

Useful Parental Advice

We understand the 11+ process can be a stressful time for any parent. As both a tutor and a parent, I have first hand experience of the ups and downs involved in the whole 11+ process.

With so much to consider and so many voices to listen to, everything can seem so confusing...

Because of this, we have put together these short parental advice PDF's to give you some of our top tips for how to best help your child prepare for their 11+ exam.



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Recommended Reading List

Getting your child into the habit of reading on a regular basis is a great way to help your child develop their English skills in preparation for their 11+ exam.

Reading is such an important activity. Not only does it help children to identify and understand the use of metaphors, similes, adjectives etc within sentences, it also encourages children to expand their vocabulary.

Whilst getting your child into a routine of reading regularly, it is also important to ensure you expose your child to different types of literature, such as short stories, poems, non-fiction, letters, magazines and newspaper articles; the more the better!

In doing so, your child will start to build an understanding of the differences in how these pieces of literature are constructed, the importance of past, present and future tense, direct and indirect speech and much more.

Listed overleaf are books which we recommend for children between the ages of 8-11, however, please remember reading is not just an activity for children to undertake independently. As a parent you can help to nurture your child's passion for reading by helping to bring the printed words to life with the use of songs, actions, gestures and accents. You can also help your child to expand their vocabulary by clarifying that they understand the meaning of certain words or phrases. Perhaps even asking them to write a book review or answering some comprehension questions you have set them.

Please also note that the list provided contains fictional books only; however we do encourage children to read a variety of literature such as those outlined above.

If you find that your child is not suited to the selected books that KSOL has chosen, visit your local library for some inspiration. In fact, let your child guide you as to what types of books they are interested in.

TITLE	AUTHOR	PUBLISHER
A CHRISTMAS CAROL	CHARLES DICKENS	PAVILION
A LITTLE PRINCESS	FRANCES HODGSON BURNETT	PUFFIN
A LONG WAY HOME	ANN TURNBULL	WALKER
A WIZARD OF EARTHSEA	URSULA LE GUIN	BANTAM
A WORLD OF POETRY	MICHAEL ROSEN	KINGFISHER
ANNE OF GREEN GABLES	L. MONTGOMERY	PENGUIN
ARTEMIS FOWL	EOIN COLFER	PUFFIN
ARTHUR HIGH KING OF BRITAIN	MICHAEL MORPURGO	SCHOLASTIC
BECKY BANANAS	JEAN URE	HARPERCOLLINS
BEOWULF: DRAGON SLAYER	ROSEMARY SUTCLIFFE	RED FOX
BEYOND THE DEEPWOODS	PAUL STEWARD AND CHRIS RIDDEL	CORGI
BILLY THE KID	MICHAEL MORPURGO	HARPERCOLLINS CHILDREN'S
BOY	ROALD DAHL	PUFFIN
BOY IN THE STRIPED PYJAMAS	JOHN BOYNE	BLACK SWAN
BRIDGE TO TERABITHIA	KATHERINE PATERSON	PUFFIN
BUG MULDOON AND THE GARDEN OF FEAR	PAUL SHIPTON	OUP
CARRIE'S WAR	NINA BAWDEN	PUFFIN CLASSICS
CHARLOTTE'S WEB	E B WHITE	PUFFIN
CHILDHOOD'S END	ARTHUR C CLARKE	PAN MACMILLAN
CLASSIC POEMS TO READ ALOUD	JAMES BERRY	MACMILLAN
CLOCKWORK	PHILIP PULLMAN	RANDOM HOUSE

DANNY CHAMPION OF THE WORLD	ROALD DAHL	PUFFIN
DOUBLE IMAGE	PAT MOON	ORCHARD
FIREWEED	JILL PATON WALSH	PUFFIN
FLOUR BABIES	ANNE FINE	HARPERCOLLINS
FOREVER X	GERALDINE MCCAUGHREAN	OUP
FOXSPELL	GILLIAN RUBINSTEIN	DOLPHIN
GOODNIGHT MISTER TOM	MICHELLE MAGORIAN	PUFFIN
GOOSEBUMPS COLLECTION	R.L STINE	SCHOLASTIC
GRANNY	ANTHONY HOROWITZ	WALKER
HARRY POTTER AND THE PHILOSOPHER'S STONE	J K ROWLING	BLOOMSBURY CHILDREN'S
HATCHET	GARY PAULSEN	MACMILLAN
HEIDI	JOHANA SPYRI	WORDSWORTH CLASSICS
HITLER'S CANARY	SANDI TOKSVIG	DOUBLEDAY CHILDREN'S BOOKS
HOLES	LOIS SACHER	BLOOMSBURY
HOW THE WHALE BECAME	TED HUGHES	FABER AND FABER
HURRINCANE SUMMER	ROBERT SWINDELLS	MAMMOTH
I AM DAVID	ANNE HOLM	EGMONT
I LIKE THIS POEM	KAYE WEBB	PENGUIN
IN DEEP WATER	MICHELLE MAGORIAN	PUFFIN
JOHNNIE'S BLITZ	BERNARD ASHLEY	PUFFIN
KENSUKE'S KINGDOM	MICHAEL MORPURGO	SCHOLASTIC
LITTLE WOMEN	LOUISA MAY ALCOTT	STERLING CLASSICS

MATILDA	ROALD DAHL	PUFFIN
MIDNIGHT OVER SANCTAPHRAX	PAUL STEWARD AND CHRIS RIDDEL	CORGI
MRS. FRISBY AND THE RATS OF NIMH	ROBERT O'BRIEN	ALADDIN
MUDDLE EARTH	PAUL STEWART	MACMILLAN
NO FRIEND OF MINE	ANN TURNBULL	WALKER
NOTHERN LIGHTS TRILOGY	PHILIP PULLMAN	RANDOM HOUSE
NOUGHTS & CROSSES	MALORIE BLACKMAN	CORGI BOOK
OVER SEA, UNDER STONE	SUSAN COOPER	PUFFIN
PARVANA'S JOURNEY	DEBORAH ELLIS	OUP
PETER PAN	J.M. BARRIE	WORDSWORTH CLASSICS
RED, WHITE AND BLUE: FINDING OUT THE HARD WAY	ROBERT LEESON	HARPERCOLLINS CHILDREN'S
ROALD DAHL COLLECTION	ROALD DAHL	PUFFIN
SCRIBBLEBOY	PHILLIP RIDLEY	PUFFIN
SILVER SWORD	IAN SERRAILLIER	RED FOX
SIR GAWAIN AND THE GREEN KNIGHT	MICHAEL MORPURGO	SCHOLASTIC
SKELLIG	DAVID ALMOND	HODDER CHILDREN'S BOOKS
SOMEONE CAME KNOCKING	ANNE MERRICK	PUFFIN
STORMBREAKER	ANTHONY HOROWITZ	WALKER
STORMCHASES	PAUL STEWART & CHRIS RIDDEL	CORGI
STREET CHILD	BERLIE DOHERTY	HARPER COLLINS CHILDREN'S
TALKING TURKEYS	BENJAMIN ZEPHANIAH	OUP
THE ADVENTURES OF HUCKLEBERRY FIN	MARK TWAIN	PENGUIN POPULAR CLASSICS

THE ADVENTURES OF TOM SAWYER	MARK TWAIN	PUFFIN
THE BOLPHIN CROSSING	JILL PATON WALSH	FABER AND FABER
THE BORROWERS	MARY NORTON	PUFFIN
THE BREADWINNER	DEBORAH ELLIS	OUP
THE CALL OF THE WILD	JACK LONDON	PUFFIN
THE ENDLESS STEPPE	ESTHER HAUTZIG	PUFFIN
THE GHOST OF THOMAS KEMPE	PENELOPE LIVELY	MAMMOTH
THE GREAT ELEPHANT CHASE	GILLIAN CROSS	OUP
THE HAUNTING	MARGARET MAHY	PUFFIN
THE HOBBIT	J R R TOLKIEN	HARPERCOLLINS CHILDREN'S
THE INCREDIBLE JOURNEY	SHEILA BURNFORD	HODDER CHILDREN'S
THE LION, THE WITCH AND THE WARDROBE	C S LEWIS	HARPER COLLINS CHILDRENS
THE MIDNIGHT FOX	BETSY BYARS	PUFFIN
THE OLD MAN AND THE SEA	ERNEST HEMINGWAY	VINTAGE
THE RAILWAY CHILDREN	E NESBIT	PUFFIN
THE SECRET GARDEN	FRANCES HODGSON BURNETT	PENGUIN POPULAR CLASSICS
THE STORY OF THOMAS ALVA EDISON	MARGARET COUSINS	RANDOM HOUSE CHILDREN'S
THE SWORD IN THE STONE	T H WHITE	HARPERCOLLINS CHILDREN'S
THE WIND IN THE WILLOWS	KENNETH GRAHAME	TEMPLAR
THE WIZARD OF OZ	L. FRANK BAUM	PUFFIN
THE WOLVES OF WILLOUGHBY CHASE	JOAN AIKEN	RED FOX
THIS POEM DOESN'T RHYME	GERARD BENSON	PUFFIN POETRY

THUNDER AND LIGHTNINGS	JAN MARK	PUFFIN MODERN CLASSICS
TOM'S MIDNIGHT GARDEN	PHILIPPA PEARCE	PUFFIN
TOM'S PRIVATE WAR	ROBERT LEESON	PUFFIN
TOM'S WAR PATROL	ROBERT LEESON	PUFFIN
TREASURE ISLAND	ROBERT LOUIS STEVENSON	PUFFIN
TRUCKERS	TERRY PRATCHETT	HARPER COLLINS
TRUTH, LIES AND HOMEWORK	JOSEPHINE FEENEY	VIKING
VERSE	VARIOUS	KINGFISHER PUBLICATION
WALKABOUT	JAMES VANCE MARSHALL	PUFFIN
WHEN HITLER STOLE PINK RABBIT	JUDITH KERR	HARPERCOLLINS CHILDREN'S
WHITE FANG	JACK LONDON	PUFFIN
WOLF BROTHER (CHRONICLES OF ANCIENT DARKNESS)	MICHELLE PAVER	ORION CHILDREN'S
YOUNG BOND SERIES	CHARLIE HIGSON	PUFFIN