



# Montgomery Learning Bulletin.

Keeping you and your child informed

June, 2017

Mutual Respect, Ambition and Learning

Issue 3

## The need to read!

How does your son or daughter feel about reading? What do they say when you encourage them to pick up a book and spend less time on snap chat and Instagram? Does any of the following resonate with you? “Reading isn’t cool, it’s boring, I don’t have time, I’d rather watch the movie, no one else reads or it doesn’t help **me** to learn!”

How wrong can they be?

MRI technology tells us that it's a scientifically proven fact that the brain changes and develops during the process of reading.

When we read we are making connections between lots of different areas in our brain. The brain learns new things when it makes connections (neuroplasticity).

Reading is, literally, food for thought! Are there any other solid arguments as to why young people should make and take the time to read?

How about the following;

**Reading improves your *life* chances**—Adults with good literacy skills (a GCSE pass or better) are much more likely to be in work. 83% compared to 55%.

**Reading makes you *more money***— A survey of adults in work revealed that an increase of just one level of literacy proficiency led to a 14% rise in wages.

**Reading increases your *vocabulary***— We pick up a far greater amount of words from written language than spoken.

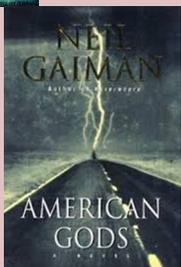
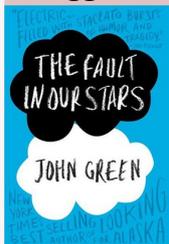
**Reading boosts your *empathy***— Reading stories helps us become better connected, understanding, and empathising with other people’s lives.

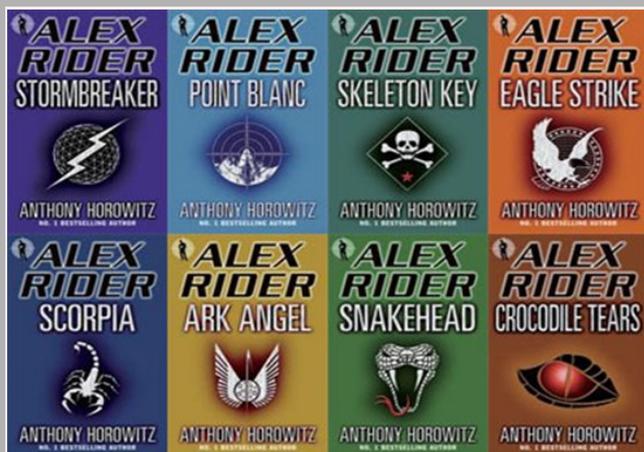
**Reading is a *stress reliever***— It eases tension in the muscles and heart.

**Reading is *fun!*** — It takes you into another world, a fantasy land, a new dimension, an unfamiliar landscape, a grim reality, the past, the future. The possibilities are endless.



### Suggested reading:-





## Promoting a reading culture at Montgomery High School.

Quiet reading time is insisted upon in 7 and 8 tutor time with class boxes of different genres of books available to choose from.

The whole school says “this is a reading school” through display as every member of staff, not just teachers, in school displays a “What Miss/Sir is currently reading” posters .

We have visiting authors and/or guest poets who give recitals to different groups of students:

Some students are taken to visit bookshops such as Waterstones.

We run paired reading or reading time with volunteer readers/listeners.

We have a programme of accelerated reading that helps students to improve their reading age over short periods of time.

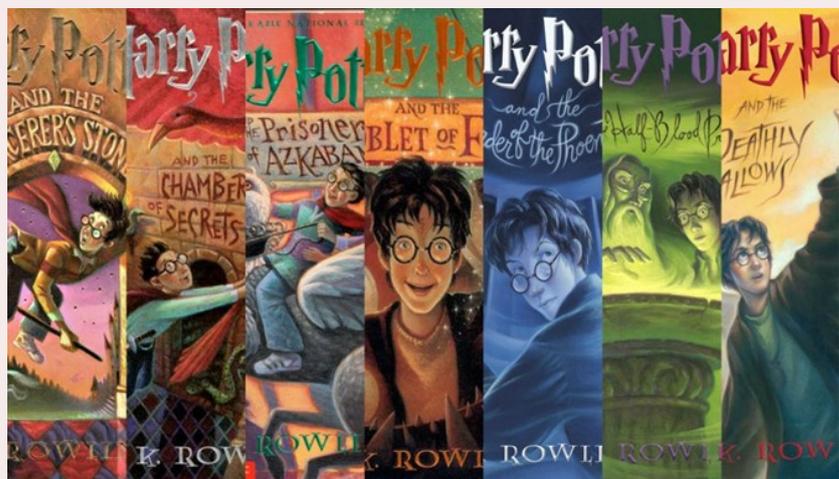
We accept that reading is not just about reading fiction; factual, magazines, blogs etc. are credited.

Some students participate in literacy lessons for 1 hour per week where there is a focus on reading as well as developing language skills.

## What more can we do?

Next year we hope to introduce a new strategy to promote the enjoyment of reading. We are going to DEAR!

That stands for “Drop Everything And Read”. Drop everything and read time will be randomly built into the time table. During this designated time even the teacher has to drop everything and read too. It sounds like fun. The only problem for me is that I probably won’t want to put the book down!



If you have any queries about how to promote reading at home and which books to encourage your children to buy then please do not hesitate to contact us so that we can help you support your child’s learning.

If your child is fortunate enough to have access to an “e reader” then don’t forget that there are some great apps that allow you to lend books rather than have to buy them.