



# Barbara Band

## BOOKS FOR TEENAGE BOYS

It tends to be acknowledged that most boys like funny books - especially ones that deal with any sort of "toilet" humour. The Lollies (Laugh Out Loud) Book Award shortlists are a good place to explore for ideas but **Diary of a Wimpy Kid** is hugely popular ... so much that it's sometimes hard to move students on from the series and they'll happily reread and reread until they leave school. So my first step in this case is to recommend similar books:

- **Brilliant World of Tom gates series by Liz Pichon**
  - **The World of Norm series by Jonathan Meres**
    - **Barry Loser series by Jim Smith**
    - **Timmy failure series by Stephan Pastis**

There's lots available and the similar format makes them less threatening. Series are popular, probably because, after the first book, you don't have to worry about who the characters are, who are their family, friends, pets, etc. and you can just enjoy the story. Moving on from this are other series that are a more challenging read but have great appeal:

- **Alex Rider series by Anthony Horowitz**
  - **River of Ink series by Helen Dennis**
- **Lockwood & Co series by Jonathan Stroud**
- **Jamie Johnson series by Dan Freedman**
  - **The Enemy series by Charlie Higson**
    - **Itch by Simon Mayo**





Obviously what you recommend depends a lot of the type of book the reader likes. If they're not into zombies then *The Enemy* just won't do it! If you've got slightly older students who turn their nose up at these then sometimes a short stand-alone book, aimed at a higher age but with a lower reading level can sometimes hook them. I'm thinking of something like:

- **Mind The Gap by Phil Earle**
- **Jon For Short by Malorie Blackman**
- **Flesh and Blood by Chris Priestley**
  - **Brock by Anthony McGowan**
  - **You Killed Me by Keith Gray**

Finally for older readers there's some great books around:

- **The Bunker Diary by Kevin Brooks**
  - **Moonrise by Sarah Crossan**
  - **Junk by Melvin Burgess**
- **White Rabbit Red Wolf by Tom Pollock**

And if all else fails I don't push it but will give them a picture book ... something by Shaun Tan or *Zoom* by Istvan Banyai ... a book that will get them thinking, creating a story in their head, show them that reading doesn't always have to be about words!

