

2019 Premier's reading challenge



Year 5 – 7 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' booklists.

*QDoE – Queensland Department of Education

Author	Title and book summary	JF/F/N F	Pages	Theme	ISBN
Abela, Deborah	<p>Teresa (2016) [A new Australian series]</p> <p>Teresa's family survived the relentless German bombs that destroyed much of Malta. Her father decides to emigrate to Australia for a better future for them all. After a lengthy sea voyage, their arrival in Sydney only presents many new ordeals. (QDoE)</p>	F	274	Historical fiction, Immigration, World War II	9781742990941
Abela, Deborah	<p>The most marvellous spelling bee mystery (2018) [Most marvellous spelling bee series]</p> <p>India, the Australian spelling champion, is invited to compete in London, where she is re-united with fellow spellers. All does not go well when the competition is sabotaged. India and her friends turn detectives to solve the mystery. (QDoE)</p>	F	280	Mystery, Competition	9780143786689
Arena, Felice	<p>Fearless Frederic (2018)</p> <p>Forced to work following his father's death, Frederic's life changes in the Paris floods of 1910. Intent on capturing his father's murderer, he embarks on a dangerous adventure with new friends Claire and Thiery, also homeless in the floods. (QDoE)</p>	F	162	Adventure, Friendship, France	9780143786757



Balchin, Lance	<p>Aquatica: A beginner's field guide [Series] (2018)</p> <p>Liberty's journey continues where she studies the Aquatica creatures that roam the oceans. She creates her journal of images and notes on the robotic life forms that exist in the environmentally polluted oceans of this future time. (QDoE)</p>	F	32	Robots, Environment, Science fiction	9781760404147
Bradshaw, Felicity; MacDonald, Norma	<p>The great lizard trek</p> <p>The climate is changing and many of the lizards are finding it hard to survive in their current habitats. Using Indigenous knowledge and Western science, the reptiles embark on a journey to find more appropriate environments.</p>	F	32	Climate change, Environment, lizards, Human impact, Picture book for older readers	9781486308828
Cede, Adam	<p>The unbelievably scary thing that happened in Huggable Falls (2018) [Huggable Falls series]</p> <p>Kipp, Tobias and Cymphany encounter an unbelievable level of scariness in Huggable Falls. A brussels sprout with a very bad Scottish accent, an alpaca-riding teddy bear and flying bathtubs – what would be more unbelievably terrifying? (Adapted from publisher)</p>	F	305	Humour, Fantasy, Fear, Friendship	9781925773019
Collins, Paul	<p>Harry Kruize, born to lose (2017)</p> <p>'Words are powerful' says Harry's English teacher. Their class assignment is to write down their wishes and keep a log of their outcomes. Harry has many wishes, but when Jack enters his life, things change, and not as he expects. (QDoE)</p>	F	224	Family, Friendship, Diaries, Bullying	9781925272628
Conolan, Emily	<p>Break your chains [The freedom fighters] (2018)</p> <p>Sentenced to Van Dieman's Land, an Irish convict girl is given a secret treasure. On arrival, she is assigned as a servant, but is always searching for her father. There are many challenges – survival dilemmas that you have to decide. (QDoE)</p>	F	279	Choose your own destiny, Australian history	9781760294915

Crew, Gary; Laffan, Julian (illus)	Leaving the lyrebird forest (2018) Alice lives with her parents in the idyllic rainforest of Victoria. A lyrebird visits her regularly, but Alice is surprised to discover its' secret when she befriends an elderly neighbour. A chance discovery has Alice considering her future. (QDoE)	F	160	Environment, Friendship, Australian stories, Coming of age	9780734418432
D'ath, Justin	47 degrees (2019) Zeelie wonders if they're in danger. Temperatures soar to 47 degrees, 12-year-old Zeelie hopes the nearby bushfires aren't heading towards her family's home. What about their pets? Where is her family? Nothing can prepare Zeelie for what is to come. (Adapted from publisher)	F	256	Action, Bushfires, Survival	9780143789079
Dubosarsky, Ursula; Joyner, Andrew (illus)	Brindabella (2018) Brindabella, rescued as a joey, was raised by Pender and his sick father. Brindabella believes she's special and leaves to make a life in the bush. She struggles to fit in and finds herself and others in great danger. (QDoE)	F	190	Animal stories	9781760112042
French, Jackie	The secret of the youngest rebel (2019) [The secret histories series] It's 1804. Frog, an orphan, struggles to survive on the streets of Parramatta. Accosted by Irish rebel, Mr Cunningham, Frog sympathises with his cause and joins the planned rebellion to overtake the colony. Frog's venture doesn't go as expected. (QDoE)	F	128	Australian history, Historical fiction	9781460709191
Gillespie, Michelle; Martinez, Sonia (illus)	Sam, Grace and the shipwreck The true story of a shipwreck and rescue off the WA coast in 1876. Aboriginal stockman Sam Isaacs and sixteen year old Grace Bussell were awarded medals for their brave rescue of dozens of passengers from the steamer "Georgette". (QDoE)	F		Picture book for older readers, Rescues, Heroic acts, Bravery, True story	9781921696008

Gleitzman, Morris	<p>Help around the house (2018)</p> <p>Ludo moves to Canberra to join his father, newly elected to parliament, and starts his own cause to help the homeless. This leads him on a dangerous adventure doing what he believes is right to make Australia a better place. (QDoE)</p>	F	198	Families, Mystery, Humour	9780143793236
Gleitzman, Morris	<p>Funny stories and other funny stories: Three books in one (2018)</p> <p>Swap a bomb for three ice-creams on a train, eat pizza that makes you fearless, read the secret diary of a dog, surprise your mum with a chainsaw, use a wrecking ball to defeat a bully ... and more. (Adapted from publisher)</p>	F	544	Humour, Australian stories	9780143793380
Griffiths, Andy; Denton, Terry [illus]	<p>The 104-storey treehouse (2018) [Treehouse series]</p> <p>You can throw some refrigerators, make some money with the money-making machine, climb the never-ending staircase, have a bunfight, deposit some burps in the burp bank, or just take some time out and relax. Come on up! (Adapted from publisher)</p>	F	351	Humour, Reluctant readers, Graphic novel	9781760554170
Harris, Tim; Hart, James (illus)	<p>Mr Bambuckle's Remarkables on the lookout (2019) [Mr Bambuckle's Remarkables series]</p> <p>Vex is gone! But how? He could be anywhere. We'll have to track him down. That's impossible. Mr Bambuckle and the class in room 12B are in trouble. Can they find Vex before it's too late? (Adapted from publisher)</p>	F	240	Humour, School	9780143793144
Harvey, Jacqueline	<p>Disappearing Act (2018)</p> <p>Kensy and Max are studying to become spies. On a school excursion to Rome, a chance encounter with a mysterious boy leads them into the dangerous underworld. And there is still the question of their missing parents. (QDoE)</p>	F	338	Mystery	9780143780632

Heath, Jack	<p>Liars: the truth app (2018) [Liars series]</p> <p>When Jarli's Truth App went viral overnight, it turned his life upside-down. Hunted by the paparazzi and the town's criminal underworld, Jarli's life spirals out of control. Is knowing the truth always the best thing? (QDoE)</p>	F	231	Suspense, Thriller, Adventure	9781760113766
Heffernan, John	<p>Hotaka (2017) [Through my eyes, Natural disaster zones series]</p> <p>Ten-year-old Hotaka's town is devastated by the Japanese tsunami of 2011. Like thousands of others, he struggles to cope with the enormous losses. To help overcome the grief, Hotaka helps organise a memorial ceremony, but more urgent issues unfold. (QDoE)</p>	F	214	Natural disasters, Japan, Historical fiction	9781760113766
Lachlan, Jeremy	<p>Jane Doe and the cradle of all worlds (2018) [Jane Doe Chronicles series]</p> <p>When a fierce quake strikes the remote island of Bluehaven and her father disappears, Jane's on an epic quest to bring him home. But this is no ordinary rescue mission ... she isn't the only one desperate to find him. (Adapted from publisher)</p>	F	410	Adventure, Quest, Fantasy	9781760501815
Larkin, Matt	<p>The orchard underground (2018)</p> <p>Pri knows his town well. Life is predictable until Attica arrives and asks questions. So begins their weird adventure into Razzy Wood where they meet the mysterious Razz Man. The mystery deepens, lives are at stake no matter the outcome. (QDoE)</p>	F	310	Mystery	9781760500856
Lefler, Dub	<p>Once there was a boy</p> <p>This is a poignant, universal story of friendship, trust, temptation and reconciliation. Although a picture book, its poetic and allegorical nature suits exploration by the older reader. (QDoE)</p>	F	71	Friendship, Reconciliation, Trust, Picture book for older readers	9781921248375

Lloyd, Alison; Denton, Terry	The upside-down history of down under (2018) Ever wondered how we got to be Australia ... wanted to go back to the dinosaurs or the Dreaming ... heard about convicts, captains and colonies ... about rebels, riches, rights and wrongs ... this is the book for you. (Adapted from Introduction to text)	NF	295	Australian history	9780143788669
MacDibble, Bren	How to bee (2017) Honey bees are extinct so Peony really wants to be a bee, to pollinate flowers like other children on her grandfather's farm. But when her mother returns and takes her to the city to earn real money, Peony is heart-broken. (QDoE)	F	213	Families, Environment, Fantasy	9781910646441
Marshall, Barry; Hendry, Lorna; Caleo, Bernard (illus)	How to win a Nobel prize (2018) Mary wants to be a real scientist and accompanies Barry Marshall, Nobel Prize winner, back in time to visit past prize winners like Albert Einstein and Marie Curie. Each has a brief biography and related scientific experiment to conduct. (QDoE)	F	178	Science, History, Biography	9781760640064
Marwood, Lorraine; Carnavas, Peter (illus)	Leave taking (2018) Toby's family have recently suffered the loss of his little sister Leah. His parents decide to sell their farm and move elsewhere. To help his loss, Toby ventures on a goodbye tour of the farm, creating a Leave Taking Map. (QDoE)	F	125	Verse story, Families, Grief	9780702260117
Michaels, Chrissie	Stowaway to Botany Bay (2018) [My Australian story series] A street urchin in France, Julienne stows aboard a French ship captained by Laperouse. Destined for Botany Bay and disguised as a boy, she records her discoveries and dangers, including her time in the colony. But who is she really? (QDoE)	F	185	Diaries, Historical fiction, Australian history	9781742996158

Mitchell, Simon	The Fighting Stingrays (2017) Charlie, Masa and Alf are mates, the Fighting Stingrays. In between life on Thursday Island, they have a ripper time role-playing war games. When Japan enters World War II, they learn that one of their own is now the enemy. (Adapted from publisher)	F	288	Historical fiction, Adventure, War	9780143784104
Moriarty, Jaclyn; Canby, Kelly (illus)	The extremely inconvenient adventures of Bronte Mettlestone (2017) Bronte is left a legacy in her parent's will that sends her on a series of magical and sometimes dangerous adventures. Along the way, she discovers her own secrets and even greater and more threatening secrets within her family. (QDoE)	F	494	Fantasy, Magic, Families	9781760297176
Murphy, Sally	Bushfire: A story of bravery and survival (2019) [My Australian story series] It is the summer of the Black Saturday bushfires of 2019 in Victoria. While her family is away, Amy stays with her Gran. With bushfire season threatening, they prepare Gran's home, but nothing prepares them for the events to come. (QDoE)	F	192	Bushfires, Survival, Historical fiction	9781742994307
Nix, Garth, Williams; Sean	Let sleeping dragons lie (2018) Sir Odo and Sir Eleanor might be the youngest knights in the realm, but what they lack in experience, they make up for in enthusiasm. Plunged into a treacherous quest, should they risk everything by waking a mythical dragon? (Adapted from publisher)	F	271	Fantasy, Knights, Dragons	9781743439937
Norrington, Leonie; McKenna, Brenton E (illus)	Bush holiday Tillithia loves the school holidays and doing stuff with her mum. But this year Auntie Doreen is taking them bush so that Tillithia can learn more about her culture on country. And she's not happy about it! (QDoE) [Mates series]	F	55	Holidays, Family	9781742990019

Penguin Random House Australia, (collator)	High five for the boys: A celebration of Ace Australian men (2018) A collection of biographies of 52 men, past and present, who have made an impact on Australia and the world, men like Adam Goodes, Anh Do, Andy Griffiths, Victor Chang, Steve Irwin and Hamish and Andy. (QDoE)	NF	212	Biography, Men-Australian	9780143791782
Penguin Random House Australia, (collator)	Shout out to the girls: A celebration of awesome Australian women (2018) Biographies of 50 inspiring Australian women who showcase their achievements. These women come from all walks of life, from Cathy Freeman, Cate Blanchett, mum Shirl, Turia Pitt, to Julia Gillard. (QDoE)	NF	224	Biography, Women - Australian	9780143789420
Perry, Chrissie; Petrovic, Pete (illus)	Blabbermouth #1: Oops, I've done it again! (2019) [Blabbermouth series] Amelie can't stop talking – she's a blabbermouth - and it usually leads her into trouble. She commits to a 'Reputation Makeover' to overcome her woes and change her ways, but things aren't quite as easy as she would like. (QDoE)	F	148	Humour, Reluctant readers, Friendships	9781760660956
Phommavan h, Oliver	Natural born loser (2018) Raymond is a nobody. How can he ever be a leader when his new principal selects him as a prefect? Wanting to make an impression, he and the other prefects ambitiously start fundraising to air-condition classrooms, a seemingly impossible promise. (QDoE)	F	196	School stories, Leadership	9780143505730
Rodda, Emily	His name was Walter (2018) When their school bus breaks down, four students and their teacher shelter for the night in a disused mansion. The children discover a hidden book that hauntingly draws them in as they attempt to unravel the mysterious story of Walter. (QDoE)	F	276	Mystery, Fantasy, Historical fiction	9781460756188

Rossell, Judith	Wakestone Hall (2018) [Stella Montgomery series] Stella Montgomery is in disgrace. The Aunts have sent her to Wakestone Hall, a grim boarding school where the disobedient are tamed and the willful made weak. But when a friend disappears, Stella is determined to find her. (Adapted from publisher)	F	270	Mystery, School stories, Fantasy	9780733338205
Storer, Jen; Robertson, Claire (illus)	Truly Tan trapped! (2017) Tan believes she is a secret spy and a great detective. Minding her neighbours' house while she is away, Tan notices unusual things – a strange car hanging around, a lurking figure, objects moved. Something is not quite right. (QDoE)	F	275	Mystery, Humour, Detectives	9780733334122
Torres, Michael; Egan, Sharyn (illus)	Dead man's gold A rollicking yarn that draws on the legends of the outback, featuring treasure hunting, droving, gold prospecting—and ghosts. Billy Stone heads out for a cattle muster but a stop at a waterhole in No-Man's Gorge leads to startling discoveries. (from Publisher)	F	53	History, Mystery, Ghosts, Gold prospecting, Treasure	9781921248191
Walliams, David; Ross, Tony (illus) *Non-Australian author	The Ice Monster (2018) When Elsie, an orphan on the streets of Victorian London, hears about a mysterious Ice Monster, she's determined to discover more. A chance encounter brings Elsie face to face with the creature and sparks an adventure of a lifetime. (Adapted from publisher)	F	478	Humour, Historical fiction	9780008297244
Wheeler, Samantha	Turtle Trackers (2018) Isaac helps his mum run a beachside caravan park. After finding a turtle nesting, he desperately wants to help monitor the hatchlings, but his mother needs him, as their park is under review. Isaac struggles to protect his turtles. (QDoE)	F	176	Environment, Endangered animals, Australian stories	9780702259951

Wilkinson, Carol	Inheritance (2018) Sent to live on her grandad's remoter property, Nic struggles to be accepted. She instead turns her attention to exploring their family's past. In doing so, she discovers a time-travelling portal that takes her into dark and dangerous discoveries. (QDoE)	F	230	Aborigines, Australian history, Family	9781760650360
Wilkinson, Carole; Anelli, Liz (illus)	Ten pound Pom (2017) Carole Wilkinson, with her family, emigrated from Britain to Australia when she was twelve. The fare for her parents was ten pounds each. She shares her experiences of ship life and their travels and eventual life in this strange land. (QDoE)	NF	30	Australian history , Immigration	9781925381214