

Guys Read welcome Mr Morgan

“Reading is like a drill for your writing”



Mr Morgan’s reading journey began in primary school with the *Deltora Quest* series by Emily Rodda. He loved these books so much he would rush home from school just to read. Mr Morgan had a bit of a reading lull after this series, until he discovered the *Harry Potter* series and he was hooked. Mr Morgan said this series is a MUST read and spoke of his seven siblings and three cousins all fighting over one copy of each new Harry Potter book

In early high school Mr Morgan went off reading until he discovered *Ice Station* by Matthew Riley. He described it as being a very different book to what he had read before, with lots of action and fighting, but a book he loved. He spoke of not enjoying many of the set English texts he had to read, but the importance of reading them anyway. Most importantly, he urged the boys to always have their own personal novel to read and to make sure it’s one they enjoy.

As an English teacher, he discovered a side of reading he hadn’t considered previously and that is the impact reading has on student, particularly on their writing, grammar and punctuation. The easiest way to maintain good writing is through reading. He told the boys he can determine the students who read when reading the first writing task of the year. Readers are good writers and Mr Morgan said it is alarming how much poorer the grammar, spelling, syntax and punctuation is with boys who don’t read.

Reading develops so many skills while doing something enjoyable. He related reading to sport. To become good at sport you practice skills over and over. You may not enjoy the drill but you know it makes you better. Reading is like a drill for your writing.

Two big reasons blokes should read;

1. Enjoyment
2. The drastic improvement it has on your writing

Mr Morgan’s favourite book is *The Power of One* by Bryce Courtney. He loved the struggle, perseverance and the fight for justice.

Advice – always have your own personal novel and the book is always better than the movie.

Books Mr Morgan Recommends teenage boys should read

1 – Accessible to all

2 – Moderately challenging

3 – Extension

- 1) The Power of One – Bryce Courtenay - 2
- 2) Tandia – Bryce Courtenay – 2
- 3) To Kill A Mockingbird – Harper Lee - 3
- 4) The Hobbit – J R Tolkien - 2
- 5) Lord of The Rings Trilogy – J R Tolkien - 2
- 6) Harry Potter Series – J.K Rowling - 1
- 7) Goodnight Mr Tom – Michelle Magorian - 1
- 8) Beneath The Southern Cross – Judy Nunn - 2
- 9) The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn – Mark Twain - 2
- 10) The Adventures of Tom Sawyer – Mark Twain - 2
- 11) Ice Station – Matthew Reilly - 1
- 12) Area 7 – Matthew Reilly -1
- 13) The Catcher in the Rye – J.D Salinger - 2
- 14) Dracula – Bram Stoker - 3
- 15) The Three Musketeers – Alexandre Dumas – 3
- 16) The Count of Monte Cristo – Alexandre Dumas – 3
- 17) I Am David – Anne Holm – 2
- 18) Playing Beattie Bow – Ruth Park – 2
- 19) The Machine Gunners – Robert Westall – 1
- 20) Soldier on the Hill – Jackie French – 1
- 21) Pelican Brief – John Grisham – 3
- 22) The Firm – John Grisham – 3
- 23) Theodore Boone (Series) – John Grisham – 2
- 24) The Racketeer – John Grisham – 2
- 25) The Litigators – John Grisham – 2
- 26) A Time To Kill – John Grisham – 3
- 27) Kane and Able – Jeffrey Archer – 3
- 28) The Hunger Games – 1
- 29) Bourne (Series) – Robert Ludlum – 3
- 30) Tomorrow Series – 1
- 31) The Real McCaw – 1
- 32) John Eales – 1
- 33) The Road to Winter – Mark Smith - 1