels like an ongoing maze to get back to reality. In James Dashner's 2009 novel *The Maze Runner*, Thomas faces a very similar situation. He arrives in the 'Glade' along with other boys, all of whom are unable to remember how they got there. Even though Alice may have felt lost and intimidated at times as her surrounding constantly changed, Thomas faces a rather more challenging scenario as the walls around him are limitless and so far, nobody has made it out alive.

3) The Curious incident of the Dog in the Night Time (Mark Haddon)

Like Alice, Christopher Boone lives in a different world to us...but this is because he is autistic and sees life very differently.

Christopher John Francis Boone knows all the countries of the world and their capitals and every prime number up to 7,057. He relates well to animals but has no understanding of human emotions. He cannot stand to be touched. And he detests the color yellow. Although gifted with a superbly logical brain, for fifteen-year-old Christopher everyday interactions and admonishments have little meaning. He lives on patterns, rules, and a diagram kept in his pocket. Then one day, a neighbor's dog, Wellington, is killed and his carefully constructive universe is threatened.

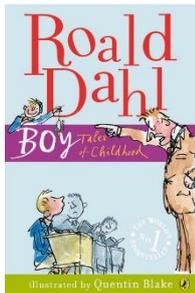
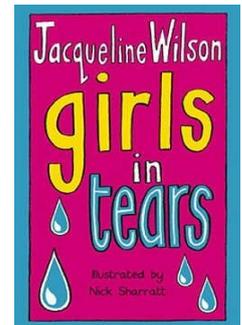


Bronze reads



1) **Girls in Tears** (Jacqueline Wilson)

Alice in Wonderland deals with the stresses and strains of growing up as a young girl and Alice often ends up crying in difficult situations just like the three girls in Wilson's bestseller. As the best friends face a bereavement, failed romance and staying safe online, we see that being an adolescent girl can be difficult regardless social class or the era in which you have grown up in; testing times can face us all.



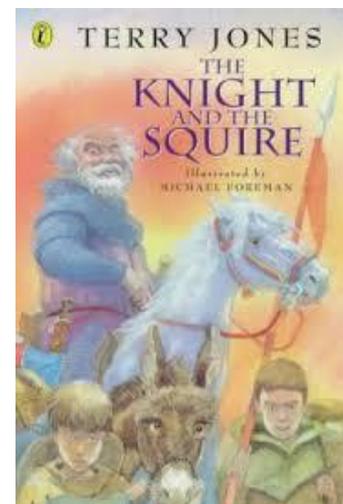
2) **Boy** (Roald Dahl)

Throughout *Alice in Wonderland*, Carroll makes us realise that there can be a lot more to growing up than meets the eye and makes us feel nostalgic about our own childhoods. In Roald Dahl's *Boy*, he shares countless anecdotes about his own childhood which was full of exciting, interesting and, at times, unexpected adventures.

3) **The Knight and The Squire** (Terry Jones)

Alice has many adventures and so does Tom, the central character of this story. But he discovers that the world you set out to explore is very different from the world you find.

An adventure story set in the time of the Crusades. The central character, Tom, is a boy who runs away from home to discover what the noble life of a knight is really like, and to experience the excitement of war and battles.



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.

Join the free online library

Library membership a free service for children and adults. There are no overdue fines as books are returned automatically. There is an excellent selection of books, audiobooks and magazines available. The software will work on a range of devices including mobile phones, tablets and laptops

You can join the online library at www.readliverpool.co.uk.

Visit Liverpool Central Library Liverpool

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