

# 2018 Premier's reading challenge



## Year 7 – 9 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
Archbold, Charlie	<b>Mallee boys</b> Sandy Douglas knows that life at 15 years old is hard but it's even harder when your mother died a year ago and nothing's gone right since. He does his best but he doesn't have a clue. (Adapted from publisher)	F	216	Rural Australia; coming of age; grief; family	9781743055007
Balchin, Lance	<b>Aquatica: a beginner's field guide</b> The year is 2250, and all biological species have been wiped out. Corporations became out of control through the 21st century, and irresponsible governments did nothing, blinded by greed and capitalism. (Publisher)	F	32	Science fiction; futuristic; environment; fable	9781760404147
Barlow, Steve; Skidmore, Steve	<b>The Doomsday Virus</b> Hacker, Tim Corder, is the world's only hope. At 14 years old, can he stop the Doomsday Virus, about to be released onto the world's computers? (QDoE)	F	67	Science fiction; computers	9781842992883
Barnard, Simon	<b>Gaolbird</b> Based on the unbelievable true story of William Swallow's life, this narrative is a rollicking adventure with mutiny, piracy and a bird who is going to sing his own song. (QDoE)	NF	40	Australian history	9781925498172



Author	Title and book summary	JF/F/NF	Pages	Theme	ISBN
Barr, Emily	<p><b>The one memory of Flora Banks</b></p> <p>Flora Banks has no short-term memory. Her mind resets itself several times a day, and has since the age of 10, when a tumour was removed from Flora's brain. However, things change when she kisses a boy. (Adapted from publisher)</p>	F	303	Identity; growing up	9780141368511
Beale, Fleur	<p><b>Lyla: Through my eyes – Natural disaster zones</b></p> <p>Lyla is a high school student living in Christchurch, New Zealand, when her hometown is devastated by an earthquake. Coping with a natural disaster is not an easy journey. (QDoE)</p>	F	208	Disasters; resilience	9781760113780
Bird, Michael; Evans, Kate (illus)	<p><b>Vincent's starry night and other stories: a children's history of art</b></p> <p>A smiling lion man, a starry night, an enigmatic smile—these art works and movements capture who we are and how we understand ourselves. This collection of art and humanity is told through timelines, illustrations and discussions. (QDoE)</p>	NF and F	336	Art	9781780676142
Brierley, Saroo	<p><b>Lion: a long way home (Young readers' edition)</b></p> <p>Saroo thinks his quest to find his lost mother in India is about travelling half way across the world to a place half remembered. He soon finds he needs to know who he was to understand who he can be. (QDoE)</p>	NF	256	Survival; adoption	9780143784760
Chim, Wai	<p><b>Shaozhen: through my eyes – natural disaster zones</b></p> <p>Shaozhen is shocked when he returns home for his holidays. A drought is threatening the future of everyone he cares about. Can Shaozhen devise a plan to save his village? (QDoE)</p>	F	192	Natural disaster	9781760113797

Author	Title and book summary	JF/F/NF	Pages	Theme	ISBN
Colfer, Eoin; Donkin, Andrew; Rigano, Giovanni (illus)	<b>Illegal</b> Everyone Ebo loves is disappearing; first his sister, now his brother. Ebo knows he must now make the journey across Africa to Europe. Illegal is a powerful and timely novel. (QDoE)	F	144	Refugees; survival; adventure; graphic novel	9781444934007
Conaghan, Brian	<b>The bombs that brought us together</b> Charlie knows to follow the rules of Little Town, or incur the wrath of the rulers. One day Charlie befriends Pav, a refugee from Old Country. When soldiers from Old Country invade and bombs fall, life in Little Town changes. (QDoE)	F	368	Refugees	9781408855744
Crabbe, Kay	<b>The pearl-shell diver: a story of adventure from the Torres Strait</b> Sario loves his life in the Torres Strait and never wants to leave. In the year 1898, the pearl shell trade is at its height and Sario is forced to change his dreams or risk being washed aside. (QDoE)	F	208	Indigenous Australians; identity; family	9781760290474
FitzSimons, Peter	<b>Kokoda: teen edition</b> Kokoda was a significant battle in Australian history. Inexperienced Australian soldiers battled the seeming unstoppable Japanese forces on a gruelling jungle track. (QDoE)	F	240	WWII; heroism	9780734417435
Forde, Patricia	<b>The list</b> Words can give freedom or they can constrain, as the citizens of Ark know. Letta, Ark's new wordsmith, must make a dangerous choice – let words be silenced and be safe, or give them a voice and face possible banishment. (QDoE)	F	353	Global warming; community; growing up	9781925584738

Author	Title and book summary	JF/F/NF	Pages	Theme	ISBN
French, Jackie	<b>Third witch</b> Drawing on Shakespeare's Macbeth, Annie is a girl who is not a witch but lives in a space filled with secret knowledge. Annie finds herself being called upon by her mistress, Lady Macbeth, to be a part of things dark and dangerous. (QDoE)	F	256	Loyalty; betrayal	9780732298531
Gardner, Scot	<b>Sparrow</b> Sparrow has the odds stacked against him – no home, voice or justice. He does have one thing on his side, a determination to survive. But in the crocodile-infested waters off the Kimberley Coast, will that be enough? (QDoE)	F	240	Survival; Australian	9781760294472
Gleeson, Libby	<b>Australia's Great War: 1918 [Australia's Great War series]</b> Situated on the Western Front, Ned knows the Australians need to stay strong and hold out against the German forces. He also knows he might never see his home or his brother again. (QDoE)	F	288	WWI; mateship; survival	9781743622513
Gouldthorpe, Peter	<b>The White Mouse: the story of Nancy Wake</b> Nancy Wake's story is one of courage, and heroism. A spy during World War II, Wake's story comes to life in the beautiful illustrations of Peter Gouldthorpe. (QDoE)	NF	40	WWII; heroes and heroines; spies	9781742990910
Grylls, Bear	<b>Survival skills handbook: Knots, tips and tricks to survive in the wild survival skills handbook</b> In this 'must-have' survival guide for lovers of the outdoors, Bear Grylls teaches readers how to tie loops, lashes, hitches and other types of knots. (QDoE)	NF	48	Outdoors; survival	9781783422982

Author	Title and book summary	JF/F/NF	Pages	Theme	ISBN
Helliar, Peter; Vamos, Lesley (illus)	<b>Frankie Fish and the sonic suitcase [Frankie Fish series]</b> As punishment for a prank gone wrong, Frankie is forced to spend the holidays with his grandparents. It is here that Frankie finds Grandad is building a time machine. Can Frankie and Grandad fix the past to save their future? (QDoE)	F	280	Humour; time travel	9781760128494
Hobson, Ben	<b>To become a whale</b> Thirteen-year-old Sam Keogh has to learn how to live with his silent, hitherto absent father, who decides to make a man out of his son by taking him to work at Tangalooma, then the largest whaling station in the southern hemisphere. (Adapted from publisher)	F	404	Identity; growing up; relationships	9781760294397
Jennings, Paul	<b>Unreal! The ultimate collection 30 stories in 30 years</b> Unbelievable, unmentionable and uncanny, these classic stories will surprise you, leave you tongue tied, spook you, make you cry and have you laughing out loud. (Publisher)	F	432	Anthology	9780670079254
Kaufam, Amie; Keil, Melissa; Kostakis, Will; Marney, Ellie; Moriarty, Jaclyn; Pryor, Michael; Pung, Alice; Tozer, Gabrielle; Wilkinson, Lili	<b>Begin, end, begin: a #LoveOzYA anthology</b> Bestsellers. Award-winners. Superstars. This anthology has them all. With brilliantly entertaining short stories from beloved young authors...this all new collection will show the world exactly how much there is to love about Aussie YA. (Publisher)	F	336	Coming-of-age; friendship; identity; adversity	9781460752319
Kaufman, Amie; Spooner, Meagan	<b>Unearthed</b> A long-extinct alien race, the Undying holds the key that will solve the Earth's problems. Their advanced technology has the potential to undo environmental damage and turn lives around. (Adapted from publisher)	F	384	Adventure; science fiction	9781760292157

Author	Title and book summary	JF/F/NF	Pages	Theme	ISBN
Lucas, Rachel	<b>The state of Grace</b> Grace has Asperger's and her own way of looking at the world. She's got a horse and a best friend who understand her, and that's pretty much all she needs. (Adapted from publisher)	F	288	Asperger's; resilience	9781509839551
Ludwig, Bem	<b>Ginny Moon</b> Ginny is your average teenager—she plays the flute in the school band, has weekly basketball practice and studies Robert Frost poems for English class—and she is autistic. She is an outsider trying to find a place to belong. (Adapted from publisher)	F	368	Belonging; Aspergers; adolescents	978-0778330165
McCaughrean, Geraldine	<b>Where the world ends</b> Inspired by true events, in 1727, a group of men and boys are set ashore on a remote sea stack to harvest birds for food. But when no one returns for them, they need to find true courage and determination. (Adapted from publisher)	F	336	Survival; human nature	9781474943437
Moriarty, Jaclyn; Canby, Kelly (illus)	<b>The extremely inconvenient adventures of Bronte Mettlestone</b> Bronte Mettlestone's parents have left very detailed instructions for Bronte in their will. She must follow these instructions and travel to kingdoms and empires to face dragons, chief detectives and pirates. (QDoE)	F	400	Adventure; fantasy	9781760297176
Newton, Gina	<b>Amazing animals of Australia's national parks</b> This visually appealing book contains information about 55 national parks and over 120 animals from all across Australia. It contains photographs, maps and scientific information along with interesting facts. (QDoE)	NF	160	Animals; Australia; natural environment	9780642278883

Author	Title and book summary	JF/F/NF	Pages	Theme	ISBN
Nix, Garth	<b>Frogkisser!</b> Princess Anya and her faithful talking dog are on a very important quest. They must find a way to reverse her evil stepfather's spell and return Prince Denholm to human form. (QDoE)	F	372	Humour; adventure	9781338052084
Orr, Wendy	<b>Dragonfly song</b> When the mute, outcast daughter of a priestess is abandoned at the gates of the Great Hall, she is called No-Name, the cursed child. Raised a slave, at twelve she discovers her name is Aissa: the dragonfly. (Adapted from publisher)	F	400	Resilience; identity	9781760290023
Oseid, Kelsey	<b>Creatures of the order: the beauty of order in the animal kingdom</b> A taxonomy that is equally educational and aesthetically beautiful, <i>Creatures of the order</i> will engage and interest readers of all ages. (QDoE)	NF	80	Animal kingdom; taxonomy	9781925694567
Pascoe, Bruce	<b>Mrs Whitlam</b> Marnie Clark can ride but she doesn't have a horse. She dreams of owning one. Before long Marnie is gifted Mrs Margaret 'Maggie' Whitlam – a bold, fearless horse. (Adapted from publisher)	F	80	Family; friendship; Aboriginal peoples	9781925360240
Pullman, Philip	<b>The adventures of John Blake: mystery of the ghost ship</b> When a storm hits a small family yacht throwing a young girl overboard, John Blake dives in to save her and brings her aboard the so-called ghost ship. (Adapted from publisher)	F	160	Graphic novel; mystery; Adventure	9781910989296
Schwab, Victoria	<b>This savage song [Monsters of Verity: Book 1]</b> Heroes or villains; friends or enemies; protector or predator - sometimes for Kate and August the line is not so clear as they face the monsters within and without. (QDoE)	F	400	Science fiction; Fantasy	9781785652745

Author	Title and book summary	JF/F/ NF	Pages	Theme	ISBN
Smith, Mark	<b>Wilder country [Wilder trilogy]</b> Originally, Finn, Kas and Willow thought all they had to survive was the winter of storms. Now they know there are more extreme dangers awaiting. (QDoE)	F	256	Friendship; action; adventure; survival	9781925498530
Spencer, Adam	<b>The number games</b> Written by Australia's cryptic number king, Spencer's book will make you think and test the boundaries of your mathematical knowledge. Brains multiplied by brilliance can only equal a mind blowing good time. (QDoE)	NF	384	Humour; mathematics	9781925143881
Weetman, Nova	<b>The secrets we share</b> Clem Timms is beginning high school and is troubled by change and separation. When she meets Matt, she has to choose between sharing or keeping the secrets that trouble her. (QDoE)	F	240	Change; friendship	9780702259784
Welford, Ross	<b>The 1000 year old boy</b> Many people want to live forever. Not Alfie Monk. Alfie is like any other teenage boy... except he is 1000 years old. (QDoE)	F	400	Humour; friendship	9780008256944
Whyte, Campbell	<b>Home time</b> Twins Lilly and David are looking forward to spending their summer holidays relaxing with friends. Their plans change when their group of friends fall into a river and wake up in a village of fantastic creatures. (QDoE)	F	228	Fantasy; adventure	9781603094122