

Bookworms always up for the challenge

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YOUNG South Australian bookworms Shianne Durdin and Nevaeh Fletcher have notched up an impressive reading list to blitz the 2021 Premier's Reading Challenge.

Combined, the year 6 students who attend the

SA School for Vision Impaired (SASVI), have read more than three times the required number of books to complete this year's challenge.

The young friends, who each embrace the wonderful world of books, have churned through favourites in printed braille, audio and electronic

braille – with fantasy their favourite genre.

For them, reading Harry Potter and The Philosopher's Stone in braille means 10 volumes of 500 printed braille pages, standing about 30cm high.

Teacher librarian Lauren Fountain says the girls' love of reading was inspiring.

"It is brilliant to see them access all types of literacy with gusto ... as a teacher it is just what you want to see," she said.

SASVI is the only school of its type in Australia, where mainstream curriculum is supported

through resources in braille, large print and audio created on-site.

Shianne, 12, and Nevaeh, 11, have taken part in the annual statewide program that promotes reading and literacy from reception to year 12 for the past seven years.

This year, they've finished a total of 75 books, reading an estimated 500 books combined as part of the challenge since starting school.

They join about 129,190 students from government and non-government schools who completed the challenge, in its 18th year, in 2021. The challenge officially ends this month.



Shianne Durdin, left, and Nevaeh Fletcher have read 75 books this year, including Harry Potter and The Philosopher's Stone, inset. Picture: Naomi Jellicoe