



**90%**

of primary and  
80% of secondary  
school respondents  
felt the Reading  
Challenge helped  
encourage reading  
for pleasure

“

*‘We can see  
reluctant readers  
begin to change  
their perspective  
on reading. It  
becomes less  
of a chore and  
something that  
allows them  
to relax and  
participate  
in a classroom  
hobby, of sorts!’*

English teacher

”

## First Minister's Reading Challenge in schools 2019–20

The First Minister's Reading Challenge is a national initiative funded by the Scottish Government to help schools, public libraries and community groups to build and sustain reading cultures which encourage young people to develop a life-long love of reading.

Schools that take part have access to resources, training and funding opportunities, and can submit an entry for one of the annual national awards. Despite the school year being disrupted by lockdown, many schools still submitted their challenge to one of the Reading Challenge award categories.



**803**

schools  
registered to  
take part



**75%**

of primary and  
76% of secondary  
schools felt the Reading  
Challenge helped them  
build better links  
with parents



**88%**

of primary and 79%  
of secondary schools  
reported that the  
Challenge helped  
their pupils read for  
pleasure more

“

*‘Certainly there is a more positive appreciation of books and reading for pleasure, and more of a willingness for pupils to take on texts that they are interested in. This can only help with engagement with the curriculum as general knowledge increases and more connections and links are made.’*

English teacher, Secondary school

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# Scottish Book Trust

inspiring readers and writers



**92%**

of primary and 90% of secondary schools reported that the Reading Challenge was accessible for all the pupils in their school

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*‘Our assessment data has shown an increase in reading and writing attainment which we believe is partly due to developing a reading culture within the school where children are choosing to read for pleasure. This in turn has helped develop a wider vocabulary and offered a range of writing possibilities.’*

Principal teacher

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**61%**

of primary and 41% of secondary schools reported their participation helped build better links with local libraries



## Bookzilla



Scottish Book Trust has a range of learning resources, lesson plans, and activities to help schools engage with the Reading Challenge. In 2019 we developed the free Bookzilla app. The app encourages secondary school pupils to read for pleasure by offering challenges and tailored suggestions.



**4328**

books read



**3886**

downloads



**13,805**

books added to reading lists

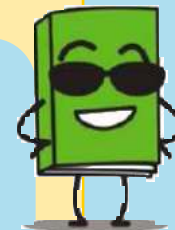


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*‘It helps me find books I haven’t seen before then I’ll read them.’*

Pupil

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“

*‘It helps reluctant learners and pupils enjoy the challenges. It opens discussions about books.’*

English teacher, Secondary school

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Smarter Scotland