



# St John Bosco

## ARTS COLLEGE

### KS3 Reading for Pleasure Challenge Year 8 'A Midsummer Night's Dream' by William Shakespeare



## 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:

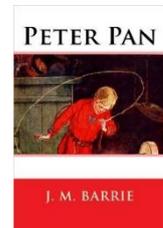
**Gold reads**



The character of Puck is a mischievous sprite who pulls together the three plots in A Midsummer Night's Dream. Like Peter Pan, Puck can fly and plays tricks on people.

### 1) Peter Pan by J.M. Barrie

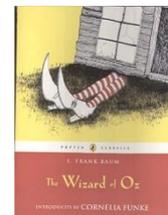
Peter Pan is a character created by Scottish novelist and playwright J. M. Barrie. A mischievous boy who can fly and never grows up, Peter Pan spends his never-ending childhood adventuring on the small island of Neverland as the leader of his gang, the Lost Boys, interacting with mermaids, Native Americans, fairies, pirates, and occasionally ordinary children from the world outside of Neverland. In addition to two distinct works by Barrie, the character has been featured in a variety of media and merchandise, both adapting and expanding on Barrie's works.



The character of Bottom finds himself in a magical land far away from home that seems surreal. Just like Dorothy in the Wizard of Oz he has to make sense of this surreal world and find his way back to reality.

### 2.) The Wizard of Oz by Frank Baum.

Dorothy thinks she is lost forever when a terrifying tornado crashes through Kansas and whisks her and her dog, Toto, far away to the magical Land of Oz. To get home Dorothy must follow the yellow brick road to Emerald City and find the wonderfully mysterious Wizard of Oz. Together with her companions the Tin Woodman, the Scarecrow and the Cowardly Lion whom she meets on the way, Dorothy embarks on a strange and enchanting adventure.



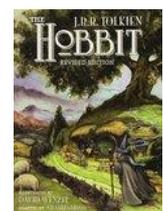
The character of Puck is a mischievous, ethereal character who is a fantasy character who weaves his magic throughout the play. Like Bilbo Baggins he embarks on a magical adventure.

### 3.) The Hobbit by J.R.R. Tolkien

The Hobbit is the unforgettable story of Bilbo, a peace-loving hobbit, who embarks on a strange and magical adventure.

A timeless classic.

Bilbo Baggins enjoys a quiet and contented life, with no desire to travel far from the comforts of home; then one day the wizard Gandalf and a band of dwarves arrive unexpectedly and enlist his services – as a burglar – on a dangerous expedition to raid the treasure-hoard of Smaug the dragon. Bilbo's life is never to be the same again.



Seldom has any book been so widely read and loved as J. R.R. Tolkien's classic tale, 'The Hobbit'. Since its first publication in 1937 it has remained in print to delight each new generation of readers all over the world, and its hero, Bilbo Baggins, has taken his place among the ranks of the immortals of fiction.

## Silver reads



This book shares similar themes to the play dealing with the themes of fantasy and reality, heroes and villains and Gods, Kings and Queens of fantasy realms.

### 1.) **Percy Jackson- Lightning thief** by Rick Riordan

*Look, I didn't want to be a half-blood. I never asked to be the son of a Greek God.*

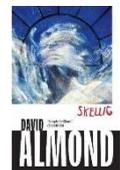
I was just a normal kid, going to school, playing basketball, skateboarding. The usual. Until I accidentally vaporized my maths teacher. Now I spend my time battling monsters and generally trying to stay alive. This is the one where Zeus, God of the Sky, thinks I've stolen his lightning bolt - and making Zeus angry is a *very bad idea*.



This book shares similar themes to the play dealing with the themes of dreams and magical, fantasy characters

### 2) **Skellig** by David Almond

When a move to a new house coincides with his baby sister's illness, Michael's world seems suddenly lonely and uncertain. Then, one Sunday afternoon, he stumbles into the old, ramshackle garage of his new home, and finds something magical. A strange creature - part owl, part angel, a being who needs Michael's help if he is to survive. With his new friend Mina, Michael nourishes Skellig back to health, while his baby sister languishes in the hospital.



But Skellig is far more than he at first appears, and as he helps Michael breathe life into his tiny sister, Michael's world changes for ever . . .

Oberon and Titania the King and Queen of the fairy world, fight for power and control. Similar to the animals in George Orwell's Animal farm.

### 3.) **Animal Farm** by George Orwell

'All animals are equal - but some are more equal than others'

When the downtrodden animals of Manor Farm overthrow their master Mr Jones and take over the farm themselves, they imagine it is the beginning of a life of freedom and equality. But gradually a cunning, ruthless elite among them, masterminded by the pigs Napoleon and Snowball, starts to take control. Soon the other animals discover that they are not all as equal as they thought, and find themselves hopelessly ensnared as one form of tyranny is replaced with another.

'It is the history of a revolution that went wrong - and of the excellent excuses that were forthcoming at every step for the perversion of the original doctrine,' wrote Orwell for the first edition of *Animal Farm* in 1945. Orwell wrote the novel at the end of 1943, but it almost remained unpublished; its savage attack on Stalin, at that time Britain's ally, led to the book being refused by publisher after publisher. Orwell's simple, tragic fable has since become a world-famous classic

**Bronze**

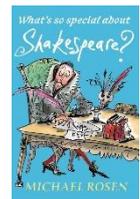


**reads**

These two books will give you knowledge and insight into the life and times of Shakespeare. Learn about what influenced his writing.

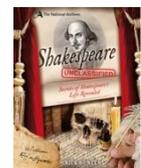
### **1) What's so good about Shakespeare by Michel Rosen**

So what was it like to live in Shakespeare's time? What do we actually know about him? And how does someone become that famous? These are just a few of the questions addressed in this lively and accessible book on the life and works of William Shakespeare by award-winning author Michael Rosen. Ideal for browsing, the text is divided into clear sections and includes studies of four of Shakespeare's plays, intriguing facts and information about Shakespeare himself and the world at this time, accompanied by a useful timeline.



### **2. The National Archives: Shakespeare Unclassified by Nick Hunter**

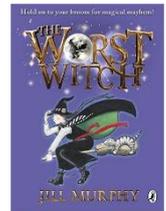
Welcome to the world of William Shakespeare. See what influenced his work, whether he really did write the famous works that we associate with his name, and be prepared to be taken on a journey behind the scenes. Amazing artefacts and original documents provided by the National Archives help readers build a real account of the man behind the name.



Like the character of Puck the worst which has many magical adventures and casts many spells which go wrong.

### 3. The Worst Witch by Jill Murphy

The Worst Witch written and illustrated by Jill Murphy is reissued with exciting new branding and format. The Worst Witch is the first in the bestselling children's series by Jill Murphy.



Hold on to your broomstick for magical mayhem! Jill Murphy's much-loved classic The Worst Witch is the original story of life at a magical boarding school.

Mildred Hubble is a trainee at Miss Cackle's Academy for Witches, but she's making an awful mess of it. She keeps getting her spells wrong and crashing her broomstick. And when she turns Ethel, the teacher's pet into her worst enemy, chaos ensues...

If you'd like to read more of Mildred's disastrous adventures at Miss Cackle's Academy The Worst Witch Strikes Again, A Bad Spell for the Worst Witch, The Worst Witch All at Sea, The Worst Witch Saves the Day and The Worst Witch to the Rescue are also available from Puffin.

## 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](http://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