



## Drop Everything and Read Time (DEAR)

We feel passionately about reading and we ask that students continue to read for pleasure.

### Why is reading important?

There are many benefits to reading. Studies have shown that young people who read every day get better grades in all subjects, including numeracy and mathematics. People who read have confidence and better self-esteem than people who do not read. Reading also improves your listening skills, your ability to express yourself and it helps you to understand and empathise with other people. Reading can also be a great way to relax. **There really are no 'down sides' to reading!**

(The Reading Agency, 2015, <http://readingagency.org.uk> )

**DEAR time guidance:** Choose a book and read for twenty minutes each day.

### Tasks you may wish to complete after reading:

<p><b>Think of 5 questions that you would like to ask the author of your book.</b></p> <p>We will tweet the most interesting questions to the author from the Ribston twitter account.</p> <p>Make sure you write your questions in Standard English.</p>	<p><b>Choose a character from your book and write a playlist of 5 songs for them.</b></p> <p>Explain why you chose each song.</p>	<p><b>What extra information does the book's cover give you?</b></p> <p>List any information about awards, reviews from other people, or information about the author and his or her background. Are there any reading group notes? What purpose does this information serve? If there is no information, what does this make you think?</p>	<p><b>Which country is your book set in?</b></p> <p>Pick a different country for the story and write a paragraph explaining how the story and characters would change. Would they speak a different language, eat different food?</p>
<p><b>Pick a character and write down 5 things that makes them different from the other people in the book.</b></p> <p>How does his or her unique characteristics influence the story?</p>	<p><b>Take a character and make them 50 years older or 50 years younger (if the character would not exist - you could write about his or her parents).</b> What would change about the character? How would this affect the story?</p>	<p><b>Take a character and make them a student at Ribston Hall High School.</b> What would be their favourite subject? Would they have many house points or would they be in trouble a lot? You must give a reason for each answer and refer to a scene in the book.</p>	<p><b>What is another book that you have read that has something in common with this one?</b></p> <p>What are the similarities and differences? Which do you prefer?</p>
<p><b>Find 5 similes or metaphors in your book.</b></p> <p>Write them down and explain what this tells the reader about the story.</p>	<p><b>Write down at least 3 new pieces of vocabulary that you will try to use in your own writing, or when you are speaking, in the future.</b></p> <p>Why have you chosen these words and how will you use them?</p>	<p><b>Choose a page and pick 5 descriptive words.</b></p> <p>Pick an alternative for each one (you can use a thesaurus or dictionary) and say why you chose your alternative.</p>	<p><b>Choose a page and write down every verb from that page.</b></p> <p>What does this tell you about the book?</p>
<p><b>Have you re-read or returned to parts of the book that you found difficult?</b></p> <p>Why was it difficult? What advice would you give to someone who finds reading difficult?</p>	<p><b>Are there any special languages or words in your book?</b></p> <p>If so, write them down. Are there any made-up words in the story? How does this language make you feel?</p>	<p><b>Take 5 sentences from a page and change the length of each sentence.</b></p> <p>Change the punctuation too. Do you end up with more or less than 5 sentences? How do the new sentences make you feel?</p>	<p><b>Pick a conversation from your book and re-write it to change the tone.</b></p> <p>Change the language in the conversation to make it more formal, or more casual (for example, you could use slang). What effect does this have?</p>



### Possible questions to answer:

- Which part of the story do you think you will remember most and why?
- What message do you think the author is trying to give through this book?
- What would you have changed about the plot, or the ending, if anything?
- What feeling(s) were you left with at the end of the book / chapter?
- Which character do you feel you can relate to most, and why?
- Share a favourite quote from the book. Why did this one stand out to you?
- How well does the title / front cover convey what the book is about?
- Is there anything in this book that makes you want to change the world?

### Free extra reading resources that can be accessed by all families:

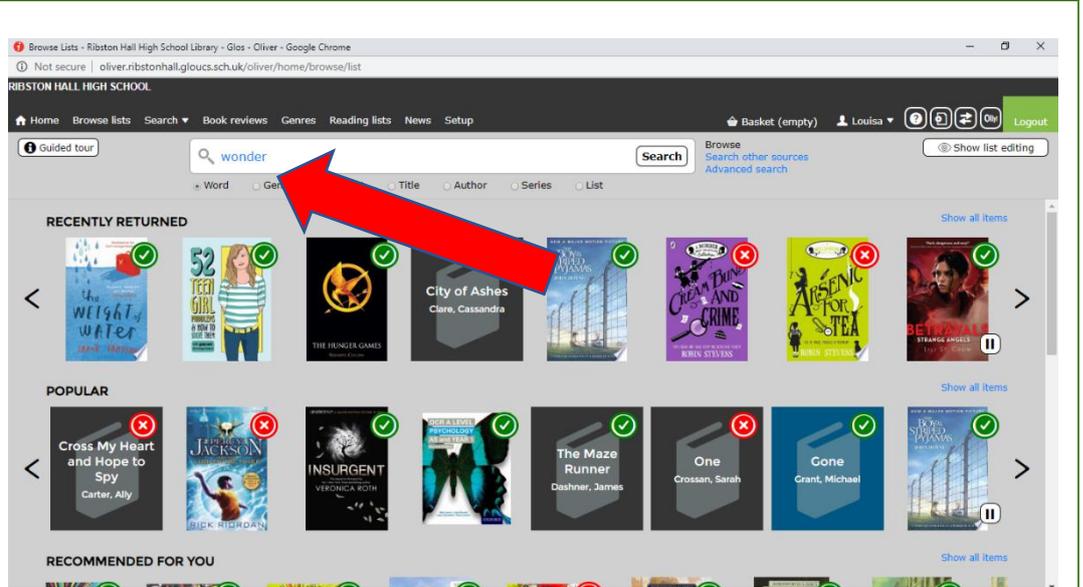
Gloucestershire County Library loan eBooks eMagazines and eAudioBooks. To access all of these from your mobile you will need to download THREE apps – available on Apple & Android. Search your app store for the right app.

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- [BorrowBox](#) (eAudioBooks)
- [RBdigital](#) (eBooks & eMagazines)
- Solomon Kingsnorth – free books in PDF, Word and audiobook format: [click here](#)
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- 50,000 free books – arranged by genre: [click here](#)
- 3000 E-books and audiobooks: [click here](#)
- Open Library Access: [click here](#)
- Free Audio Books from Audible: [click here](#)
- Novel Free Read online (quite a few adds, but some great titles available): [click here](#)
- If you/your family has an Amazon Prime account, check out [Prime Reading](#) and Kindle Unlimited.
- Topsta daily schedule of online bookish events taking place and ideas to keep children reading for pleasure at home: [click here](#)

How to add a review to Oliver

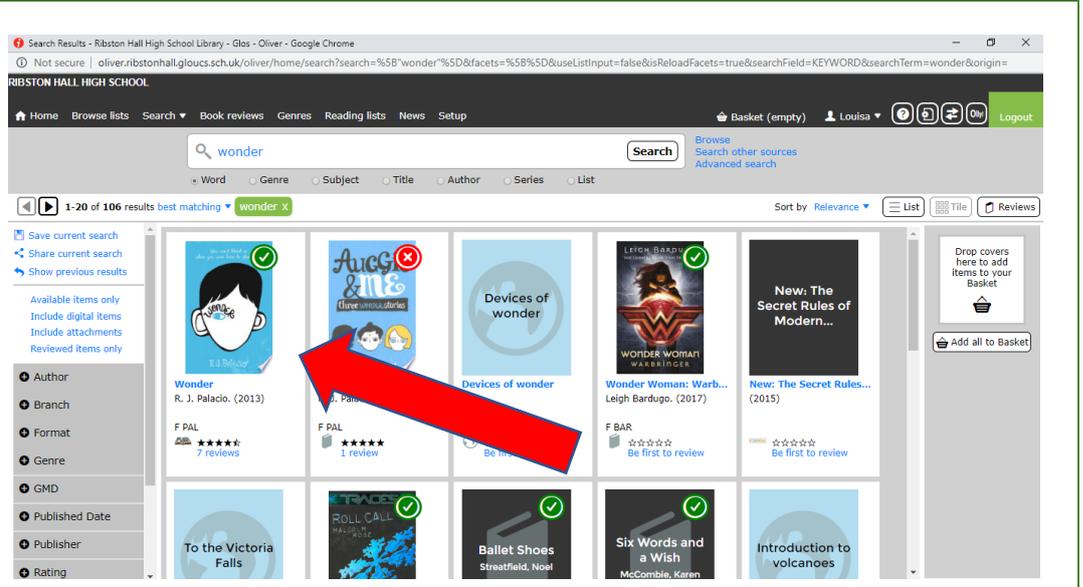
**Step 1:**

Open up the home page on Oliver and search for the title of the book you would like to review.



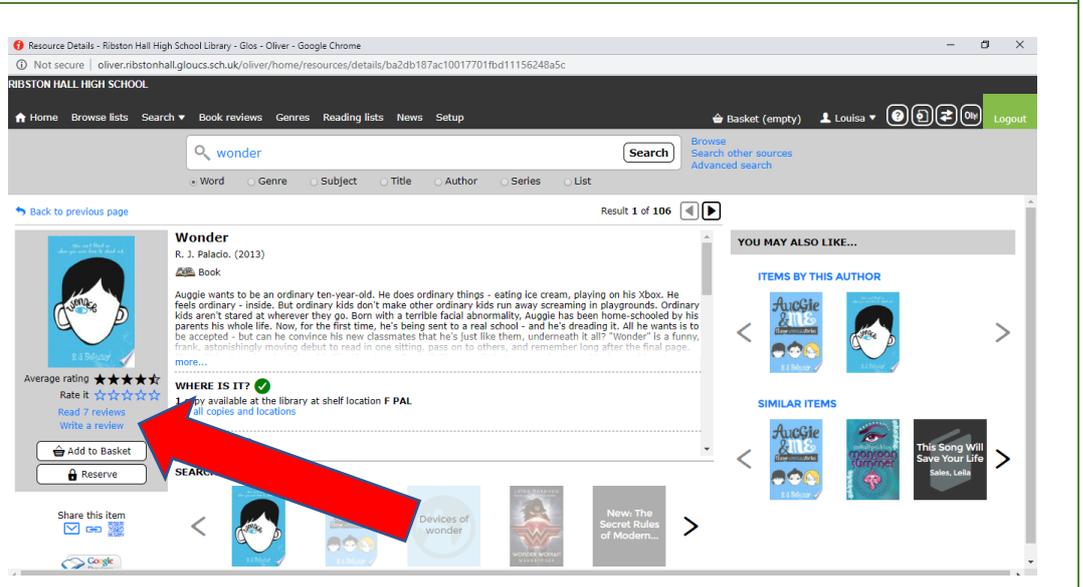
**Step 2:**

Select the title of the book when it appears on the search screen. In this example, I'm going to click on "Wonder".



**Step 3:**

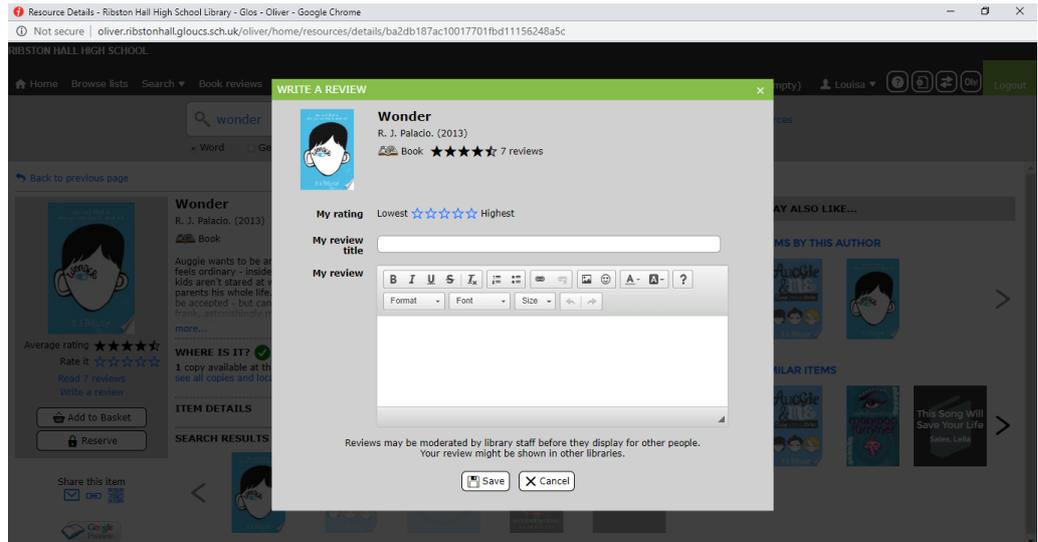
On the left side of the book description you can see "Write a review". Click on that to open the review screen.





**Step 4:**

This screen will now pop-up for you to write your amazing review.



**Step 5:**

Click on “save” at the end and the review will appear for me to moderate and approve (I check that things are spelt correctly and that it makes sense to read).

Be honest with your review -if it’s not a 5\* read, that’s ok!  
 If you thought it was a rubbish read, explain why. If you thought it was brilliant, try and explain what made it so fabulous for you.  
 Think about what people need to know about the book when they are deciding whether to borrow it or not.

This link from the Book Trust explains how to write a review in 5 easy steps. Have a look at it!  
<https://www.booktrust.org.uk/books-and-reading/tips-and-advice/writing-tips/writing-tips-for-teens/how-to-write-a-book-review/>