



# You are a reader book prescription

Sometimes it's finding the right book that is the barrier to a child reading for pleasure. This resource offers a structure to have a conversation with a child or young person about their reading habits and other things they enjoy and using their responses come up with a book recommendation for them. Because the conversation is structured you could ask parents or other volunteers to work with you.

## How to use the record sheet

- Find out what the child/young person is interested in outside of school. Some children like to keep these things private, if that is the case invite them to share something about themselves that gives you a clue about the things they enjoy.
- Find out about reading they enjoy – some children will say they haven't enjoyed reading yet. Prompt them to consider non-fiction, magazines and comics, online, audio, include illustrated texts, manga or graphic novels.

Alternatively invite them to talk about a book that they don't think exists that they might want to read. Use questions like... Is there something you want to get better at? Is there a type of story that you like watching on TV/online? Is there a video game you enjoy?

- Find out what makes a book appealing or puts them off as they are choosing. It might lead to a richer discussion/observation to have a selection of books with you to look through together or use the **World Book Day £1 Look Insides** so you can notice their behaviours as well as listening to what they have to say.
- Emotional response to reading - people choose to read in their spare time for all kinds of reasons – identifying the motivation for the child is helpful in making a selection. Pleasure can be joy and relaxation or it can be the satisfaction of learning a new thing or recognising someone having the same experience as you.

- At the end of the conversation you might have lots that you want to recommend or you might need some time to think about it. Go back over the answers and talk about the type of book you think might appeal – write a brief summary together to ensure the child is happy with what you have taken from the conversation.

If you want some help finding recommendations to match your children visit:

- **WORLD BOOK DAY** [worldbookday.com/reading-recommendations/](http://worldbookday.com/reading-recommendations/)
- **BOOK TRUST** [booktrust.org.uk/books-and-reading/bookfinder/](http://booktrust.org.uk/books-and-reading/bookfinder/)
- **CLPE** [clpe.org.uk/books/corebooks](http://clpe.org.uk/books/corebooks)
- **NLT** [literacytrust.org.uk/resources/yrp-booklists/](http://literacytrust.org.uk/resources/yrp-booklists/)
- **OU** [ourfp.org/texts-authors/](http://ourfp.org/texts-authors/)
- **Your local bookshop** – find your nearest at [booksaremybag.com](http://booksaremybag.com)
- **Your local library** – find your nearest at [gov.uk/local-library-services](http://gov.uk/local-library-services)

Once you have found a recommendation – let the child know what it is and where they can get hold of it (ideally it will be in school or a local library). Write a brief note about why you have made the recommendation and invite them to come and tell you what they think if they do read it. If they don't like it reassure them that you will try again.

For more information about this visit our partners at The Open University [ourfp.org/finding-teachers-knowledge-of-childrens-reading-practices/](http://ourfp.org/finding-teachers-knowledge-of-childrens-reading-practices/)



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Illustration  
Allen Fatimaharan



# You are a reader

**Name:**

**Age:**

**Things you told me:**

- Your favourite things to do outside school are...
- Your favourite things to watch or listen to are...
- Something you chose to tell me about you...
- The last reading you enjoyed was... OR A book you think you would read is...

**When you open something you are going to read...**

- it looks...
- it's about...
- Anything else....

**When you open something that puts you off reading...**

- it looks
- it's about
- Anything else...

**You like reading which makes you feel....** *(circle all that apply)*

like you're learning something new

relaxed

like you can understand someone living a totally different life to you

emotional

smart

like other people are experiencing the same things you are

**You like to read (where and when)**

**My first thoughts about the type of books you'll enjoy:**

**I would like to recommend....**

**You can find it....**

**Because.....**

**Let me know what you think of it.**

**Signed:**

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