

# 2020 Premier's reading challenge



## Years 8-9 Book List

This book list 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' book lists.

\*QDoE – Queensland Department of Education

Author	Title and book summary	JF/F/NF	Pages	Theme	ISBN
<b>Brown, Wally</b>	<p><b>Seriously Silly Jokes for Kids (2018)</b></p> <p>A kid's joke book containing lots of hilariously silly jokes accompanied by equally silly cartoons, A great laugh-aloud joke book that will keep readers entertained for hours.</p> <p>(Adapted from publisher)</p>	F	368	Jokes Humour	978198506582
<b>Collings, Suzanne</b>	<p><b>The Ballad Of Songbirds And Snakes (2020)</b></p> <p>Set 64 years prior, this book is the prequel to the <i>The Hunger Games</i> trilogy. It is the morning of the reaping that will kick off the tenth annual Hunger Games. Eighteen-year-old Coriolanus Snow is preparing for his one shot at glory, as a mentor in the Games. The odds are against him. Will Coriolanus be able to out charm, outwit and outmanoeuvre his fellow students to mentor the winning tribute?</p> <p>(Adapted from publisher)</p>	F	540	Society Games	9781743836811
<b>Cowell, Cressida</b>	<p><b>The Wizards of Once: Book 1 (2018)</b> <b>[The Wizards of Once series]</b></p> <p>This fantasy adventure is the story of a young boy Wizard and a young girl Warrior who have been taught since birth, to hate each other like poison and the thrilling tale of what happens when their two worlds collide.</p> <p>(Adapted from publisher)</p>	F	384	Wizards Fantasy Adventure	9781444936728
<b>D'Ath, Justin</b>	<p><b>47 degrees (2019)</b></p> <p>A fast-paced novel of survival of the author's own experience escaping the 2009 Black Saturday bushfires.</p> <p>(Adapted from publisher)</p>	F	256	Survival	9780143789079



Author	Title and book summary	JF/F/NF	Pages	Theme	ISBN
<b>de Becerra, Katya</b>	<p><b>Oasis (2020)</b></p> <p>While working on her father's archeological dig site in the desert, Alif, her four close friends and a young research assistant, are hit by a sandstorm and become lost. They discover an oasis with food and water but the mysterious ruins at the oasis hide a deadly secret. Will they ever be able to leave?</p> <p>(DoE)</p>	F	320	Thriller Mystery Friendship	9781250124265
<b>De La Cruz, Melissa</b>	<p><b>The Queen's Assassin (2020)</b></p> <p>Caledon is the Kingdom of Renovia's deadliest weapon. No one alive can best him in brawn or brains, which is why he is Hearthstone Guild's most dangerous member. He is also the Queen's one and only assassin. Cal is bound to the Queen by an impossible vow to find the missing Deian Scrolls.</p> <p>(Adapted from publisher)</p>	F	384	Adventure Fantasy Romance	9780525515913
<b>Do, Anh</b>	<p><b>The Great Escape, Wolf Girl: Book 2 (2019) [Wolf girl series]</b></p> <p>At first, Gwen is overjoyed to see another human after four years alone in the wild. But all that changes when she is thrown into the back of a van and stolen away to a prison camp.</p> <p>(Adapted from publisher)</p>	F	224	Courage Bravery Family	9781760876357
<b>Entrada Kelly, Erin</b>	<p><b>Lalani of the Distant Sea (2020)</b></p> <p>When Lalani Sarita's mother falls ill with an incurable disease, Lalani embarks on a dangerous journey across the sea.</p> <p>(Adapted from publisher)</p>	F	400	Bravery Self-reliance Folklore	9781848129122
<b>Forma, Namina</b>	<p><b>The Gilded Ones (2020)</b></p> <p>Sixteen-year-old Dekka lives in fear and anticipation of the blood ceremony that will determine if she will become a member of her village. Already different from everyone else because of her unnatural intuition, Dekka prays for red blood so she can finally feel like she belongs.</p> <p>(Adapted from publisher)</p>	F	432	Fantasy Ceremony Culture	9781984848697



Author	Title and book summary	JF/F/NF	Pages	Theme	ISBN
<b>Foxlee, Karen</b>	<p><b>Lenny's Book of Everything (2019)</b></p> <p>Lenny, small and sharp has a younger brother Davey who won't stop growing and at seven is as tall as a man. Raised by their single mother, who works two jobs and is made almost entirely out of worries, they have food and a roof over their heads but not much else.</p> <p>(Adapted from publisher)</p>	F	352	Truth Health Death Family	9781760529444
<b>Harris, Tim</b>	<p><b>The Great River Race (2020)</b></p> <p>Chegwin's adventures at Toffle Towers continue when, one by one, his hotel staff are 'reverse mugged' by two mysterious men. Chaos ensues and it's Chegwin's job to get to the bottom of these attacks before Toffle Towers loses all its hard-earned guests.</p> <p>(Adapted from publisher)</p>	F	272	Mystery Chaos	9780143795438
<b>Harvey, Jacqueline</b>	<p><b>Kensy and Max: Breaking News (2018) [Kensy and Max series]</b></p> <p>What would you do if you woke up in a strange place? If your whole life changed in the blink of an eye and you had no idea what was going on? What do twins Kensy and Max do when they discover their parents are missing?</p> <p>(Adapted from publisher)</p>	F	336	Adventure Mystery	9780143780656
<b>Harvey-Smith, Lisa</b>	<p><b>Under the Stars – Astrophysics for Bedtime (2019)</b></p> <p>Explore our solar system from the comfort of your cosy bedroom. Find out why the sky is blue. Fly around a black hole and peer inside! Learn why Jupiter has stripes.</p> <p>(Adapted from publisher)</p>	NF	192	Astrophysics Solar system	9780522876086
<b>Hashimi, Nadia</b>	<p><b>The Sky at Our Feet (2018)</b></p> <p>Jason's Afghan mother has been living illegally in the United States since his father was killed in Afghanistan. She was escorted from her workplace by officers leaving Jason completely alone. He travels to New York City but has he overestimated his capabilities?</p> <p>(Adapted from publisher)</p>	F		Immigration	9780062421937



Author	Title and book summary	JF/F/NF	Pages	Theme	ISBN
<b>Hawking, Stephen; Hawking, Lucy</b>	<b>Unlocking the Universe (2020)</b> Have you ever wondered how the universe began? Or what it takes to put humans on the moon, or even on Mars? What would you do if you could travel through space and time? (Adapted from publisher)	NF	432	Universe Space Time	9780241418864
<b>Hiranandi, Veera</b>	<b>The Night Diary (2019)</b> It's 1947 and India, newly independent of British rule, has been separated into two countries: Pakistan and India. The divide has created much tension between Hindus and Muslims. Half-Muslim, half-Hindu 12-year-old Nisha doesn't know where she belongs, or what her country is anymore. (Adapted from publisher)	NF	276	Refugees Religion	9780735228528
<b>Ivanoff, George</b>	<b>The Australia Survival Guide (2019)</b> This book provides the knowledge you need to survive in all kinds of Australian conditions be it the bush, the desert or the beach. (Adapted from publisher)	NF	175	Reference First Aid	9780143796572
<b>Kaufmann, Amie; Kristoff, Jay</b>	<b>Aurora Burning (2020) [Aurora Cycle series]</b> An ancient evil is about to be unleashed. Squad 312 is standing by to save the day. They just have to take care of a few small distractions first. (Adapted from publisher)	F	512	Science fiction Heroes Mystery	9781760295745
<b>Lại, Thanh Hà</b>	<b>Listen, Slowly (2015)</b> Mai, a 12-year-old Vietnamese American girl, is forced to accompany her grandmother to Vietnam ruining her summer plans in Laguna Beach, California. Mai must find the balance between the two worlds if she is to survive the trip. (DoE)	F	272	Family History Vietnam War	9780062229182
<b>Lachlan, Jeremy</b>	<b>Jane Doe and the Key of All Souls (2020) [Jane Doe Chronicles series]</b> Jane Doe is in more danger than ever before. Her father is still imprisoned. The Manor – the hallowed world between worlds – is still dying. The villainous Roth is still searching for the mythical, all-powerful Cradle Sea. (Adapted from publisher)	F	416	Secrets Friendships Adventure	9781760501822



Author	Title and book summary	JF/F/NF	Pages	Theme	ISBN
<b>Marlow Paterson, Alison</b>	<b>Follow After Me (2019)</b> A time travelling tale of two young women, a century apart, who are connected by a tiny key. A powerful story of courage and heartbreak spanning across time. (Adapted from publisher)	F	294	Time travel History War Mystery	9781925675580
<b>McDonald, Andrew</b>	<b>Real Pigeons Fight Crime (2018)</b> Did you know your city is protected by a secret squad of crime-fighting pigeons? It's true! With master of disguise rock Pigeon, bendy Tumbler, strong Frillback and super-finder Homie, the real pigeons will solve any mystery and fight any bad guy to keep the city safe. (Adapted from publisher)	F	204	Crime Humour	9781760129293
<b>McPherson, Sue</b>	<b>Brontide (2019)</b> A story of four boys retold through storytelling at their school over a period of five days. They challenge themselves and the rules but not everything goes to plan. (Adapted from publisher)	F	132	Adolescence Racism Peer pressure Family Risk-taking	9781925360929
<b>Merrill, Miles; Nozica, Narcisa</b>	<b>Slam Your Poetry: Write a Revolution (2020)</b> Poetry slams to Australia; there's a national competition with a live audience of 20 000 people, and it's taught in schools across the country. It's been nothing short of a revolution! (Adapted from publisher)	NF	336	Poetry	9781742236094
<b>Michaels, Chrissie</b>	<b>My Australian Story: Castle Hill Rebellion (2019)</b> Joe is dragged into a deadly plot by convicts at the Castle Hill prison farm on the outskirts of Sydney Town. He finds himself in a desperate bid for freedom during the first convict uprising against the colony. (Adapted from publisher)	F	240	History	9781742991863



Author	Title and book summary	JF/F/NF	Pages	Theme	ISBN
<b>Monir, Alexandra</b>	<p><b>The Life Below (2020)</b></p> <p>The International Space Training Camp continues to dodge every question about its past failed mission and Naomi is suspicious that not everything is as it seems on her own mission to Europa. With just one shot at Jupiter's moon, she is determined to find out if there is dangerous alien life on Europa.</p> <p>(Adapted from publisher)</p>	F	320	Science fiction Space mission	9780062658975
<b>Murray, Struan</b>	<p><b>Orphans of The Tide (2020)</b></p> <p>After the tide recedes, a whale washes up on a City roof and a mysterious boy emerges. The superstitious citizens assume the Enemy has come again. Only Ellie, a fearless inventor striving to live up to her mother's legacy, believes the boy is innocent.</p> <p>(Adapted from publisher)</p>	F	352	Inventions Mystery	9780241384435
<b>Nobel, Julia</b>	<p><b>The Mystery of Black Hollow Lane (2019)</b></p> <p>Just as she's settling into life at Wellsworth, Emmy begins to find the strange symbols from the medallions etched into the walls and stumbles upon the school's super-secret society.</p> <p>(Adapted from publisher)</p>	F	320	Boarding school Secret societies	9781492664642
<b>Ottaviani, Jim</b>	<p><b>Astronauts: Women on the Final Frontier (2020)</b></p> <p>The story of the women from NASA's first mixed gender class and their challenging task to convince people in power that a woman's place is in space.</p> <p>(Adapted from publisher)</p>	F	176	Space	9781626728776
<b>Pascoe, Bruce</b>	<p><b>Young dark emu: a truer history (2019)</b></p> <p>Using the accounts of early European explorers, colonists and farmers, Bruce Pascoe asks readers to reconsider the hunter-gatherer label for pre-colonial Aboriginal Australians. He allows readers to see the continent as a land that supported a thriving and innovative civilisation over many thousands of years.</p> <p>(Adapted from publisher)</p>	NF	78	Indigenous history Australian history Explorers Pioneers Agriculture	9781925360844



Author	Title and book summary	JF/F/NF	Pages	Theme	ISBN
<b>Patterson, James</b>	<p><b>Middle School: Born to Rock (2020)</b> [Middle school series]</p> <p>Georgia's got it hard enough as it is! With a super-secret crush on her classmate Sam, a Rube Goldberg machine challenge to dominate, and constant confrontations with vicious Missy and her evil Princess Patrol to look forward to, Georgia can't help but throw all her energy into the one thing that makes her happy- her kick-butt, all-girl rock band, We Stink!</p> <p>(Adapted from publisher)</p>	F	336	Reputation Relationships	9781784753962
<b>Phommavan h, Oliver</b>	<p><b>Don't Follow Vee (2019)</b></p> <p>Vee struggles when her Instagramming mum with 100,000 followers starts taking things too seriously. Vee tries to make her life 'unfollowable' but this backfires. What is she to do?</p> <p>(Adapted from publisher)</p>	F	192	Social media Humour	9780143505747
<b>Riordan, Rick</b>	<p><b>Percy Jackson &amp; The Lightning Thief (2010)</b></p> <p>I was just a normal kid, going to school, playing basketball, skateboarding. The usual. Until I accidentally vaporised my maths teacher. That's when things started really going wrong. Now I spend my time fighting with swords, battling monsters with my friends and generally trying to stay alive.</p> <p>(Adapted from publisher)</p>	F	384	Greek Gods Mythology	9780141329994
<b>Sheinkin, Steve</b>	<p><b>Bomb: The Race to Build - And Steal - The World's Most Dangerous Weapon (2018)</b></p> <p>In December of 1938, a chemist in a German laboratory made a shocking discovery. When placed next to radioactive material, a uranium atom split in two. That simple discovery launched a scientific race that spanned three continents.</p> <p>(Adapted from publisher)</p>	NF	304	Discovery Weapons History	9781250050649



Author	Title and book summary	JF/F/NF	Pages	Theme	ISBN
<b>Sieveking, Laura</b>	<p><b>Ella at Eden: New Girl (2020)</b></p> <p>Ella has started at her new high school and Eden College is everything she hoped it would be. She is getting to know her new friends and enjoying everything Eden has to offer until things start to get complicated. She accidentally insults Saskia, the school diva, and there could be a ghost in the dorm as items start to mysteriously disappear.</p> <p>(Adapted from publisher)</p>	F	192	New school Relationships	9781743834930
<b>Spencer, Adam</b>	<p><b>Adam Spencer's World of Numbers (2015)</b></p> <p>A funny romp through the world of numbers by one of Australia's funniest and more famous mathematicians. This is a book for readers of all ages who love numbers.</p> <p>(Adapted from publisher)</p>	NF	384	Mathematics Numbers	9781921134869
<b>Stevens, Robin</b>	<p><b>The Case of the Drowned Pearl: A Murder Most Unladylike (2020)</b></p> <p>While on a seaside holiday with their friends George and Alexander, the Detective Society discover the body of famous swimmer Antonia, nicknamed The Pearl on the beach.</p> <p>(Adapted from publisher)</p>	F	96	Murder Mystery	9780241427316
<b>Sutherland, Tui T</b>	<p><b>Wings of Fire: The Hidden Kingdom (2019) [Wings of Fire series]</b></p> <p>Glory is devastated to find that the treetops are full of RainWings. Worst of all, they don't realise - or care - that RainWings are going missing from their beautiful forest.</p> <p>(Adapted from publisher)</p>	F	224	Fantasy	9781338344059
<b>Telgmeier, Raina</b>	<p><b>Guts (2019)</b></p> <p>Raina's stomach troubles coincide with her worries about food, school and changing friendships. This is a story about growing up and gathering courage to face and conquer your fears.</p> <p>(Adapted from publisher)</p>	F	144	Digestion Anxiety School	9781743832684





Author	Title and book summary	JF/F/NF	Pages	Theme	ISBN
<b>Thaiday, Sam; Colley, James</b>	<p><b>Rise: The Sam Thaiday Story (Young readers' edition) (2019)</b></p> <p>An autobiography of Sam Thaiday, who has entertained fans both on and off the field. Sam gives advice on setting and reaching goals, overcoming setbacks and focusing on the things that matter in life.</p> <p>(Adapted from publisher)</p>	F	192	Rugby league Identity Autobiography	9780143790419
<b>Thurston, Jonathon; Phelps, James</b>	<p><b>JT: The Making of a Total Legend (Young readers' edition) (2019)</b></p> <p>Follow Johnathon Thurston's journey from his debut with the Canterbury Bulldogs in 2002, to State of Origin star.</p> <p>(Adapted from publisher)</p>	F	256	Rugby league Resilience Autobiography	9781460758618
<b>Townsend, Jessica</b>	<p><b>The Trials of Morrigan Crow (2017) [Nevermoor series]</b></p> <p>Morrigan is cursed but as she awaits her fate, a strange and remarkable man named Jupiter North appears. He whisks her away into the safety of a secret, magical city called Nevermoor.</p> <p>(Adapted from publisher)</p>	F	464	Adventure Fantasy	9780734418074
<b>Turner, Ethel</b>	<p><b>Seven Little Australians (1894 with reprints)</b></p> <p>Step inside and meet them all – dreamy Meg, and Pip, daring Judy, naughty Bunty, Nell, Baby and the youngest, 'the General'.</p> <p>(Adapted from publisher)</p>	F	216	Adventure Family	9780642276308
<b>Westerfeld, Scott</b>	<p><b>Leviathan (2009) [Part of Leviathan trilogy]</b></p> <p>It is the cusp of World War I. The Austro-Hungarians and Germans have their Clankers, steam-driven iron machines loaded with guns and ammunition. Aleksandar Ferdinand and Deryn Sharp are on opposite sides of the war. But their paths cross in the most unexpected way, taking them both aboard the Leviathan on a fantastical, around-the-world adventure....one that will change both their lives forever.</p> <p>(Adapted from publisher)</p>	F	440	World War I Fantasy	9781416971740



Author	Title and book summary	JF/F/NF	Pages	Theme	ISBN
	<p><b>Stand Up For The Future: A Celebration of Inspirational Young Australians (2019)</b></p> <p>A collection of works from the likes of soccer legend Sam Kerr to youth worker Zack Bryers. This book is about young people, activism, giving back and leading by example to build a brighter tomorrow.</p> <p>(Adapted from publisher)</p>	NF	208	Inspiration	9780143794394

