Rose Bay High Library

Reading Survey Results from National Year of Reading 2012

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INTRODUCTION

During the National Year of Reading in 2012, the Rose Bay High library staff, in conjunction with a small committee of keen teaching staff, met early in the year to discuss a range of potential programs and activities that could be conducted at Rose Bay High to promote the National Year of Reading. The aim was to raise awareness amongst the school community of the key role of reading for both information and recreational purposes.

One of the suggested activities that the committee determined would be both informative and help raise awareness was to have a school-wide reading survey amongst students at Rose Bay High and to then publish those results for members of the school community.

In conjunction with the competitions and other activities for staff and students that we organised through the library throughout 2012 to help raise awareness of the National Year of Reading, the survey was conducted at the end of 2012 with the assistance of home group teachers. The plan was then to compile and publish the results during the first half of 2013 and then make them available to the school community. Unfortunately, due to ill health and time constraints, this plan was placed on hold until I was able to fulfil my commitment over the recent summer holidays.

Although the data itself is from the end of 2012, I believe the insights that the survey reveals as to the reading preferences of Grades 7-10 are still valid. They include details of favourite books from their childhood and more recent reading material, comments relating to the reasons behind their favourite picks, as well as what students look for in general terms when choosing a book.

I hope you will take the time to explore this document further. If you have any questions relating to the survey results, please contact me via email at ailsa.hill@education.tas.gov.au or by contacting the main office on (03) 62429299 and asking them to put you through to Mrs Hill in the library.

Regards,

Mrs A Hill
Teacher librarian
Rose Bay High School
Kacota Rd,
Lindisfame. Tas. 7015

Please note—Due to privacy concerns, the names of the 300+ students who participated in the 2012 Reading Survey have not been included in this document.
GRADE/ GENDER PROFILE OF SURVEY RESPONDENTS

Grade 7

Female—40 (43%)
Male—43 (46%)
Unknown—10 (11%)
Total number of valid responses = 93

Grade 8

Female—43 (44%)
Male—50 (51%)
Unknown—5 (5%)
Total number of valid responses = 98

Grade 9

Female—31 (45%)
Male—35 (51%)
Unknown—3 (4%)
Total number of valid responses = 69

Grade 10

Female—18 (40%)
Male—23 (51%)
Unknown—4 (9%)
Total number of valid responses = 45
Q1. What is your favourite book of all time?

Top 6 places based on the number of student recommendations

1. Suzanne Collins *The Hunger Games* series (listed 13 times)
2. Dr Seuss books (listed 6 times for the following books)—
   - *Cat in the Hat* x 2
   - *Green Eggs and Ham* x 2
   - *Horton Hears a Who* x 1
   - Any Dr Seuss book x 1
3. Jeff Kinney for *Diary of a Wimpy Kid* (listed 5 times)
4. Morris Gleitzman (listed 4 times for the following books)—
   - *Once* series x 3
   - *Boy Overboard* x 1

**The following four authors were each listed 3 times:**

5. Ted Prior for *Grug* books
   - John Flanagan for *The Ranger’s Apprentice* series
   - John Marsden for the *Tomorrow When the War Began* series
   - Stephanie Meyer (2 books from *Twilight* series/ 1 x *The Host*)

**The following two authors were each listed 2 times:**

6. Emily Rodda (1 x *The Key to Rodda/ 1 x The Golden Door*)
   - Neil Gaimon for *Coraline*
GRADE 7 RESULTS

Q2  What is the best book you have read in the last year?

Top 6 places based on the number of student recommendations

1. Suzanne Collins *The Hunger Games* series (listed 16 times)
2. Michael Morpurgo for *Shadow* (listed 7 times)
3. John Flanagan for *The Ranger’s Apprentice* series (listed 6 times)
4. Jeff Kinney for *Diary of a Wimpy Kid* (listed 5 times)
5. Carole Wilkinson for *Dragon Keeper* (listed 3 times)

**The following seven authors were each listed 2 times:**

6. Neil Gaimon for *Coraline*
   Deborah Ellis for *Parvana*
   John Marsden for *Tomorrow When the War Began*
   John van de Ruit for *Spud*
   Dr Seuss for *Green Eggs and Ham*
   Stephanie Meyer (1 x *The Host/ 1 x Breaking Dawn*)
   Maurice Gleitzman (1 x *Boy Overboard/ 1 x Once*)

NB The majority of the books listed for Q1 and Q2 are amongst the English ‘class set’ novels which may have some influence on the popularity of the books. Not all of the class novels listed are for Grade 7 students.
GRADE 8 RESULTS

Q1. What is your favourite book of all time?

Top 5 places based on the number of student recommendations

1. Dr Seuss for *Green Eggs and Ham* (listed 7 times)
2. Robert Muchamore for books in the *Cherub* series (listed 6 times)

**The following two authors were each listed 4 times:**

3. J.K. Rowling for books in the *Harry Potter* series
   Jeff Kinney for books in the *Diary of a Wimpy Kid* series

**The following five authors were each listed 3 times:**

4. Ted Prior for books in the *Grug* series eg. *Grug Goes to the Beach*
   Chris Paolini for books in the *Inheritance Cycle* series eg *Eragon*
   Suzanne Collins for books in *The Hunger Games* series
   H.I. Larry for books in the *Zac Power* series
   Roald Dahl (2 x *The BFG*/ 1 x *James and the Giant Peach*)

**The following seven authors were each listed 2 times:**

5. John Flanagan for books in the *Ranger’s Apprentice* series
   Anthony Horowitz for *South by South East*
   E.L. James for 50 Shades of Grey
   Lauren Kate for books in the *Fallen* series
   Derek Landy for books in the *Skulduggery Pleasant* series
   John Marsden for books in the *Tomorrow When the War Began* series
   Matthew Reilly (1 x *Seven Ancient Wonders*/ 1 x *Hover Car Racer*)
Q2 What is the best book you have read in the last year?

**Top 5 places based on the number of student recommendations**

1. Robert Muchamore for books in *The Cherub* series (listed 8 times)

**The following two authors were each listed 5 times:**

2. H.I.Larry for books in the *Zac Power* series
   - Dr Seuss for the following books—
     - 3 x *Green Eggs and Ham*
     - 1 x *Cat in the hat*
     - 1 x *1Fish2Fish*
3. Suzanne Collins for books in *The Hunger Games* series

**The following two authors were each listed 3 times:**

4. Jeff Kinney for books in the *Diary of a Wimpy Kid* series
   - Emily Rodda (1 x *The Forests of Silence/ 1 x Key to Rondo/ 1 x Deltora Quest series*)

**The following eleven authors were each listed 2 times:**

5. Agatha Christie (1 x Murder on the Orient Express/ 1 x The Clocks)
   - Roald Dahl for *James and the Giant Peach*
   - Anthony Horowitz for *South by South East*
   - E.L. James for *50 Shades of Grey*
   - Derek Landy for books in the *Skulduggery Pleasant* series
   - Monica McInerney (1 x *The House of Memories/ 1 x Those Faraday Girls*)
   - Christopher Paolini for books in the *Inheritance Cycle* series
   - Ursula Poznanski for *Erebos*
   - Ted Prior for books in the *Grug* series
   - Matthew Reilly (1 x *Seven Ancient Wonders/ 1 x Hover Car Racer*)
   - Emily Rodda (1 x *Deltora Quest* series/ 1 x *Key to Rondo*)
   - J.K.Rowling (1 x *Harry Potter* series/ 1 x *Prisoner of Azkaban*)

**Those books titles that appear in blue for questions 1 & 2 are included amongst the English 'class set' novels which may have some influence on the popularity of the books. Not all of the class novels listed are for Grade 8 students.**
GRADE 9 RESULTS

Q1. What is your favourite book of all time?

Top 5 authors with selection of books listed

1. J.K. Rowling (listed 5 times for the Harry Potter series)
2. Matthew Reilly (listed 4 times for the following books)—
   - Hell Island x 1
   - Scarecrow x 1
   - Hover Car Racer x 1
   - Ice Station x 1
**The following three authors were each listed 3 times:
3. Suzanne Collins (The Hunger Games series)
4. Steven Herrick (2 x Lonesome Howl and 1 x Simple Gift)
5. J.R.R.Tolkien (2 x The Hobbit and 1 x The Lord of the Rings series)

Authors who were listed twice by Grade 9 students for Question one.

1. Felice Arena for the Specky Magee series.
4. Martin Handford for the Where’s Wally series.
7. Robert Muchamore for the following books in The Cherub series:
   - Mad Dogs
   - The Fall
GRADE 9 RESULTS

Q2  What is the best book you have read in the last year?

Top 5 authors with selection of books listed

**The following three authors were each listed 4 times:
1. Steven Herrick (2 x Lonesome Howl and 2 x Simple Gift)
2. Robert Muchamore for the following books in The Cherub series:
   - Mad Dogs x 2
   - Shadow Wave x 1
   - The Recruit x 1
3. Matthew Reilly for the following books—
   - Hell Island x 1
   - Hover Car Racer x 1
   - Scarecrow x 1
   - Ice Station x 1

**The following two authors were each listed 3 times:
5. J.K. Rowling for the Harry Potter series.

Authors who were listed twice by Grade 9 students for Question two.

1. Felice Arena for the Specky Magee series.
4. John Flanagan for his book: The Oakleaf Bearer (Ranger’s Apprentice series)

**Those books titles that appear in blue are included amongst the English ‘class set’ novels which may have some influence on the popularity of the books. Not all of the class novels listed are for Grade 9 students.
Q1. What is your favourite book of all time?

**Top 3 places based on the number of student recommendations**

1. Dr Seuss for the following 5 books—
   2 x *Cat in the Hat*
   3 x *Green Eggs and Ham*
2. Suzanne Collins for 3 x *The Hunger Games*

**The following five authors (+ 1 magazine title) were each listed 2 times:**

3. J.K. Rowling for books in the *Harry Potter* series
   Jeff Kinney for books in the *Diary of a Wimpy Kid* series
   Andy Griffiths (1 x Just Shocking/1 x Just Crazy)
   Anthony Horowitz (1 x *Eagle Strike*/1 x *Stormbreaker*)
   E.L. James *50 Shades of Grey*
   20/20 BMX magazine
**GRADE 10 RESULTS**

Q2  What is the best book you have read in the last year?

**Top 2 places based on the number of student recommendations**

**The following two authors were each listed 4 times:**

1. Suzanne Collins for books in *The Hunger Games* series
   John Steinbeck for *Of Mice and Men*

**The following three authors (+ 1 magazine title) were each listed 2 times:**

2. Dr Seuss (1 x *Cat in the Hat*/1 x *Green Eggs and Ham*)
   20/20 BMX magazine
   Veronica Roth for *Divergent*
   Mary Pearson for *Adoration of Jenna Fox*

**Those books titles that appear in blue are included amongst the English ‘class set’ novels which may have some influence on the popularity of the books. Not all of the class novels listed are for Grade 10 students.**
GRADE 7 (Q 3)—List of some comments:

Q3. What was it you enjoyed most about your most recent favourite book?

Comments:

*Hunger Games* by Suzanne Collins (fiction)—

‘Very, very hard to put down.’

‘It’s a heart stopping love triangle, only one will survive!’

‘The adventure, romance and vulnerability of Katniss, even though she appears strong.’

*Hetty* by Hetty E Verlome (autobiography)—

‘It was factual and had lots of detail.’

*Rangers’ Apprentice* by John Flanagan (fiction)—

‘...there were lots of adventures and a twist on every page.

‘I enjoy action/fantasy books (as well as) information about medieval times.’

*The Mark of Athena* by Rick Riordan (fiction)—

‘It was an exciting, fast-paced and action filled book and was full of Greek Mythology (one of my favourite subjects)’

*Watership Down* by Richard Adams (fiction)—

‘It was an exciting adventure and the perspective of (the) rabbits was interesting.’

*Dive Atlas of the World* edited by Jack Jackson (non-fiction)

‘The pictures’.

*True Colours* by Adam Gilchrist (autobiography)—

‘The story of my sporting hero’s life.’

*Boy Overboard* by Maurice Gleitzman (fiction)—

‘It has an amazing plot.’
GRADE 8 (Q 3)—List of some comments:

Q3 What was it you enjoyed most about your most recent favourite book?

Comments:

*History Keepers* by Damien Dibben (fiction)—

‘They go on missions and it takes you with them.’

*Recruit* from Cherub series by Robert Muchamore (fiction)—

‘The realism that made it seem believable’

*Taken Away* by Celine Kiernan (fiction)—

‘It was weird but really cool.’

*Murder on the Orient Express* by Agatha Christie (fiction)—

‘Has you guessing, thrilling.’

*The Clocks* by Agatha Christie (fiction)—

‘The mystery of all the characters.’

*Shift* by Em Bailey (fiction)—

‘It had a bit of everything in it, fantasy, romance and action.’

*Ripleys Believe it or Not* by Robert Ripley (non-fiction)—

‘Reading about real life stories that are unusual.’

*Erebos* by Ursula Poznanski (fiction)—

‘The plot constantly changes and keeps you guessing.’

*The House of Memories* by Monica McInerney (fiction)—

‘The book made you have so many different emotions.’

*Steve Jobs: Exclusive Biography* by Walter Isaacson (biography)—

‘It was well set out, it gave you a clear understanding of his life.’
GRADE 9 (Q 3)—List of some comments:

Q3 What was it you enjoyed most about your most recent favourite book?

Comments:

*Born Survivor: Survivor Techniques from the Most Dangerous Places on Earth*

by Bear Grylls (non-fiction/autobiography)—

‘It has lots of surviving tactics.’

*Soul Surfer* by Bethany Hamilton (autobiography)—

‘I love surfing and she is my inspiration.’

*The Hunger Games* by Suzanne Collins (fiction)—

‘Full of adventure, has a really good plot and you just can’t stop reading.’

*Hover Car Racer* by Matthew Reilly (fiction)—

‘It is slightly futuristic, action packed and takes place in Tasmania.’

*Brave New World* by Aldous Huxley (fiction)—

‘I was particularly enjoying reading dystopian fiction at the time, this book is a masterwork of the genre.’

*Switched, Torn and Ascend (Trylle trilogy)* by Amanda Hocking (fiction)—

‘It kept me hooked.’

*The Forsaken* by Lisa M Strasse (fiction)—

‘It is really well written, fast paced, well imagined.’

*Hannah’s Gift* by Maria Housden (autobiography)—

‘I enjoyed how the family always looked out for each other and even though Hannah is sick, they still made the best out of life.’

*Memoirs of a Geisha* by Arthur Golden (fiction)—

‘The vivid imagery and historical education.’

*Walking Naked* by Alyssa Brugman (fiction)—

‘It makes you think about what you say to others.’
GRADE 10 (Q 3)—List of some comments:

Q3  What was it you enjoyed most about your most recent favourite book?

Comments:

20/20 BMX (magazine)—

‘Just generally excellent.’

The Perks of Being a Wallflower by Stephen Chbosky (fiction)—

‘It connects with you on a level that you would never expect.’

The Great Gatsby by F. Scott Fitzgerald (fiction)—

‘The prose style and era.’

Killing for the Company by Chris Ryan (fiction)—

‘Didn’t turn out how I expected.’

Of Mice and Men by John Steinbeck (fiction)—

How it was set and in my interest, very addictive!’

Harry Potter by J K Rowling (fiction)—

‘The clever way it’s written.’

The Hunger Games by Suzanne Collins (fiction)—

‘It’s an action packed book. It was amazing.’
Q 4  What age group would you recommend your favourite book to?

This question proved to be too difficult a question for students to respond to in an unbiased and impartial manner. It was apparent from a large number of the responses that students considered the books they had read to be suitable for their age group or older, without taking into consideration the huge maturational differences between boys and girls of the same age.

The exception to this was when the student’s favourite (most recent book) also turned out to be the same as one of the early readers or comic books they had enjoyed from Primary School and continued to enjoy, such as the books of Dr Seuss, Where’s Wally or Garfield books, which they then considered to be suitable for all age groups listed.

Considering the wide range of reading abilities and interests catered for within this survey, suggestions as to the suitability of particular books from the perspective of individual students would not have been appropriate to include, as it may have been considered that the school was somehow endorsing these recommendations.

As a result of these inherent difficulties and concerns, I believe it is not appropriate to include the results of Question 4 within this document.
Overview of Question 5—What do you look for when you choose a book?

How the results were derived from the student responses—

For question 5, students were given 6 options from A) to F) to select from and asked to list them from 1 to 6 in order of preference. Number 1 was outlined as the most preferred option and number 6 the least preferred option.

Of the six options provided for students, the 6<sup>th</sup> option at letter F was ‘Other’. This allowed students to include suggestions of their own as to how they went about choosing a book. Not many students chose to use this option but for those that did I have included a list of these suggestions after each Table.

Tables 1-4 on the following pages represent the responses of students from Grades 7 to 10 to Question 5. The tables place their results according to the preferred ranking, with their first choice, No. 1, at the top of the table and their least preferred choice at the bottom. Within each option listed, for instance, ‘book cover’ there is a list of the actual number of responses.

In addition to the first column within each option listing the number of responses to that option based on the students’ preferred ranking, there is also a second column for each option which is a *weighted response*. This second column allows you to assign more value to the preferred rankings that were made and less value to the lesser rankings.

*Responses were weighted by making a number one ranking for an option worth 5 points, a number two ranking worth 4, a number three ranking worth 3, a number four ranking worth 2 and a number five or six ranking worth 1. This provided a more accurate assessment of the importance assigned to the choice.*
## Grade 7 Results for Question 5

Q5 What do you look for when you choose a book?

### Table 1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ranking by preferred order</th>
<th>OPTION A Book Cover</th>
<th>OPTION B Blurb</th>
<th>OPTION C Favourite author</th>
<th>OPTION D Favourite genre</th>
<th>OPTION E Friend’s suggestion</th>
<th>OPTION F Other</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No. 1</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>230</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No. 2</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>76</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No. 3</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>54</td>
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<tr>
<td>No. 4</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No. 5</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No. 6</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total no. responses</td>
<td>91</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>77</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*Total for weighted responses</td>
<td>360</td>
<td>299</td>
<td>218</td>
<td>282</td>
<td>187</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The sixth option of ‘Other’ (Option F) includes the following three suggestions—

**Title, read first page and good reviews.**

**Results—**

Based on distribution of the raw data in the first column within each option, plus the weighted responses in the second column within each option, the ‘Book Cover’ (Option A) is the clear favourite for Grade 7’s when it comes to selecting books.

The ‘Blurb’, which refers to the information (generally on the back of the book) that provides a brief synopsis and a few ‘teasers’ to try and draw you in to reading the book, has come in as the 2\textsuperscript{nd} preferred option for selecting a novel, but this is closely followed by the ‘Favourite genre’ option.

The ‘genre’ of a book refers to the category it fits into based on the subject matter it covers. For instance, some common fiction genres include—fantasy, horror, historical fiction, thriller and so on. This appears to be a popular way of searching for a book and is significantly ahead of the ‘Favourite author’ or the ‘Friend’s suggestion’.
### Table 2

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ranking by preferred order</th>
<th>OPTION A</th>
<th>OPTION B</th>
<th>OPTION C</th>
<th>OPTION D</th>
<th>OPTION E</th>
<th>OPTION F</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Book Cover</td>
<td>Blurb</td>
<td>Favourite author</td>
<td>Favourite genre</td>
<td>Friend’s suggestion</td>
<td>Other</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No. 1</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>195</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>135</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>75</td>
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<tr>
<td>No. 2</td>
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<td>80</td>
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<td>44</td>
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<tr>
<td>No. 3</td>
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<td>57</td>
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<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No. 4</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No. 5</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No. 6</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total no. responses</td>
<td>91</td>
<td>86</td>
<td>82</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>83</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
*Total for weighted responses | 330       | 304      | 224      | 298      | 226      | 8        |

The sixth option of ‘Other’ (Option F) includes the following suggestions—Good reviews, Title and Read first page.

### Results—

The Grade 8 results follow the same pattern as Grade 7, with the top two choices of ‘Book Cover’ (Option A) being the preferred option. This is followed by ‘Blurb’ (Option B) which is closely followed by ‘Favourite genre’ (Option D).

The drop to ‘Friend’s suggestion’ (Option E) and then ‘Favourite author’ (Option C) is the only real change from the previous Grade 7, Table 1, which had ‘Favourite author’ ahead of ‘Friend’s suggestion’.
GRADE 9 RESULTS FOR QUESTION 5

Q5 What do you look for when you choose a book?

Table 3

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ranking by preferred order</th>
<th>OPTION A Book Cover</th>
<th>OPTION B Blurb</th>
<th>OPTION C Favourite author</th>
<th>OPTION D Favourite genre</th>
<th>OPTION E Friend’s suggestion</th>
<th>OPTION F Other</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No. 1</td>
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<td>95</td>
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<td>100</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No. 2</td>
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<td>52</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>40</td>
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<td>56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No. 3</td>
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<td>15</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>48</td>
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<tr>
<td>No. 4</td>
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<td>24</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No. 5</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No. 6</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total no. responses</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*Total for weighted responses</td>
<td>195</td>
<td>205</td>
<td>175</td>
<td>208</td>
<td>146</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The sixth option of ‘Other’ (Option F) includes the following suggestions—Illustration, Non-Fiction, Availability and Size of the book are four of the significant ‘other’ options that were nominated by students as reasons for selecting a particular book.

Results—

If you look at the first and second choices made by students, there are three clear favourites amongst the choices, Favourite genre (Option D), Blurb (Option B) and Book Cover (Option A). This is followed by Favourite author (Option C) and lastly, Friend’s suggestion (Option F).

The order in which the first three options appear differs from all of the other Grades, with ‘Favourite genre’ taking the first place. The ‘Book cover’ option which has been a clear preferred method of choice for Grades 7, 8 and 10, has been relegated to third place. ‘Blurb’ has retained its position as second preferred option.

The difference in the margin between first and second placed (based on the weighting process) is only slight, but if you were to look solely at the first choice options in the first columns of each option, it would look similar to the other grades’ results, with ‘Blurb’ very slightly ahead on (20), ‘Book cover’ on (19) and ‘Favourite genre’ on (14). The real difference, as you can see from Table 3, is the large number who selected ‘Favourite genre’ (18) as their second option, as opposed to only (10) for Blurb and (13) for ‘Book Cover’. 
GRADE 10 RESULTS FOR QUESTION 5

Q5  What do you look for when you choose a book?

Table 4

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ranking by preferred order</th>
<th>OPTION A Book Cover</th>
<th>OPTION B Blurb</th>
<th>OPTION C Favourite author</th>
<th>OPTION D Favourite genre</th>
<th>OPTION E Friend’s suggestion</th>
<th>OPTION F Other</th>
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<td>33</td>
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<td>*Total for weighted responses</td>
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<td>139</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>94</td>
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The 3 additional or ‘Other’ responses suggested by Grade 10s under option F include—Good reviews, seen before, and publication year.

Results—

Based on the raw data of the first column within each option, plus the weighted responses in the second column within each option, the ‘Book Cover’ (Option A) and the reading the ‘Blurb’ (Option B) are the clear favourites when it comes to selecting books.

This result is based on a relatively small percentage of the Grade 10 year group, but is consistent with the responses across Grades 7 and 8.

The remaining three options are virtually on an equal footing as far as preferred methods of book selection, which differs from the other grades in that they all had clear favourites amongst Options C to E.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Q1 Grade 7</th>
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<th>Q2 Grade 7</th>
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<td>John van de Ruit</td>
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<td>Tomorrow When the War Began</td>
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<td>Parvana</td>
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<td>Coraline</td>
<td>Neil Gaimon</td>
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<td>Andy Griffiths</td>
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### Q1 Grade 7
**Favourite book ever**
- Alex's Adventures in Numberland
- Diary of a Wimpy Kid
- Tashi
- Diary of a Wimpy Kid
- Diary of a Wimpy Kid
- Vinnie's War
- Diary of a Wimpy Kid
- Crusade series
- Stolen
- Horton Hears a Who
- Jinx
- Green Eggs and Ham
- Hunger Games, The
- 50 Shades of Grey
- The Wacky World of June Average
- Three Little Pigs, The
- Specky Magee
- Hunger Games, The
- Hunger Games, The
- Hunger Games, The
- Host, The
- Protector of the Small, The (series)
- Three Little Pigs, The
- Elsie Dinsmore series
- Tomorrow When the War Began
- Marley and Me
- Twilight saga
- Deadly
- Hunger Games, The
- Ranger's Apprentice series
- Ranger's Apprentice series
- Grug!
- Boy Overboard
- Hobbit, The

### Q2 Grade 7
**Favourite recent book**
- Samurai Kids: Owl Ninja
- Diary of a Wimpy Kid
- Shadow
- Diary of a Wimpy Kid
- Diary of a Wimpy Kid
- Shadow
- Diary of a Wimpy Kid
- Frankenstein
- Stolen
- Once
- Shadow
- Shadow
- Green Eggs and Ham
- The Wacky World of June Average
- Pokemon
- Ranger's Apprentice series
- Hunger Games, The
- Hunger Games, The
- Host, The
- Beka Cooper: Terrier
- Bob the Builder
- Elsie Dinsmore series
- Hunger Games, The
- Dragon Keeper
- Chasing Boys
- Tomorrow When the War Began
- Marley and Me
- Hunger Games, The
- Ranger's Apprentice series
- Ranger's Apprentice series
- Shadow
- Watership Down

### Appendix 1

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<td>J.R.R. Tolkien</td>
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Appendix 2

Q1 Grade 8
Favourite book ever
James and the Giant Peach
Inheritance Cycle
Fallen
One Direction
Smallville: the Arrival
Anything by these authors
Skulduggery Pleasant
Zac Power series
History Keepers BKs 1 & 2
Vampire Diaries
Cabin Fever Vol. 5
Zac Power series
Green Eggs and Ham
When We Were Two
Fifty Shades of Grey
Seven Ancient Wonders
Grug
Beautiful Creatures
Green Eggs and Ham
Hunger Games
Hover Car Racer
South by South East
The Great Knight
Hunger Games
Ranger’s Apprentice series
Tomorrow When the War Began
Frog Feeder
Skulduggery Pleasant
Girlfriend magazine
Tomorrow When the War Began
Eldest
Harry Potter & the Half Blood...
The BFG
Green Eggs and Ham
Green Eggs and Ham
I am Number Four
The Cat in the Hat
Just Listen
One Free Kiss in the Dark
Divergent
They Came on Viking Ships
The Mal Rider
The Frost of Science (Deltora Quest)
The Hunger Games
Cherub series
Danger Zone
Grug Goes to the Beach
Dragon Skin Slippers
Marley and Me
Three Summers
Cherub Class A

Q1 Grade 8
Author
Roald Dahl
Christopher Paolini
Lauren Kate
multiple authors
Jane Revell
Paul Jennings/Andy Griff
Derek Landy
H.L. Larry
Damien Dibben
L.J. Smith
Jeff Kinney
H.L. Larry
Dr Seuss
Robert Newton
E.L. James
Matthew Reilly
Ted Prior
K. Garcia & M. Stohl
Dr Seuss
Suzanne Collins
Matthew Reilly
Anthony Horowitz
Spider Web
Suzanne Collins
John Flanagan
John Marsden
Greg French
Derek Landy
Pacific magazines
John Marsden
Christopher Paolini
J.K. Rowling
Roald Dahl
Dr Seuss
Dr Seuss
Pittacus Lore
Dr Seuss
Sarah Dessen
Glenda Millard
Veronica Roth
Jackie French
Pat Flynn
Emily Rodda
Suzanne Collins
Robert Muchamore
multiple options
Ted Prior
Jessica Day George
John Grogan
Judith Clarke
Robert Muchamore

Q2 Grade 8
Favourite recent book
Harry Potter series
City of Fallen Angels (Mortal Instruments)
Fallen
One Direction
Cherub (The Recruit series)
Deltora Quest series
Skulduggery Pleasant
Zac Power series
History Keepers BKs 1 & 2
Zac Power series
Diary of a Wimpy Kid series
Zac Power series
Green Eggs and Ham
When We Were Two
Fifty Shades of Grey
Seven Ancient Wonders
Grug
Perfect Chemistry
Green Eggs and Ham
Hunger Games
Hover Car Racer
South by South East
The Wizard
Hunger Games
Key to Rondo
My Single Friend
Frog Feeders
Skulduggery Pleasant
Girlfriend magazine
Tomorrow When the War Began
Eldest
Cherub (The Recruit series)
Cherub (The Recruit series)
Cherub (The Recruit series)
Green Eggs and Ham
I am Number Four
The Cat in the Hat
Just Listen
Snow White and the Seven Dwarves
Divergent
Taken Away
Occy
The Frost of Science
Murder on the Orient Express
The Hunger Games
Danger Zone
Grug Goes to the Beach
Dragon Skin Slippers
The Hunger Games
Three Summers
Dragos
Divergent
Taken Away
Occy
The Frost of Science
Murder on the Orient Express
The Hunger Games
Danger Zone
Grug Goes to the Beach
Dragon Skin Slippers
The Hunger Games
Three Summers
Dragos

Q2 Grade 8
Author
J.K. Rowling
Cassandra Clare
Lauren Kate
multiple authors
Robert Muchamore
Emily Rodda
Derek Landy
H.L. Larry
Damien Dibben
H.L. Larry
Jeff Kinney
H.L. Larry
Dr Seuss
Robert Newton
E.L. James
Matthew Reilly
Ted Prior
Simone Elekis
Dr Seuss
Suzanne Collins
Matthew Reilly
Anthony Horowitz
Spider Web
Suzanne Collins
Emily Rodda
Jane Costello
Greg French
Derek Landy
Pacific magazines
John Marsden
Christopher Paolini
Robert Muchamore
Robert Muchamore
Robert Muchamore
Dr Seuss
Pittacus Lore
Dr Seuss
Sarah Dessen
Brother’s Grimm
Veronica Roth
Celine Kiernan
Mark Occhilupo
Emily Rodda
Agatha Christie
Suzanne Collins
multiple options
Ted Prior
Jessica Day George
Suzanne Collins
Judith Clarke
unknown
Appendix 2

Q1 Grade 8
Favourite book ever
Vampire Academy
Brigands MC
South By South East

The Recruit
The Luxe
Full Beam
Green Eggs and Ham
Diary of a Wimpy Kid series

Diary of a Wimpy Kid series
Diary of a Wimpy Kid series
Harry Potter series
Prisoner of Azkaban
Grug
Harry Potter series
Ranger's Apprentice series
The Recruit
Eragon
Twilight series
Naruto
The General
Shift
A Dog's Life
Fifty Shades of Grey
Watchers

Those Faraday Girls
Goosebumps
Steve Job's: the Exclusive Biography

Wicked
Green Eggs and Ham
Fallen
Maximum Ride Series

BFG
Mega Missions (Zac Power series)
A Safe Place

Q1 Grade 8
Author
Richelle Mead
Robert Muchamore
Anthony Horowitz

Robert Muchamore
Anna Godbersen
M.C.Brown
Dr Seuss
Jeff Kinney

Jeff Kinney
Jeff Kinney
J.K.Rowling
J.K.Rowling
Ted Prior
J.K.Rowling
John Flanagan
Robert Muchamore
Christopher Paolini
Stephanie Meyer
Masashi Kishimoto
Robert Muchamore
Em Bailey
Ann M
E.L. James
Dean R Koontz

Monica McInerney
R.L. Stine
Walter Isaacson

Gregory Maguire
Dr Seuss
Lauren Kate
James Patterson

Roald Dahl
H.I.Larry
Deborah Ellis

Q2 Grade 8
Favourite recent book
Vampire Academy
Brigands MC
South By South East

Erebos
The Clocks
Cherub series
Diary of a Wimpy Kid
Brotherband

Zac Power series
Diary of a Wimpy Kid
James and the Giant Peach
Prisoner of Azkaban
Escape from the Dead Zone
James and the Giant Peach
One Shot Kill
The Recruit
Eragon
My Sister's Keeper
Once in a Full Moon
The General
Shift
Ripleys Believe it or Not
Fifty Shades of Grey
Erebos

The House of Memories
Conspiracy 365

Artemis Fowl
Forgotten
1Fish2Fish
Fallen
Maximum Ride Series
Just Crazy

Mega Missions (Zac Power series)
A Safe Place

Q2 Grade 8
Author
Richelle Mead
Robert Muchamore
Anthony Horowitz

Ursula Poznanski
Agatha Christie
Robert Muchamore
Jeff Kinney
John Flanagan

H.I.Larry
Jeff Kinney
Roald Dahl
J.K.Rowling
Chris Ryan
Roald Dahl
Charles W. Sasser
Robert Muchamore
Christopher Paolini
Jodi Picoult
Ellen Schreiber
Robert Muchamore
Em Bailey
Ripley
E. L. James
Ursula Poznanski
Monica McInerney
Gabrielle Lord

Eoin Colfer
Cat Patrick
Dr Seuss
Lauren Kate
James Patterson
Andy Griffiths

H.I.Larry
Deborah Ellis
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Q1 Grade 9 Favourite book ever</th>
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<th>Q2 Grade 9 Favourite recent book</th>
<th>Q2 Grade 9 Author</th>
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<td>Norman Bridwell</td>
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<td>Jeepers Keepers</td>
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<td>Alyssa Brugman</td>
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<td>Mem Fox</td>
<td>Rapunzel</td>
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<tr>
<td>Simple Gift</td>
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</table>
### Q1 Grade 9
#### Favourite book ever
- Mao's Last Dancer
- Fifty Shades of Grey
- The Man in the Brown Suit
- Hannah's Gift
- The Summer I Turned Pretty
- Jessie's Child
- Harry Potter series
- The Fall (Cherub series)
- Catching Fire (The Hunger Games)
- Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy
- Hatchet
- The Hobbit
- Vampire Academy series
- Tomorrow When the War Began
- If I Stay
- Gould's Book of Fish
- The Sound of the Sea
- Beautiful Malice
- Hell Island

#### Author
- Li Cunxin
- E.L. James
- Agatha Christie
- Mana Housden
- Jenny Carry
- Lois Faye Dyer
- J.K. Rowling
- Robert Muchamore
- Suzanne Collins
- Douglas Adams
- Gary Paulsen
- J.R.R. Tolkien
- Richelle Mead
- John Marsden
- Gayle Forman
- Richard Flanagan
- Jacqueline Harvey
- Rebecca James
- Matthew Reilly

### Q2 Grade 9
#### Favourite recent book
- Ruby Redford
- Fifty Shades of Grey
- The Forsaken
- Hannah's Gift
- The Summer I Turned Pretty
- Jessie's Child
- The Hunt
- Shadow Wave (Cherub Series)
- Catching Fire (The Hunger Games)
- Memoirs of a Geisha
- Cherub: Mad Dogs
- Ranger's Apprentice Book 11
- Bloodlines: The Golden Lily
- The Simple Gift
- Looking for Alibrandi
- If I Stay
- Gould's Book of Fish
- Beautiful Malice
- Hell Island

#### Author
- Lauren Child
- E.L. James
- Lisa M. Strasse
- Mana Housden
- Jenny Carry
- Lois Faye Dyer
- Andrew Fukuda
- Robert Muchamore
- Suzanne Collins
- Arthur Cidden
- John Flannagan
- Richelle Mead
- Steven Henrick
- Melina Marchetta
- Gayle Forman
- Richard Flanagan
- Rebecca James
- Matthew Reilly


Q1 Grade 10
Favourite book ever
Cat in the Hat
Where Eagles Dare
Harry Potter series
Shadows of the Empire (Star Wars)
Hunger Games
Eagle Strike
20/20 BMX magazine
Just Shocking
Divergent
The Gift
After
Cat in the Hat comes back
Alone: Chasers
Tomorrow When the War Began
Adoration of Jenna Fox
Tanks of World War II
Supermob
Cat in the Hat
Where's Wally
Stormbreaker
Harry Potter series
Green Eggs and Ham
A Country Affair
20/20 BMX magazine
The Perks of Being a Wallflower
Green Eggs and Ham
Last Chance to See
Of Mice and Men
The Hunger Games
The Hunger Games Vol. 1
Wuthering Heights
50 Shades of Grey
50 Shades of Grey
The Bad Book
The Name of the Wind
Tintin: Black Island
Just Crazy
BFG
A Confusion of Princes
Divergent

Q1 Grade 10
Author
Dr Seuss
Alistair McLean
J.K. Rowling
Steve Perry
Suzanne Collins
Anthony Horowitz
Andy Griffiths
Veronica Roth
Danielle Steele
Amy Efaw
Dr Seuss
James Phelan
John Marsden
Mary Pearson
Steve Crawford
unknown
Dr Seuss
Martin Handford
Anthony Horowitz
J.K. Rowling
Dr Seuss
Rebecca Shaw
Stephen Chbosky
Dr Seuss
Douglas Adams
John Steinbeck
Suzanne Collins
Suzanne Collins
Jane Austen
E.L. James
E.L. James
Terry Denton
Patrick Rothfus
Herge
Andy Griffiths
Roald Dahl
Garth Nix
Veronica Roth

Q2 Grade 10
Favourite recent book
Soul Surfer
Killing for the Company
Harry Potter series
Shadows of the Empire (Star Wars)
Hunger Games
Halo Cryptum (Forerunner Saga)
20/20 BMX magazine
Just Shocking
Divergent
Switch series
After
Divergent
Garfield books
Tomorrow When the War Began
Bookywook 2
Adoration of Jenna Fox
Blacksmith's Forge
Supermob
Scorch Trials
Cat in the Hat
Where's Wally
Stormbreaker
Of Mice and Men
Hell Island
Of Mice and Men
20/20 BMX magazine
The Perks of Being a Wallflower
Green Eggs and Ham
The Great Gatsby
Scorpion Sting
Of Mice and Men
The Hunger Games
The Hunger Games Vol. 3
Lord of the Flies
Looking for Alibrandi
Slave
Hunger Games
Brotherband: the Hunters
Tintin: Black Island
Of Mice and Men
Adoration of Jenna Fox
A Confusion of Princes

Q2 Grade 10
Author
Bethany Hamilton
Chris Ryan
J.K. Rowling
Steve Perry
Suzanne Collins
Greg Bear
Andy Griffiths
Veronica Roth
Amanda Hocking
Amy Efaw
Veronica Roth
Jim Davis
John Marsden
Russell Brand
Mary Pearson
unknown
James Dashner
Dr Seuss
Martin Handford
Anthony Horowitz
John Steinbeck
Matthew Reilly
John Steinbeck
Stephen Chbosky
Dr Seuss
F. Scott Fitzgerald
Justin D'Ath
John Steinbeck
Suzanne Collins
Suzanne Collins
William Golding
Melina Marchetta
Cheryl Brooks
Suzanne Collins
John Flanagan
Herge
John Steinbeck
Mary Pershaw
Garth Nix
Appendix 5

RBHS READING SURVEY 2012

1. a) What is your favourite book of all time?

TITLE.................................................................AUTHOR.................................................................

b) Approximately how old were you when you read this book?

2. What is the best book you have read in the last year? (If your answer is the same as the answer to Q1 just write ‘as above’)

TITLE.................................................................AUTHOR.................................................................

3. What was it you enjoyed most about your most recent favourite book (from Q2)?

**(To help answer this question think about what you would say if you were recommending this book to encourage others to read it)

4. What age group would you recommend your recent favourite book to (from Q2)?—

(Please circle the appropriate response/s. You can circle more than one option)

a) 9yrs old to 12yrs old; b) 13yrs old to 14yrs old; c) 15yrs old to 16yrs old; d) 17+ yrs old; e) Other (Please list ‘other’ option)

5. What do you look for when you choose a book?

(Please list options below in their order of importance—No.1 being most important)

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<th>Rank Importance</th>
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<tr>
<td>a) Interesting book cover</td>
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<tr>
<td>b) Exciting blurb on the back of the book describing the story</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c) Favourite author</td>
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<tr>
<td>d) Favourite genre, for example, crime, fantasy, adventure, etc.</td>
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<tr>
<td>e) Recommendation from a friend</td>
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<tr>
<td>f) Other (Please list ‘other’ option)</td>
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If you want to be included in a prize draw to win a bucket of M & Ms or some other great prizes, please include your name and grade on your survey.