

Reading for Pleasure at KS3: Practical strategies for engaging year 7 and 8 students

8 June 2026



Housekeeping

- We will be recording this webinar and will share it with you all afterwards
- We will also share these slides with you, so watch out for an email from us in your inbox in a couple of days
- Your microphone is muted, but please submit any questions in the Q&A or chat box and our panel will answer as many as they can



Agenda

- Welcome and introduction
- Heather Harrison-Lawrence and Glynn Palmer-Bell discussing practical strategies for engaging year 7 and 8 students in reading for pleasure
- Conversation with author Kevin Moran about his book, *The Doomsday Club*
- Joel Crowley, Schools Design Lead, on designing with schools and using BookTrust programmes to support Year 7 and 8



How we design with schools

- Invaluable role that your feedback, through our surveys, interviews and more in-depth learning activities, plays in the improvement of our feedback
- Some of this feedback informs the practical delivery of our programmes from our operations to our website
- Other feedback informs the design of our support so it can be embedded into your practical strategies for engaging students in reading for pleasure



What is Bookbuzz Secondary?

Bookbuzz Secondary supports children in year 7 and 8 to develop reading for pleasure and book choice skills by picking a book to take home and keep from a selection of 16 diverse and inclusive titles.



1. Your launch pack arrives in September with two copies of each book.

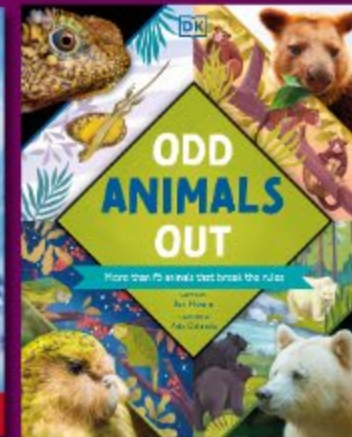
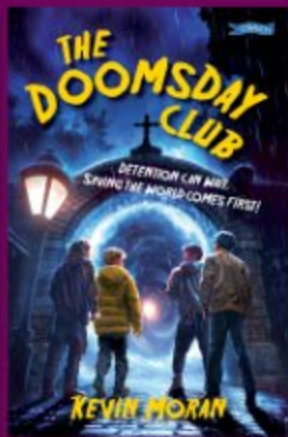


2. Students make their choices and you send them to us.

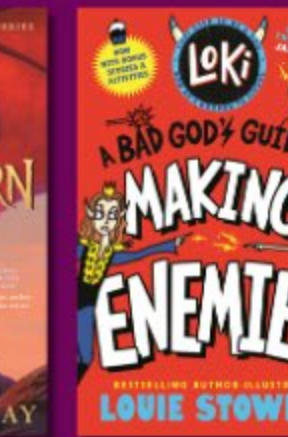
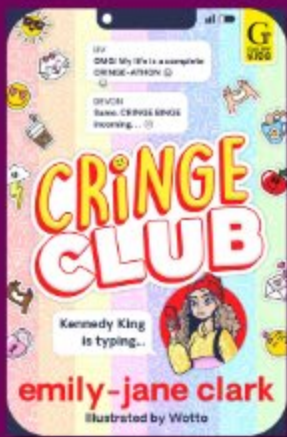
With online and print resources to support each step of the programme.



3. We send each student's choice to you, ready for them to take home and enjoy.



The 2026 book selection



Use shared reading to light the spark at Key Stage 3

- 40 books
- Grab-and-go resources

Just £220 per pack
Saving over 34%
on cover price of the books

"It's helping us engage
our weakest readers.
It's stimulating their
desire to read."
Head of English



Find out more at:
booktrust.org.uk/bookspark-dm

Charity number: 313343

How we design with schools

Your age:

13



Which book did you read? Why?

I read King of Nothing because it looked interesting so I chose it

Who did you read it with?

I read the book with myself and my other

How would you describe the book?

IT'S ABOUT MARTIN BUT NOT KING I DON'T NEED NONE OF THAT I'M KING OF THE SCHOOL LIVING MY

What score would you give it out of five? Why?

I would give it a 5 ^{best} because ^{wise} it is the best book I have ever read



Write or draw a description of your book



Is there anything else you would like to share about the book?

IT IS VERY INTERESTING AND IT'S LIKE IT'S REALLY HAPPENING BUT IT'S NOT

What are you going to read next? Why?

I am going to read a part of S.V.I. because it is a comic book and I like comic books

"So this student does struggle with reading and literacy...

And I thought this [feedback] was really interesting, because I think one of the reasons they loved *King of Nothing* was the kudos of having a book to read on their own that had an older character. It was like a proper teenage novel.

I think that's what's interesting too. When you let them read what they want to read and you're not testing them on it, and I'm not... This person obviously really enjoyed it and enjoyed their experience with it.

...If I summed up their view for them, it would be, "I felt grown up being allowed to read this book."

-School librarian

Thank you for listening!

If you want to find out more about BookTrust programmes, **book a call** or email **BookbuzzSecondary@BookTrust.org.uk**.

