



How to...



# How to pick your next book



Holly King-Mand

Holly King-Mand, widely known as the nation's favourite English teacher, taught thousands of children online during the pandemic and has become an expert in making online classes fascinating and fun. She loves books, creative writing, libraries and vocabulary. Parents can find out more about Holly's live and interactive classes at [hollysclassroom.com](https://hollysclassroom.com)

Summer is here! It's a season that often means less time studying and more time to dive into a great book and get lost in another world – but where do you start? Libraries hold so many books that choosing the right one can feel overwhelming. Here are some tips to narrow your search and pick a great read.



## 1 Challenge yourself

Reading something comfortable might be your "go-to" when it comes to picking a book, but challenging yourself

to read something more complicated is a really good way of pushing yourself to improve your reading skills. You might even surprise yourself!

## 2 Series books

These are great for new readers and bookworms alike. If you like the characters in a particular story, then it can be rewarding to



read about them growing up or being involved in different adventures. Some books in a series need to be read in order, whereas others are stand-alone stories. Check this out before you get started.



## 3 Ask an expert

The very best people to throw your questions and requests at are... librarians! They really are incredible book brains. If you tell a

librarian what you've read before and what you did or didn't like about it, they will be able to suggest some possible reads for you to try next.

If you can't get to a librarian, the charity Booktrust is ready to help. Its online Bookfinder tool generates book suggestions based on your age and the type of books you enjoy. Try it at [tinyurl.com/TWJ-booktrust](https://tinyurl.com/TWJ-booktrust)

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More bibles have been sold than any other book – there are about five billion copies in the world.



## 4 Take the leap

Taking the leap into a new genre (style of book) can be nerve-wracking. What if you find out you don't like detective stories or science fiction? What if stories about bullying will make you sad?

You never know until you try. Give a new genre a chance this summer and who knows, you may unlock a whole new world of reading to dive into.

## 5 Read reviews

Book reviews can help you decide if a book is for you. There are usually mini-reviews (called "blurbs") on the back or inside cover of books, but you can also – with the help of an adult – read reviews online. Booktrust has a brilliant "What to Read After" tool ([tinyurl.com/TWJ-whatnext](https://tinyurl.com/TWJ-whatnext)) on its website with book suggestions from authors, children, librarians, parents and teachers. Finding out what others thought of a book, or what they read next after finishing some of the most popular authors, series and genres, is an interesting way of getting ideas for what to read next yourself.

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