

**Connect Four Game**

Read the article on the other side of this page on teens and reading, then as a team connect the categories and words together by clicking on a group of words in the game.

**Your categories are:**

1. Makes us want to read
2. Makes us not want to read
3. Payoff for reading
4. Ways to find good books

**Your words are:**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| pressure | access | Choices | nagging |
| Laughing | criticizing | travel | bookstore |
| escape | interest | Friends | Examples |
| librarian | booklists | embarrassment | advice |

**Tips on Teenagers and Reading**

**Things adults should try to avoid...**

* **Pressuring, nagging, or bribing.**
* **Criticizing what teens read.**
* **Lavishing too much praise, it can lead to embarrassment.**

**Things that make teens want to read...**

* **Examples.** When the adults in your life read for pleasure you tend to do the same.
* **A home with a variety of reading materials.** A home filled with books, magazines, and newspapers encourages reading.
* **Having an opportunity to choose their own books.**
* **Building on a particular interests.** Look for books and articles that feature your favorite sports teams, rock stars, hobbies, or television shows. Ask for a gift subscription to a special interest magazine.

**Payoff for reading….**

* **Become an expert.** An expert on any subject they like—from sports stats to spelunking, coins to carburetors, or anything in between.
* **Live dangerously.** Through reading you can share the challenges, fears, thrills, and achievements of those they are reading about without the risk.
* **Have a few laughs.** You will enjoy sitting down with a book by their favorite stand-up comedian, a collection of jokes or cartoons, or a humor magazine.
* **See the world.** Without leaving their room, you can visit places that fascinate them.
* **Travel through time.** Historical fiction and science fiction move a reader back and forth in time.
* **Use their brains.** You may enjoy solving a mystery by figuring out whodunit, outwitting a crafty villain, or thinking through a perilous situation.
* **Get some free advice.** Lots of novels feature teenage characters who have problems and pressures similar to those you may be dealing with.
* **Discover new interests.** Through reading, you may develop an interest in something they knew nothing about before.
* **Find a cause.** You can get smart on an issue that matters to them.
* **Escape.** You can escape noise, tension, or boredom by escaping into a book.

**Ways to find a good book.**

* **Decide what you're in the mood for.** High adventure? Romance? Perhaps you enjoyed a recent movie or TV miniseries; chances are it was based on a book you'd enjoy also.
* **Ask around.** Ask friends, a favorite teacher, or your coach to suggest books they enjoyed.
* **Check out the library.** It won't cost you anything, and the choices are virtually unlimited. Don't be shy about asking a librarian a question like, "Do you have any books on rock music?"
* **Browse in a bookstore.** Find the section that interests you—fantasy, cars, computers, or whatever. Treat yourself to an inexpensive paperback, or just have a look around.
* **Consult a list of books other teenagers have enjoyed.** Ask for a book list at your school or public library.