Boys Read at Sydney Technical High School

It is crucial for parents to select books for boys which fit with their interests and preferences if we are to foster reading for enjoyment. Providing boys with plenty of opportunities to browse and select books freely from libraries and bookshops will encourage their reading and improve literacy levels more than if we adults impose our own choices upon them.

The Premier’s Reading Challenge (PRC) online booklists provide an excellent range of quality fiction and non-fiction titles which are suitable for students in Years 7-9. The PRC is run by Ms E. Campbell, the teacher librarian. Students need to read 20 books between September 1 and August 21 of the following year, at least 15 of which are on the PRC booklists. https://online.det.nsw.edu.au/prc/booklist/home.html

There are a range of other websites which can help guide parents' reading choices including:

- **Inside A Dog**

- **Guys Read**
  Books for boys. Scroll down the lists of books that boys like to read as “At least one explosion”: [www.guysread.com](http://www.guysread.com)

- **Literature Young Adult Fiction**
  A blog by young adult readers [http://literatureyoungadultfiction.com/](http://literatureyoungadultfiction.com/)

- **The Children’s Book Council of Australia**

**Online Books:**

- **International Children’s Digital Library**: the best in children’s literature from around the world available online free of charge: [http://en.childrenslibrary.org/](http://en.childrenslibrary.org/)

- **Daily Lit**: Want to read the Classics but simply don’t have the time? This site sends you a chapter a day by email: [https://dailylit.com/](https://dailylit.com/)
A Suggested List of Contemporary Fiction for Gifted and Talented Students

Action and adventure: The characters in these stories can always expect the worst; the character can, and usually do, have multiple life-threatening problems thrown at them. These stories have fast-paced action, weaponry, and violence. Characters may include but are not limited to pirates, warriors and soldiers.
The Way of the Warrior by Chris Bradford
Jimmy Coates: Killer by Joe Craig
Silverfin by Charlie Higson
Stormbreaker by Anthony Horowitz
The Escape by Robert Muchamore
Hatchet by Gary Paulsen,
Hover Car Racer by Matthew Reilly
Survival by Chris Ryan
Street Fighter by Simon Scarrow
Tiger by Jeff Stone
H.I.V.E. by Mark Walden

Fantasy: Stories characterised by magic, wizardry, dragons, unicorns, swords and sorcery... maybe a few talking animals too.
The Peculiar by Stefan Bachmann
The Looking Glass Wars by Frank Beddor
Artemis Fowl by Eoin Colfer
Gregor the Overlander by Suzanne Collins
The Spook’s Apprentice by Joseph Delaney
The Outcasts by John Flanagan
Inkheart by Cornelia Funke
Redwall by Brian Jacques
Skulduggery Pleasant by Derek Landy
The Maleficient Seven by Derek Landy
Mortlock by Jon Mayhew
Wildwood by Colin Meloy & Carson Ellis
The Wind singer by William Nicholson
The Keys to the Kingdom by Garth Nix
Airborn by Kenneth Oppel
The angel Experiment by James Patterson
Blaze of Glory by Michael Pryor
The Lost Hero by Rick Riordan
Magyk by Angie Sage
The Cloud Hunters by Alex Shearer
The Hobbit by J.R.R. Tolkien
Storm Thief by Chris Wooding

Mixed Bag: A bit of crime, some mystery, modern classics – just great stories.
Underworld by Catherine McPhail
Red Dog by Louis de Bernières
Don't Call me Ishmael! by Michael Bauer
The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas by John Boyne
Holes by Louis Sachar
Blood Runner by James Riordan
The Silver Sword by Ian Serrallier
Whodunnit? Short stories chosen by Philip Pullman

Other Worlds: Stories about space exploration, robots, medical experiments, genetic manipulation, time travel. These stories are usually set on earth in an alternate future or on other planets.
Ender’s Game by Orson Scott Card
Over Sea, Under Stone by Susan Cooper
The Journal of Curious Letters by James Dashner
Tunnels by Roderick Gordon
The Disappeared by C.J. Harper
Lost Worlds by Andrew Lane
Arrival by Chris Morphew
Fight for the Future by Jeff Norton
The Angel Experiment by James Patterson
Northern Lights by Philip Pullman
Mortal Engines by Philip Reeve
Time Riders by Alex Scarrow
The Mysterious Benedict Society by Trenton Lee Stewart
The Amazing Life of Dead Eric by Nury Vittachi
The Day of the Triffids by John Wyndham

Horror Stories, Vampires and Zombies: stories about monsters, whether supernatural or human. They include witches and warlocks; ghosts and haunted house; golems, mummies, and reanimated stalkers (zombies); rampant animals; small town horror; splatter punk; techno and medical horror; telekinesis and Mind Control.
Hunter and collector by S. Carey
The Graveyard Book by Neil Gaiman
Raven’s Gate by Anthony Horowitz
Breathe: A Ghost Story by Cliff McNish

Funny Business: these stories are filled with funny and amusing situations or characters. They are meant purely to entertain.
My Life and Other Stuff I made up by Tristan Bancks
Just Doomed! By Andy Griffiths
The Cockroach War by Jonathan Harlen
Undone by Paul Jennings
Diary of a Wimpy Kid by Jeff Kinney
Con-nerd by Oliver Phommavanh
The Curse of the Bogle's Beard by Siobhan Rowden
Funny Business by Jon Scieszka (ed.)
The Teenage Years by Jamie Thomson
Osbert the Avenger by Christopher William Hill

Graphic Novels: Comic books.
Fullmetal Alchemist by Hiromu Arakawa
The Stonekeeper by Kazu Kibuishi
Naruto by Masashi Kishimoto
Guards! Guards! By Terry Pratchett
Out from Boneville by Jeff Smith