

2018 Premier's reading challenge



Year 3 – 5 booklist

This booklist is a guide only to help students, parents, guardians and teachers select age appropriate reading material. Students may select any suitable books, and may also wish to consider books from previous years' [Premier's Reading Challenge booklists](#).

*QDoE – Queensland Department of Education

Author	Title and book summary	JF/F/NF	Pages	Theme	ISBN
Baillie, Kaye; Brennan, Krista (illus)	Archie Appleby and the terrible case of the creeps Is there something sinister in the basement of horrible Aunt Ruth's home? Uncle Jack is missing too. And then there's Roxanne – who is she? Archie is determined to find out what's going on and that means entering the creepy basement. (QDoE)	F	60	Mystery; fear	9781925563016
Barnard, Simon	Gaolbird In 1821 William Swallow is wearing a convict uniform, his legs chained. He has just arrived in Hobart Town. He'll soon ditch the uniform and take part in the most outrageous and unbelievable true story in Australia's convict history. (Adapted from Publisher)	NF	40	History; convicts; pirates	9781925498172
Beacham, Janine	Rose Raventhorpe investigates: black cats and butlers [Rose Raventhorpe investigates series] Rose's beloved butler Argyle is found murdered, the third butler in a week. With missing cat statues, illegal grave digging, missing keys, secret stairs and superstition, Rose's investigation turns dangerous but she must do what she thinks is right. (QDoE)	F	261	Mystery	9781510201286



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Beck, Jennifer; Belton, Robyn (illus)	The Anzac violin Alexander Aitken won a violin on board a troopship destined for Egypt in 1915. Its music soothed the soldiers on their travels. The day Alexander was wounded was the last time he thought he would see his treasured violin. (QDoE)	F	40	Anzac story	9781775433910
Bott, Adrian C.; Isaac, Andy (illus)	Axel & Beast: robotic rumble [Axel & Beast series] Rumours of a powerful reactor buried under Ghost Island are true. Grabbem Industries want it for themselves. Axel and Beast are racing to keep it out of Grabbem's hands. But could the rumours of a ghost maker be true? (Adapted from publisher)	F	121	Robots; heroes; adventure	9781760127831
Burne, Cristy;Burne tt, Amanda (illus)	To the lighthouse Isaac's holiday to Rottnest Island was to be exciting, but his mum won't allow him to do anything. He soon makes friends with Emmy. They begin small, daring adventures, until a sneaky midnight ride leads to disaster. (QDoE)	F	109	Friendship; adventure; holidays	9781925164619
Cahill, Tim	Tiny Timmy: on tour [Tiny Timmy series] Tiny Timmy and his soccer team go on tour, but it's not as Timmy expects. Sharing a room with Studs and Hacker makes Timmy miss his family. The games are hard, and Timmy is homesick. Can he last the tour? (QDoE)	F	125	Soccer	9781743816509
Clark, Sheryl; Perry, Ellyse	Ellyse Perry: magic feet [Ellyse Perry series] Soccer season is here and Ellyse is desperate to start, but her best friends decide they don't want to play this year. Ellyse tries to get a girls team together but is targeted by a bully. (Adapted from publisher)	F	130	Soccer; friendship; bullying	9780143781264

Author	Title and book summary	JF/F/ NF	Pages	Theme	ISBN
Connolly, Margaret (ed.); Prior, Natalie Jane (ed.); King, Stephen Michael et al (illus)	A boat of stars: new poems to inspire and enchant Open worlds of imagination and explore the magic of everyday life with this enchanting new collection of poetry from some of Australia's most-loved writers and illustrators. (Publisher)	NF	128	Poetry; animals; Indigenous Australians; family; school	9780733337932
Cosentino; Heath, Jack; Hart, James (illus)	The mysterious world of Cosentino: the missing ace [The mysterious world of Cosentino series] Cosentino, the grand illusionist, is in trouble with the King for sheltering his Ace of Spades and practising magic. Faced with snakes, sharks and more, he is thrown into the arcade and must contest with the Puzzler for everyone's freedom. (QDoE)	F	183	Magic; adventure	9781743812020
Do, Anh; Ley, Jeremy	Ninja Kid: from nerd to ninja! [Ninja kid series] Nerdy Nelson Kane wakes on his 10th birthday as a ninja, just as legend predicted. His job? To protect the world against evil. With his inventive grandma and cousin Kenny, Nelson has to save Duck Creek from the invading tyranno-spiders. (QDoE)	F	192	Humour; martial arts	9781742993263
Fensham, Elizabeth	My dog gets a job Eric's dog, Ugly, is always in trouble. Eric decides Ugly needs a job, but this proves disastrous. Ugly continues to disrupt family life until Eric finds the perfect solution. But it is the unexpected that recognises Ugly's natural gift. (QDoE)	F	150	Dogs; autism	9780702259593
Greenwood, Mark; Denton, Terry (illus)	Boomerang and bat Based on a true story, against the authorities, a group of Aboriginal cricketers travelled to England to play multiple games of cricket. Their popularity grew as they entertained with their skill, before returning home to their humble lives. (QDoE)	NF	30	Aboriginal group; cricket; history	9781743319246

Author	Title and book summary	JF/F/NF	Pages	Theme	ISBN
Greenwood, Mark	<p>History mysteries: the last tiger [History mysteries series]</p> <p>On 7 September 1936, the last captive Tasmanian Tiger dies alone and neglected in a Hobart zoo. Since then many people claim to have sighted this amazing creature. Could modern science and a determined searcher provide a glimmer of hope? (Adapted from publisher)</p>	NF	88	History; extinct animals	9780143309253
Hamlyn, Charlotte Rose	<p>Opposite land</p> <p>Enter a world where starfish live in the sky, mermaids are ugly, princes wear sparkly dresses, and cabbages can fly. Join Steve as she goes on a magical adventure to a place where everything is never as it seems. (Publisher)</p>	F	144	Graphic novel; fantasy; friendship	9780143780816
Harvey, Jacqueline	<p>Alice-Miranda holds the key [Alice-Miranda series]</p> <p>Alice-Miranda is home for the holidays. There is trouble with the family business and people are struck down with a mystery illness. Add in the annual garden party, a runaway and a swindler and it may be the perfect recipe for disaster. (Adapted from publisher)</p>	F	362	Holidays; friendship	9780143780700
Harvey, Jacqueline	<p>Kensy and Max breaking news [Kensy and Max series]</p> <p>Twins, Kensity and Max, find themselves in London with their 'manny' Fitz and their parents missing. With secrets, lies, Morse code messages and strange grannies, the twins work together to solve the mystery. (Adapted from publisher)</p>	F	318	Mystery; spies	9780143780656

Author	Title and book summary	JF/F/ NF	Pages	Theme	ISBN
Hayes, Paula	Lily in the mirror To be dark and mysterious is one of Lily's life-long goals. When she is sent to stay with her grandad, she finds just this in a mysterious room of old memorabilia including a mirror under a dusty sheet. (QDoE)	F	181	Families; mystery	9781925163872
Ivanhoff, George; Hart, James (illus)	Footy fever [You choose series] Take the footy quiz and start your own adventure. Will you choose the safer option or take a risk? Embarrassing mums, footy-busting ninjas, exploding footballs, or lucky charms, winning tickets and a career in footy. It's your choice. (QDoE)	F	158	Football	9780143786801
Janu, Tamsin	Figgy takes the city [Figgy series] Nana and Figgy receive scholarships to attend college. They have to leave their family, meet new people and learn new things. But Nana begins disappearing on weekends. When Figgy follows him one day, it is both scary and sad. (Adapted from publisher)	F	187	Families; travel	9781742992006
Jennings, Paul	A different dog A boy enters a race to win money, but instead becomes involved in the rescue of a dog. The boy can't talk. Confronted by a teenage gang, dog and boy form a bond that is later threatened by a stranger. (QDoE)	F	96	Friendship; resilience; bullying; courage	9781760296469
Johnson, Rebecca	Vet cadets: clever chicks [Vet cadet series] For a science experiment, the vet cadets are given chicks to care for and study. This presents its own issues, but none as big as that of their horses, forced into quarantine, and the risk of Abbey's health. (QDoE)	F	160	Animals; friendship; science	9780143782742

Author	Title and book summary	JF/F/NF	Pages	Theme	ISBN
Jones, J. C.	<p>Pip and Houdini [Pip series]</p> <p>In trouble again at home, Pip sets off to Byron Bay with her dog, Houdini, to find her real mother. Overcoming several obstacles, Pip meets up with a musician and a surfer, but her troubles and adventures continue in this action packed story. (QDoE)</p>	F	197	Adventure; relationships	9781860296056
Kelly, Deborah	<p>Ruby Wishfingers: king of the castle [Ruby Wishfingers series]</p> <p>Ruby is back with 12 more wishes ... and one missing wish from last spring. Jellybean is once again making mischief, but Cousin Todd stumbles across Ruby's missing wish and decides to make a few rules of his own. (Adapted from publisher)</p>	F	96	Fantasy; families	9781925563160
Kinney, Jeff	<p>Diary of a wimpy kid: the getaway [Diary of a wimpy kid series]</p> <p>Greg goes on a family holiday he'll never forget. The Heffleys decide to travel out of town and go to a resort instead of celebrating Christmas at home. But what's billed as a stress-free vacation becomes a holiday nightmare. (Publisher)</p>	F	240	Humour; families; holidays; graphic novel	9780141376677
Lacy, Tracy; McDonald, Danielle (illus)	<p>Tracy Lacy for classy captain! [Tracy Lacy series]</p> <p>Tracy Lacy has made it to high school and is the star of the school. She's going to be the classy captain! It all goes to her head and in her own disastrous way, Tracy has to deal with her adventures. (QDoE)</p>	F	287	Friendship; graphic novel	9781760275969

Author	Title and book summary	JF/F/ NF	Pages	Theme	ISBN
Mills, Patty; Thomas Jared (author); Ziersch, Nahum (illus).	Patty and The Shadows [Game day series] Patty and Josie are invited to join the local Indigenous basketball team, The Shadows. Patty is excited but when his schoolwork starts to suffer, he has to work out a balance of sport and homework ... and the grand final. (Adapted from publisher)	F	118	Basketball; Aboriginal peoples	9781760295110
Morgan, Sally; Smith, Craig (illus)	Mucking up big time Robbie has really mucked up this time! It's going to take more than saying sorry. It's going to cost him, but it's going to cost his dad too, all because of rabbit poo. Even the best trick can go wrong! (Adapted from publisher)	F	64	Boys; families; humour	9781742991696
Murphy, Sally; Aska (illus)	Looking up Pete loves the stars and longs for a telescope for his birthday. But when he receives a card from a grandad he didn't know he had, things change. His mum won't talk about it, so Pete starts his own investigation. (QDoE)	F	72	Families	9781925164572
Murrell, Belinda	Pippa's island: cub reporters [Pippa's island series] Pippa and her friends volunteer for the school newspaper, but finding an article to write proves difficult. A photo shoot is chosen but disaster strikes. Pippa's love for the beach lands her not one, but two good stories. (QDoE)	F	221	Friendships; school story	9780143783688
Ratt, Alex; Faber, Jules	The Stinky Street stories [Stinky Street series] Cleaning up the pet's vomit was nothing compared to the embarrassing punishment Brian endured for throwing away his sister's home-made perfume. Cow pats, rotten food, stink pits make for putrid, foul and stinky stories. (QDoE)	F	173	Humour; siblings	9781760553173

Author	Title and book summary	JF/F/ NF	Pages	Theme	ISBN
Rippin, Sally	<p>Polly and Buster: the wayward witch and the feelings monster [Polly and Buster]</p> <p>Sally doesn't make a very good witch. Her unlikely friend is Buster, a monster. When Polly is partnered with the popular Malorie at school they become friends, but it is Polly's rejection of Buster that starts a chain of events. (QDoE)</p>	F	80	Friendship; monsters	9781760129019
Spratt, R. J.	<p>Friday Barnes: never fear [Friday Barnes series]</p> <p>Friday is soon to graduate from Highcrest, but hears a rumour of embezzled gold stashed on the school grounds. She is determined to uncover the truth ... if she can stay out of detention long enough. (Adapted from publisher)</p>	F	266	Mystery; school story	9780143784203
Starc, Mitchell; Bunting, Philip	<p>Mighty Mitch!: Aussies vs England: game on! [Mighty Mitch! series]</p> <p>Mitch daydreams of playing against England. This is realised when a visiting junior team from England arrives to play for 'the Cinders' Cup. Odds seem against them; red socks and self-doubt of the team could affect their chance of success. (QDoE)</p>	F	134	Cricket; teamwork	9781742763194
Temple, Kate' Temple, Joel	<p>Captain Jimmy Cook discovers X marks the spot [Captain Jimmy Cook series]</p> <p>Jimmy is on a top secret dig for dinosaurs – behind the school toilets. His quest leads to a treasure map, a school craze and a robot competition; none ends as he hoped. Could an incidental discovery lead to fame? (QDoE)</p>	F	149	School story; exploration; humour	9781925576603

Author	Title and book summary	JF/F/NF	Pages	Theme	ISBN
Thiele, Colin; Davies, Andres (illus)	Storm Boy Storm Boy saves the life of Mr Percival, and in return the pelican helps Storm Boy's father with his fishing and joins in the rescue of a shipwrecked crew. The boy and the pelican prove friends to the end. (Publisher)	F	47	Animals; friendship	9781921024658
Walliams, David; Ross, Tony (illus)	The world's worst children 2 [The world's worst children series] If you thought you had read about the world's worst children already, you're in for a rather nasty shock. The beastly boys and gruesome girls in this book are even ruder, even more disgusting and worse than you could imagine! (Publisher)	F	282	Humour; children; short stories	9780008259679
Whittle, Cate; King, Stephen Michael (illus)	Trouble and the new kid [Trouble series] Nina thinks that dragons don't exist. Trouble is still banned from the schoolyard, so he can't show her she is wrong. It's no fun when people don't believe in you, but believing in things is good for everyone. (Publisher)	F	89	Friendship; dragons	9781742990781
Wilson, Mark	Beth: the story of a child convict Sentenced to transportation to Australia, Beth befriends another convict child, Molly. In Sydney Cove, they are sent to work for the surgeon. Aware of the watching Aboriginal people, life is harsh and disease spreads. When Molly becomes sick, is there hope? (QDoE)	F	31	Australian history; convicts	9780734417442
Wood, Ailsa; Wood, Ben (illus)	Squishy Taylor and the silver suitcase [Squishy Taylor series] Squishy finds a mystery to investigate when she and her sisters witness two scientists acting strangely. She is determined to uncover a bird smuggling operation, but it's not quite what she expects. (QDoE)	F	121	Mystery; families; detective story	9781760128784