

What's in the book?

About this guide

This guide is to help the people at home recognise that, like films and video games, books are targeted at different ages. However, unlike other media, books don't always have a helpful age rating on them. Here are some helpful tips and websites you can use if you want to check the suitability of what a pupil is reading.

Check the book

- Some publishers include the phrase "Not for younger readers" on the front or back cover of the book. Normally these books are recommended for teenagers
- Read the blurb - sometimes its obvious that the contents are aimed at older children

Library

- If you use the public library they usually put a sticker on the side for the recommended age. (In West Sussex this is a T for Teenage and a T+ for older teenage)
- The School Library use a lime green sticker on the spine for any books that are recommended for Year 9 pupils and above.

Covers

- Comics/Graphic Novels/Manga are not always suitable for Primary Aged children. Some are specifically aimed at teenagers and adults
- Some adult books are being published with 'cartoon' drawings on the front covers

Just because the cover looks age appropriate doesn't mean the book is!

Where to check online

Amazon

When searching for a book on Amazon if you scroll down the page underneath the description it usually shows the recommended age of the book as provided by the publisher.

LoveReading4Kids.co.uk

You can search this website for specific books and it will have the recommended age on the book results. You can also search for recommended books by age if you want some ideas.

Booksfortopics.com

You can search this website for specific books and it will have the recommended age on the book results. You can also search for recommended books by age if you want some ideas.

commonsensemedia.org

This website is good for a lot of different media. If you search the book you can see the age rating at a quick glance but you can also click on the book for a more detailed breakdown. You can see the reasons for the breakdown and also what positive messages the book may contain.

Remember

It is ultimately your decision as to what you are happy with your child reading. It's not always about age but also things such as individual beliefs, circumstances and maturity level that may impact these choices. This document is just for guidance.

If you have any questions about a book please ask.