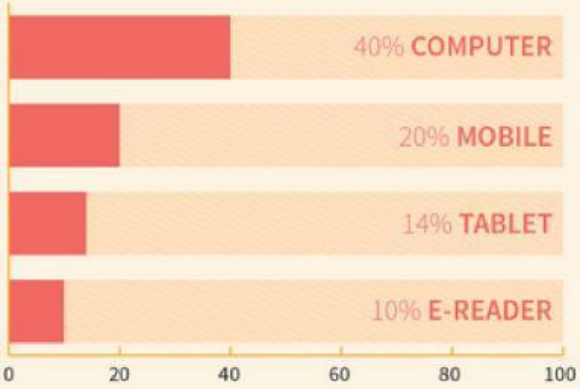
In contrast to what a lot of older people think, teens don't in fact just use new technologies to talk to their friends. Although teenagers may not be reading books, that does not mean they are not reading. A World Book Day survey of teenage reading habits revealed over 40% read books on a computer, almost 20% on a mobile device and around 14% on a tablet, with around 10% reading on an e-reader.



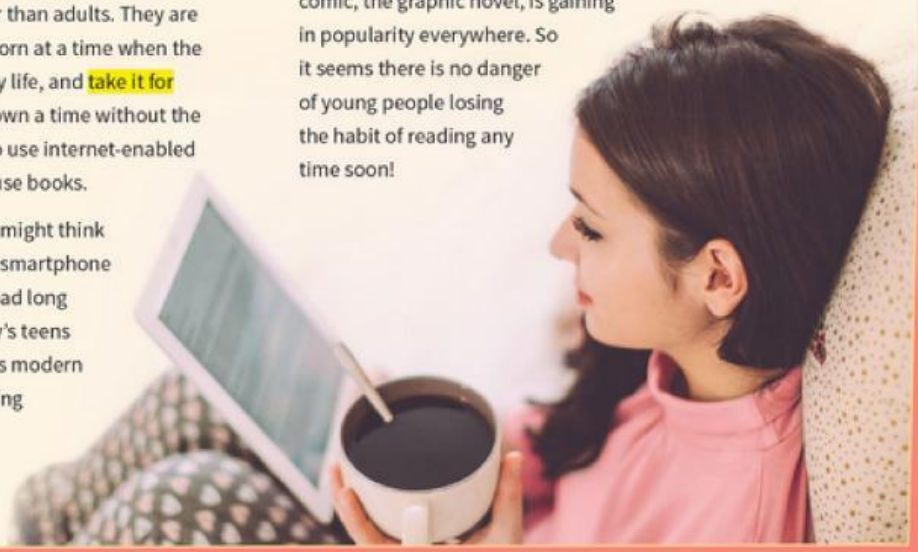
Why should this be? Well, the British telecommunications supervisor, Ofcom, points out that children as young as six understand digital technology better than adults. They are 'digital natives' – that is, they were born at a time when the internet was already part of everyday life, and take it for granted. Teens today have never known a time without the internet, so it is as natural to them to use internet-enabled devices as it was to their parents to use books.

So, what are teenagers reading? You might think that the smaller reading surface of a smartphone or tablet would make it difficult to read long books, but this is not the case. Today's teens still like to read the classics as well as modern fiction and have no difficulty in reading



them on a digital device. Adventure, crime and spy stories are all popular, with some authors such as John Grisham and Ian Rankin as popular among teens as adults. Among the classics, Charles Dickens remains a favourite, along with Jules Verne and Alexandre Dumas.

The classics do not only include novels. Cartoon characters like Tintin and Asterix are as popular today as they were in the mid-20th century. It isn't only older comic-style books that are proving popular with teens these days either – the modern-day comic, the graphic novel, is gaining in popularity everywhere. So it seems there is no danger of young people losing the habit of reading any time soon!



4 **Write questions about the article for these answers.**

0 *Why did children use to read under the bedclothes with a torch?*
Because they were impatient to find out what happened next in their book.

1 _____
That technology and social media affect concentration.

2 _____
Because they've never known a time without the internet.

3 _____
John Grisham and Ian Rankin, for example.

4 _____
The graphic novel.

5 **Match the highlighted words and phrases in the text to the definitions.**

1 tells someone about some information _____
2 pieces of writing, musical recordings, or films that are well known and of a high standard _____
3 forget how lucky you are to have something _____
4 an examination of behaviour or opinions made by asking questions _____
5 the top or outside part of something _____

LIVEWORKSHEETS