



Solihull
METROPOLITAN
BOROUGH COUNCIL

The Really Broad Reading Awards



Information for Students

What are the Really Broad Reading Awards?

They are a series of reading awards for you to attempt - there are nine different awards at the moment.

They are a way of acknowledging the breadth of your reading - or your specialist reading interests.

Your community wants all types of reading to be valued equally.

Solihull is keen to value those students who read in other areas and not just those who read novels and short stories.

The spirit of the Really Broad Reading Awards is best summed up by the motto "All Reading is Good".

What do the awards look like?

Each award is a small badge of a distinctive design and/or colour.

Each badge is accompanied by a certificate bearing a citation. The citation describes what has been achieved.

And how many awards are there?

In the first instance, there will be nine separate awards (badges). They are listed below together with brief guidance on each one.

It is up to you whether you achieve one or two awards, or whether you gain a large collection.

Only one award can be attempted per term.

The Really Broad Reading Awards



How do I gain an award?

You let your school's coordinator know that you wish to apply for a specific award.

A fully trained volunteer will interview you for each award/badge.

- Interviews will be about 15 minutes in length.
- Don't worry. The interview will be relaxed and enjoyable.
- If you are interviewed in a small group there will be no embarrassments.
- Everyone's taste in reading will be respected and valued.
- You will be asked a range of questions about the type of reading (award) you have applied for.
- You should talk convincingly about three different texts (at least) related to the type of reading (award) you have chosen.
- You will also be asked for a recommended book, article etc. that might help someone become interested in the type of reading you like.
- Your recommended book/article should be a different one from the three mentioned during the first part of the interview . . . so it's worth saving one of the best till last!
- The worst that can happen is that you will be given a little more time to reach the required standard.
- If you have prepared yourself reasonably well, you are likely to gain the award at the first attempt.

What are the different types of award?

There will be awards in the following areas, in the first instance.

1. The 'Really Broad Reading Award' for Reading Works of Reference

This award is aimed at those of you who regularly enjoy reading encyclopaedias or almanacs or text books (relating to any subject) or historical sources and facsimile documents etc.

Your reading can be done in book form or online, or both.

The Really Broad Reading Awards



2. The Award for Reading Journalism (Features)

This award is aimed at those of you who regularly enjoy reading newspaper or magazine articles (online or otherwise).

Your reading can be on a variety of topics e.g. humorous articles (Lucy Mangan in the Observer) or articles on vehicles, fashion, famous people, green issues, politics, science (Ben Goldacre), foreign countries, finance, human rights etc.

The British press is one of the best in the world . . . so get out there and use it!

3. The Award for Reading Prose

This award is aimed at those who regularly enjoy novels or short stories.

4. The Award for Reading Technical Manuals

This award is for those who regularly enjoy reading games manuals, DIY manuals, recipe books etc.

5. The Award for Reading Journalism (Sports)

This award is aimed at those who regularly enjoy journalism (in newspapers, magazines or online) on one sport or a range of sports.

6. The Award for Reading Poetry

This award is aimed at those who regularly enjoy a broad range of individual texts, poetry books, anthologies or poetry magazines.

Your reading should draw on a range of writers from the present day and previous centuries.

The Really Broad Reading Awards



7. The Award for Reading Essays

This award is aimed at those who have gained a taste for reading contemporary and/or classical essays (on the page or online). Essays have been written over many centuries and they are still going strong.

Names to look out for: Francis Bacon (seventeenth century); Gilbert White (eighteenth century); Mark Twain (nineteenth century); George Orwell (twentieth century); Barack Obama; Stephen King; Steve Martin; Will Hutton; David Mitchell (of Mitchell & Webb fame); Stewart Lee.

Sometimes essays appear as extended newspaper articles in, for example, the Times, the Guardian, quality Sunday papers . . . or in magazine articles in, for example, the New Statesman, the Spectator, New Scientist the Economist. These essays will probably not refer to themselves as being essays.

Essays are written on politics, nature, ideas, experiences, beliefs, morals, people . . . anything!

We nearly suggested a minimum student age for this award, but we have decided not to. We think you should decide who is old enough to attempt this award.

To support this award, an introductory collection of essays (and sources of essays) has been prepared for your school or school library.

8. The Award for Reading Scripted Texts

This award is aimed at those of you who like reading a range of scripted works e.g. plays, film scripts and television scripts.

9. The Award for Reading Letters, Diaries and Biographies

This award is aimed at those who engage with a range of texts based on biography and/or the collected letters of prominent or interesting figures.

Happy reading!