

“A good library should never be too neat or too dusty, because someone will always be in it, taking books off the shelves and staying up late and reading them.”

“Never trust anyone who has not brought a book with them.”

Lemony Snicket

*Horseradish: Bitter truths you can't avoid*



- Useful Points of Reference -

[www.guardian.co.uk/childrens-books-site](http://www.guardian.co.uk/childrens-books-site)

[www.goodreads.com](http://www.goodreads.com)

[www.howstuffworks.com](http://www.howstuffworks.com)

[www.guinnessworldrecords.com](http://www.guinnessworldrecords.com)

[www.funology.com](http://www.funology.com)

Enquiries can be directed to:

Northampton School *for boys*  
Billing Road  
Northampton  
NN1 5RT

☎ 01604 230240  
[nsb@nsb.northants.sch.uk](mailto:nsb@nsb.northants.sch.uk)

# A quick guide to reading



Research shows that boys are less likely to enjoy reading than girls; more of them struggle with reading (and writing) at school and boys are less likely to say they spend time reading outside of the classroom. So what can we do..?

### 1. **Read.**

It doesn't matter what you read, rather that you do. Read with your children, alongside them, at the same time. Reading is reading, no matter what it is. Magazines and comics are great ways to encourage boys, who quite often are visual learners.

### 2. **Listen.**

Share audio books in the car or before bedtime; download podcasts from the BBC Radio4 extra website to encourage new books and authors. Search YouTube for author clips or book launches. There are many free resources out there just waiting to be grabbed—and don't forget your local library where you can borrow audio books for a small fee.

### 3. **Share the experience.**

Let your child see you read! Don't be too busy, or uninterested. Share a book together! It's strange that we do this with young children far more often than older ones, but there is just as much to talk about—if not more! Fact, fiction... doesn't matter. It's funny that we expect our children to read even when they don't see anyone else doing it at home! Be a role model for them.

4. Use an **interest** as a hook... sports fans can enjoy books about their teams, the rules of the game, and (auto) biographies about their heroes. History buffs can indulge their love of particular eras in stories set in those time periods.

5. Give lots of **praise**. Suggest a reward when your son finishes a book. Who knows— they may even pick another book!

6. Tie in **film** releases such as "The Hobbit" "The Adventures of TinTin" or "The Hunger Games". Go and see the film first, then try the book.

7. Research tells us that boys like to invest the time they spend reading in a **series of books**, so suggest ones which form part of a longer adventure. Anthony Horowitz, Robert Muchamore, Eoin Colfer and Robert Kinny are great authors to start with.

8. Whilst it's an ultimate aim to move around from one style or genre of books to another—and another and another, don't be surprised if boys go back and re-read favourites. You can

encourage moving on with fact-**based books** like "The Guinness Book of Records", or "Stuff that scares your pants off" which takes common fears and the statistical likelihood of them happening to you in real life!

9. And talking of real-life, expand the reading experience to **reading materials that aren't book-based**. Take away menus, the match programme, maps and directions, construction instructions, recipes, or travel timetables all require decoding skills.

10. And finally... forget, "Boys will be boys" and think, "**Boys will be brilliant**" instead. Many of our best selling authors are men. Use them as fantastic role models to raise the profile of books and reading.

**Books don't have to be on paper anymore! Kindles, e-book readers, i-downloads and other apps all have their place in the modern world!**