

AUDIO SCRIPT

LISTENING

Task 1.

Presenter: Did you know that the 2nd of March is World Book Day? A day when people are encouraged to celebrate the art of fiction and read that book that they've been wanting to read. To celebrate the day, World Book Day did a survey of hundreds of adults and teenagers in the UK to find the ultimate list of books that will change your life. This list was made to help encourage more teens to read fiction. The results were a little surprising. Joining us to discuss it is Tina Richmond. Tina, what was top of the list?

Tina: Well, it wasn't as simple as that. The books were split into eight separate lists, like books that will scare you, books that change the way you think, and books that will teach you about love. But the number one book overall was *The Hunger Games*.

Presenter: Oh, my kids love *The Hunger Games*. But why did they decide to do the different lists?

Tina: Good question. A top 50 list can be difficult to break down. People will just see titles. But if you know that book will make you cry or scare you, then you will be more likely to want to read it. It also ensures that there is something for everyone. This is about providing choice. We all know that when we are in school and we are told to read a book, we hate it. But if we can choose, it is a different story.

Presenter: Interesting. So can you give me some examples?

Tina: Yes, of course. *A Street Cat Called Bob* and *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night Time* were near the top of the list in the 'books that would change the way you think' category. While *The Fault in Our Stars* was top of the category called 'books that will help you understand you'. And *Geek Girl* and *Diary of a Wimpy Kid* were on the 'books to make you laugh' list.

Presenter: All great books, but not all written for teenagers.

Tina: No, but it shows that there is no such thing as an adult book or a teenager book. Good books are good books. It doesn't matter who they were written for.

Presenter: What was your favourite book on the list?

Tina: Well, it's a difficult decision. I haven't read all of them. I love *Jane Eyre* by Charlotte Bronte, for example, but I think my absolute favourite has to be *1984* by George Orwell.

Task 2.

About a year ago, I took up underwater photography. I was already doing a photography course. In fact, I'd completed my second year. And although I enjoyed taking photos of plants and trees on land, I was looking for a new challenge. I read an article about underwater photography, and that's when I decided to give it a go. I love the idea of taking photos of living creatures deep down in the ocean. I knew from reading the article that to be an underwater photographer you have to be extremely fit too and it goes without saying you need to be an excellent swimmer. I'd done scuba before and a bit of snorkeling so I thought the best way to prepare would be to get up early every morning and do fifty lengths in my local pool. Eventually I enrolled myself onto a course and started to think about equipment. There's a lot of choice when it comes to underwater cameras, but the assistant told me it all depends on how seriously you want to take the hobby. He said that some people do underwater cave diving, so they buy special equipment that can operate at very deep levels. I wasn't quite ready for that, and anyway, the assistant told me that it was most important to feel comfortable holding your camera. In the end, I bought a mid-range kit that wasn't too expensive. Before we took any underwater photos, we had several weeks of learning camera skills and being given advice about what to expect. We did a lot of research about different underwater environments, from local rivers to the Caribbean Sea. Doing research beforehand means you are more prepared. It means you know what to expect and so can take better photos. I'll never forget my first big trip. I went on an organised trip to the island of Zakynthos in Greece. At first I found operating my camera equipment quite difficult. I was so used to taking fast snapshots on land but I soon got used to it and took some fabulous photos of the fish there. I'm planning to enter some photography competitions once I've had a bit more practice.