



## KS3

### Doing

- Play language-based games to help develop literacy skills as family at home. Such games could include Scrabble, Lexicon, Double Quick, Upwords, Dingbats and Wordrop.
- Write a play or a collection of poems or short stories to help extend writing skills.
- Search out creative writing competitions, like the Literacy Trust's range of competitions:

[http://www.literacytrust.org.uk/schools\\_teaching/competitions](http://www.literacytrust.org.uk/schools_teaching/competitions)

When the time comes, enter the annual competitions listed below:

[http://www.branfordboaseaward.org.uk/HBWC/HBWC\\_current/hbwc1.html](http://www.branfordboaseaward.org.uk/HBWC/HBWC_current/hbwc1.html)

<https://www.jacquelinewilson.co.uk/>

[http://www.branfordboaseaward.org.uk/HBWC/HBWC\\_current/hbwc1.html](http://www.branfordboaseaward.org.uk/HBWC/HBWC_current/hbwc1.html)

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p00rfvk1>

- Write a letter of which outlines your concerns and the issues which affect you to the Lord Mayor of London.
- “What was it like for a child in \_\_\_\_\_ era?” Imagine what it was like to live in a chosen historical era and write a first person narrative of 500 words that describes the experience.
- Create a holiday guide or travel brochure for a place that has been visited on holiday.
- Go to see the latest theatre production at your local theatre.

<http://www.atgtickets.com/venues/wimbledon/>

### Watching and Listening

- Podcasts are a good way to inspire the love of literature. Listen to podcasts from the following websites:

<https://www.theguardian.com/childrens-books-site/series/childrens-books-podcast>

or

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p02tkm27/episodes/downloads>

or

<https://itunes.apple.com/gb/podcast/childrens-bookspodcast/%20id423549679?mt=2>

These podcast recommend books and have interviews of children's authors.



- Another way to get recommendations is to watch YouTube videos where people discuss books they enjoy. Try watching:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ws55NA-5TTM>

If the reading has really inspired you, create a blog on one (or several) of the books, recommending and critiquing them.

## Reading

- Start reading as wide a variety of books as possible. There are several reading lists to choose from:

<https://schoolreadinglist.co.uk/category/secondary-ks3-ks4-reading-lists/>

- Extend reading skills by dipping into non-fiction. This lists recommends biographies and autobiographies:

<http://www.alibris.co.uk/search/books/subject/Children's-Nonfiction-Biography-Autobiography>

- The Modern Classics Challenge: read at least three modern classics such as To Kill A Mockingbird by Harper Lee, Animal Farm by George Orwell.
- The Classics Challenge: read at least three classic novels by writers like Coral Island by R.M. Ballantyne, The Day of the Triffids by John Wyndham and the Secret Garden by Frances Hodgson Burnett over one year.
- The Newspaper Challenge: read a news article from online or actual print once a week and discuss it with a parent or someone at home.



## KS4

Most of the suggestions for KS3 are still relevant for KS4

### Doing

- Write a letter of which outlines your concerns and the issues which affect you to the Lord Mayor of London.
- Look out for writing courses organised by LEAs, the National Association for Gifted Children and other organisations. The Arvon Foundation runs highly respected creative writing courses at centres in Devon, Yorkshire and Shropshire. Further details can be found at:

[www.arvonfoundation.org](http://www.arvonfoundation.org)

- Follow a Twitter feed from a favourite writer. Find out what they think and keep up-to-date with their ideas, opinions and latest ventures. Try Malorie Blackman, who was the Children's Laureate from 2013-2015 or a reading institution like the Book Trust:

<https://twitter.com/booktrust>

- Visit a professional writer when they are involved in book readings, talks and special events at large bookshops in London or attend a book festival. For example, there is the Greenwich book festival which promotes all types of writing as well as providing workshops, and of course Wimbledon Bookfest.

[http://www.literaryfestivals.co.uk/greenwich\\_book\\_festival.html](http://www.literaryfestivals.co.uk/greenwich_book_festival.html)

<https://www.wimbledonbookfest.org>

### Watching and Listening

- Listen to podcasts about modern literature. This helps with understanding context and the influences which writers are exposed to. Try listening to

Poetry

<https://www.poetryfoundation.org/features/audio/series/detail/74637>

Short stories from America

<http://www.selectedshorts.org/>

Variety

<https://learn.org/articles/20-Free-Literary-Podcasts-Worth-Listening-To.html>



## Reading

- Start reading as wide a variety of books as possible. There are several reading lists to choose from.

<https://schoolreadinglist.co.uk/category/secondary-ks3-ks4-reading-lists/>

<http://www.carnegiegreenaway.org.uk/>

- The Modern Classics Challenge: read at least three modern classics such as To Kill A Mockingbird by Harper Lee, Animal Farm by George Orwell.
- The Victorian Challenge: read at least three classic novels by writers like Charles Dickens, Jane Austen and George Eliot over one year.
- Read a news article (print or online) and consider what journalistic bias there. Are there online articles which show the opposing biased perspective?



**KS5**

### Doing

- Find out when the authors shortlisted for the Man Booker Prize are speaking about their novels and attend their talks and special events. Read 5 books shortlisted as nominees for the Man Booker Prize

<http://themanbookerprize.com/>

- Consider going to a creative writing course. The Arvon Foundation runs highly respected creative writing courses at centres in Devon, Yorkshire and Shropshire. Further details can be found at:

[www.arvonfoundation.org](http://www.arvonfoundation.org)

- Research a specific historic period and investigate the social, literary and economic aspects of the time and link this to the texts that you are reading.
- Who is coming to dinner? Discuss with peers about who could be invited to dinner if anyone from literature, journalism and/or history could come. Choose 6 and explain why they would be invited.
- Go to art galleries to see investigate the close relationship between literature and art. For example, how many paintings are there based on John Keats' poem, La Belle Dame Sans Merci and The Eve of St Agnes.
- Visit places where writers have lived and worked- like Jane Austen in Bath and Shakespeare in London and Stratford-upon-Avon.
- Critical reading: find out what other critics have said about texts that you have read. Begin with feminism in the Georgian Novel – exploring how Austen and Eliot wrote about feminist issues.
- Upload the app, GoodReads which allows for discussion and exploration of different texts by genre.

### Watching and Listening

- Visit the National Theatre and/or other theatres which have unusual performances that may be based on the texts you are studying in class. For example, begin with the National Theatre in London:

<https://www.nationaltheatre.org.uk/>



## Reading

- Check the Wimbledon College Reading list.
- Subscribe to a literary journal, like The Literary Review and or the A-Level focused journal e-magazine by the English and Media Centre. For more details go to:

<https://www.englishandmedia.co.uk/e-magazine>

- Read reviews and interviews about a variety of texts that you are studying or you are interested in. Try Oxford University's journals which look at a whole range of articles about different writers from different eras. Go to:

<http://english.oxfordjournals.org/>