

How can I help my child at home?

Along with ensuring and checking that your child completes homework to a high standard, the suggestions below will help support your son or daughter as they move through Key Stage 3 into Key Stage 4.

1. Learn and Practise

To improve English, as well as spelling, punctuation and grammar skills, KS3 Study Guides and Workbooks are a helpful way of developing understanding and laying down foundation knowledge.

2. Read a Range

Select a wide range of different texts to read. At Key Stage 3, it's strongly recommended that students spend at least 20 minutes reading every day. The texts can range from fiction to non-fiction, fantasy to autobiographical pieces. Students can access the school library and use the recommended Reading List to help them choose suitable texts. Depth, breadth and challenge is the key to pupils' success!

3. Read and Discuss Together

By reading extracts of novels and classic stories with your children (see the links and image), they will be inspired to write creatively and expand their vocabulary by looking up and learning new words.

4. Encourage and Improve

Helping your child to complete writing tasks; letters, newspaper articles, speeches etc., in addition to encouraging them to correct the technical aspects of their writing (spelling, punctuation, grammar, fluency and written expression) will have a significant impact on the progress your child makes.

Ways a Parent Can Help with READING

- 1 Let your child see you reading!**
Have magazines and books in your home.
- 2 Help your child find appropriate word & reading games on the computer.**
Keep a dictionary on hand. Help your child look up new words they read or hear.
- 3 Read mysteries with your child and try to figure out the clues together.**
- 4 Movie version coming out?**
Read the book together first, then talk about which you each liked better.
- 5 Set aside a time and place for your child to read -**
like a comfy chair and a reading light in a quiet place
- 6 Visit your public library regularly.**
Look for and read together the books that were your favorites when you were a kid.
- 7 Encourage your child to write -**
letters, thank you notes, emails, journals, lists, stories about their own trips, events, and daily life
- 8 Ask your child questions about what he or she is reading, such as:**
 - What is the story about?
 - Who are the important characters in the story?
 - Where does the story take place?
 - Why do you think the character made that choice?
 - Why did that happen?
 - How did you know about...?
 - Would you recommend this book to your friends?
- 9 Ask your child to draw a comic strip about what happens in the story.**
Provide word searches, crossword and other word games and puzzles, or help your child make his/her own

Share with your child about what you're reading... and encourage your child to do the same

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Web Learning Links

Key Stage 3 BBC Bitesize - <http://www.bbc.co.uk/education/subjects/z3kw2hv>

Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar - <https://uk.ixl.com/ela/year-7>

GCSE BBC Bitesize - <http://www.bbc.co.uk/education/subjects/zr9d7ty>

Gothic Fiction - <http://flavorwire.com/434340/10-gothic-short-stories-you-can-read-online-right-now>

Classic short stories - <http://www.classicshorts.com/>

Classic short stories - <https://writersedit.com/top-10-classic-short-stories/>

Key Stage 3 Recommended Reading List

| <i>Title</i> | <i>Author</i> | <i>Title</i> | <i>Author</i> |
|---|---------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------|
| CLASSIC TITLES | | HISTORY | |
| The Coral Island | R.M.Ballantyne | The Jade Boy | Cate Cain |
| Great Expectations | Charles Dickens | The Broken Road | B.R. Collins |
| Oliver Twist | Charles Dickens | Annexed | Sharon Dogar |
| The Hound of the Baskervilles | Sir Arthur Conan Doyle | Treason | Berlie Doherty |
| The Count of Monte Cristo | Alexandre Dumas | Eleven Eleven | Paul Dowsell |
| The Jungle Book | Rudyard Kipling | Troubadour | Mary Hoffman |
| School for Scandal | Richard Brinsley Sheridan | Velvet | Mary Hooper |
| Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde | R.L. Stevenson | The Girl in the Mask | Mary-Louise Jenson |
| Treasure Island | R.L. Stevenson | After You've Gone | Joan Lingard |
| Dracula | Bram Stoker | The Call of the Wild | Jack London |
| 20,000 Leagues under the Sea | Jules Verne | Just Henry | Michelle Magorian |
| WORLD LITERATURE | | Song Hunter | Sally Prue |
| Where I Belong | Gillian Cross | Sword of Light | Katherine Roberts |
| The Great Gatsby | F. Scott Fitzgerald | The Eagle of the Ninth | Rosemary Sutcliffe |
| Coram Boy | Jamila Gavin | A World Between Us | Lydia Syson |
| The Conservationist | Nadine Gordimer | Out of Shadows | Jason Wallace |
| The Hunchback of Notre Dame | Victor Hugo | Code Name Verity | Elizabeth Wein |
| Ulysses | James Joyce | FANTASY/SCIENCE FICTION | |
| The Night Run | Bali Rai | Hollow Earth | John and Carol Barrowman |
| Gulliver's Travels | Jonathan Swift | The Claws of Evil | Andrew Beasley |
| The Adventure of Huckleberry Finn | Mark Twain | Sorrowline | Niel Bushnell |
| The Adventure of Tom Sawyer | Mark Twain | Gamerunner | B.R. Collins |
| Around the World in 80 Days | Jules Verne | Unfinished Angel | Sharon Creech |
| MYSTERY/ACTION/ADVENTURE | | After Tomorrow | Gillian Cross |
| Tarzan: The Greystoke Legacy | Andy Briggs | The Little White Horse | Elizabeth Goudge |
| The Girl Who Walks On Air | Emma Carroll | Stravaganza (series) | Mary Hoffman |
| Mortal Chaos | Matt Dickinson | Underworld | Cathy MacPhail |
| Monkey and Me | David Gilman | The Declaration | Gemma Malley |
| Lord of the Flies | William Golding | Tom's Midnight Garden | Phillipa Pearce |
| Paper Towns | John Green | Burn Mark | Laura Powell |
| Sky Hawk | Gill Lewis | Larklight Trilogy | Philip Reeve |
| The Accidental Time Traveller | Janice Mackay | Magyk | Angie Sage |
| The White Darkness | Geraldine McCaughrean | The Bone Season | Samantha Shannon |
| Tall Tales from Pitch End | Nigel McDowell | Wishful Thinking | Ali Sparkes |
| The Apothecary | Maile Meloy | The Wall | William Sutcliffe |
| The River Singers | Tom Moorhouse | Shadowmancer | G.P. Taylor |
| Rooftoppers | Katherine Rundell | Angel | L.A. Weatherly |
| Holes | Louis Sachar | The Battle of the Sun | Jeanette Winterson |
| FAMILY/REAL LIFE ISSUES /COMING OF AGE | | YOUNG TEENS | |
| River Boy | Tim Bowler | All the Truth That's In Me | Julie Berry |
| Walking Naked | Alyssa Brugman | Bloodtide | Melvyn Burgess |
| Anthem for Jackson Dawes | Celia Bryce | Winter Damage | Natasha Carthew |
| Swim the Fly | Don Calame | Dead Time | Anne Cassidy |
| Searching for Sky | Jillian Cantor | The Ghost Bride | Yangsze Choo |
| Inside my Head | Jim Carrington | Apple and Rain | Sarah Crossan |
| The Weight of Water | Sarah Crossan | Boys Don't Knit | T.S. Easton |
| After Iris | Natasha Farrant | The Things We Did For Love | Natasha Farrant |
| Cowgirl | G.R. Gemin | Maggot Moon | Sally Gardner |
| Whisper | Chrissie Keighery | Hostage Three | Nick Lake |
| Butter | Erin Lange | We Were Liars | E. Lockhart |
| Everybody Jam | Ali Lewis | Throne of Glass | Sarah J Maas |
| Roxy's Baby | Cathy MacPhail | Red Ink | Julie Mayhew |
| The Cardturner | Louis Sachar | Ferryman | Claire McFall |

