

Studies from universities and education experts tell us that reading for pleasure helps children's brains develop, boosts their wellbeing, and supports learning in every subject.

Even just a few minutes a day can make a big difference. Research highlights that it's the enjoyment and the habit that count most, not how long you spend reading.

Reading regularly - whether it's sharing a book together or letting your child explore stories on their own - can strengthen vocabulary, build confidence, and support their success at school.

Abbey Academies Trust

BOOK RECOMMENDATIONS

Research shows that children who enjoy reading in their spare time are much more likely to become strong, confident readers —so helping your child find books they love really matters.



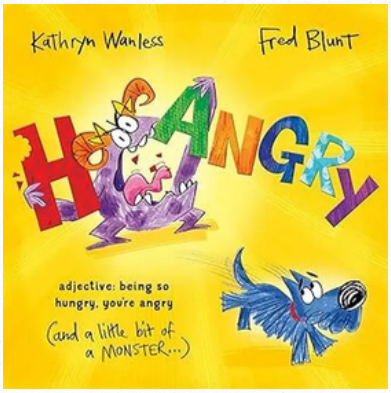
A Totally Big Umbrella
by Sarah Crossan, illustrated by Rebecca Cobb
Interest age: 4 to 8

This beautiful, sensitive picture book from an award-winning team of writer Sarah Crossan and illustrator Rebecca Cobb is a lovely exploration of what happens when we feel anxious.



The Mushroom of Doom!
by Becky Davies, illustrated by Thomas Elliott
Interest age: 3 to 7
Reading age: 7+

This utterly brilliant picture book features a truckload of mushroom puns, witty twists and totally hilarious illustrations that will have you porta-bellowing with laughter= sure to be an instant hit with young readers.



Hangry
by Kathryn Wanless, illustrated by Fred Blunt
Interest age: 4 to 5

Kathryn Wanless's fun, bouncy rhyming text in this amusing (and relatable) picture book about getting cross when you're hungry is full of fun and great to read aloud.



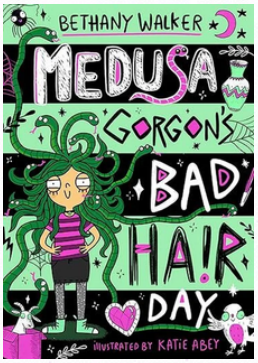
Press Start to Play
by Sam Gayton, illustrated by Jack Noel
Interest age: 7 to 11
Reading age: 7+

Gamers, get ready to press start and play with a world of poetry and language in this exciting new anthology from Sam Gayton.



The Game I Will Never Forget
by Onjali Q Raúf
Interest age: 9 to 11
Reading age: 9+

A beautifully crafted story which explores the complicated relationship between children and ageing relatives. Told from Zak's perspective, this book interrogates the emotional impact of dementia in an age-appropriate way while celebrating all the warmth, memories and love shared between generations.



Medusa Gorgon's Bad Hair Day
by Bethany Walker, illustrated by Katie Abey
Interest age: 8 to 11 Reading age: 9+

It's off to secondary school for 'Meddy G'. But how can an 'ordinary' schoolgirl steal a shield, all while avoiding detention?
Written in diary format, with lots of brilliant drawings and doodles, this is a very funny story. Many familiar names from ancient Greece pop up, and there's a chorus commenting on the action, as in a play, but in comic strip form.