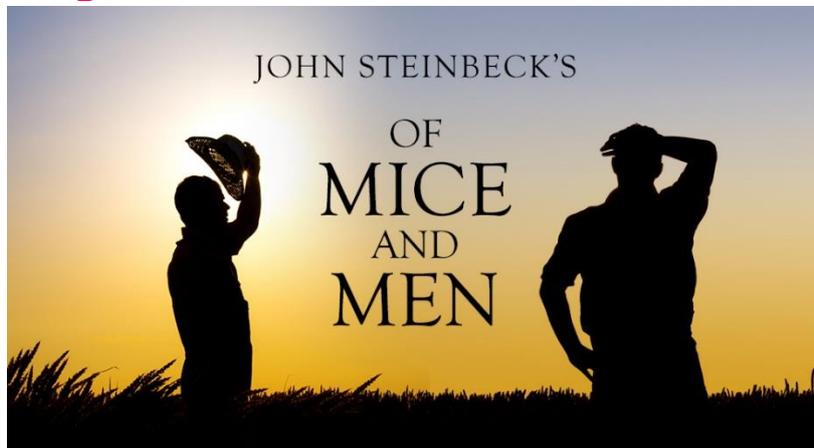




St John Bosco

ARTS COLLEGE

KS3 Reading for Pleasure Challenge Year 9 Of Mice and Men



A guide for parents & students

The Reading Challenge

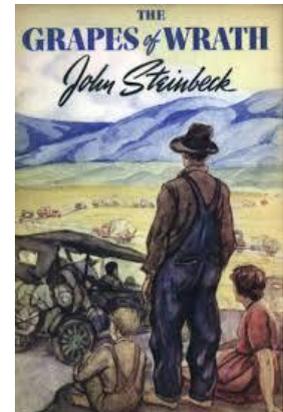
To encourage frequent reading, we are setting some challenges to KS3 students. Below is a reading list ranked in challenge order from Bronze to Silver & Gold. These books can be used as your 10 mins reading book or you could read them at home. You can earn prizes and certificates from your teacher if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

Gold reads



1) *The grapes of Wrath* (John Steinbeck)

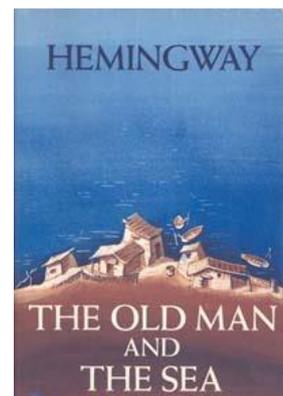
Grapes is one of the most important and iconic works in American literature. The book won the Pulitzer prize. Steinbeck tells the story of the Dust Bowl and the Great Depression through the displaced Joad family. The book was also important for being a popular hit among the working class people Steinbeck sought to defend as well as literary critics after it was published in 1939. Don't think you can just watch the movie to get the gist of this book. As great as John Ford's film adaptation is, it cuts out the breathtaking final scene in the novel.



2) *The Old Man and the Sea* (Ernest Hemingway)

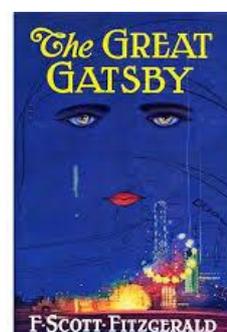
The tone of *Of Mice and Men* is **fatalistic** meaning, you can tell from the beginning that the characters are doomed, and their fate is already sealed. Steinbeck felt deeply for these men who are at the mercy of an unfair and unfeeling society.

Another book with this kind of sympathetic, fatalistic tone is, *The Old Man and the Sea* by Ernest Hemingway. Published in 1952, it tells the story of an old, unlucky Cuban fisherman struggling to catch a fish. There is a sympathy and tenderness in Hemingway's tone as he describes the fisherman's lonely struggle. Like Steinbeck's writing, Hemingway's is straightforward, and the book is a short read.



3) *The Great Gatsby* (F. Scott Fitzgerald)

Of Mice and Men deals with many different themes, but two of the most important are the futile pursuit of the **American Dream** and **loneliness**. There are many different books that deal with the impossibility of achieving the American dream, that is, of working hard and achieving wealth and happiness. As Crooks observes in, *Of Mice and Men*: 'Just like heaven. Ever'body wants a little piece of lan'. I read plenty of books out here. Nobody never gets to heaven, and nobody gets no land'. *Of Mice and Men* describes the impossibility of the American Dream in a time of deprivation during the Great Depression. F. Scott Fitzgerald's *The Great Gatsby* examines the very same thing in a time of excess in the prosperous Roaring Twenties. Jay Gatsby, a reclusive millionaire, throws lavish parties for the rich and well-to-do in New York. His dream is to win back the woman he loves who is married to another man. Fitzgerald looks at the loss of innocence and corruption of American society. Many of



the characters throw money around trying to achieve happiness and the American Dream, yet it always eludes them.

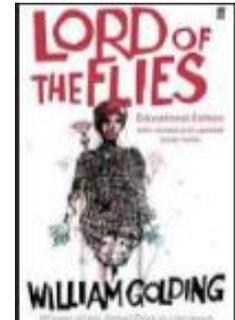
Silver reads



1) Lord of the Flies (William Golding)

2)

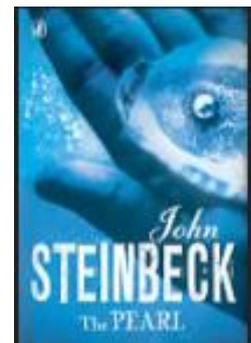
Of Mice and Men has a theme of power running through it. A similar theme can be found in the 1954 novel by Nobel Prize-winning English author William Golding about a group of British boys stuck on an uninhabited island who try to govern themselves with disastrous results.



3) The Pearl (John Steinbeck)

4)

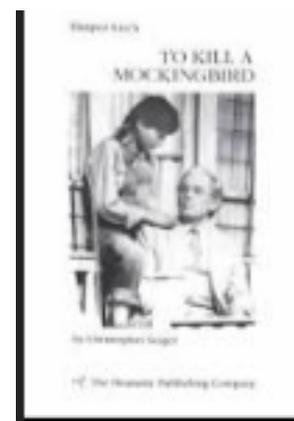
Arguably Of Mice and Men explores man's nature and how we treat those around us. The Pearl is another novella by American author John Steinbeck, first published in 1947. It is the story of a pearl diver, Kino, and explores man's nature as well as greed and evil.



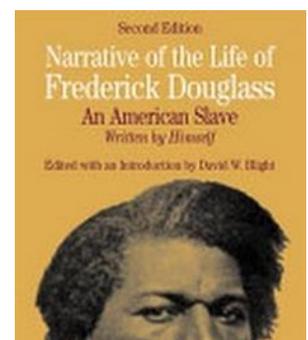
5) To Kill A Mockingbird (Harper Lee)

6)

Set in America just like Of Mice and Men, the novel is about three years in the life of the Finch family: Atticus and his son Jem and daughter Scout. Atticus is a lawyer and the central incident of the novel is when he defends a black man, Tom Robinson, against the charge of raping a white girl.



7) The Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass.



An insight into the behaviours and attitudes connected to Slavery in the 19th century. One man's battle to become free after being born into slavery.

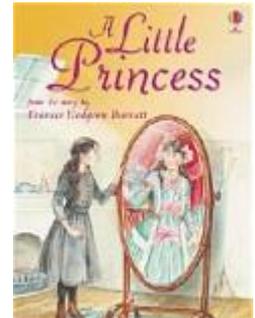
Bronze reads



1) **A Little Princess** (Frances Hodgson Burnett)

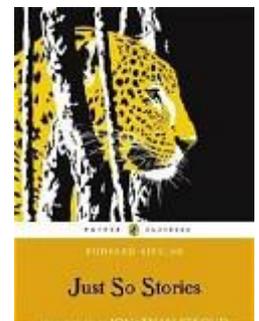
Of Mice and men deals with class and our place in the world. Set in Victorian England, A Little Princess does the same.

Sara has a privileged background but is now living as a Cinderella figure; and she plays at being a princess. But her response shows that being a princess is less a social ranking than a state of mind.



2) **The Just So Stories** (Rudyard Kipling)

Steinbeck may make us question how we see the world around us...Kipling offers some fun answers. How did the leopard get his spots? How was the alphabet made? Why are elephant's trunks so long? A brilliant read- making the Telegraph's top 15 children's books of all time!



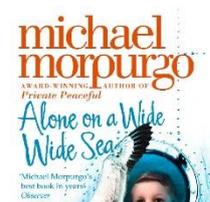
3) **The Secret Garden** (Frances Hodgson Burnett)

In Of Mice and Men we see people dealing with disability. In The Secret Garden we see characters who deal with both disability and loss.

After losing her parents, young Mary Lennox is sent from India to live in her uncle's gloomy mansion on the wild English moors. She is lonely and has no one to play with, but one day she learns of a secret garden somewhere in the grounds that no one is allowed to enter.



4) **Alone on A Wide Wide Sea** (Michael Morpurgo)



With a theme of loneliness – this book was inspired by the history of English orphans transported to Australia after World War 2 The book's title is taken from a line in *The Rime of the Ancient Mariner*.

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:

Monday	09:00	20:00
Tuesday	09:00	20:00
Wednesday	09:00	20:00
Thursday	09:00	20:00
Friday	09:00	20:00
Saturday	09:00	17:00



Newspapers



Websites



Non-fiction



Magazines



Graphic Novels



Audio books