

**Book Selection**

12-17 year olds want to read books that (in order of priority):

1. Will make them laugh
2. Let them use their imagination
3. Have a mystery or a problem to solve
4. Have characters they wish they could be like
5. Tell a made up story (Fiction)
6. Teach them something new
7. Let them forget about real life for a while
8. Tell a true story
9. Are a little scary
10. Are about things they experience in their own lives
11. Have characters who are in love
12. Have a character that looks like them

*Australia Kids and Family Reading Report 2016 (Scholastic)*

**Useful website for book lists and recommended reads for ages 11-13**

[*www.scholastic.com*](http://www.scholastic.com) *(parents)*

**50 Best Books for 11 and 12 year olds**

*www.readbrightly.com/ages-stages/tween/*

**Strategies for Parents / Carers to use at home**

* Become familiar with **reading strategies** and discuss them with your child.
* Share your **knowledge and experiences** of how you use literacy in everyday life and its importance to you.
* Discuss the importance of **reading to learn rather than learning to read.**
* Discuss and **show interest in your child’s school texts.** Discuss new vocabulary (subject specific) and how you can apply reading strategies to fiction and non-fiction texts.
* **Model reading** and reading strategies with your child.
* **Read aloud and together.** Your child can listen to you and you can listen to them (quality time with you, fun, relaxing, share more difficult texts).
* **Acknowledge different types of reading.** Keep offering new opportunities and options to your child (a novel, an app, a play, e-book, magazine etc.).
* Discuss **spelling strategies** with your child (using syllables, mnemonics, ask if the word looks right, keep a list of words that are difficult, observe patterns in words, prefixes, base word, suffixes, look over written work together).
* Set up a **space at home** that is conducive for study.
* Look for **real reasons for writing**. Encourage your child to read and write letters, messages, postcards, invitations, lists, rosters, thank-you notes, recipes, emails.
* Create a **message board** such as a white board, blackboard or pin board.  The messages might be instructions, reminders, or praise for a job well done, as well as examples of work. Encourage your child and other family members to respond with messages.
* Encourage your child to listen for and **build their vocabulary** of interesting words.
* Buy **interesting stationery** for your child to use. Coloured pens and pencils can be an incentive to write together with special paper or books. Give a diary, book or notebook as a present.