

Can you remember when you first learnt to read and who taught you?

I think I first learnt to read at Primary School, in which case it would have been Miss Patience who taught me.

What was your favourite book as a child and why?

My favourite books when I was at primary school were the Secret Seven series by Enid Blyton, because they gave me a sense of adventure. They were quite new books when I was a child! Also, I enjoyed the secrets and mystery surrounding the storylines and I particularly liked Scamper the dog. At secondary school I fell in love with 'The Bafut Beagles' by Gerald Durrell – made me laugh OUT LOUD many times. I then found every book by him in the school and public libraries

and read the lot. I also enjoyed reading science fiction books by John Wyndham, but really I read a complete variety of styles, genres and authors.



Mrs Burns-Price

What are you reading at the moment?

At the moment I am reading *The Time Travellers Wife* by Audrey Niffenegger. I haven't read it before and I like the fact that I cannot guess the ending, as I really don't enjoy books with obvious endings.

What sort of reading do you do for pleasure now?

I really enjoy travel writing. I particularly like Bill Bryson's books because they make me laugh. Also, I read a book recently about a female journalist who went cycling around Spain on her own, which I really enjoyed as I do a lot of cycling myself. I also like reading the books nominated for the Carnegie children's book award.

What's been your favourite book of the last five years?

I loved *A Gathering Light* by Jennifer Donnelly, which is set in the Adirondack Mountains near New York in 1906. Beautiful description and a real 'can't put downer' - part murder-mystery and part coming-of-age story. It won the Carnegie Medal in 2003.

Why does reading for pleasure matter to you?

Reading for pleasure matters to me because it is a combination of relaxation and escapism. Also, as I normally read a lot when I go on holidays, reading always reminds me of being on holiday - whether I am or not!

By Danielle B and
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