

# PINNER

## HIGH SCHOOL

### Reading: Parent Guide

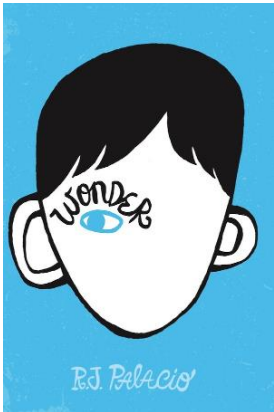
What can I do to support my child's reading at home?



Inspiring Learning

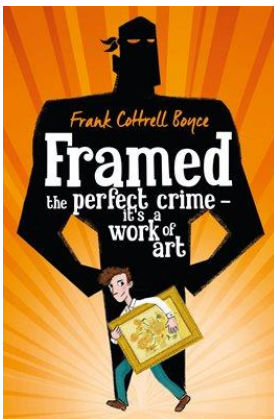
# Why is reading at home so important?

*Not only is reading good for you, it is also fun.*

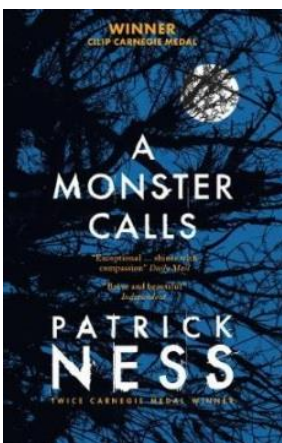


It is widely acknowledged that reading is a hugely beneficial activity for young people. Readers explore ideas they have never considered and they discover language being used in new and innovative ways.

Reading helps young people to develop their vocabulary and to equip themselves with the tools they will need to succeed at high school and beyond.



When students start high school, they often think they have 'outgrown' reading, as if books are only for primary school children. This is worrying, not least because children who do not read regularly become weaker readers with each subsequent year while their peers who read regularly become stronger and stronger.



It is crucial that teachers and parents work together to support children by normalising reading and helping them find enjoyment in books.

# What can I do to support my child's reading at home?

## **Create a reading environment at home**

Ensure that your child has access to range of texts to read at home. Give your child books as presents and put books on display in the living room. At the weekend, buy a newspaper or check out some free news websites with your child. Most importantly, make sure your child sees you reading regularly. This will help them realise that reading is a normal thing to do!

## **Talk about books**

If you are reading a book that you are really enjoying, or if you've just given up on a book that you hated, tell your child about it and ask them about what they are reading. What is it they like about the book they have from the school library? Which character is their favourite and why? How does it compare to what they were reading last half term?

## **Help your child find the definitions of complex vocabulary**

If your child comes across a word they don't understand, encourage them to find out what it means rather than just ignoring it. Can they work out what it means from the rest of the sentence? Are there any other words hidden in this word that might give us a clue? If they are still struggling, help them use a dictionary or the internet to find the definition. This is even more powerful if they see you doing the same. All of us encounter words we don't know, and it's just good sense to find out what they mean.

## **Never use reading as a punishment**

Reading is an enjoyable activity; children learn to dislike it if they are only encouraged to pick up a book when the iPad has been banned. Make reading part of what you do regularly in your house to avoid loading it with negative connotations.

## Top authors in Pinner High School's library this year:

- Liz Pichon ('Tom Gates' series)
- Anthony Horowitz ('Alex Rider' series and 'Power of Five' series)
- Jeff Kinney ('Diary of a Wimpy Kid')
- Eiichiro Oda
- David Walliams

## Some novels we study in English:

- 'Wonder' by R. J. Palacio
- 'Rooftoppers' by Katherine Rundell
- 'Arthur: High King of Britain' by Michael Morpurgo
- 'The Invisible Man' by H. G. Wells
- 'To Kill a Mockingbird' by Harper Lee (in Year 9)

## Where can I go for more ideas?

- Visit the BookTrust website: [www.booktrust.org.uk](http://www.booktrust.org.uk)
- Look out for children's book awards, particularly Waterstones and The Carnegie Medal.
- Visit your local library or bookshop and speak to the staff.
- Encourage your child to speak to their friends – lots Pinner High School students do read in their own time. Find out what other young people are reading.
- Speak to your child's English teacher.
- Encourage your child to keep using Pinner High School's library and to ask the librarian to help them find a book.