

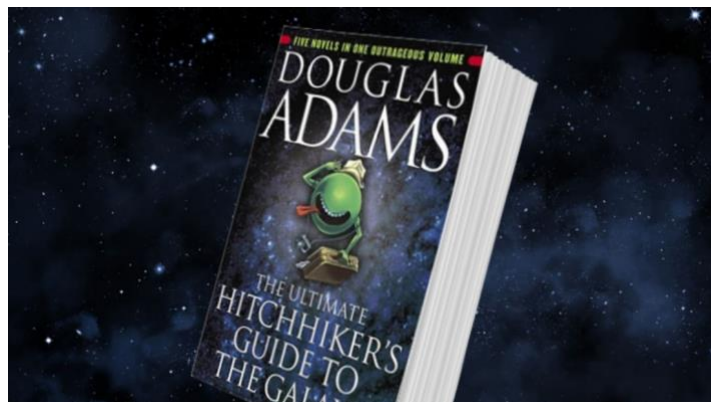
Books every boy should read before leaving prep school

The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy - a Trilogy of Five

A review by Tom Allfrey, Year 8

“The universe may offer a mind-boggling number of ways to be blown up and insulted, but it’s very hard to get a cup of tea...”

The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy by Douglas Adams is one of the best books that I have ever read. It encompasses many themes and genres, including Sci-Fi, fantasy, thriller, and comedy. The author does this without it feeling messy, and the storyline is varied and flowing.



It follows the adventures of Arthur Dent, who is rescued from the Earth when it is unexpectedly demolished to make way for a new hyperspatial bypass. What follows is a series of events that take him around the galaxy, accompanied by his friend Ford Prefect, who turns out to be from Betelgeuse rather than Guildford.

The reason why I think that every prep school boy should read this is because, apart from anything else, it is thoroughly enjoyable from cover to cover. I think that reading can often be viewed as work, and this book will change that perspective! As well as this, It is written eloquently without being heavy, and this is all too rare. We could all take a leaf out of this book to adapt our own writing styles.

This book is not Just for children, however. It can be enjoyed by anyone who likes any of the genres mentioned above, and is also a great introduction into the world of science fiction for those who are unfamiliar with it.

In addition to this, it is most certainly educational. Although it is definitely not meant to be a textbook, it contains references to many parts of science, whilst keeping within the storyline. It also adds depth to things like astronomy, and could inspire future careers.

There are a couple of bad points - sadly. I would say that the fifth book is not quite up to the standard of the first four, as it does not fit as cleanly into the rest of the storyline. Nonetheless, it is still a brilliant read.

To summarize: this is a wholly remarkable book, weaving together many things, and with a gripping and funny storyline. A must read!

And for those of you who have already read it – why not have a listen to a few of the [Hitchhiker's Guide episodes on BBC sounds?](#)