



Recommended Reads: Year 8

Action & Thrillers

Bodyguard: Hostage or *Young Samurai* (& sequels) by Chris Bradford*

Bullet Catcher or *Gamer* by Chris Bradford*

Artemis Fowl or *W.A.R.P: The Reluctant Assassin* (& sequels) by Eoin Colfer

Heist Society (& sequels) by Ally Carter

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

The London Eye Mystery by Siobhan Dowd

Mission Survival series by Bear Grylls*

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

The Outsiders by SE Hinton

Stormbreaker (& sequels) by A. Horowitz. Also available as a graphic novel.*

Itch (& sequels) by Simon Mayo

Girl Missing (& sequels) by Sophie McKenzie

Boy Soldier & Dropzone (& sequels) by A McNab

The Recruit (& sequels) by R. Muchamore. Also available as a graphic novel.*

Maximum Ride (& sequels) by J Patterson

Agent 21 (& sequels) by Chris Ryan

Carjacked by Ali Sparkes

Lost series by Tracey Turner. Choose your own adventure: fabulous for reluctant readers.*

H.I.V.E. by Mark Walden

Classics or Challenging Reads

Watership Down by Richard Adams

A Christmas Carol by Charles Dickens

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

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

The Gender Game by Bella Forrest

Gone (& sequels) by Michael Grant

Illuminae (& sequels) by A Kaufmann and J Kristoff

Department 19 by Will Hill

I Am Number Four (& sequels) by P Lore

The Giver by Lois Lowry

Legend (& sequels) by Marie Lu

The Knife of Never Letting Go (Chaos Walking) (& sequels) by Patrick Ness

MetaWars: Fight for the Future (& sequels) by Jeff Norton – 'a video game you can read'.*

Railhead (& sequels) by Philip Reeve

Divergent (& sequels) by Veronica Roth

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

Unwind (& sequels) by Neal Shusterman

Frozen in Time (& sequels) by Ali Sparkes*

Slated (& sequels) by Teri Terry

The 5th Wave (& sequels) by Rick Yancey

Fantasy, Magic Realism, Horror & Ghost

Skellig or *Kit's Wilderness* by David Almond

Mind Writer by Steve Cole*

Artemis Fowl (& sequels) by Eoin Colfer

The Dark is Rising by Susan Cooper

Scream Street series by Tommy Donbavand*

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

Girl of Ink and Stars by Kiran Millwood Hargrave

Skulduggery Pleasant (& sequels) by Derek Landy

Zom-B or *Cirque du Freak* (& sequels) by Darren Shan. Short, exciting – gruesome – chapters.*

Eragon (& sequels) by Christopher Paolini

Discworld (and other series) by Terry Pratchett

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

Grizzly Tales series by Jamie Rix*

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

Fenway and Hattie by Victoria Cole*

Adventures of a Wimpy Werewolf by Tim Collins*

Diary of a Chav by Grace Dent

DC Comics: Secret Hero Society 1 (& sequels) by Derek Fridolfs and Dustin Nguyen*

Beetleboy (& sequels) by MG Leonard*

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*

The Wimp-o-Meter's Guide to Extreme Sports or

Killer Animals (series) by Tracey Turner

Gangsta Granny (and others) by David Walliams*

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 by Sarah Crossan

Out of My Mind by Sharon Draper

Mind the Gap by P Earle (dyslexia-friendly)*

Mockingbird by Kathryn Erskine

Tulip Touch, Goggle Eyes or Flour Babies by A. Fine

The Bone Sparrow by Zana Fraillion

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

Ways to Live Forever by Sally Nichols

Wonder by R.J. Palacio

Pax by Sarah Pennypacker

My Sister Lives on the Mantelpiece by A Pitcher

Esperanza Rising by Pam Munoz Ryan

Stargirl by Jerry Spinelli.

A Boy Called Hope by Lara Williamson

Brown Girl Dreaming by Jacqueline Woodson

I am Malala by Malala Yousafzai

Sports

Booked by Kwame Alexander*

Charlie Merrick's Misfits, Fouls, Friends and Football
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

Keeper (& sequels) by Mal Peet

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

Under a War-Torn Sky by L.M. Elliott

Once (& sequels) by Morris Gleitzman

Dog Tags: Semper Fido or *Strays* by C A London*

Number the Stars by Lois Lowry

A Beautiful Lie by Irfan Master

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

Shooting Kabul by NH Senzai

Salt to the Sea by Ruta Sepetys

The Machine Gunners by Robert Westall

The Book Thief by Marcus Zusak

Note to parents: Some books from this list are written for teen or 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