



2023 Premier's reading challenge

Years 4-5 Book List

Note: The suggested books cover a range of themes and provide opportunities for young people to explore their own values and understandings and to see themselves and their peers represented in a range of texts. Some texts may be more suited to older students in the category. Parental and/or teacher guidance is recommended when children are selecting books.

#	Author	Title and book summary	JF/F/NF	Pages	Theme	ISBN
1	Firebrace, Isaiah; Biumaiwai, Jaelyn (illus)	Come together: things every Aussie kid should know about the First Peoples (2022) When Isaiah Firebrace was growing up, he wasn't taught much about his traditional culture or his ancestors. In this engaging and vibrantly illustrated book, he shares the 20 most important subjects that all children should understand about Australia's First Nations people. (QDoE)	NF	40	Aboriginal peoples	9781741178166
2	Wyld, Karen; Biumaiwai, Jaelyn	Heroes, rebels and innovators: inspiring Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people from history (2021) This vibrantly illustrated book features 7 inspiring stories about Aboriginal and Torres Strait islander people who helped to shape Australia through their bravery, intelligence, confidence and strength. (QDoE)	NF	32	Aboriginal peoples Biography	9780734419835
3	Martin, Marc	Masters of disguise: camouflaging creatures & magnificent mimics (2021) Did you know that a polar bear's fur is actually colourless? Or that the spiny leaf insect can produce an odour that smells like peanut butter? Or that a chameleon's tongue is twice the length of its body? Find out about interesting animals that are masters of disguise and mimicry. (QDoE)	NF	56	Animals Camouflage	9781760895891
4	Harvey, Jacqueline	Willa and Woof: Mimi is missing (2022) Willa's in trouble. Mimi, the famous racing pigeon owned by her neighbor Frank, is missing. Willa is pretty sure she's the one who left the cage door open. She'll need her most creative ideas (along with the help of Tae, her best same-age friend, and her trusty sidekick Woof, the albino Irish Wolfhound) to track Mimi down before Frank finds out! Can Willa find Mimi before it's too	F	128	Dogs Friendship	9781761043314



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		late? (Adapted from publisher)				
5	Blyton, Enid; Béja, Nataël	Famous Five graphic novel: Five go adventuring again: Book 2 (2022) In this graphic novel adaptation of Enid Blyton's classic adventure series, Julian, Dick, Anne and George are back at Kirrin Cottage for the holidays. There is a mystery to solve, a thief to catch and a secret passage to explore – will the Famous Five get themselves into more trouble? (QDoE) Borrow from the Vision Australia Library	F	64	Siblings Family Adventure	9781444 963687
6	Knisley, Lucy	Stepping stones (2020) Jen loved living in the city, and didn't want to leave her friends and her dad to go and live on a farm with her mum and her mum's new boyfriend. The themes of family, acceptance of change, and learning to fit in are explored in this charming semi-autobiographical graphic novel. (QDoE)	F	224	Family Country life	9781984 896841
7	Bunting, Phillip	World's most ridiculous animals: or are they? (2022) The author of the world's most pointless animals is back with another hilarious and interesting guide to some of the most ridiculous and marvellous animals in the world. Filled with fun facts and cheeky annotations, this book also explains the evolutionary advantages of weird and wonderful animal adaptations. (QDoE)	NF	80	Animals	9781761 210594
8	Barr, Catherine; Claude, Jean (illus)	Let's save the Great Barrier Reef: why we must protect our planet (2022) Learn all about the world's biggest living organism, the Great Barrier Reef, in this book filled with interesting facts and illustrations as colourful and vibrant as the reef itself. Find out the reasons why the reef is so ecologically important, and what can be done to protect it. (QDoE)	NF	32	Climate change Coral reefs Ecosystems	9781406 399677
9	Gordon, Kate	Whalesong (2022) Aberdeen's family has been woven into the fabric of Hobart for generations. When her journalist father gifts her an antique chronometer, it leads her to another girl who also knows and loves Hobart. The Hobart this girl knows is very different to the one Aberdeen grew up in. This girl knows something that Aberdeen is yet to discover – one person really can make a difference. (Adapted from publisher)	F	192	Australian history Time travel Whales	9780645 218022



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10	Do, Anh	<p>The Champ (2022)</p> <p>Summer loves to play sport, but she always seems to be the last one picked for teams. She wishes she had some of her older brother's sporting prowess. Everything changes when a freak storm of purple goop hits their house, and suddenly Summer gains super powers and becomes the CHAMP! But will she use her powers for good? (QDoE)</p>	F	197	Sports Superheroes	9781760526870
11	Wang, Gabrielle	<p>Zadie Ma and the dog who chased the moon (2022)</p> <p>Zadie Ma has a special talent for telling stories. . . and it seems that some of Zadie's stories come true. Zadie's dearest wish is to have a dog of her own and so she starts to write the story of a poor unwanted dog called Jupiter, who's just waiting to be rescued by a loving girl like Zadie. But a series of unlucky events means that Zadie can't write the happy ending she dreams of for her story, and now she may lose her beloved Jupiter forever. Can Zadie's most important story of all finally come true? (Adapted from publisher)</p>	F	272	Animals Dogs Family Community	9781761046513
12	Bunting, Phillip	<p>Superpower: Renewable energy: what it is, how we get it, and why we need it (2021)</p> <p>What is energy, and where does it come from? What is renewable energy, and why is it so important? Funny illustrations and captions make finding out the answers to these questions and more fun and engaging. (QDoE)</p>	NF	32	Science Energy	9781760507930
13	Deeves, Pauline; Wilson, Brent (illus)	<p>Get me out of here! Foolish and fearless convict escapes (2022)</p> <p><i>Get me out of here!</i> tells the tale of 7 escaped convicts in engaging and child-friendly language. Each story is accompanied by interesting facts, lingo to learn, activities to try, and humorous illustrations. Learn about the history of Australia's convicts, and the foolish, fearless, and crazy things they did to escape! (QDoE)</p>	NF	64	Australian history Convicts	9781760526993
14	Moses, Alexa	<p>Michaela Mason's big list of camp worries (2021)</p> <p>First school trip. First tree climb. Twenty-two camp worries. Can Michaela Mason handle it? Michaela is off to camp, where she will have to face her fear of heights, sleeping away from mum, being outside in the dark</p>	F	192	Camping Worry	9781743838761



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		and jolly outdoor activities. (Adapted from publisher)				
15	Whiting, Sue	Tilda (2022) Tilda Moss has been left in Brushwood Convent and Home for Girls, but Papa promised he would be back for her as soon as he returns from the war. Tilda is sure something is afoot and that Sister Agatha is out to get her. Tilda needs to find out what is happening before it is too late. (Adapted from publisher)	F	272	Friendship Hope Orphans Resilience	9781760 654634
16	Tutt, Corey; Blak, Douglas	The first scientists: deadly inventions and innovations from Australia's First Peoples (2021) Australia's First Peoples have a long history of scientific innovation. This book by Kamilaroi man Corey Tutt explores this history, outlining how First Nations people have been astronomers, engineers, forensic scientists, chemists, land managers and ecologists. (QDoE) Borrow from the Vision Australia Library	NF	96	Aboriginal peoples Science	9781741 177527
17	Martin, Ann M; Chau, Chan (illus)	The Baby-Sitters Club graphix: Kristy and the snobs (2021) In this 10 th installment of the popular graphic novel adaptation of Ann M. Martin's classic series, Baby-Sitters Club president Kristy moves to a new neighborhood. Her new neighbours are not very friendly – in fact, they are total snobs! Luckily, Kristy has the Baby-Sitters Club to rely on. (QDoE)	F	156	Graphic novels	9781761 122262
18	Do, Anh	Weird history! [WeirDo #18] (2022) Weir and his friends have been writing stories for a competition that they really want to win, but it isn't easy. Will a mix of heroes and history help them win? (Adapted from publisher)	F	153	Humorous stories Friendship History Writing	9781761 127397
19	Wagner, Michael Jellett, Tom	Dirt by sea (2022) Growing up in outback Queensland, Daisy doesn't really understand what it means when the national anthem says Australia is 'girt by sea' – where she lives, everything is girt by DIRT! Her dad decides to take her on an adventure around Australia, to show her how wild and wonderful the Aussie coast can be. (QDoE)	F	40	Graphic novels Australia	9781760 894061



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20	Walliams, David; Stower, Adam	Spaceboy (2022) Growing up on a remote farm in the 1960s, Ruth spends every night looking at the stars through her telescope and dreaming of a more exciting life. Her dreams come true when a flying saucer crash-lands in the cornfield, and a mysterious alien takes her on a thrilling adventure. (Adapted from publisher)	F	368	Aliens Spaceships Science fiction	9780008 579944
21	Jones, Andy; Falafel, Olaf	Unleash your creative monster: a children's guide to writing (2021) This guide to creative writing for kids explains everything from the basics of writing stories and creating characters, to essential writing skills and even how to deal with writer's block. It's written in a fun and engaging way, with illustrations and cartoons, making it not only a useful guide, but an enjoyable read as well. (QDoE)	NF	176	Creative writing	9781406 396621
22	Vass, Coral; Cooper Smith, Heidi	Amanda Commander: The yellow dress (2022) Amanda can't wait to go to the Year 3 BBQ and disco, and she knows exactly what she's going to wear – the dress is yellow, has long sleeves, and best of all, pockets! But what she will do when she discovers another girl is planning to wear the exact same dress? (QDoE)	F	80	Social issues Friendship	9781761 110795
23	Griffiths, Andy; Denton, Terry	The 156-storey treehouse: Treehouse series: Book 12 (2022) Andy and Terry are back with another 13 storeys on their fantastical treehouse! In this installment, they celebrate Christmas in their treehouse, which now includes an aquarium wonderland, a super stinky stuff level, a TV quiz show, and even a mind-reading machine which makes the perfect sandwich every time. (QDoE) Borrow from the Vision Australia Library	F	300	Humorous stories	9781760 986605
24	Newton, Gina; Tribout, Rachel	Hold on!: Saving the Spotted Handfish (2021) Have you ever heard of a fish that can walk on its hands? The Spotted Handfish has special fins that look a bit like hands – and it can even use them to walk. But the Spotted Handfish is in danger, threatened by climate change, habitat destruction and the introduction of the Northern Pacific Sea Star. Find out what scientists are doing to protect these amazing fish. (QDoE)	NF	32	Endangered species Fish	9781486 311842



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25	Blabey, Aaron	The Bad Guys episode 16: The others?! (2022) In the 16 th installment in the <i>Bad Guys</i> series, there's now a whole bunch of even weirder stuff involving an over-sharing bat, a really scary new character who lives in the woods, and a strangely confident little guy with a mullet. (Adapted from publisher)	F	192	Graphic novels Bats	9781761200816
26	Do, Anh; Creagh, Lachlan	Animal train Wolf Girl: Book 6 (2021) When Gwen and her dogs board a train bound for the mountains, they are surprised to find the carriages are full of different animals. With the help of friends, Gwen is determined to free the animals, no matter the consequences. (Adapted from publisher)	F	240	Trains Dogs Survival	9781760879051
27	Hills, Adam	Rockstar detectives (2022) When a priceless painting goes missing, Charley and George find out they're the prime suspects! (Adapted from publisher)	F	320	Friendship Music	9780241505977
28	Stilton, Geronimo	Garbage dump disaster [Geronimo Stilton #79] (2021) Moldy Mozzarella, what was that smell? A rodent had been sneaking into the Recycling Plant and taking their trash. Flora, Hercule and Geronimo try to sniff the rat out of the stench. (Adapted from publisher)	F	128	Mice Theft Detectives	9781338756845
29	Greenwood, Mark	Our country: ancient wonders (2022) Readers will learn about natural wonders from across Australia, from the prehistoric beasts in Winton, to the lava-formed caves at Undara and more. (Adapted from publisher)	NF	40	Australia Geology Geography	9781760652241
30	Smith, Shaa Yandaarra	The Dungguirr Brothers and the Caring Song of the Whale (2022) This is both a beautiful picture book and a special resource that will connect children to the landscape of the mid-north NSW coast, as well as to the unique stories of the Gumbaynggirr people. (QDoE)	JF	32	Dreaming story Culture Connection to Country Language Totems Ceremony Elders Indigenous knowledge	9781760526313



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31	Banrcroft, Ella Noah; Bancroft, Bronwyn (illus)	Sun and Moon (2022) Sun and Moon are constantly in motion, circling the earth in harmony. But as brother and sister they had totally opposite personalities! An Indigenous creation story about how those 2 celestial bodies came to be. (QDoE)	JF	24	Dreaming story Sun Moon Creation story Brother Sister	9781760506940
32	Byrnes, Kellie; McGee, Lesley (illus)	Evie is all ears (2020) Evie the Bilby is deaf and so can't hear her teacher's instructions, or hear if a predator is approaching. One day, a way for Evie to be 'all ears' arrives. What will she do? (Adapted from publisher)	JF	32	Belonging Acceptance Dealing with fear diversity	9780648652823
33	Fraser, Rebecca	Sea glass (2023) Cailin can't believe her holiday has been ruined and her mother's job and they have to move and stay at her eccentric grandfather's old shack near the beach. Little did Cailin know that what you dread can lead to an exciting adventure and a collection of sea glass that will change things forever. (QDoE)	JF	112	Family Humour Love adventure	9781761111075
34	Hill, David	Below (2023) Liam and Imogen have no idea what consequences are in store for them when they go on an adventure to the railway tunnel being drilled through a nearby mountain. What will happen to them? Can they work together to find a way out? (QDoE)	JF	272	Adventure Working together disaster	9781776958009
35	Hymas, Allison K.	The explorer's code (2023) Who will be able to unlock the code to find the treasure? Will Charlie, Anna and Emily be able to work together and solve the mystery of Idlewood Manor? (QDoE)	JF	304	Solving puzzles Mystery Clues Working together	9781250802781
36	Collard, B. C.	Professor Robot and the gang of gandals (2023) How can Professor Robot and his grandchildren team up to use artificial intelligence to catch the vandals ruining their community? (QDoE)	JF	102	Science fiction STEM Coding	9780645712407
37	Williams, Rhiannon	Dusty in the Outwolds (2022) Dusty's beloved bushland property is going to be sold and she is sure her	F	296	Adventure Mystery	9781760509507



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		mysterious aunt Meg is the only one who can stop it from happening. Dusty sets of to find Meg and finds out what 'out wild' really means. The Outwilds are full of creatures Dusty heard during bedtime stories. They are beautiful, but deadly. How can Dusty find Meg and bring her home? (Adapted from publisher)			Fantasy	
38	Do, Ahn Emdin, Anton (Illus)	Ninja artists! (Ninja Kidd 11) (2023) Nelson and Kenny accidentally travel back in time when Nelson's class has an art competition, and find themselves battling creatures – not painting them! (Adapted from publisher)	F	192	Adventure	9781761202445
39	Sparkes, Amy	The bookshop at the Back of Beyond: The house at the Edge of Magic (2023) Nina and her friends are searching for Professor Dish in the unpredictable Back of Beyond. When they find the professor trapped in the basement of a shop run by a witch, they find out they will need some quick thinking to save Dish. (Adapted from publisher)	F	272	Fairy tales Action Adventure Fantasy	9781529505665
40	Green, John Patrick	InvestiGators: Braver and boulder (2023) It is hard to be a secret agent when everyone recognises you! The InvestiGators are trying to keep a low profile, but their headquarters - a giant robot that towers over the city – makes it hard towering over the city! Mango and Brash have heard about Boulder Buddies and need to find out if they are a fad, or art of a criminal scheme. Brave and Boulder is the second part of the InvestiGators series. (Adapted from publisher)	F	208	Action Animals Humour	9781529096224
41	Cotton, Sam	Chippy chasers: Chippy jackpot (2022) Seagulls, Stanley and Stacey, love hot chips! Tired with having to try and get scraps with all the other seagulls, they go in search of chippy thief Steve-O to help them in their quest to get chippies. (Adapted from publisher)	F	256	Graphic novel Humour	9780143778547

