

2021 Premier's reading challenge



Years 6-7 Book List

#	Author	Title and book summary	JF/F/NF	Pages	Theme	ISBN
1	Arena, Felice	A great escape (2019) Set in Cold War Germany, Peter is separated from his family when a wall is built through the city. He needs to come up with a plan to cross the border that is guarded by soldiers, tanks and ferocious dogs. (QDoE)	F	162	War, family, heroism	9780143794042
2	Apel, Kathryn	On track (2015) A verse novel about sibling rivalry, sporting excellence and coping with life's ups and downs. Toby and Shaun are brothers. Toby is the clumsy one who has to work hard at everything, Shaun is good at everything! (QDoE)	F	296	Siblings, sports	9780702253737
3	Bancks, Tristan	Detention (2019) When Sima's family make their escape, a guard raises the alarm. Shouting, smoke bombs, people tackled to the ground. In the chaos Sima loses her parents. A boy finds her. Should he help her, or turn her in? (Adapted from publisher)	F	232	Refugees, family	9780143791799
4	Do, Anh; Creagh, Lachlan (illus)	The traitor [Wolf girl series Book 4] (2020) On the run from sinister forces, Gwen rushes headlong into danger. With giant snakes, komodo dragons and a whole new wolf pack to contend with, Wolf Girl will need all her cunning... and all her friends. (Publisher)	F	224	Heroes and heroines, adventure	9781760877866

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5	Tanner, Lian	<p>Battlesong [Icebreaker trilogy book 3] (2018)</p> <p>Gwin is a Fetcher. With her papa and twin brother, she travels West Norn, bringing joy to its downtrodden people through song and story. Proud and defiant, Fetchers have always been hunted by the Devouts for preserving the old ways.</p> <p>(Adapted from publisher)</p>	F	304	Heroes and heroines, individuality	9781250158710
6	Garth, Claire; Leak, Johannes (illus)	<p>The amazing adventures of Grover McBane, rescue dog (2018)</p> <p>Grover finds a new home after living a difficult life. He is now a rescue dog, helping other dogs from the animal rescue shelter find new homes. He has many adventures along the way.</p> <p>(QDoE)</p>	F	476	Dogs, kindness, adventure	9781760641085
7	Rushby, Allison	<p>When this bell rings (2020)</p> <p>Tamsin lives next door to Edie, a famous author. Tamsin offers her help and discovers that Edie can literally draw herself into her stories. She goes missing, so Tamsin draws herself into the novel and lands in a world of unexpected danger.</p> <p>(Adapted from publisher)</p>	F	240	Fantasy, adventure	9781760651947
8	Greenwood, Mark	<p>The lost explorer [History mysteries series] (2017)</p> <p>The story of explorer Ludwig Leichhardt who disappeared with his entire group of companions when trying to cross the country from east to west. All of the facts are included for the intrepid detective to attempt to solve the mystery. (QDoE)</p>	NF	88	Explorers, mystery	9780143309277

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9	Beckett, Bernard	<p>The tunnel of dreams (2020)</p> <p>Stefan and Arlo discover a young girl hiding in dusty shadows in an abandoned house. She says her twin sister is locked in a cage suspended high above a mysterious mine in a strange parallel world. Will they help her?</p> <p>(Adapted from publisher)</p>	F	288	Mystery, fantasy	9781922330185
10	Griffin, Paul	<p>Saving Marty (2017)</p> <p>A moving story about a boy and his best friend Marty - a pig who thinks he's a dog. Eleven-year-old Lorenzo thinks he's kind of ordinary - he finally gets the chance to do something heroic when he adopts a runt piglet.</p> <p>(Adapted from publisher)</p>	F	272	Friendship, courage	9781925498868
11	Tait, A. L.	<p>The book of answers [The Ateban cipher book 2] (2018)</p> <p>Gabe and his companions journey to a remote mountain citadel where they learn the secret of the mysterious, encrypted book that Gabe has been tasked with protecting. But their enemies are close behind them, and new dangers lie ahead.</p> <p>(Publisher)</p>	F	256	Heroes, fantasy	9780734417695
12	McRitchie, Rebecca; Kretschmar, Sonia (illus)	<p>Whimsy & Woe [Whimsy & Woe book 1] (2017)</p> <p>Forced to work in their Aunt's boarding house, after being abandoned by their parents, Whimsy and Woe lose all hope that their parents will ever return, until they stumble upon a letter that sets them on a course to freedom.</p> <p>(Adapted from publisher)</p>	F	400	Siblings, mystery	9781460754665

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13	McRitchie, Rebecca; Kretschmar, Sonia (illus)	Whimsy & Woe the final act [Whimsy & Woe book 2] (2018) Whimsy and Woe must escape villainous thieves, travel beneath a desert, climb the Mountainous Mountains and perform a death-defying trapeze act in the Benton Brothers Circus . . . all before going undercover at the annual Thespian Society Masquerade Ball. (Publisher)	F	384	Siblings, mystery	9781460754672
14	Janu, Tamsin	Winston and the wondrous Wooba gymnastics club (2019) When Winston's new step-sister-to-be Macy moves to Woobawittawoo, life in their small town quickly turns upside down. It's up to Winston to convince Macy to love Wooba as much as they all do. Could a gymnastics club be the answer? (Adapted from publisher)	F	256	Family, sport	9781760662509
15	French, Jackie; Hooker, Virginia; Wilson, Mark (illus)	All of us – A history of South-East Asia (2019) A history of Asia with timelines included. This book shows us how all of our histories are intertwined, with beautiful illustrations. (QDoE)	NF	48	Asia, History	9781460750025
16	Flanagan, John	The missing prince [Ranger's apprentice, The royal ranger, Book 4] (2020) King Philippe of Gallica appeals to King Duncan for help. His son is being held hostage by a power-hungry baron, and Philippe wants Duncan to send a Ranger to rescue the boy. (Publisher)	F	304	Action, Historical fiction	9781760890452

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17	Tangey, Penny	As fast as I can (2020) Vivian has a dream to compete in the Olympics, but which sport will she be best at? Once she discovers she can run long distances she is more determined than ever. But there are obstacles to overcome. (QDoE)	F	236	Sport, health, family	9780702262814
18	Herrick, Steven	Zoe, Max and the bicycle bus (2020) Zoe and Max and their classmates are encouraged by their new teacher to ride their bikes to school, with the teacher in front in a bicycle bus. But there is a problem – there is no bike lane in Fisher Road. (QDoE)	F	239	Friendship, school stories, environment	9780702263002
19	Devine, R E	The amulet of Athlone [The chronicles of Jack McCool Book 1] (2017) Catapulted back in time, Jack discovers a golden amulet missing six magical gemstones. They hold the key to breaking a witch's wicked curse - and Jack's the one who has to find them. (Publisher)	F	224	Adventure, fantasy	9781742459202
20	Devine, R E	The tomb of the emerald scarab [The chronicles of Jack McCool Book 2] (2017) Jack is an ordinary school boy who tries to escape his life by hiding in the attic. That's when the ordinary becomes extraordinary – Jack is catapulted back in time and discovers he holds the key to breaking an ancient curse. (Adapted from publisher)	F	224	Adventure, fantasy	9781742459219

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21	Dubosarsky, Ursula; Nielsen, Christopher (illus)	Pierre's not there (2020) In a mulberry brick house Lara meets Pierre, a boy with a beautiful antique puppet theatre. When Lara takes the part of a dog in the puppet play, she can no longer see where she ends and dog begins. (QDoE)	F	208	Imagination, friendship	9781760525934
22	Gwynne, Phillip	The lords of melody (2019) With the beat of a rock anthem, the heart of a country ballad, and the feel of the latest hip-hop hit, <i>The lords of melody</i> is about people overcoming their differences in order to cooperate, be creative, to make music together. (Adapted from publisher)	F	262	Music, humour	9780143796459
23	Nicol, Lisa	Vincent and the grandest hotel on Earth (2019) When Vincent meets the hotel's young Florence he sets off on a path leading into his most wondrous dreams. But dreams have a funny way of taking strange and surprising turns. (Adapted from publisher)	F	256	Imagination, fantasy	9781760890681
24	Heath, Jack	200 minutes of mystery [Minutes of danger series] (2021) Jack Heath's ten nail-biting and mysterious short stories will intrigue and terrify during each 20-minute countdown, as dangerous situations play out right down to the last crucial moment. (Publisher)	F	144	Mystery, action	9781760660840
25	Taylor, Michelle	100 ways to fly (2019) A book of poetry to suit all tastes, with a large range of subjects covered - to make you laugh, scare you or take	NF	144	Poetry, humour, adventure	9780702262500

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		you on an adventure to another world. (QDoE)				
26	Kaufman, Amie; Graudin, Ryan	The world between blinks (2021) Following a map Nana left behind, Jake and Marisol sneak out to a nearby lighthouse - then accidentally slip into another world. <i>The world between blinks</i> is a magical place, where all kinds of lost things (and people!) end up. (Publisher)	F	336	Magic, adventure, history	9781460757628
27	Weetman, Nova	The edge of thirteen (2021) Clem can't wait to see her best friends after being apart all summer holidays. But when they get back together, things have changed. Bridge is acting like a different person and Ellie is wearing a bra – are they growing apart? (Adapted from publisher)	F	256	Friendship, individuality, adolescence	9780702263125
28	Hawke, Rosanne	Fozia and the quest of Prince Zal (2021) Twelve-year-old Fozia has survived the worst flood in Pakistan's history. But her life will never be the same. With her sister gone and parents missing, Fozia now lives with Jehan, hoping that one day she will see her family again. (Adapted from publisher)	F	176	Family, survival, folklore	9780702263071
29	Kadarusman, Michelle	The theory of hummingbirds (2020) A story about disability, friendship and finding out who you are. Filled with many interesting facts about hummingbirds and the message to always love who you are. (QDoE)	F NF	168	Hummingbirds, friendship, disability	9780702262920

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30	Rogers, Hilary	<p>The girlhoods [Girlltopia Book 3] (2019)</p> <p>Clara lives in Girlltopia, a city run by women and girls. She and her friends are part of a rebel group who suspect that someone is behind the release of the virus that has affected the men and boys.</p> <p>(Adapted from publisher)</p>	F	192	Girls, mystery	9781742994604
31	Mayor, Thomas; Douglas, Blak (illus)	<p>Finding our heart (2020)</p> <p>The Uluru Statement from the Heart is one of our nation's most important documents. This picture book version outlines its context and significance in engaging language and striking illustrations. (QDoE)</p>	NF	42	Picture book History Treaty Truth Reconciliation Acknowledgment Understanding	9781741177176
32	Hartley, Dave; Murray, Kirsty; Leffler, Dub (illus)	<p>Strangers on Country (2020)</p> <p>Five true stories of shipwreck survivors, castaways and lost convicts told from two perspectives – Indigenous and European. An engaging combination of good story telling and factual information. (QDoE)</p>	NF	124	Shipwrecks Castaways Convicts Survival Race relations Discovery and exploration	9780642279552
33	Saunders, Kirli; Leffler, Dub (illus)	<p>Bindi (2020)</p> <p>In this engaging verse novel, we get a peek into everyday life on Gundungurra country, as seen through the eyes of 11 year-old Bindi. It seems like a regular start to the year for Bindi with the usual school, community and family happenings but then suddenly everything is thrown into turmoil. (QDoE)</p>	F	144	Verse novel Friendship Horses Bushfires School Caring for Country Community	9781925936667

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34	Merchant, Tazmin; Escobar, Paola	<p>The Hatmakers (2021)</p> <p>When Cordelia's father Prospero and his ship, <i>The Jolly Bonnet</i>, are lost at sea during a mission to collect hat ingredients, Cordelia is determined to find him. It becomes clear someone is using maker magic to start a war. It's up to Cordelia to find out who, and why.</p> <p>(Adapted from publisher)</p>	F	352	Adventure	9780241509029
35	Balchin, Lance	<p>Jurassica: A beginner's field guide (2019)</p> <p>A futuristic, imaginative look at the world from the maker of <i>Aquatica</i> and <i>Mechanica</i>, where all wildlife has been replaced by mechanical creatures. Robot dinosaurs are evolving and thriving in this new world. (QDoE)</p>	F	32	Dinosaurs, future	9781760685669
36	Henseleit, Jack	<p>The giant key [The witching hours Book 6] (2021)</p> <p>Anna and Max travel the world with their father, the Professor – but their real adventures take place in the dangerous underworld of dark fairies, where the children face sinister creatures and battle for their lives. (Publisher)</p>	F	288	Fantasy, monsters	9781760501785
37	Judith, Rossell; Amelia, Mellor	<p>Wakestone Hall [Stella Montgomery intrigues Book 3] (2018)</p> <p>The Aunts have sent Stella to Wakestone Hall, a grim boarding school where the disobedient are tamed and the wilful are made meek. But when a friend disappears, Stella is determined to find her - no matter the danger. (Publisher)</p>	F	280	Mystery, boarding school	9780733338205

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38	Uhr, Frank; O'Halloran, Debra (illus)	Multuggerah and the sacred mountain (2019) The true story of Multuggerah, an Aboriginal warrior from the Lockyer Valley area. He gathered local clans together to fight the new settlers who were moving onto their Country and causing damage. The altercation became known as the Battle of One Tree Hill. (QDoE) (non-Indigenous author and illustrator)	NF	32	Picture book Warriors Battles Settlement Conflict Local history	9781925877328
39	Cumming, Phil; Lesnie, Phil (illus)	A boy and a ball (2020) Follow a family's plight as they leave their war torn home to bravely seek sanctuary in a far-off land. Other dangers await as the boy and his family hope to safely experience the simple pleasures of childhood. (QDoE)	F	32	Hope War Migration Refugees	9781743812525
40	Waters, Fiona; Teckentru, Britta (illus)	Tiger, tiger burning bright (2020) This English collection of 366 animal poems includes titles about Australian animals and an Australian indigenous verse. Teckentrup's emotive illustrations elevate this anthology to the sublime. This collection is a must have for every school library. (QDoE)	NF	322	Poetry Animals	9781788005678