

## Recommended Reads: Years 7/8

### Action, Adventure, Mystery & Thrillers

*Storm Catchers* by Tim Bowler  
*The Terrible Thing [...] Barnaby Rooket* - John Boyne  
*Bodyguard* or *Gamer* (& sequels) by Chris Bradford\*  
*Alone* by DJ Brazier  
*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  
*The Boy Who Flew* by Fleur Hitchcock  
*High Rise Mystery & Mic Drop* by Sharna Jackson  
*Girl Missing* (& sequels) by Sophie McKenzie  
*The Recruit* (& sequels) by Robert Muchamore\*  
*Hatchet* by Gary Paulsen  
*Ruby in the Smoke* by Phillip Pullman  
*Wolf Wilder* or *The Explorer* by Katherine Rundell  
*Murder Most Unladylike* (& sequels) – R Stevens  
*Lost (Choose Your Own Adventure)* -T Turner.\*

### Dystopian & Science Fiction

*The Infinite* by Patience Agbabi  
*Ink* (& sequels) by Alice Broadway  
*Where the River Runs Gold* by Sita Brahmachari  
*Gone* or *BRZK* (& sequels) -Michael Grant  
*The Giver* and *Gathering Blue* by Lois Lowry (!)  
*The Dog Runner* by Bren Macdibble (!)  
*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 5th Wave* (& sequels) by Rick Yancey (!)

### Fantasy, Magic Realism, Horror & Ghost

*Children of Blood and Bone* by Tomi Adeyemi  
*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  
*Rumblestar* by Abi Elphinstone  
*Who Let the Gods Out* (& sequels) by Maz Evans  
*Ranger's Apprentice* or *Brotherband* - J Flanagan  
*Inkheart* (& sequels) by Cornelia Funke (!)

*The Graveyard Book* by Neil Gaiman (!)  
*Blackberry Blue* by Jamila Gavin (!)  
*Brightstorm: A Sky-Ship Adventure* by Vashti Hardy  
*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  
*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

### 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  
*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

### Relationships & Tough Situations

*Cyborg Cat* (& sequels)- Ade Adepitan\* (!)  
*Boy Underwater* by Adam Baron (!)  
*Noughts and Crosses, Hacker, Boys Don't Cry* or  
*Pig-Heart Boy* by Malorie Blackman (!)  
*Blubber* or anything by Judy Blume  
*Artichoke Hearts* or *Jasmine Skies* -S. Brahmachari  
*A Pocketful of Stars* by Aisha Bushby  
*New Kid* or *Class Act* by Jerry Craft  
*One, Apple & Rain, Moonrise, Toffee* -S Crossan (!)  
*Bud Not Buddy* by Christopher Paul Curtis  
*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  
***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  
***Unstoppable*** by Dan Freedman\*  
***One Crazy Summer*** by Rita Williams–Garcia  
***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  
***A Different Dog*** by Paul Jennings\*  
***Red Sky in the Morning*** by Elizabeth Laird (!)  
***Scarlet Ibis*** by Gill Lewis  
***Out of Heart*** by Irfan Master  
***Lark*** (& series) 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 (!)  
***Freak the Mighty*** by Rodman Philbrick  
***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*** by Ross Welford (!)  
***A Boy Called Hope*** by Lara Williamson  
***Brown Girl Dreaming*** or ***Harbor Me*** - J Woodson (!)

**Sports**  
***Booked, Crossover or Rebound*** – K. Alexander\* (!)  
***Stat Man*** by Alan Durant \*  
***Man of the Match*** (& series) by 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 (!)  
***Illegal*** by Eoin Colfer \* (!)  
***Wolf Children, Red Shadow, Eleven Eleven*** -Dowswell  
***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\**, *Blade and Bones*** or  
***Sawbones*** by Catherine Johnson (!)  
***Orphan Monster Spy*** by Matt Killeen (!)  
***Inside Out and Back Again*** by Thanhha Lai (!)  
***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  
***Armistice Runner*** or ***Over the Line*** by Tom 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 (!)  
***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 in the English department