Supporting your child’s reading in Years 7 to 10

What can you do to help your child get started?
What can you do to support a reading routine?

Curiosity, choice and consistency

✓ Use what your child values and is interested in to encourage reading.
✓ Pose a question related to everyday life that sparks a desire to read.
✓ Encourage reading of a variety of texts. This could include a graphic novel, a cool app, a mystery or a real world problem to investigate and solve, a description of a new discovery or something that just makes your child laugh.
✓ Suggest reading books from your child’s favourite movies. Sometimes these might form part of a series of books. You might also encourage reading texts which are connected to key ideas and themes explored in a favourite movie.
✓ Negotiate with your child, a time and a space for reading every day.
✓ Begin and end each day with a check-in about reading. You might start with asking a question that gives your child a purpose for reading. Later, you might ask them for five fun facts about what they’ve learnt or describe an alternative ending to a text, or suggest some questions about a topic.

Connection, creativity and challenge

✓ Create opportunities for your child to share what they have read. This could be with a family member or peers, for example, your child could select a favourite part of what they have read and share it with a sibling. They could blog in an online forum. Young people aged 12-18 can register and share book reviews, recommendations and creative writing about what they have read and viewed on Inside a Dog, on the Victorian State Library website.
✓ Set a reading challenge to improve the amount and variety of what your child reads, for example, the Premier’s Reading Challenge in Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria and South Australia.