49 GREAT THINGS TO READ ABOUT READING

A Libraries ACT initiative
PREFACE

Dear reader,

Reading is one of the most incredible and important skills we learn, and one that can bring great joy. For children, reading and the library can introduce to them a world of adventure, new ideas and different ways of thinking and for adults it is a great way to restore some work-life balance, to keep your mind sharp, improve analytical thinking and writing skills, and increase your vocabulary.

Learning to read is a skill for life – what we read influences our thoughts and our actions. Reading gives us a taste of other lives and other places allowing us to see beyond ourselves and our lives.

It gives me pleasure to present you with this selection of 49 resources about reading – some of them will help you find new and interesting stories and authors, others are about why we read and enjoy reading, some are literacy resources children, their parents or adults who are working to build their literacy skills, and some are just plain fun. This selection is just a taste of the many wonderful things out there about reading.

Happy reading!

Vanessa Little
Director, Libraries ACT
**Symbols Key**

With each review are a number of symbols—these are intended to be helpful indicators not something to restrict your choice—if there is something that captures your interest we hope that you would feel comfortable enough to try it.

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**SUBJECT**

- LITERACY
- HINTS FOR READERS
- RESOURCE

- AUSTRALIAN
Rights of the Reader

By Daniel Pennac and translated by Sarah Adams

“You can’t make someone read. Just like you can’t make them fall in love, or dream ...” So begins Daniel Pennac’s “passionate defence of reading for pleasure.” Pennac is a best-selling writer for children and adults, celebrated in his home country of France, and The Rights of the Reader is his heartfelt exploration of reading and storytelling.

Broken up into short, easy to read chunks, with the quirky illustrations of Quentin Blake dotted throughout, a myriad of questions, experiences, and ideas are reflected upon. For example, the nature of reading as an act of resistance, and whether there is any one way to read or to teach reading.

Pennac ends by explaining what he considers to be the ten rights of the reader, rights which he believes everyone is entitled to, regardless of age. They include the right to read anything and to read anywhere, to read books over and over again, or to not finish reading a book at all. You’ll have to read the book to discover all ten rights, and decide for yourself whether you agree with them or not.
Rocket your Child into Reading

By Jackie French

Jackie’s challenges with dyslexia inspired her to write this book for parents. She encourages the daily fostering of a joyful reading culture so that the child sees reading as worthwhile fun. She also stresses that all children learn differently.

The book is packed with advice to help identify and overcome problems including vision, memory and attention disorders. It is filled with practical, fun games and activities to develop and enhance literacy including concentration and listening skills. As each chapter begins with a summary set out in bullet points, this is a handy guide for parents with new babies, new readers and those already experiencing the frustration of their child finding reading difficult rather than an enjoyable experience. It is also worth taking time to check out Jackie’s website at www.jackiefrench.com.

A very inspiring book for any parent whose child finds learning to read difficult.
Good Reading Magazine

“Everything About Books”

www.goodreadingmagazine.com.au

*Good Reading Magazine* is one of the many tools available that help you choose what you want to read. Thoughtful articles on recently released books, reviews and a fun book trivia section will have you spoiled for choice. *Online is a fantastic place to go to for writing competitions, a “just for kids” section and author biographies. Everyone—adults and kids—will enjoy the wealth of information available through *Good Reading Magazine*. So if you’d like to know which books are winning the literary prizes or what your favourite authors are doing, *Good Reading Magazine* is a great current source.

*Available in print and online*
Books & Authors

Via www.librarycatalogue.act.gov.au

One of the best features of this database, available through the Libraries ACT website, is the “Expert Picks” page, which offers multiple book lists with interesting titles such as “10 Powerful Books about War for Teenagers” and “11 Books with Rotten Marriages”. Users can browse by title, author, genre, or series, as well as search by the journalistic parameters of ‘Who?’ ‘What?’ ‘When?’ and ‘Where?’

There are also sections for award winners, best sellers, authors with awards, and media adaptations, as well as personal information and bibliographies. This database is extensive, though not comprehensive—curiously Geronimo Stilton is included but Enid Blyton is not.

Books and Authors is great for anyone desiring new reads.
You don’t need to be interested in book groups to use this site! Reading Group Guides is an ideal website for book clubs, but is also useful for readers, authors, librarians, educators, booksellers, and publishers. This resource contains reviews of books, lists of favourites, most requested titles and articles on how to start and run a book group.

A monthly newsletter and blog keeps users updated on site news and literary happenings. This site also links to publishers, Amazon.com in the US and Canada, author’s websites, and critical reviews from sites like the New York Times Book Review and Bookreporter.com.
You’ve Got To Read This Book!

Compiled by Jack Canfield and Gay Hendricks

How true! This great collection of essays from 55 notable people answers the question, “What book has changed your life?” It is an inspirational book put together by Jack Canfield, co-creator of the Chicken Soup for the Soul series, and Gay Hendricks, a psychologist known for his work in relationship enhancement.

These people, from different walks of life, were invited to share personal stories about a book that has shaped their outlook, inspired them, or helped them through rough times. Every reader’s relationship with a book is different. This book allows us to share in that experience of discovery and to see what impact reading makes on the reader. It also reminds us that books are relevant and worthwhile—not all knowledge is to be gleaned through the glow of the television, or distraction of the internet.
ABC Kid.com.au

www.abckid.com.au/key-learning-areas/category/literacy

This great Australian website is filled with lots of different learning activities to entertain children—typewriting for tots, story swap, sit and listen, and lots more. They can be done unaided, with a friend, parent or adult. Many of the activities help build children’s language skills through vocabulary, spelling, reading and imagination activities. You can also contribute your advice and opinions to the website to help other parents find the best activities for their children. This resource provides children with hours of constructive distraction and fun.
Which Book?

www.whichbook.net

This is an oh-so-satisfying search tool with a compellingly unique method for finding new and interesting reads and changing how you look at books.

On the left-hand-side there is a scale, using as many sliders as you want, select what type of book you feel like reading. For example, if you want a very optimistic story then move that slider all the way to the left, something a little less optimistic then don’t move it as far, or if you fancy a bleak tale then move it to the right. These are great fun to play with. Of course you also have the choice of a more traditional search, or you can select from the unusually titled book lists if you prefer.

Once you have selected a title, Which Book.net can connect you to Worldcat.org to see if your choice is available through your local library or online.

This site is easily navigated and especially useful to those who like to track books with random characteristics. Altogether a treat.
What Should I Read Next?

http://whatshouldireadnext.com/

Looking for a new book or author? Stop asking and try What Should I Read Next—a quick, non-pretentious site. Just enter a favourite author or title, select from one of the titles that appear under the search area and this site will provide you with a list of books you might like to try. Clicking on the link for more information will take you to Amazon where there are descriptions and reviews of the item you are interested in.

A simple and easy resource suitable for anyone where what you see is what you get.
1001 Children’s Books You Must Read Before You Grow Up

Edited by Julia Eccleshare

Described as “the perfect introduction to the very best books of childhood: those books that lie behind the making of every reader”, this book contains reviews and evaluations of stories that influence our young readers’ first impressions of the world around them.

It is divided into five chapters to cover the age groups 0 to 3, 3+, 5+, 8+ and 12+, and is centred on British, American and European tales, but lacks books from other major areas of the globe. Although there are limited selections from Australian classics, some iconic books have not been included.

What is great about this book are the summaries of the stories, the easy to read comments on plot, illustration styles—how these relate to the reader, and the capacity to use this book as a basic introduction to the world of reading. Definitely worth a look for parents and children.
10 Books that screwed up the world and 5 others that didn’t help

By Benjamin Wiker

Taking a different perspective, this audio book looks at how some very controversial and influential ideas have affected people and the world in a negative way. Titles include (rather obviously) Mein Kampf as well as Machiavelli’s The Prince and Darwin’s The Descent of Man.

Light and easy to read or listen to, the author clearly explains the historical context of each book and evaluates the impact of each idea. The narrator has a deep soothing voice with humorous touches at just the right places to make you smile.

One academic’s perspective on books and the ideas they contain.
12 Books that changed the world

By Melvyn Bragg

Some books are so influential that they have changed the world—in this book Melvyn Bragg has chosen twelve that he believes have changed the world. Technically not all are books, for example the First Folio from Shakespeare, but Melvyn argues that these items were so influential they should still count. Although the selection is very English focussed (choices include the Magna Carta, the King James Bible and Darwin’s On the origin of the species) it is interesting for what is covered and why.
LibraryThing

www.librarything.com

Finally, a tool for biblio addicts to easily catalogue their personal libraries online. You need to join but it’s free! If you decide not to join you can still search, browse and discover interesting books to read. If you do join, not only can you catalogue your collection, but based on the books you have added, LibraryThing will offer recommendations and connect you with people who have similar tastes. You can also create mini and multiple collections and LibraryThing software is downloadable to your mobile phone.

LibraryThing has been described as Facebook for books and booklovers, where similar-minded people can browse each other’s catalogues and share their favourites. A real bookish treat where the only thing missing is the scent of books.
Kids Book Review

www.kids-bookreview.com

With a library’s worth of books for kids big and small, Kids Book Review is a treasure trove of book recommendations and information. In its own words, this website is “a 100% voluntary children’s literature and book review site that supports and features authors, illustrators and publishers Australia-wide and internationally.”

You’ll find reviews, competitions, and information about book-related events, along with helpful resources for parents, teachers, and librarians. Look out for the “12 Curly Questions” posts for insight into the lives of authors and illustrators, and guest posts on topics like how bad luck can make good fiction, why reading aloud to kids is so important, and defining young adult fiction. And if you’re looking for a good book, use the tag index to find books by subject or age.

Make sure you visit the website regularly so you don’t miss out on the regular posts, or to keep up with all the latest news, you can follow Kids Book Review on Twitter and Facebook.

A highly recommended resource for adults and children alike.
Trove

www.trove.nla.gov.au

*Trove* is a brilliant resource and professional search tool from the National Library of Australia with its focus on Australia and Australian collections. It is a great starting point for research in the social sciences, literature, local and family histories, or school assignments.

Gathering results from a wide variety of sources, *Trove* helps users find books, pictures, objects, journals, newspapers, music, videos, and other resources in a single search. Results can be refined according to several parameters including format and availability. *Trove* tells you which libraries in Australia have a copy of the item you’re looking for, as well as where a copy can be purchased or found online. For those interested in Canberra history, many ACT Heritage Library resources can be discovered through *Trove*.

*Trove* currently has over 300 million resources and is continuously growing. Users are invited to participate by contributing images, tags, newspaper text corrections (an addictive habit), and comments. There is also a *Trove* forum where users can connect to others with similar interests.
Inside a Dog

www.insideadog.com.au

*Inside a Dog* is a website all about books - by young people, for young people. It features book reviews by teens, online book clubs, news, competitions, discussion forums and guest author blogs.

Managed by the Centre for Youth Literature at the State Library of Victoria and home to the Inkys (the international awards for teen literature voted for online by young readers) this website also includes a useful guide for teachers looking to incorporate *Inside a Dog* into the classroom.

A vibrant, interactive and engaging website that is easy to navigate. Perfect for teen readers and anyone interested in fantastic youth fiction.
Good Reads

www.goodreads.com

Simply a fantastic resource for all book lovers on the prowl for their next good read. Underneath the search section is an extensive list of genres to browse through. There are also book club suggestions, fun quotes, trivia, quizzes as well as book reviews and lists of ‘best reads’ where readers can vote for their favourites. Great for book reading parties!

Registering for free will enable Good Reads to offer book recommendations and bespoke browsing based on your favourite genres.

An informative and useful resource for all book lovers!
If you are an adult wanting to improve your basic literacy and maths skills, or helping someone to develop these skills, then this website is for you.

Skillswise is a well-designed, appealing, easy to navigate and fun training resource from the BBC. It includes brief, self-paced material, with clean graphics and animations, worksheets, interactive quizzes, games, and other online resources. There are topic-based factsheets and worksheets including questions, challenges or games to give you feedback and consolidate your learning. The site also has an area with exercises to help improve your work-related communication and maths skills.

A great site for adult learners and tutors as well as parents.
NZ Literacy Portal

www.nzliteracyportal.org.nz

The NZ Literacy Portal has links to fabulous literacy and numeracy resources from around the world.

There are sections on research, resources for tutors and learners, online videos, powerpoint files, podcasts, teaching notes and learning activities.

It is worth having a look at the ‘What’s new’ section and reading the stories by, about and for learners.

This is a valuable and reassuring place for tutors and adult learners challenged by learning concepts.
Viewpoint: on books for young adults


Viewpoint is a good starting place for readers interested in learning and reading about recently published young adult fiction. Published quarterly by the Melbourne Graduate School of Education at the University of Melbourne, each issue contains detailed reviews and feature articles about recently published Australian and international fiction, picture books and information books for young adults. There is also a Young Readers’ Viewpoint section. Samples from past issues (contents, feature article and index) are available online.

A great resource for people who love to read and write youth fiction.
The Reading Bug... and how you can help your child to catch it

By Paul Jennings

A contagious read from Paul Jennings, one of Australia’s most famous children’s writers. This book’s main aim is to inspire parents to involve themselves in their child’s reading life. The style of writing is ridiculously readable and amusingly illustrated—everyone will be in stitches. Paul includes chapters on reading to children, phonics, the reluctant reader and visual literacy, and at the back of the book is a list of “Brilliant Books” with recommendations for babies and pre schoolers. Check out his website at www.pauljennings.com.au/.

A truly enjoyable read for parents, with many effective ways to help children catch the reading bug and start a lifelong love affair with reading.
Bibliotherapy

By Nancy Peske & Beverly West

Using a chatty tone, Bibliotherapy has a different take on how books can shape or change people’s lives. Based on the philosophical idea that what you are currently reading will influence the decisions you make and how you choose to deal with things, Nancy and Beverly have compiled selections of non-fiction and literature classics (with an American focus) to cover different phases of women’s lives. These selections are interspersed with amusing quotes, as well as author comments and reading journal entries.

On the whole, an intriguing idea and an interesting look at how books reflect different phases of our lives.
Love2Read [app]

A great free app for library lovers to download—you can find the nearest public library (and therefore a bunch of great books and other resources), and if you’re looking for a quick bite to read wherever you are then there’s a selection of short stories to download, courtesy of the winning and highly commended writers in an National Year of Reading competition, “It’s never too late to learn to read:”

Designed especially for the National Year of Reading, this app is currently only available for iPhones and iPads.
Get Reading!

www.getreading.com.au

*Get Reading!* is the annual campaign developed by the Australian Federal Government through the Australia Council for the Arts. It runs every September and is centred on the guide “50 Books You Can't Put Down”. This guide features books from different genres and for different ages, and can be found online along with previous year’s guides.

The website features book news, reviews and a searchable list of bookshops and libraries in Australia as well as downloadable activities for kids. The best feature on the website is “Find A Book” which enables you to browse or search a wide range of books - you can read their blurbs, download first chapters for free, and leave your own reviews.
The Book Club

www.abc.net.au/tv/firsttuesday/

From the ABC’s televised book club program, this website provides book lovers with a raft of reading inspiration and intelligent conversation, in the form of book excerpts, author profiles, transcripts of the show, and more.

Readers are invited to submit reviews and explore the message board which hosts discussions about books, authors, book clubs and other reading-related topics. You can:

• suggest a book or author you’d like to see featured on the program
• watch or download the latest episodes
• subscribe to or download author interview podcasts
• read a blog from host and enthusiastic reader Jennifer Byrne.

Perfect for anyone who enjoys talking books.
**Seven Basic Plots**

*By Christopher Booker*

If you've ever been interested in how many different types of stories there are, then this mammoth book is for you. Not only does it examine and describe how stories generally fall into one of seven main plots—Overcoming the Monster, Rags to Riches, The Quest, Voyage and Return, Comedy, Tragedy, and Rebirth—it also examines the different ways stories are crafted and how they work, why we tell stories, and the history of storytelling.

*Seven Basic Plots* is enjoyable, engaging and for anyone who wants to learn or think more about what they read, and develop strong arm muscles lifting it.
This website makes it easy to access information about literacy activities in our community. It also provides links to lists of shortlisted books, Children’s Book Week, reading challenges, Australian author websites, information about your local library, and many other links to literacy and numeracy knowledge. While the website is directed at teachers, it is a great starting point for anyone to find out about the different book-related activities in Australia for parents and those interested in children’s literature.
Reading Magic

By Mem Fox

This best-selling book for parents and teachers is written by Mem Fox, one of Australia’s national treasures and literacy experts. *Reading Magic* is Mem’s impassioned plea to parents to read aloud to their children from birth. Research has proven how essential reading aloud to children is to the development of their literacy skills. The book demonstrates the life changing impact of a short daily read aloud and leaves you thinking about the power of reading to family and community. There are also ideas to make this time together fun for you and your child. Her website (www.memfox.com) continues from the book and is full of great things about literacy and reading including some stories behind the stories.

Humorous, practical, warmly anecdotal and inspiring, *Reading Magic* shows that reading aloud for ten minutes a day can help your child be successful for life.
Purdue Online Writing Lab

http://owl.english.purdue.edu

Understanding the processes of writing creates a greater appreciation of the written word. With over 200 free resources the Purdue Online Writing Lab is an excellent starting point for academic students, ESL students and adults expand and refine their academic and creative writing skills. There are sections that help with writing letters, resumes, reports, school assignments, bibliographies and essays, and the site map is an extensive and comprehensive breakdown. There are also the Purdue OWL News and Grammar Gang sections where your questions may be answered in their newsletter.

This website is a great literacy resource to help anyone develop their writing skills.
Literature Map

www.literature-map.com

By travelling through this map of literature you will discover new writers. Enter an author in the search engine and the next page unfolds into a jostling map of related writers with the original author at the centre. Click on any name to delve wider and wider. Similar authors are grouped together, and the closer an author is to the one you originally entered, the more you are likely to enjoy them. Please note this was originally written in German so some things may be lost in translation.

*Literature Map* is based on an experiment in the field of artificial intelligence. “Its intention is to learn about the outer world and to learn ‘understanding’ its visitors. This enables gnod to share all its wisdom with you in an intuitive and efficient way. You might call it a search-engine to find things you don’t know about.”

This is a wonderfully creative way for bookworms to trawl through a multitude of authors.
Fiction Connection

Via www.librarycatalogue.act.gov.au

*Fiction Connection* is pain-free way to discover new titles and authors, and to be specific about what kind of book you desire.

*Fiction Connection* is another of the databases available through Libraries ACT. Once logged in, you are able to search using whatever terms you want, or browse by clicking on one of the multitude of keywords listed underneath the search. These keywords are grouped by topic, genre, setting, character, location and timeframe.

After you have selected a book to look at in more detail, a short review is brought together with a keyword map of related genres, settings and character traits. The ‘find similar’ button will give you a myriad of story elements to include or exclude in your search.
nonFiction Connection

http://nonfictionconnection.com/

As the name suggests this is the nonfiction version of Fiction Connection, which means it looks almost the same as Fiction Connection and you can search or browse the same way. Also like Fiction Connection you can look at related links, refine a search, and find similar items. When you locate something that looks interesting, you can view a summary and published reviews of the item and other information.

Selecting the ‘Complete Connection’ link at the top transfers you to AquaBrowsers ‘Complete Connection’ where you can search and browse fiction and nonfiction at the same time.

If nonfiction is your preferred reading choice then this is a great place to start hunting for new favourites.
A very honest and interesting blog written by Susan Whelan who describes herself as a “freelance writer, wife, mother, Novocastrian, compulsive reader, user of big words and inadequate housewife”. Susan is a passionate reader and in Reading Upside Down she shares her reading experiences with book reviews, updated reading lists, and suggested reads and also invites readers to share their own reading experiences.

This is a colourful, well-designed blog that encourages readers to experience the joy of reading in a fun, informative way.
The Book Chook

www.thebookchook.com

A bright, lively and easy to navigate blog from teacher, Susan Stephenson. Perfect for people who are looking for ways to engage children with reading, it is chock full of children’s book reviews, tips for parents on literacy which include related free printable pdfs as well as some literacy activities for children. Find and share useful educational resources with anyone—parents, teachers and librarians.
Just One More Book

http://justonemorebook.com/

Just One More Book is a fantastic Canadian website where a podcast review of books is posted. In operation since 2006, this site has a full archive of podcasts, reviews and interviews with dozens of prominent authors, illustrators and publishers. Readers can also weigh in on discussions and post their own reviews.
Good Sites for Kids (Literacy)

www.goodsitesforkids.org/literacy.htm

A mountain of fun, fantastic web resources all collected in one valuable website. Many resources have been contributed by teachers. The activities and games boast a wide variety of excellent links including ones for mythology, geography, writing, and reading.

Check out the Storyline Online link for read-aloud video clips by famous actors. Another great thing to do is the Rosetta project which takes you to out-of-print children’s book pages filled with nostalgic illustrations. A bonus is that these stories are also available in other languages, everything from Italian to Indonesian.

This literacy website is part of the Good Sites for Kids series of virtual resources including homeschooling and maths. Useful for educators, families, as well as adults with literacy challenges, and those learning English as a second language.
My Little Bookcase

www.mylittlebookcase.com.au

A bright, easy to navigate site with a healthy balance of book reviews and activities. Activities for kids to while away the time are easily followed with clear, engaging visual steps. Using practical activities, from cooking to the Olympics, books are linked with the real world.

This is a site that inspires you to keep exploring books, and has quality reviews as well as outstanding ideas for engaging young, and young at heart readers.
Australian Book Review

www.australianbookreview.com.au

*Australian Book Review* (ABR) is a monthly magazine that publishes reviews, essays, commentaries and creative writing. A truly useful resource for literary connoisseurs, ABR is an independent non-profit organisation, whose “primary aims are several: to foster high critical standards; to provide an outlet for fine new writing; and to contribute to the preservation of literary values and a full appreciation of Australia’s literary heritage.”

Each issue covers a wide array of interests. There are letters and essays, reviews of fiction, film, art, music, memoirs, literary and cultural studies, journals, science, society, politics, and Australian history. There is usually also a section on picture books and youth fiction. ABR sponsors annual prizes in the categories of short stories, essays, and poetry, and each issue features several new pieces of writing.

Also available online, the ABR website features highlights from the current issue, or you may choose a paid subscription to the full print or online editions. There is also an ABR e-news mailing list.
The Book Whisperer

An engaging, personal and honest account of Donalyn Miller’s successful and unsuccessful efforts to turn students into lifelong readers. Some techniques described include creating conditions for successful learning, validating reading choices, and modelling positive reading behaviours.

Donalyn is a primary school language arts teacher in the US who has a website (http://bookwhisperer.com/) with constantly updated reading lists as well as other great resources.

A light, enjoyable and emotionally intelligent read for parents, librarians and teachers, with useful tips and suggestions.
ABC Reading Eggs


This surprisingly fun and interactive resource to encourage children to read.

The website is designed to support children on the related earning packs, there are online books that children can read—all designed to look and feel like a real book, including turning the pages. The drawback is paradoxically a positive at the same time—children are tested on their reading levels so they can be guided into the correct reading program—three strikes and they are out. This may not be appreciated by a child with low reading esteem but helps parents and educators to identify the reading levels of their child. The quirky sound effects, choice of avatar, reward game system, interactive reading challenges will encourage even the most reluctant reader to have a go.

Ideal for parents as a follow up activity to reading with their children and for educators who are teaching children and adults to read. The best part is the free two week trial with no commitment. So give it a go.
Booktopia


*Booktopia* is a comprehensive blog about (obviously) books with quirky ideas such as the Top Ten Terrifying Questions (and answers) for authors and The Dead Writers Club (still to get off the ground) an online book club about literature from the 18th, 19th and 20th centuries. Reviews and posts make fascinating reading. If you want insights into many of the latest authors in addition to entertaining reviews then this is the place for you.

*Booktopia* is the brainchild of an online bookseller.
Boys and Books

By James Moloney

Boys are often identified as reluctant readers—this book will help you understand why this happens and what to do about it. Australian author and former teacher librarian, James Moloney highlights the importance of reading for boys, how it contributes to the men they become and the society they become part of. This book provides practical suggestions for building a reading culture for boys at every single stage of their lives. You can also find out more about James and his books on his website at www.jamesmoloney.com.au/index.html

This book gives hope (and practical suggestions) to the parents of boys, especially reluctant readers.
The Little Guide to Your Well-read Life

By Steve Leven

Steve Leven draws on his own quest for a well-read life to offer other booklovers his most successful and time-tested techniques for enjoying a rewarding life as a reader. Some of these hints include how to create and select items for your ‘to read list’, allocating time for your own lifelong learning, connecting with others through books, and the benefits and limitations of audio books.

This book is aimed at helping you to find what you enjoy and how to enhance your life with books.
Novelist Plus

Via www.librarycatalogue.act.gov.au

Novelist Plus is another great free readers advisor database for Libraries ACT members, although with a strong North American focus. There are two ways to find book recommendations. With the basic search you can simply describe the book while in the advanced search more specific options are available. You can also easily limit your search by reading ability, age and interests as well as by author’s nationality and cultural identity. Each entry includes a description of the book as well as reviews, lists of articles, read alikes and other information. As with other databases provided by EBSCO Host, you can create your own personal login which allows you to keep lists and searches for future reference.

With something for everyone this is a fantastic resource.
Inkcrush


*Inkcrush* is the blog of a nameless Australian primary school teacher enthusiastic about youth fiction. This blog has loads of informal book reviews - followers are encouraged to comment—and occasional book giveaways. The books reviewed reflect the reading interests of the blog’s creator and are primarily contemporary youth fiction by female authors including many Australians. There are also links to other online resources.

Refreshingly light and entertaining for fans of youth fiction.
Proust and the Squid

The Story and Science of the Reading Brain by Maryanne Wolf

Part history, part popular science book, this is full of information for anyone interested in how our brains learn to read. Discover how writing developed, explore different experiences of learning to read and why our brain does what it does, and consider what happens when people struggle to read.

Author Maryanne Wolf is a writer and educator with a doctorate from Harvard University, who studies the neuroscience of reading and language learning with a focus on dyslexia.

This is not a quick or simple book to read, but it will open your mind to a whole new perspective on a skill many of us believe to be as simple as A, B, C.
Playing by the Book

www.playingbythebook.net

*Playing by the Book* is an in-depth, inexhaustible resource within resource of reviews on children’s books as well as related exploratory, craft activities to make books come alive. Started by mother of two, Zoe Toft, this blog was created to document her reading journey with her children and how she created imaginative, interactive play activities to make the reading come alive. This is now one of the UK’s top children’s reader’s advisory blogs with over 10,000 readers monthly.

The only drawback with this resource is that it is overly comprehensive—it is so easy to get drawn into the fun and you can spend hours clicking through links and exploring similar blog as well as Zoe’s.

This blog is highly recommended for parents home schooling their children. Early literacy educators and working parents should also take some time out to garner inspiration – just stick to Zoe’s inspiring ideas for starters so that you don’t get too involved in the fun.


**Book Lust**

By Nancy Pearl

With its intriguing title, Nancy Pearl's *Book Lust* takes you on an alphabetical tour de force of the author's favourite books. Starting at 'A ... My name is Alice' and finishing at 'Zero: this will mean nothing to you,' this book is an engaging biography of the author's reading life, compelling you to read it from cover to cover.

Nancy Pearl has also written other *Book Lust* books and you can keep current with her most recent book reviews on her website at [http://nancypearl.com](http://nancypearl.com). Nancy is also available as an action figure!

*Book Lust* will broaden even the most avid reader’s horizons and is recommended for anyone who loves to read.
So many books

By Gabriel Zaid

This elegant gem from Mexican writer, Gabriel Zaid, is a provocative read. As Anne Fadiman, author of *Ex Libris*, brilliantly surmises “With cascades of books pouring down from every direction, how can the twenty-first-century reader keep his head above water?” Gabriel answers that question in a variety of surprising ways, many of them witty, all of them provocative. Sadly he doesn’t tell us how to make time to read more (perhaps there’s a sequel in there). This is the sort of book you can delve into - it is packed with interesting quotes, statistics and questions about writers and readers.

Gabriel Zaid lives in Mexico City with the artist Basic Batorska, her paintings, three cats, and ten thousand books.