

Recommended Reads: Years 7/8

Action, Adventure, Mystery & Thrillers

Storm Catchers by Tim Bowler
The Terrible Thing [...] Barnaby Brocket - John Boyne
Bodyguard or *Gamer* (& sequels) by Chris Bradford*
Mortal Chaos or *Lie, Kill, Walk Away* –M Dickinson (!)
The London Eye Mystery by Siobhan Dowd (!)
The Girl Who Stole An Elephant by Nizrana Farook
Boy Overboard by Morris Gleitzman
The Boy Who Flew by Fleur Hitchcock
High Rise Mystery & Mic Drop by Sharna Jackson
The Long Weekend by Savita Kalhan*
Girl Missing (& sequels) by Sophie McKenzie
The Recruit (& sequels) or *Killer T* -R Muchamore*
Hatchet by Gary Paulsen
Ruby in the Smoke by Phillip Pullman
Wolf Wilder, Rooftopper The Explorer by K Rundell
Murder Most Unladylike (& sequels) – R Stevens
Lost (Choose Your Own Adventure) -Tracey Turner.*
Girl. Boy. Sea by Chris Vick
The Extinction Trials by SM Wilson

LGBTQ+ Celebrating difference

Heartstopper series by Alice Oseman
Leah on the Offbeat by Becky Albertalli
Aristotle and Dante Discover the Secrets of the Universe by Benjamin Alire Sáenz
Aristotle and Dante Dive Into the Waters of the World- B.A. Saenez
Here's to Us (What If It's Us)- B.Albertalli

Dystopian & Science Fiction

The Infinite by Patience Agbabi
The Middler or *Troofriend* by Kirsty Applebaum
Ink (& sequels) by Alice Broadway
Where the River Runs Gold by Sita Brahmachari
Gone or *BRZK* (& sequels) -Michael Grant
Nowhere on Earth by Nick Lake
The Giver and *Gathering Blue* by Lois Lowry (!)
The Dog Runner, Across the Risen Sea & How to Bee by Bren Macdibble (!) – environmental dystopia
Killer T by Robert Muchamore
The Knife of Never Letting Go (& sequels)-P Ness (!)
Railhead & Mortal Engines (& sequels)-P Reeve (!)
Scythe, Unwind, Dry (& sequels) – N Shusterman (!)
Destination Earth by Ali Sparkes
Contagion or *Slated* (& sequels) by Teri Terry
The Kid Who Came From Space by Ross Welford
The 5th Wave (& sequels) by Rick Yancey (!)

Fantasy, Magic Realism, Horror & Ghost

The House With Chicken Legs & Girl/Bear -S. Anderson
Asha & The Spirit Bird by Jasbinder Bilan
Mind Writer by Steve Cole*
Artemis Fowl (& sequels) by Eoin Colfer
Who Let the Gods Out (& sequels) by Maz Evans
Ranger's Apprentice or *Brotherband* - J Flanagan
Inkheart (& sequels) or *Reckless* by Cornelia Funke (!)
The Graveyard Book by Neil Gaiman (!)
Blackberry Blue by Jamila Gavin (!)
Brightstorm: A Sky-Ship Adventure by Vashti Hardy
Girl of Ink and Stars by Kiran Millwood Hargrave (!)
Skulduggery Pleasant (& sequels) by Derek Landy
Eragon (& sequels) by Christopher Paolini
Tales of Terror, Mister Creecher –Chris Priestley
Northern Lights (& sequels) by Phillip Pullman (!)
Goth Girl (& sequels) by Chris Riddell*
Mrs Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children -Riggs
Alcatraz & Evil Librarians (& sequels) by B Sanderson
Zom-B or *Cirque du Freak* (& sequels) by D. Shan*
Oh My Gods by Alexandra Sheppard (!)
Black Panther the Young Prince by Roland L Smith
The Edge Chronicles by P Stewart and C Riddell
The Ocean at the End of the Lane by Neil Gaiman

Humorous books

Little Badman & [...] Killer Aunties - Humza Arshad (!)
Millions, Cosmic or Broccoli Boy by Frank C Boyce
The Last Kids on Earth (& sequels) by Max Brallier*
Fenway and Hattie by Victoria Cole*
Adventures of a Wimpy Vampire(&more)-T.Collins*
The 13-Storey Treehouse (& series) by A Griffiths*
Cookie & the Most Annoying Boy... by Konnie Huq*
Enginerds (& sequels) by Jarrett Lerner*
Disaster Diaries: Zombies (&sequels)-R McGeddon*
The Accidental Billionaire series- T McLaughlin
The World of Norm series by Jonathon Meres*
Accidental Trouble: Planet Omar by Zanib Mian
Timmy Failure series by Stephan Pastis*
Tom Gates series by Liz Pichon (dyslexia-friendly)*
Big Nate series by Lincoln Peirce*

Relationships & Tough Situations

Cyborg Cat (& sequels)- Ade Adepitan* (!)
The One and Only Ivan by Katherine Applegate
Boy Underwater by Adam Baron (!)
Noughts and Crosses or *Pig-Heart Boy* - M Blackman (!)
Blubber or anything by Judy Blume
Artichoke Hearts or *Jasmine Skies* -S. Brahmachari
A Pocketful of Stars by Aisha Bushby
Efren Divided by Ernesto Cisneros
New Kid by Jerry Craft
One, Apple & Rain, Moonrise, Toffee -S Crossan (!)

Stella By Starlight* or *Blended by Sharon Draper (!)
Running on Empty by S.E. Durrant
Mind the Gap, Being Billy or Saving Daisy - P Earle*
The Many Worlds of Albie Bright –Chris Edge
Pet by Akwaeke Emezi
Mockingbird by Kathryn Erskine (!)
Tulip Touch, Goggle Eyes or Flour Babies by A. Fine
Lenny’s Book of Everything by Karen Foxlee
Check Mates & The Bubble Boy by Stewart Foster
One Crazy Summer by Rita Williams-Garcia
George by Alex Gino
Coram Boy by Jamila Gavin
Tall Story* or *Shine by Candy Gourlay
The Island at the End of Everything by KM Hargrave(!)
After the Fire by Will Hill (!)
Boy in the Tower by Polly Ho-Yen
A Different Dog by Paul Jennings*
Red Sky in the Morning or Song/Dolphin Boy -E Laird (!)
Scarlet Ibis by Gill Lewis
Rain Reign by Ann M Martin
Brock, Pike, Rook & Lark by Anthony McGowan *(!)
A Monster Calls by Patrick Ness (!)
No Fixed Address* or *Word Nerd – Susin Nielsen (!)
Wonder by R.J. Palacio (!)
Pax* or *Here in the Real World - S Pennypacker (!)
Unboxed by Non Pratt *
A Good Kind of Trouble by Lisa Moore Ramee
Long Way Down, Look Both Ways, Ghost -Reynolds*(!)
Ghost Boys* or *Black Brother[...] Jewell P Rhodes (!)
Esperanza Rising by Pam Munoz Ryan
Operation Frog Effect by Sarah Scheerger
Can You See Me* or *Do You Know Me–Scott & Westcott
The Marvels* or *Wonderstruck by Brian Selznick*
The Boxer by Nikesh Shukla (!)
Stargirl by Jerry Spinelli (!)
Clean Getaway by Nic Stone
Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry by Mildred Taylor (!)
The Hate U Give by Angie Thomas (!)
Goldfish Boy by Lisa Thompson
The 1000 Year Old Boy* or *Time/Hamster - Ross Welford
A Boy Called Hope* or *Ocean/Armchair - by L Williamson
Brown Girl Dreaming* or *Harbor Me - J Woodson (!)
Front Desk by Kelly Yang

Sports

Booked, Crossover or Rebound – K. Alexander* (!)
Stat Man by Alan Durant *
Unstoppable* or *Man of the Match - Dan Freedman*
The Number 7 Shirt* or *The Lion Roars - A Gibbons*
Kick by Mitch Johnson
The Fix by Sophie McKenzie*
The Greatest: Muhammed Ali by Walter D Myers*
Ultimate Football Heroes Collection – M&T Oldfield*

Football Academy* or *Foul Play series–Tom Palmer*
Soccer Squad, Dream On (& series) by Bali Rai*
Outcasts United (young people edition) -W. St John
The Football Boy Wonder (& sequels) - Martin Smith*
Pay Attention, Carter Jones by Gary Schmidt* (!)

History, War, Conflict & Refugee Experience

Soldier Dog* or *A Horse Called Hero - Sam Angus
The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas by J Boyne (!)
The Short Knife by Elen Caldecott
Illegal by Eoin Colfer * (!)
Wolf Children, Red Shadow, Eleven Eleven -Dowswell
Copper Sun by Sharon Draper
Under a War-Torn Sky by L.M. Elliott
Boy 87 by Ele Fountain
The Bone Sparrow by Zana Fraillion (!)
Once (& sequels) by Morris Gleitzman * (!)
Bone Talk by Candy Gourlay (!)
Grenade by Alan Gratz
Race to the Frozen North*, 1783, Blade and Bones* or *Sawbones by Catherine Johnson
Orphan Monster Spy by Matt Killeen
Inside Out and Back Again by Thanhha Lai (!)
Crusade by Elizabeth Laird
Buffalo Soldier* or *Apache by Tanya Landman
Every Falling Star (North Korea) by Sungju Lee
Dog Tags: Semper Fido* or *Strays by C A London*
Diver’s Daughter: A Tudor Story by P Lawrence
Shadow* or *In the Mouth of the Wolf -Morpurgo
Sunrise Over Fallujah by Walter Dean Myers*
A Night Divided by Jennifer Nielson
After the War, Armistice Runner* or *Over/Line-T Palmer*
A Long Walk to Water by Linda Sue Park
The Red Pencil by Andrea David Pinkney
Now or Never: A Dunkirk Story by Bali Rai*
The Boy at the Back of the Class by Onjali Rauf (!)
Salt to the Sea by Ruta Sepetys (!)
Eagle of the Ninth by Rosemary Sutcliffe (!)
Refugee Boy by Benjamin Zephaniah
The Book Thief by Marcus Zusak !

Note to parents: Some books from this list are written for young adult readers; this means there may be occasional ‘gritty’ content. Generally by Key Stage 3 young people are ready for this, but parents know their children best; if you have queries about suitability, please check online reviews or ask your child’s teacher.

* = Top picks for reluctant readers;

! = favourite reads