

Stanborough



Mathematics & Computing Academy

Headteacher: Mrs M John

March 2026

Dear Student,

Welcome to ***The Reading Journey*** which will take you on a ride of activities enabling you to become a more proficient reader. Hopefully, you have already read a range of books and so you will have visited a variety of wonderful new worlds which quality books invite you to experience.

Simply select a new book and complete the activities in the reading journey as you read it.

What do I need to do?

You must complete The reading journey activities during the summer. You will be asked to hand in your completed reading journey when you arrive in Year 7. There are special prizes available for the following categories:

- Best Presentation (i.e. how neat and presentable your writing is)
- Best Film Poster (i.e. the most original and eye-catching)
- Best Book Review (i.e. the most detailed and informative)
- Best Content (i.e. the quality and quantity of your writing)
- Most Original (i.e. a reading journey which really stands out from the rest)

These activities may be used in tutor time during the first term. There is some advice and prompt questions to help you to complete the tasks.

Make sure you discuss the book and activities with your parents or guardians as discussion helps you to understand more clearly and develop your ideas in more detail.

Highlight the first pages to help you identify the reading skills you already use. The skills remaining will be developed as you work your way through the activities.

I hope you enjoy completing this reading journey and look forward to hearing all about your special book in September.

Happy reading!

Miss Davies
Literacy Co-ordinator

- Grow and Succeed -

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Dear Parents/Carers,

Studies show that reading a variety of literature independently, for at least 20 minutes a day, by the age of 15 is the single biggest indicator of future success (National Literacy Strategy). It is with this in mind that we have created this booklet to enable students to be independent and establish good reading habits early in their school career.

It is our policy at Stanborough to foster an interest in reading to enable our students to develop the skills they need to be successful in their academic studies but also equip them with tools they will need for the future. These skills will be developed further during tutor times and in lessons in order to make learning more accessible.

The Reading Journey includes activities which students should complete using a book of their choice. This section must be completed before they begin Year 7 in September.

A recommended reading list for teenagers is at the back of this booklet but students do not have to use a book from the list – it should be a book of their choice.

As you are the most important factor in your child's progression, we ask that you support students to complete the tasks and encourage students to read and discuss the fiction and non-fiction texts they read.

We look forward to working with you and your child in September.

Yours faithfully,

Miss Davies
Literacy Co-ordinator

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The Reading Journey **2026**



Name

One World, Many Stories

Grow and Succeed

Pre-Reading

Stanborough students are encouraged to be enthusiastic readers inside and outside of school.
In Year 7 pupils read :

- A range of fiction genres
- Extended stories
- Authors and texts
- Short stories
- Biography and autobiography
- Journalistic writing
- Argument
- Formal and impersonal texts
- Poetry – powerful imagery
- Narrative and plays
- A range of non-fiction
- A range of poet



The **Reading Strategies Mind Map** on the following page includes all the reading strategies good readers use to develop their knowledge and understanding.

Complete the following tasks :

Task 1 - Highlight the skills you have in one colour.

Task 2 - Highlight the skills you need to work on in another.

The Reading Strategies Mind Map

Good Readers Can...



... talk about how and why a text affects me as a reader.

... discuss what I like to read and give my reasons.

... understand that connectives signal changes of tone, voice, opinion, in different text-types.

... navigate texts quickly and effectively.

... comment critically on the impact of language and themes in my books.

... use my knowledge of word derivations and form to understand new words.

... analyse and discuss how the author conveys moods, messages, feelings and attitudes using inference and deduction.

... use my knowledge of grammar to read and understand complex sentences.

... read aloud fluently, pausing at full stops, and changing voice for exclamation, question and speech marks.

... quickly decide how useful a text might be.

... recognise and describe the styles of different writers.

... use my knowledge of different text types to help me understand the meaning.

... tell the difference between a stated point of view and one that is 'hidden' in the text.

... decide how successful a text is in affecting the reader in the way the author intended.

One World, Many Stories

Activities

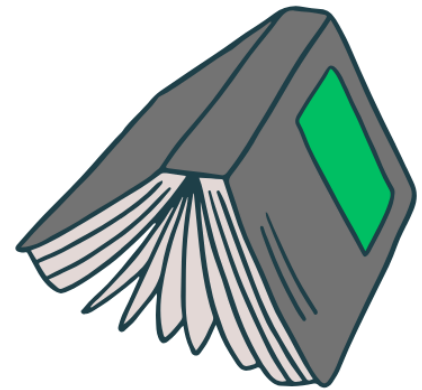
Task 1. Pre-reading Questions:

Title, Author, Cover Blurb

Students should choose one book to complete *The Reading Journey* and work through the stages with support from parents.

These activities are intended to be undertaken over the summer period with the students reading **a book of their choice**. They are asked to respond in different ways at different stages.

Use the activities as a way of developing ideas and responses, to encourage independent reading – an important skill in developing academic achievement. Subsequently, the activities can be used to develop understanding of other books they read inside and outside school.



Before students start to read, look at the cover of the book and discuss:

- What is the title? What does it suggest about the story?
- What genre do we think this is? (this means the kind or type, such as horror)
- What does the cover illustration show?
What does it suggest about the story?
What age group is the cover designed to attract?
- Who is the author? What information is there on the cover or inside?
- What does the blurb say? Does it tempt the reader to read the book?

Task 2. Written Task: Title, Author, Cover, Blurb



Title :	Author :
Cover illustration by :	Genre :

Seven Questions! Answer in full after discussing with a family member.

1. What does the title suggest about the plot of the story?

2. Read other books by this author? If so, what might you expect?

3. Is the cover attractive? Does it make you want to read the book?

4. Summarise the blurb on the back of the book:

5. What do you think this book may be about?

6. Do you think you will enjoy this story? Why?

7. What sort of stories do you usually like to read?

Task 3. First Impressions:

Read the first ten pages or so, stopping, if possible at the end of a chapter or section.

Discuss the points below before writing anything down. This will provide an opportunity to articulate your responses and argue a point of view.



1. Was the story easy to get into? Why? Why not?

2. Did the story start with dialogue, description or action? What effect did it have?

3. Who are the characters? What are they like? How do you feel about?

4. Make brief notes about what has happened so far.

5. Is the story what you expected? In what way?

6. What do you think is going to happen next?

7. Write down any questions you have about the story.

Task 4. What Might Happen Next?

Complete this part of the reading journey when the story reaches a point where several options are possible. Discuss the story, the situations that the characters find themselves in and jot them down.

Now offer THREE possible things that may happen next.



The Situation

What Might Happen Next?

OR



OR



OR



1.

2.

3.

Word Box : In your boxes, include some of the following words :

possible ... perhaps ... maybe ... definitely

Task 5. Halfway Through:

Look back at your first impressions.

(i) Have your thoughts or feelings about the story or characters changed? How or why not?

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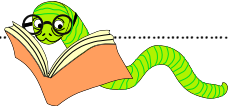
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(ii) What do think is going to happen in the end?



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(iii) What has SURPRISED you?

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Task 6. Comparing Characters:



Choose **TWO** characters from the book.

Consider:

- How are they similar?
- How are they different?
- How do they behave?
- What do they look like?
- What's their role in the story?
- How do they change?
- What have they learned by the end?

Give reasons for your opinions AND back these up with reference to the text and the language used by the author. Use the 'response stems'. Draw portraits in the frames at the top of the page.

Character 1:	Character 2:
Main purpose/role in story:	Main purpose/role in story:
Appearance:	Appearance:
Typical behaviour:	Typical behaviour:
What do they think of Character 2 ?	What do they think of Character 1 ?
How do they changed at the end?	How do they changed at the end?
What have they learned by the end?	What have they learned by the end?

Task 8. My Book Review:

Your next task is to complete your own personal REVIEW of the book. Think about the questions carefully below and try to offer as much detail as possible!



Book Title:	Author:
Book review written by :	
Where is the story set?	
Who are the main characters?	
What is the plot? (Don't give away the ending!)	
Who would this book appeal to?	
Would you recommend this book to a friend? Why? Why not?	

Task 9. My Film Poster:

It's official!

The book that you've just read is going to be made into a movie and YOU have been chosen to create the poster that will advertise its release!!

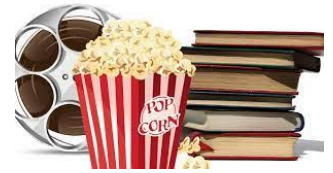
Let those creative juices flow, and make us want to see that film!

So, this is what you need to do :

- Choose a powerful **SCENE** from your book to use in your Poster
- Ensure your poster is full of **COLOUR** and is **NEATLY PRESENTED**

Include the **TITLE** of the book and **RATING** of the **MOVIE (R, PG-13, PG, etc.)**

Use this space below to **PLAN** your Poster

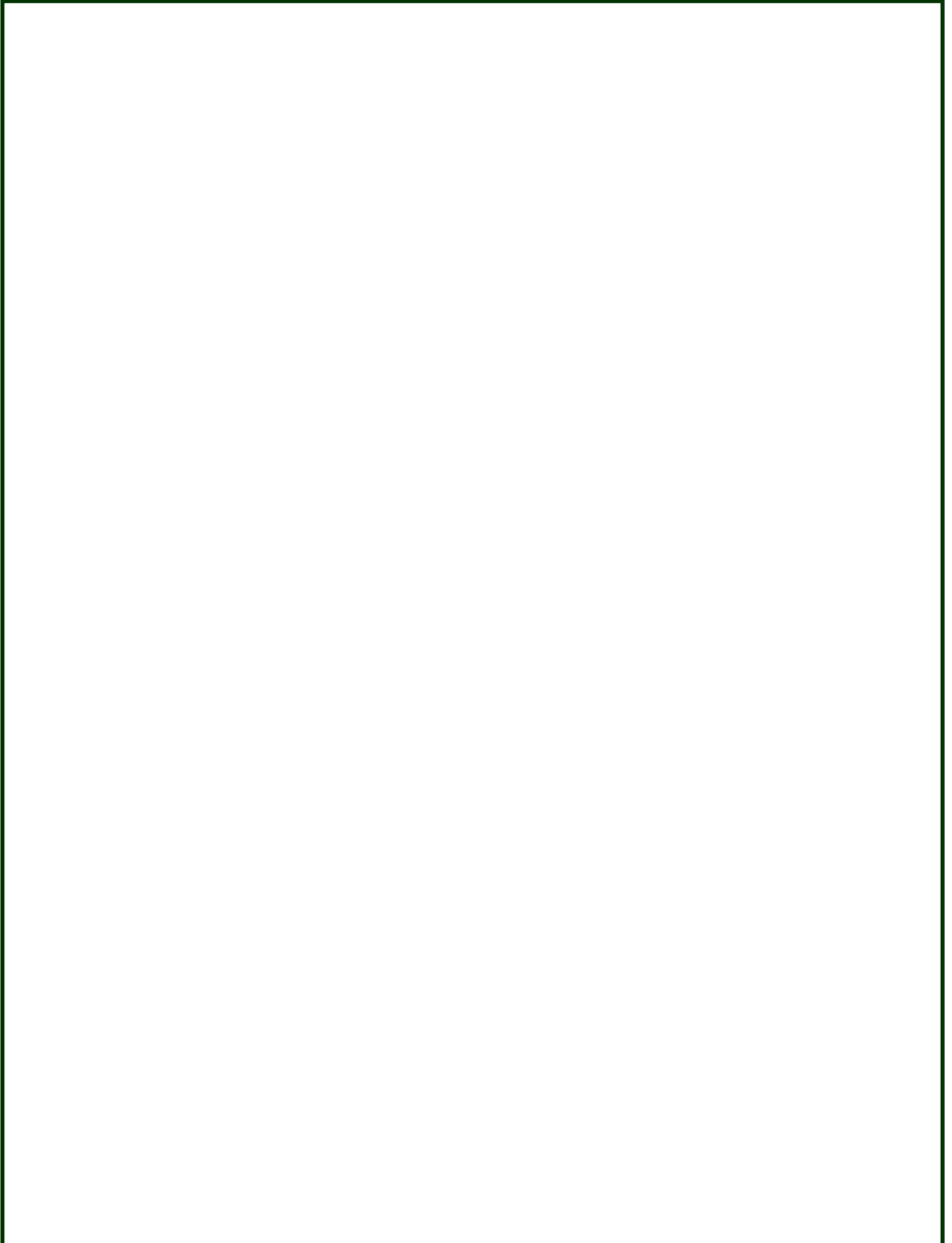


My Poster :

Title of Book:

Author:

My Name:



Task 10. Reading List:

Now you've finished your book, have a look at the following *Recommended Books* from the subject lists below. If you would prefer to read another book not on the list, then that is fine. 😊

So, what will be your next magical *Reading Adventure*?!



Thought-provoking Books	Well-loved Authors
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Malorie Blackman- <i>Pig Heart Boy, Tell Me No Lies, Noughts and Crosses</i> • Zizou Corder- <i>Lionboy</i> • Lisa Thompson-<i>The Goldfish Boy</i> • Gillian Cross-<i>Wolf</i> • Peter Dickinson- <i>The Kin</i> • Anita Desai- <i>Village by the Sea</i> • Adeline Yen Mah- <i>The Chinese Cinderella</i> • R. J. Palacio- <i>Wonder</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Geraldine McCaughrean- <i>Stop the Train, The Stones are Hatching, A Little Lower than Angels, Peter Pan in Scarlet</i> • Michael Morpurgo books for older readers- <i>Out of the Ashes, Alone on the Wide Sea, Adolphus Tips, Why the Whales Came</i> • Jacqueline Wilson- <i>The Illustrated Mum, Vicky Angel, My Sister Jodie</i> • J. K. Rowling- <i>Harry Potter (1-4)</i> • Percy Jackson- <i>The Lightening Thief</i>
Sport	World War II
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alan Gibbons-<i>Total Football series</i> • Alan Gibbons- <i>Julie and Me...and Michael Owen Makes Three</i> • Dan Freedman- <i>Jamie Johnson series</i> • Tom Palmer-<i>Foul Play series</i> • Morris Gleitzman-<i>Extra Time</i> • Elizabeth Laird-<i>The Fastest Boy in the World</i> • Phil Earle-<i>The Bubble Wrap Boy</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • John Boyne- <i>The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas</i> • Anne Holm- <i>I am David</i> • Robert Leeson- <i>Tom's War</i> • Michele Magorian- <i>Goodnight Mr Tom</i> • Linda Newberry- <i>Blitz Boys</i> • Christne Nostlinger- <i>Fly Away Home</i> • Jill Paton Walsh- <i>Dolphin Crossing</i> • Robert Westall- <i>Blitzcat</i> • <i>Michael Morpurgo-War Horse</i> • <i>Theodore Taylor-The Cay</i> • Marcus Zusak - <i>The Book Thief</i>
Humour	Adventure
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dinah Capparucci- <i>Aliens Don't Eat Dog Food</i> • Susan Gates- <i>Killer Mushrooms Ate My Gran</i> • Pete Johnson- <i>Trust Me I'm a Trouble maker</i> • Diana Wynne Jones- <i>Charmed Life</i> • Phillip Reeve- <i>Night of the Living Dead, Night of the Living Veg</i> • Alan Temperley- <i>Harry and the Wrinklies</i> • <i>Holly Smale- Geek Girl</i> • <i>John Boyne-A Terrible Thing that Happened to Barnaby Rickett</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jon Blake - <i>The Last Free Cat</i> • Frank Cottrell Boyce - <i>Millions, Framed, Cosmic</i> • Melvin Burgess - <i>An Angel for May</i> • Joe Craig - <i>Jimmy Coates series</i> • Jamila Gavin - <i>The Blood Stone, Surya Trilogy</i> • Carl Hiaasen - <i>Hoot</i> • Madeleine L'Engle- <i>A Wrinkle in Time</i> • Philip Pullman-<i>Northern Lights</i> • Geoffrey Trease-<i>Cue for Treason</i> • Cornelia Funke-<i>Ink Heart</i> • Katherine Rundell-<i>The Wolf Wilder</i>
Animals	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anna Sewell-<i>Black Beauty</i> • Henry Williamson-<i>Tarka the Otter</i> • Richard Adams-<i>Watership Down</i> • Sally Grindley-<i>Saving Finnegan</i> • G.R. Gemin-<i>Cowgirl</i> • Mimi Thebo-<i>Dreaming the Bear</i> • Jack London-<i>Call of the Wild</i> • Roddy Doyle-<i>Wilderness</i> • Gerald Durrell-<i>My Family and Other Animals</i> 	

One World, Many Stories

My next book will be :

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written by :

.....

The End

Stanborough



High Expectations - Mutual Respect - Quality Learning - Success for All