

So many books, how do I choose?



A Love to Read Resource

Becoming more confident at choosing books you will enjoy is an important skill that takes time to master and needs to be practiced! We suggest these six strategies next time you choose your next book.



1. Think

What type of book are you in the mood for? Something to make you laugh, something which is familiar or completely new, a book which is exciting, or something to help you learn new things? Books offer us all types of amazing experiences. Before choosing a book, think about what type of experience you are looking for!

2. Choose:

There are many different strategies you can use to choose a book. For example, you can look at the front cover, the illustrations, read the blurb on the back, read the first few pages or random pages within the book. You can choose based on genre, author or book series, or choose based on a recommendation by someone or a review. You may try several of these strategies at once. Try using different strategies and see what works best for you.

3. Support:

There will be lots of others in your class and school who enjoy reading the same things as you do – support each other by recommending books to each other – you can share preferences by telling about them or writing short reviews/recommendations to display in your class or school.



4. Ask:

Your teacher and other school staff will have had lots of experience of choosing books. Ask them what strategies they use, or if they'd recommend any books for you. If you are struggling to find a book you like, ask them for help.



5. Look:

Look at how books are displayed in your class reading spaces or school library. Learn how books have been organised so you can choose more easily based on genre (e.g., funny, exciting) or topic (e.g., sports, animals). Help your teacher to organise these displays to support reading choices, look out for written reviews from others, and consider displaying your own reviews too!



6. Swap:

Even with good choosing strategies, sometimes a book is just not right, and that's ok. Becoming an independent and more confident reader is about knowing when a book is not right for you. So give it a go, don't give up too soon, but if you are just not enjoying it, choose something else – there's a better book out there for you!

