Part 7

You are going to read an article about teenage writers and their favourite books. For questions **43–52**, choose from the writers (**A–D**). The writers may be chosen more than once.

Mark your answers on the separate answer sheet.

Which writer says that their favourite book

clearly benefitted their own creative work?	**43**	
made them look at a particular academic subject in a new way?	**44**	
revealed the limitations of one of their interests?	**45**	
completely transformed their reading preferences?	**46**	
encouraged them to try reading books of the same genre?	**47**	
influenced their view on the importance of reading widely?	**48**	
is rarely included in any recommendations they make about reading?	**49**	
inspired them to start producing their own fiction?	**50**	
wouldn't have featured in their reading if they hadn't been obliged to study it?	**51**	
exceeded the expectations they had when they first came across it?	**52**	

LIVEWORKSHEETS

My favourite book

Four teenage writers talk about the book they've most enjoyed reading.

A Tomasz

I discovered my favourite book *Mind Games* by Ursula Waters in a second-hand bookshop. It was obviously sci-fi – something I'm not usually a fan of and didn't really think I'd appreciate much – but it had an unusual-looking cover which made me decide to buy it. Anyway, I started reading and instantly took to it. The author's sense of wonder that came through was a real surprise, and I loved how she made everything seem interesting and mysterious at the same time. As a result, and alongside my usual novels, I began to explore a few other sci-fi writers' work. And the stuff I read had a profound effect on my fiction writing, which I was just beginning to get into. I definitely owe a great debt of gratitude to Ursula Waters.

B Ana

My favourite book is *Points to Consider* by John Meadows, although having said that, I'd be the first to admit that it's far too long and quite complex – not that that would normally put me off. But it was required reading for a philosophy assignment I needed to do – otherwise I'd never have bothered picking it up, to be honest. And even now, if people ask me for ideas about something good to read, I hardly ever mention it. On the other hand, it was the first book I'd read on philosophy that provided me with fresh insights into the topic. For this reason, I've returned to the book many times and I'd say it's really changed how I think about things. Actually that's influenced my choice of degree course at university – and it'll probably affect the writing I'm doing.

C Jack

A Life by James Melville was a book I'd never even heard of before I read it but it absolutely knocked me out. It's all about his own life and in it he discusses the books that shaped him as a writer. I found it astonishing and it totally changed what I chose to read afterwards. Reading his book made it clear he knew a huge amount about different areas of study – languages, history, you name it. And as an aspiring writer myself, I realised after reading his book that it was essential for authors to be extremely well-read before they ever start to create anything themselves. Melville hadn't limited himself to reading the works of well-known writers, either, which was one reason why I avoided bestsellers. In comparison with other stuff I was reading, and especially what I'd been introduced to through Melville, they seemed really shallow.

D Sally

I've loved books ever since I learned to read, and one thing I've discovered is that the surest way to learn is to tackle stuff that really gets your brain working. It might be tough, but it's worth it. And that was never more true than with my favourite book, a lengthy novel called *Techno* by Nat Jones. Thanks to this book, I became aware that my obsession with technology was never going to help me achieve many of the things I wanted out of life. The author's views, cleverly expressed through the main character, were all about what technology can and can't do, and if I hadn't read it, I'd probably have ended up working in software development or something. Instead, reading this has encouraged me to become a short story writer, which suits my personality much better, even though I haven't had much success so far.

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