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*

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

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
The Marvels or Wonderstruck by Brian Selznick*
The Hunger Games by Catherine rodents
The Book Thief by Marcus Zusak
Salt to the Sea by Ruta Sepetys
A Horse Called Hero by Sam Angus
The Boy at the Top of the Mountain or The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas by John Boyne
Red Shadow, Eleven Eleven or Auslander-Dowswell
Under a War-Torn Sky by L.M. Elliott
Once (& sequels) by Morris Gleitzman
The Book Thief by Marcus Zusak

Sports

Booked, Crossover or Rebound – K. Alexander*
Charlie Merrick's Misfits... by David Cousins*
The Beautiful Game series by Dhami (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 need to 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