



# 2023 Premier's reading challenge

## Years 8-9 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 literature. Parental and/or teacher guidance is recommended.

#	Author	Title and book summary	JF/F/NF	Pages	Theme	ISBN
1	Jonsberg, Barry	<p><b>A song only I can hear (2018)</b></p> <p>Rob is 13 years old and determined to impress the new girl at school. It's difficult for a super-shy kid who is prone to panic attacks that include vomiting, difficulty breathing and genuine terror that can last all day. Rob is receiving anonymous text messages that may, or may not, help. (Adapted from publisher)</p> <p>Borrow from the <a href="#">Vision Australia Library</a></p>	F	279	Humour Self-confidence Gender diversity	9781760630836
2	Bauer, Michael Gerard	<p><b>The things that will not stand (2018)</b></p> <p>Sebastian meets Frida on his first day at university. She is a great storyteller, but Sebastian has trouble sorting fact from the fiction. As they get to know each other, more truths are revealed. (Adapted from publisher)</p> <p>Borrow from the <a href="#">Vision Australia Library</a></p>	F	217	Romance Humour School Relationships	9781742997582
3	Asphyxia	<p><b>Future girl (2020)</b></p> <p>Piper is deaf, her mum wants her to be "normal", but she has more important things to worry about. She meets Marley, a CODA (child of deaf adult) who teaches her Auslan, and opens a door into a new world – where deafness is something to celebrate rather than hide, where resilience is created. Piper finds herself falling hard for Marley. But Marley, who has grown up in the deaf community yet is not deaf, is struggling to find his place in the hearing world. How can they be together? (Adapted from publisher)</p>	F	384	Deafness Friendship Diary Sustainability	9781760294373



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4	Holub, Joan; Williams, Suzanne	<b>Artemis the brave [Goddess girls: volume 4] (2023)</b> When Orion—a foreign exchange student from Earth—enters Mount Olympus, Artemis is even more nervous than usual! Can she prove to her friends, and herself, that she can live up to her goddess name? (Adapted from publisher)  Borrow from the <a href="#">Vision Australia Library</a>	F	192	Reluctant readers Graphic novel Mythology Fantasy	9781534 473959
5	Grant, Neil	<b>The honeyman and the hunter (2019)</b> When Rudra's grandmother arrives from India and a secret is dredged from the bay, life on Rudra's sleepy village shifts dramatically and soon Rudra and his mother are bound for Bengal on a journey of discovery and danger. (Adapted from publisher)	F	288	Cultures Coming of age Belonging and loss	9781760 631871
6	Wilde, Rhiannon	<b>Henry Hamlet's heart (2021)</b> A story of growing up, letting go and learning how to love. Henry always feels clumsy next to his heart-throb best friend, but it has always worked. When Henry falls for the last person he ever imagined, turmoil ensues. (Adapted from publisher)	F	320	Love Friendship Gender diversity	9780702 263149
7	Townsend, Jessica	<b>Hollowpox: the hunt for Morrigan Crow [Nevermoor: book 3] (2020)</b> In the next instalment in the Nevermoor series, Morrigan is up against her nemesis, discovering new talents and learning new things about herself and the magical land of Nevermoor, as she struggles to find a cure for the hollowpox. (QDoE)  Borrow from the <a href="#">Vision Australia Library</a>	F	464	Magic Adventure Fantasy	9781510 105300
8	Bell, Davina	<b>The end of the world is bigger than love (2020)</b> Identical twins Summer and Winter live alone on a remote island until the arrival of a mysterious stranger upends their carefully constructed reality. The secrets of the girls' past begin to unravel and escape is the only option. (Adapted from publisher)	F	288	Siblings Love Survival	9781922 268822



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9	Dyson, Alex	<b>When it drops (2020)</b> Caleb loves to create music and lives in a world of his own – until his brother shares Caleb’s most personal track online, a track that is obviously about someone he’s crushing on. (QDoE)	F	336	Music Coming of age Family	9781760 505042
10	Jones, Eliza Henry	<b>How to grow a family tree (2020)</b> Stella is dealing with a lot. Her family is living in a caravan park due to her father’s gambling. Now her birth mother has written her a letter. Stella must come to terms with her past and her “other family”. (QDoE)	F	338	Family Secrets Addiction Adoption	9781460 754955
11	Jennings, Paul	<b>The lorikeet tree (2023)</b> Emily loves the bush, particularly the beautiful rainbow lorikeets that nest in one of the trees on her family’s property. When her father falls ill her twin brother has trouble coping and Emily is left to handle the emotional fallout. (QDoE)	F	192	Family Loss Love Nature	9781761 180095
12	Raphael, Solli	<b>Spotlight (2020)</b> Slam poet Solli shines a spotlight on the concerns teenagers face with over 30 new poems and performance pieces. He shares his experiences of helping create change and contribute to a better world. (Adapted from publisher)	NF	144	Poetry Writing Self-confidence Environment	9781760 898410
13	Forde, Patricia	<b>The last word (2019)</b> In the aftermath of world disaster, the rulers of the city of Ark blame words for the tragedies of the past. All words (except 500 of the most necessary) are outlawed. Letta is teaching language in secret. (Adapted from publisher)	F	325	Dystopia Language	9781925 870664
14	Hall, Leanne	<b>The gaps (2021)</b> When a student is abducted the news spreads through Balmoral Ladies College. Everyone is affected by her disappearance and friendships are formed or strained because of it. A tribute to friendships of all kinds. (QDoE)	F	320	Mystery Thriller Friendship Feminism	9781922 330482



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15	Godwin, Jane	<b>When rain turns to snow (2020)</b> A coming of age story about finding out who you are in the face of crisis and change. One day a stranger named Reed turns up on Lissa's doorstep carrying a baby. His appearance stirs up untold histories in the family. (Adapted from publisher)	F	288	Family History Secrets	9780734 420053
16	Arja, Rawah	<b>The F team (2020)</b> Tariq is a gang leader and football player. He needs to come to terms with anger, conflict in his family, love and his influence over others. In confronting and often comic situations his relationships are tested like never before. (Adapted from publisher)	F	368	Self-confidence Humour Race Culture Prejudice Friendship Team building	9781925 818543
17	Chim, Wai	<b>The surprising power of a good dumpling (2019)</b> Anna works in her dad's restaurant and looks after her siblings while her mother is unwell in bed. All seems to be fine, until her mother gets out of bed. As her mother's health declines, Anna is thrown into a whirlwind. (QDoE) Borrow from the <a href="#">Vision Australia Library</a>	F	392	Culture Food Love Mental illness Family Racism	9781760 631581
18	Barker, Kathryn	<b>Waking Romeo (2021)</b> It's 2083, time travel is possible, but only forward. A mysterious time traveller arrives from the future with a mission that makes Juliet question everything she knows about life and love. (Adapted from publisher)	F	384	Future Science fiction Dystopia	9781760 297152
19	Flanagan, John	<b>Ranger's apprentice: The Royal Ranger 6: Arazan's wolves (2022)</b> Will and Maddie are sent to Celtica to investigate reports of direwolves – a species thought to be extinct. What they discover is even more of a threat – a sorceress who is building an army of creatures both living and supernatural. (Adapted from publisher)	F	272	Fantasy Magic Mythology	9781761 044564



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20	Orr, Wendy	<b>Cuckoo's Flight [Minoan wings: book 3] (2021)</b> Clio's town in Bronze Age Crete is threatened by raiders, causing her to face challenges and make sacrifices. Can Clio, her horses and young friend find a way to change their future? (Adapted from publisher)	F	288	Historical fiction Courage Disability Acceptance	9781760 524913
21	Ibrahim, Maiya	<b>Spice road (2023)</b> Raised to protect her nation from the monsters lurking in the sands, 17 year-old Imani must fight to find her brother whose actions pose a significant threat to the safety of her home. (Adapted from publisher)	F	496	Fantasy Arabia Heroines	9781399 702034
22	Snyder, Maria V	<b>The King of Koraha [Archives of the invisible sword: book 3] (2021)</b> Shyla and Rendor are ordered to report to the King of Koraha. While the King holds the key to Koraha's existence, a new enemy threatens Koraha's very survival. (Adapted from publisher)	F	528	Fantasy Magic	9781489 252845
23	Nunn, Malla	<b>Sugar town queens (2021)</b> Amandla's mother has always been strange. For starters, she's a white woman living in Sugar Town, one of South Africa's infamous shanty towns. She won't tell anyone, not even Amandla, about her past. With her best friend by her side, Amandla is determined to seek out answers. (Adapted from publisher)	F	320	Africa Courage Family Prejudice Racism	9780525 515609
24	Westerfeld, Scott	<b>Mirror's edge [Impostors: book 3] (2021)</b> With her father still in power, Frey must return home to Shreve. In this city under surveillance, nothing is what it seems on the surface. (Adapted from publisher)	F	352	Fantasy Thriller	9781760 528263
25	Tan, Shaun	<b>Creature: paintings, drawings and reflections (2022)</b> A collection of artwork and essays from the past 25 years of Shaun Tan's works, some previously unpublished. His use of non-human creatures throughout is a constant theme, thus the title "Creature". (QDoE)	NF	224	Art Essays Creativity	9781646 142002



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26	Cast, P.C; Cast, Kristin	<b>The Dysasters: the graphic novel: Volume 1 (2020)</b> Foster and Tate must deal with the loss of loved ones, while finding out they are the first in a group of teens genetically manipulated before birth to bond with the elements. (Adapted from publisher)	F	128	Mystery Earth	9781250 268778
27	Arya, Divya	<b>Postbox Kashmir (2022)</b> Two teenagers, Saumya in Delhi and Duaa in Kashmir, were asked to be penpals by journalist Divya Arya. This book follows their conversations through the turbulent times of Kashmir and India. (QDoE)	NF	208	India Cultures History	9780143 451693
28	Micallef, Shaun	<b>Happily ever afterwards: a tale from a taller forest (2021)</b> The Queen of Tancred and her royal advisors want their citizens to be happy. But that's a lot harder than it sounds – especially when the Happiness Tour accidentally stumbles into the region of Hamelin. (Adapted from publisher)	F	216	Humour Fairytales	9781760 507510
29	Nix, Garth	<b>The left-handed booksellers of London (2022)</b> A fantasy adventure set in 1980s London, follows one girl's quest to find her father, leading her to a secret society of magical fighting booksellers who police the mythical Old World when it disastrously intrudes into the modern world. (Adapted from publisher)	F	384	Fantasy Magic Books	9781761 065910
30	Nix, Garth; Williams, Sean	<b>Have sword, will travel: Have sword will travel 1 (2018)</b> Odo and Eleanor accidentally unearth Biter, a famous talking sword, Odo instantly becomes a knight – a role he is unsuited for. Eleanor, however, would love to be a knight, but she isn't the one who pulled the sword free. (QDoE)	F	304	Reluctant readers Dragons Knights	9781760 529208
31	Louise, Zanni	<b>Queenie in seven moves (2023)</b> Queenie loves her house where she's lived forever. When she has to leave, Queenie discovers that home isn't a place at all. It's making new friends and finding the courage to share your song with the world. (Adapted from publisher)	F	240	Courage Belonging Friendship Loss	9781760 655662



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32	Snyder, Maria V	<b>The city of Zirdai [Archives of the invisible sword: book 2] (2021)</b> Through her courage and tenacity, Shyla Sun-Kissed has awoken the power of The Eyes of Tamburah. But this feat only marks the beginning of the challenges the magical order, the Invisible Sword, faces to free the underground city of Zirdai. (Adapted from publisher)	F	480	Fantasy Magic	9781489 252838
33	Drews, C.G.	<b>The boy who steals houses (2019)</b> Sam's trying to build a new life for him and his brother. He survives by breaking into empty houses when their owners are away, until one day he's caught out when a family returns home. (Adapted from publisher)  Borrow from the <a href="#">Vision Australia Library</a>	F	300	Family Survival Secrets	9781408 349922
34	Archbold, Charlie	<b>Indigo owl (2020)</b> Scarlet's mother went missing years ago, she's determined to find her. With the help of Rumi, her headstrong neighbour, and Dylan, the handsome student who reads her intuitively, maybe she'll be able to uncover the secrets of her past. (Adapted from publisher)	F	336	Fantasy Science fiction Dystopia	9781743 057322
35	Divaroren, Demet; Pajalic, Amra	<b>Growing up Muslim in Australia (2019)</b> Muslim people come from over 70 countries and represent a wide variety of cultural backgrounds and experiences. Yet we are constantly bombarded by media stories feeding one negative stereotype. In this book, Muslim-Australians tell their stories in their own voices. (Adapted from publisher)  Borrow from the <a href="#">Vision Australia Library</a>	NF	240	Cultures Australia Biography	9781760 875077
36	Sutherland, Krystal	<b>House of hollow (2021)</b> Iris is doing all she can to fit in at high school. When her sister goes missing, Iris finds that she is not the only one looking for her. The supernatural is calling to them and their true history is revealing itself. (QDoE)	F	304	Mystery Magic	9780143 796992



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37	Attenborough, David	<b>A life on our planet: My witness statement and a vision for the future (2022)</b> Sir David Attenborough reflects on his life's work, how the planet has changed over his lifetime, and what can be done to ensure a better future. (Adapted from publisher)	NF	288	Environment	9781529108293
38	Herrick, Steven	<b>How to repaint a life (2022)</b> Isaac is running from difficult family life when he arrives in a small town where the local café owner's kindness offers him a chance to change his story. (Adapted from publisher)  Teacher notes: <a href="https://d3f44jafdqsrq.cloudfront.net/teacher-notes/How-to-Repaint-a-Life_Teachers-notes-FINAL.pdf">https://d3f44jafdqsrq.cloudfront.net/teacher-notes/How-to-Repaint-a-Life_Teachers-notes-FINAL.pdf</a>	F	248	Relationships Courage Trust Bullying Live Homelessness	9780702263156
39	Neerven, Ellen Van; Baker, Danzal Pitt, Lakkari (illus)	<b>Homeland calling: words from a New Generation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voices (2020)</b> A collection of poems written by First Nations youth from communities from around Australia, influenced by hip-hop song lyrics that channel culture and challenge stereotypes. (Adapted from publisher)	F	192	Indigenous Poetry Adolescents Hip hop music Country Language Culture Belonging	9781741176926
40	Boyd, Jillian; Mordey, Tori-Jay (illus)	<b>Bakir and Bi (2013)</b> Based on a Torres Strait Islander creation story. Bakir (rock) and Mar (storm bird) live on a remote island called Egur with their 2 children. While fishing on the beach, Bakir comes across a very special pelican named Bi, and an adventure begins! (Adapted from publisher)	F	63	Torres Strait Island culture and mythology Pelicans Family Language	9781921248863
41	Merrison, Carl; Hustler, Hakea	<b>Tracks of the missing (2022)</b> There is high drama at Deklan's school. A man has been murdered and the all the Year 12s are missing! Are the 2 incidents connected? Dek and his mate think they can they solve this mystery but can they still impress the football recruiter who's in town? (QDoE)	F	208	Crime mystery Murder Football Loyalty Aboriginal spirituality	9781922613264





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42	Rees, Peter	<p><b>The missing man (2018)</b></p> <p>At the age of 20, Len Waters was piloting a RAAF Kittyhawk fighter plane in the skies over the Pacific in World War II – the first and only Aboriginal man to do so. But after the war, it's a different story as he slowly disappears from history. (QDoE)</p>	NF	360	<p>True story</p> <p>War</p> <p>Airforce</p> <p>History</p> <p>Discrimination</p>	9781760 296414

