

# READING LIST FOR KEY STAGE 1 HIGH LEARNING POTENTIAL CHILDREN

## Summary

This advice sheet comprises a list of some materials suitable for confident Key Stage 1 readers who are ready to move on. The materials are listed in ascending order of difficulty. There is also a list of reading material for high learning potential Key Stage 2 readers, as well as a list of comic books suitable for younger readers, available.

## Introduction

We are often asked for ideas for reading material for competent Key Stage 1 readers. This is difficult to advise on because all children are at different stages and have varying likes and dislikes. This list can be used as a general guide. However, in order for children to develop as readers, it is a good idea for them to broaden their horizons by varying the subject, format and media.

## Supporting a High Learning Potential Key Stage 1 Reader

High learning potential children's emotional development is sometimes out of line with their reading ability and anyone supporting them needs to consider the appropriateness of the subject of the book, along with the level of difficulty. It is important that high learning potential children are given support in understanding what they are reading. This can be done through discussing characters' feelings, asking what they think will happen next, discussing what they would do in a certain situation or looking up unknown words in a dictionary.

## Non-Fiction

- *First News* is a newspaper for children, published weekly.
- *National Geographic Kids* is a monthly magazine available at newsagents or by subscription.
- *Earth Matters* edited by David Rothschild, CEO of Adventure Ecology, is part of Dorling Kindersley's 'Made With Care' series and informs readers about our incredible planet and how to look after it.
- *DK First Reference* series of seven books with titles such as *Nature Encyclopedia*, *Dinosaur Encyclopedia* and *Science Encyclopedia*. Great visual appeal for younger readers.
- *Usborne See Inside* series, including *Ancient Rome*, *Your Body* and *Space* has added appeal as there are lots of flaps to explore.
- *A Life Like Mine* and *Children Just Like Me*, published by Dorling Kindersley in association with UNICEF, show how children around the world live.
- *I Wonder Why* series published by Kingfisher is full of information presented in a young child-friendly format.
- Cookery books are fun to explore together, following instructions and creating something.

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- *Horrible Histories* by Terry Deary is a collection of factual books about history 'with the gory bits left in'. Includes titles such as *Stormin' Normans*, *Awesome Egyptians* and *Groovy Greeks*.
- *Horrible Geography* by Anita Ganeri, a similar collection of books full of fascinating facts. Includes titles such as *Freaky Peaks*, *Desperate Deserts* and *Odious Oceans*.
- *Horrible Science* by Nick Arnold, another similar collection of books including titles such as *Fearsome Fight for Flight*, *Microscopic Monsters* and *Nasty Nature*.

## Fiction

- *The Tall Story*, *Rent A Friend* and *The Thing In The Sink* by Frieda Hughes are a series of books with chapters and colourful illustrations.
- Anything by Jeremy Strong is suitable for this age group. His books are funny and exciting, with titles such as *The Hundred Mile An Hour Dog*, *There's a Viking In My Bed* and *My Mum's Going to Explode*.
- *The Flat Stanley* series by Jeff Brown is very entertaining. It is about a flattened boy making use of his altered state.
- Books by Helen Cresswell are also suitable for high potential readers in key stage 1. *The Bongleweed*, *The Piemakers* and *Dragon Ride* are some of her best-loved books.
- *Mr Gum* series by Andy Stanton is a set of very funny books about the antics of a strange man.
- *Farm Boy*, *Toro!Toro!*, *Conker*, *Mr Skip* and *Billy The Kid* by Michael Morpurgo are suitable for this age group and tackle issues from a young child's point of view.
- *Astrosaurs* series by Steve Cole is a collection of books about space dinosaur characters which would appeal especially to boys. Each book also has collectible cards inside the cover.
- *Arabel and Mortimer* series by Joan Aiken, about the adventures of a little girl and her pet raven.
- *The Secret Seven* series by Enid Blyton, about a secret society who hold regular meetings and organize things to do, whether it's helping the community in some way, solving mysteries that turn up, or just having fun playing Red Indians in the woods.
- *Horrid Henry* series by Francesca Simon, a series of hilarious stories featuring the antihero Horrid Henry who attracts troubles as surely as wasps attract jam.
- *The Worst Witch* series by Jill Murphy tells tales of the famously disaster-prone Mildred and have humorous, gently eerie drawings on each page to add to the fun.

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- *My Secret Unicorn* series by Linda Chapman. A series of books about a girl called Lauren, her grey pony, Twilight, and a magical secret.
- *Judy Moody* series by Megan McDonald are funny, first chapter books for anyone who has felt out of sorts.
- *The Happy Days* series by Enid Blyton is a series of short, fun chapter books about various different characters.
- *The Diamond Brothers Detective Agency Series* by Anthony Horowitz, tells of the adventures of the world's worst private detective, Tim Diamond, and his little brother, Nick Diamond, who is considerably more intelligent.
- *The Wishing Chair* stories by Enid Blyton. Two children, Mollie and Peter, find a magic wishing chair with the power to grow wings and fly. On their first flight, they rescue a pixie called Chinky from a giant. The pixie comes to live in their playroom, and the remainder of the books concern the adventures of the children, as the chair takes them, and Chinky, to various magical places.
- *Harry the Poisonous Centipede* series by Lynne Reid Banks. Life underground is quite humdrum for Harry until his best friend George starts daring him to disobey his mother and venture Up the Up-Pipe into the perilous world of hoo-mins.
- *Captain Underpants* series by Dav Pilkey, part comic book, part novel about two school children who accidentally turn their head teacher into a super hero.
- *Tintin* books by Hergé, featuring the hero of the series, Tintin, a young Belgian reporter. He is aided in his adventures from the beginning by his faithful fox terrier dog Snowy. Later, popular additions to the cast included the brash, cynical and grumpy Captain Haddock; the bright but hearing-impaired Professor Calculus and other colourful supporting characters, such as the incompetent detectives Thomson and Thompson.
- *Asterix and Obelix* graphic novels by Goscinny and Uderzo. The series follows the exploits of a village of ancient Gauls as they resist Roman occupation. They do so by means of a magic potion, brewed by their druid, which gives the recipient superhuman strength. The central character, Asterix, along with his friend, Obelix, have various adventures. In many cases, this leads them to travel to various countries around the world, though other books are set in and around their village.
- *Shakespeare Stories Collection* by Andrew Matthews and Tony Ross is a great early introduction to Shakespeare.

## Poetry

- *I Like This Poem: A Collection of Best-loved Poems Chosen by Children for Other Children in Aid of the International Year of the Child* by Kaye Webb

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- *One Hundred Years of Poetry for Children* by Michael Harrison
- *Please, Mrs Butler* by Allan Ahlberg
- *The Day I Fell Down the Toilet and Other Poems* by Steve Turner
- *Cars Stars Electric Guitars* by James Carter
- *You Wait Till I'm Older Than You!* by Michael Rosen

## Further Information

PA108 Reading List for Key Stage 2 High Learning Potential Children	This advice sheet offers a list of some materials suitable for Key Stage 2 readers who are significantly advanced. Materials are listed according to maturity of theme and/or language.
PA401 Supporting High Learning Potential in English (Primary)	This advice sheet is aimed at parents and carers. It covers how to recognise high learning potential in English at the Primary level, as well as how parents and carers can support a child with high learning potential and/or a strong interest in this. There are also links to further resources in this subject area.
PA109 Comic Books Suitable for Younger Children	Early readers often progress through different types of books quickly, and they appreciate the mixture of visual information and text that comic books offer. However, popular comic books sometimes deal with mature subjects so can be unsuitable for younger readers. This advice sheet contains a list of comic books that are suitable for younger readers.
<a href="http://childrensbooksguide.com/">http://childrensbooksguide.com/</a>	Children's Books Guide is a guide to children's books for parents, school teachers, librarians and homeschoolers
<a href="https://www.common sense media.org/book-lists">https://www.common sense media.org/book-lists</a>	<b>Common Sense Media</b> recommends children's books for families
<a href="http://www.lovereadings4kids.co.uk">www.lovereadings4kids.co.uk</a>	<b>Love Reading 4 Kids</b> offers reviews of books and a search facility.
<a href="http://www.thebookbag.co.uk/reviews/index.php/Category:For_Sharing">http://www.thebookbag.co.uk/reviews/index.php/Category:For_Sharing</a>	<b>Bookbag</b> includes reviews and many top ten lists. Books are not sorted by age, rather by subject and type of book
<i>Some of My Best Friends Are Books: Guiding Gifted Readers from Preschool to High School</i> by Judith Wynn Halsted	Books can be wonderful bridges for communications on feelings, values and decision-making. The extensive indexing makes it easy to select appropriate books that are interesting to a particular child.

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