

October 2025 is all about the boys (reading)

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

“While Gen Z teenage girls and young women were not far ahead, the data showed females, on average, were reading more than males across all age groups. Nearly one in four Generation X females (23 per cent) participated in reading compared to about one in eight Generation X males (12 per cent).”
Wilkes C. 15 July 2025. “Australians, especially men, are reading less than ever before”. *ABC online*.

1 What does the research say?
Read the 2021 article from Brisbane-based researchers. “Disrupting the ‘boys don’t read’ discourse”.
Scholes et. al. (2021).

2 

3 For younger middlefiction, years 5 - 7, try *Cobweb*
Michale Morpurgo
Based on the true account of the French Drummerboy of Waterloo.

4 

5 Podcast:
Getting Boys Back to Books:
Spotify: Exploring Boys’ Education
<https://open.spotify.com/episode/3YgPPNqkWf7Mnhik03NN7T>
September 2024

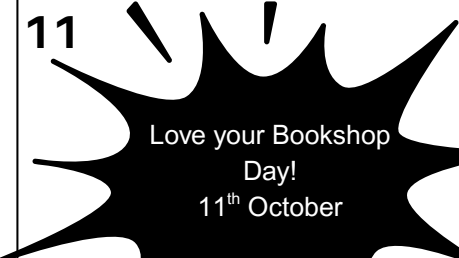
6 Sailing anyone?
Another middlefiction book:
The Great Wide Sea
M H Hurlong
A father and his three sons spend a year aboard a sailing ship. And not all goes to plan.

7 Create **reading nooks** for him (and her)
in classrooms and library spaces. Read this blog for more ‘boy’ reading space ideas:
<https://www.literacyforboys.com.au/create-a-holiday-reading-nook-just-for-him/>

8 *Being Jimmy Baxter*
Fiona Lloyd
A gently funny yet powerful coming-of-age middle grade novel (2023).

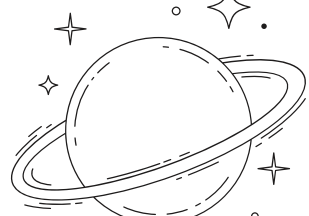
9 *One Wrong Step*
Jennifer Nielsen
Set on Mt Everest at the outbreak of WWII, Atlas and his father encounter more than just the rugged mountain climb. Years 7 - 8.

10 *Arty Farty:* Sydney Opera House podcast for kids.
Listen to Li Cunxin AO (*Mao’s Last Dancer*): how to adapt to change and overcoming adversity.

11  Love your Bookshop Day!
11th October

12 A graphic biography:
Dragon Hoops (2020)
sub-plot: history of basketball
Gene Luen Yang

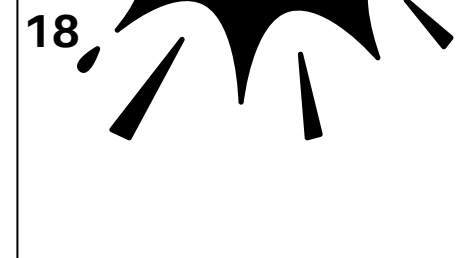
13 *50 Ways to Die in Space*
2025 publication. Graphic novel
“...the physics and physiology of existing (and ceasing to exist) in deep space”.
Eileen O’Hely

14 

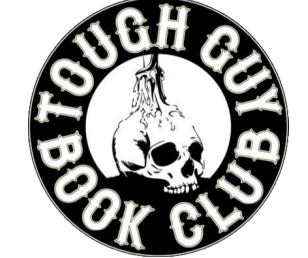
15 Try *Kick* by Mitch Johnson.
Great for year 7 readers.
A story about hope and heroes.
Set in Jakarta.

16 *The Fort*
Gordon Korman
Five boys find a secret hideout in the woods.
Realistic fiction.
Older middle grades.

17 Read Dr Garth Stahl’s (UQ) research on improving the academic and social outcomes of boys (2021).

18 

19 Happy B/Day
Phillip Pullman
Fantasy series, *His Dark Materials*.
Also made into a TV series.

20 

21 *Brian’s Saga:* five in the series
Gary Paulsen
Concepts of adventure, survival skills and coming-of-age.

22 

23 *Unbroken (Young Adult Adaptation): An Olympian’s Journey from Airman to Castaway to Captive*
A bombardier’s true saga from WWII.

24 

25 

26 A graphic biography
Steve Jobs: Insanely Great.
2016
Jessie Hartland

27 2024 publication.
The Next Messi: Soccer Books for Kids 8-12
Max Goalman
Energetic and exciting

28 *Show Me the Money* (2020)
Sue Lawson & Karen Tayleur
Learn about who and what is on Australian money.

29 **A non-fiction classic:**
The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind
William Kamkwamba and Bryan Mealer
A story of a boy born in a village in Malawi facing drought.

30 *Skulduggery Pleasant* series
dark fantasy novels
Irish author Derek Landy

31 **A gothic read:**
This Monstrous Thing
A re-telling of *Frankenstein*, set in 1818.
Mackenzi Lee

