

Recommended Reads: Years 7/8

Action & Thrillers

Bodyguard or *Young Samurai* (& sequels); *Bullet Catcher* or *Gamer* by Chris Bradford*

Heist Society or *I'd Tell You I Love You But Then I'd Have to Kill You* (& sequels) by Ally Carter

Mortal Chaos, Speed Freaks, The Everest Files (& sequels) or *Lie, Kill, Walk Away* - Matt Dickinson

The London Eye Mystery by Siobhan Dowd

DC Comics: Secret Hero Society—Fridolfs & Nguyen*

Mission Survival series by Bear Grylls*

Silverfin or *The Enemy* (& sequels) by C Higson

The Outsiders by SE Hinton

Stormbreaker (& sequels) by A. Horowitz*

Itch (& sequels) by Simon Mayo

Where the World Ends by G. McCaughrean

Girl Missing (& sequels) by Sophie McKenzie

Boy Soldier & Dropzone (& sequels) by A McNab

The Recruit (& sequels) by R. Muchamore*

Maximum Ride (& sequels) by J Patterson

Hatchet by Gary Paulsen

Agent 21 (& sequels) by Chris Ryan

Night Speakers or *Carjacked* by Ali Sparkes

Murder Most Unladylike (& sequels) – R Stevens

Lost (Choose Your Own Adventure) -T Turner.*

Classics or Challenging Reads

Little Women by Louisa May Alcott

Alice's Adventures in Wonderland by Lewis Carroll

The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes by A C Doyle

Diary of Anne Frank by Anne Frank

The Old Man and the Sea by Ernest Hemingway

To Kill a Mockingbird by Harper Lee

Call of the Wild by Jack London

Animal Farm by George Orwell

Black Beauty by Anna Sewell

Treasure Island by Robert L Stevenson

Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry by Mildred Taylor

The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn by Mark Twain

Around the World in 80 Days by Jules Verne

The Sword in the Stone by TH White

Dystopian & Science Fiction

Matched (& sequels) by Ally Condie

The Maze Runner (& sequels) by J Dashner

Cell 7 (& sequels) by Kerry Drewery

The Gender Game by Bella Forrest

Gone (& sequels) or *Monster* by Michael Grant

Illuminae (& sequels) by A Kaufmann and J Kristoff

Department 19 (& sequels) by Will Hill

I Am Number Four (& sequels) by P Lore

The Giver and *Gathering Blue* by Lois Lowry

Legend (& sequels) by Marie Lu

The Knife of Never Letting Go (& sequels)-P Ness

MetaWars: Fight for the Future (&sequels)- Norton*

Railhead (& sequels) by Philip Reeve

Divergent (& sequels) by Veronica Roth

Remade (& sequels) or *Time Riders* - Alex Scarrow

Scythe or *Unwind* (& sequels) – Neal Shusterman

Contagion or *Slated* (& sequels) by Teri Terry

The 5th Wave (& sequels) by Rick Yancey

Fantasy, Magic Realism, Horror & Ghost

Cogheart by Peter Bunzl

Mind Writer by Steve Cole*

Artemis Fowl (& sequels) by Eoin Colfer

The Dark is Rising by Susan Cooper

Who Let the Gods Out by Maz Evans

Ranger's Apprentice series by John Flanagan

Inkheart (& sequels) by Cornelia Funke

The Graveyard Book by Neil Gaiman

A Skinful of Shadows by Frances Hardinge

Girl of Ink and Stars by Kiran Millwood Hargrave

Skulduggery Pleasant (& sequels) by Derek Landy

Zom-B or *Cirque du Freak* (& sequels) by D. Shan*

Eragon (& sequels) by Christopher Paolini

Discworld (and other series) by Terry Pratchett

Through Dead Eyes or *Mister Creecher* –C. Priestley

Northern Lights (& sequels) by Phillip Pullman

Goth Girl (& sequels) by Chris Riddell*

Mrs Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children -Riggs

Percy Jackson or *Kane Chronicles* series by Riordan

The Monsters We Deserve by Marcus Sedgwick

Thunderstruck or *Unleashed* by Ali Sparkes*

Finding Sky (& sequels) by Joss Stirling

The Edge Chronicles by P Stewart and C Riddell

Humorous books

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*
Demolition Dad (& sequels) – Phil Earle*
Enginerds (& sequels) by Jarrett Lerner*
Disaster Diaries: Zombies (&sequels)-R McGeddon*
The Donut Diaries series – A McGowan*
The Accidental Billionaire series- T McLaughlin
The World of Norm series by Jonathon Meres*
Timmy Failure series by Stephan Pastis*
Middle School series by James Patterson*
Tom Gates series by Liz Pichon (dyslexia-friendly)*
Big Nate series by Lincoln Peirce*
Killer Animals (series) by Tracey Turner
Gangsta Granny (& more) by David Walliams*
What Not To Do If You Turn Invisible – R Welford

Relationships & Tough Situations

Noughts and Crosses, Cloud Busting, Boys Don't Cry or Pig-Heart Boy by Malorie Blackman
Blubber or anything by Judy Blume
Artichoke Hearts or ***Jasmine Skies*** - S Brahmachari
Walk Two Moons by Sharon Creech
One, Apple&Rain or ***Weight of Water***-S Crossan
Out of My Mind by Sharon Draper
Mind the Gap, Being Billy or Saving Daisy - P Earle*
The Many Worlds of Albie Bright, Jamie Drake Equation or Infinite Lives of Maisie Day –C. Edge
Mockingbird by Kathryn Erskine
Tulip Touch, Goggle Eyes or Flour Babies by A. Fine
The Bubble Boy by Stewart Foster
The Bone Sparrow by Zana Fraillion
George by Alex Gino
Tall Story or ***Shine*** by Candy Gourlay
The Island at the End of Everything—KM Hargrave
After the Fire by Will Hill
Boy in the Tower by Polly Ho-Yen
Red Sky in the Morning by Elizabeth Laird
Every Falling Star (North Korea) by Sungju Lee
A Monster Calls by Patrick Ness
Word Nerd, We Are All Made of Molecules-Nielsen
Wonder by R.J. Palacio
Pax by Sarah Pennypacker
My Sister Lives on the Mantelpiece by A Pitcher

Esperanza Rising by Pam Munoz Ryan
The Marvels or ***Wonderstruck*** by Brian Selznick*
Stargirl by Jerry Spinelli
The Hate U Give by Angie Thomas
A Boy Called Hope by Lara Williamson
Beyond the Bright Sea by Lauren Wolk
Brown Girl Dreaming by Jacqueline Woodson
I am Malala by Malala Yousafzai

Sports

Booked, Crossover or Rebound – K. Alexander*
Charlie Merrick's Misfits... by David Cousins*
The Beautiful Game series by Dhimi (girls' football)
Man of the Match (& series) by Dan Freedman
The Number 7 Shirt or ***The Lion Roars*** by A Gibbons
The Fix by Sophie McKenzie*
Football Academy series – Tom Palmer*
Foul Play (& sequels) or ***Black Op*** by Tom Palmer
Soccer Squad and series by Bali Rai*

War & Conflict

Soldier Dog or ***A Horse Called Hero*** - Sam Angus
The Boy at the Top of the Mountain or ***The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas*** by J Boyne
Red Shadow, Eleven Eleven or Auslander-Dowswell
Under a War-Torn Sky by L.M. Elliott
Once (& sequels) by Morris Gleitzman
Inside Out and Back Again by Thanhha Lai
Dog Tags: Semper Fido or ***Strays*** by C A London*
Number the Stars by Lois Lowry
War Horse or ***Private Peaceful*** by M Morpurgo
Sunrise Over Fallujah by Walter Dean Myers*
A Night Divided by Jennifer Nielson
The Red Pencil by Andrea David Pinkney
The Sniper or ***When the Guns Fell Silent*** – J Riordan
A Soldier's Friend (series) by Megan Rix
Salt to the Sea by Ruta Sepetys
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