



## Recommended Reads for Year 7

### Action & Mystery

**Airman** by Eoin Colfer. A fast-paced action book, perfect for anyone fascinated by flight.

**The London Eye Mystery** by Siobhan Dowd. How can someone disappear from the London Eye?

**The Diamond of Drury Lane** (& sequels) by Julia Golding. Orphan, adventurer, actress: Cat Royal.

**From the Mixed Up Files of Mrs Basil E Frankweiler** by EL Konigsburg. Imagine running away to 'live' in an art museum. Unforgettable.

**Beetle Boy** by MG Leonard. A mystery adventure with a boy and beetle in search of a missing dad.

**Kensuke's Kingdom** by Michael Morpurgo. Michael is stranded on an island – but is he alone?

**Foul Play** by Tom Palmer. A fast-paced detective novel, perfect for football and crime story fans!

**The Explorer** by Katherine Rundell. Stranded in the Amazon jungle, will Fred survive?

**H.I.V.E.** by Mark Walden. A Hogwarts of sorts but for villains. Filled with action and humour.

**Time Travelling with a Hamster** by Ross Welford. This book has it all: adventure, mischief, family, grief, time-travel – and a pet hamster.

### Challenging reads and/or classics

**Little Women** by Louisa May Alcott. Is it possible to read this book without crying?

**The Secret Garden** by Francis H Burnett. Inspiring story of the power of nature and friendship.

**Alice's Adventures in Wonderland** by Lewis Carroll. Bizarre adventures down a rabbit hole.

**Coram Boy** by Jamila Gavin. Abandoned children, slavery, love, greed – and music - in 18<sup>th</sup>c. England

**The Northern Lights** (& sequels) by Phillip Pullman. A magnificent series for able readers.

**Black Beauty** by Anna Sewell. The ultimate book for horse-lovers – but have the tissues ready!

**Treasure Island** by Robert Louis Stevenson. A boy hero, pirates, buried treasure and adventure!

**The Adventures of Tom Sawyer** by Mark Twain. The incorrigible and unforgettable Tom...

**The Hobbit** by JRR Tolkien. Hobbits, dragons, wizards and dwarves...let your imagination fly.

**The Sword in the Stone** by TH White. The King Arthur story – with talking animals and  
**The Silver Sword** by Ian Serrallier. An epic journey of refugee children through Europe after WWII.

### Fantasy Adventure or Magic Realism

**The Girl Who Drank the Moon** by Kelly Barnhill. Magic, love, a misunderstood witch and a poetry-spouting swamp monster. Newbery winner 2017.

**Cogheart** by Peter Bunzl. Murder, mayhem – and a mechanical fox – in a Victorian-style world.

**Artemis Fowl** (and sequels) by Eoin Colfer. A 12 yo criminal mastermind attacks high-tech fairies.

**Skellig** or **Kit's Wilderness** by David Almond. Beautifully written books. A Carnegie winner.

**Ash Mistry and the Savage Fortress** (& series) by Sarwat Chadda. Set in India, and great for fans of Percy Jackson or Skulduggery Pleasant.

**King of Shadows** by Susan Cooper. Time-travel back to Shakespeare's Globe...Superb writing.

**Who Let the Gods Out** (& sequel) by Maz Evans. A zodiac goddess, a death daemon & Greek gods!

**Ranger's Apprentice: Ruins of Gorlan** (& series) by John Flanagan. The Rangers protect the kingdom from evil magic – and now Will is becoming one.

**Inkheart** (& sequels) by Cornelia Funke. An awesome fantasy/adventure book about the incredible power of words and stories.

**Girl of Ink and Stars** by Kiran M Hargrave. An enchanting story of a map-maker's daughter, a missing friend -- and a fire demon!

**Skulduggery Pleasant** by Derek Landy. The detective is a skeleton! Funny and action-packed.

**Wolf Brother** (& series) by Michelle Paver. Only Torak - and a wolf cub - can save the world.

**Percy Jackson and the Lightning Thief** (& series) by Rick Riordan. A hilarious modern twist on Greek mythology. Filled with drama and battles.

**Eragon (& sequels)** by Christopher Paolini. Dragons, elves, monsters and magic – fabulous volumes for motivated readers.

**Mortal Engines** (& sequels) by Phillip Reeve. Predator cities on wheels feed on smaller towns. A highly imaginative and exciting world.

**The Curse of the Gloamglozer: Edge Chronicles** (& series) by Paul Stewart and Chris Riddell. An extraordinary meld between text and illustration.

## Fun

***The Person Controller*** by David Baddiel. Fred and Ellie love video games but struggle at school. Then they get a bizarre controller with hilarious results!

***Sputnik's Guide to Life on Earth*** by Frank C Boyce. It's up to Prez to save the planet in this side-splitting, crazy – and moving -- story.

***Fenway and Hattie*** by Victoria Cole. Written from the point-of-view of Fenway, the dog. Hysterical!

***Flora and Ulysses*** by Kate DiCamillo. A squirrel with superpowers, a self-described 'cynic' and hilarious comic book-style illustrations. Newbery winner.

***The Accidental Billionaire*** by Tom McLaughlan. Jasper creates the world's first talking cat – and becomes rich. But are talking cats a good idea?

***My Brother is a Superhero*** (& sequels) by David Solomon. Life is not fair: Luke loves comics, but it is his geeky older brother Zach who gets superpowers from a visiting alien. Laugh-out-loud funny!

## Ghosts and Horror

***The Savage*** by David Almond. What if your writing became reality – and you have created a savage? Graphic novel components in this powerful book.

***Doll Bones*** by Holly Black. 'My name is Eleanor Kerchner. You can call me the Queen. I died in 1895. Now it's time to play.' Newbery Honor book.

***The Graveyard Book*** by Neil Gaiman. Possibly the best opening to a story ever! Won both the Carnegie (UK) & Newbery (US) award.

***Uncle Montague's Tales of Terror*** by Chris Priestley. A collection of short, spine-tingling stories connected by a central narrative.

## Relationships & Tough Situations

***The One and Only Ivan*** by Katherine Applegate. Told from the point of view of an exploited gorilla. A must for fans of *Morpurgo*. Newbery winner.

***Cloud Busting*** or ***Pig-Heart Boy*** by Malorie Blackman. Poignant and inspiring books.

***Walk Two Moons*** by Sharon Creech. A moving Newbery medal winner about grief and love.

***Apple and Rain*** by Sarah Crossan. Apple's mother has returned after 11 years away. A poignant books ideal for those who love Jacqueline Wilson

***Because of Winn Dixie*** by Kate DiCamillo. Opal's mother is gone and she wonders why. Then she goes to a supermarket and comes home with a dog.

***The Bone Sparrow*** by Zana Fraillion. Subhi is a refugee camp child living in disturbing conditions. A story of imagination, resilience and friendship.

***Red Sky in the Morning*** by Elizabeth Laird. Anna's brother Ben is severely disabled. Will she cope?

***A Monster Calls*** by Patrick Ness. A harrowing and powerful book about family, fear, illness and imagination. Won both Carnegie and Greenaway.

***Wonder*** by R.J. Palacio. A heart-warming story of a boy with a severe facial deformity.

***As Brave As You*** by Jason Reynolds. What does it mean to be brave? Disability, diversity and truth explored from 11 yo perspective. Beautiful.

***The Great Blue Yonder*** by Alex Shearer. This is the story about Harry's afterlife. Sometimes funny, sometimes achingly sad. A beautiful book.

***Smart: A Mysterious Crime, a Different Detective*** by Kim Slater. Kieran has special needs and a difficult family life –but is determined to discover who murdered the homeless man. Compelling.

***The Goldfish Boy*** by Lisa Thompson. Lonely Matthew has OCD and stays in his room–but then a toddler neighbour disappears. Can Matthew help?

***How I Became a Ghost*** (& sequels) by Tim Tingle. A Choctaw Trail of Tears story – stunning.

***Brown Girl Dreaming*** by Jacqueline Woodson. Growing up in the segregated American South – a poignant and powerful story in poems.

## War

***Soldier Dog*** by Sam Angus. Stanley is a dog-handler in WWI. Will his dog save countless lives?

***The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas*** by John Boyne. A shocking story of friendship during the Holocaust.

***Letters from the Lighthouse*** by Emma Carroll. Set in WWII: 12 yo Olive has been evacuated to a lighthouse – but her sister is missing. Extraordinary.

***Under a War-Torn Sky*** by L.M. Elliott. Pilot Henry is shot down over Nazi-occupied Europe...

***Once*** (&sequels) by Morris Gleitzman. A fast-paced story of a young Jewish boy trying to find his parents in Nazi-occupied Poland.

***Number the Stars*** by Lois Lowry. Why did most Jews in Nazi Denmark survive? Powerful historical fiction and a Newbery winner.