

## Recommended Reads: Years 7/8

### Action & Thrillers

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

*Alone* by DJ Brazier

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

*Lightning Girl* (& sequels) by Alesha Dixon \*

*The London Eye Mystery* by Siobhan Dowd

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

*Stormbreaker* (& sequels) by A. Horowitz\*

*Wild Boy* by Lloyd Jones

*Girl Missing* (& sequels) by Sophie McKenzie

*The Recruit* (& sequels) by R. Muchamore\*

*Hatchet* by Gary Paulsen

*Wolf Wilder, The Good Thieves, The Explorer,*

*Rooftoppers* by Katherine Rundell

*Night Speakers* or *Carjacked* by Ali Sparkes

*Murder Most Unladylike* (& sequels) – R Stevens

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

### Dystopian & Science Fiction

*Gone* or *BRZK* (& sequels) -Michael Grant

*The Boy Who Flew* by Fleur Hitchcock

*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 & Mortal Engines* (& sequels)-P Reeve

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

*Dry, Scythe, Unwind* (& sequels) – N Shusterman

*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

*Cogheart* by Peter Bunzl

*Mind Writer* by Steve Cole\*

*Artemis Fowl* (& sequels) by Eoin Colfer

*The Dark is Rising* by Susan Cooper

*The Stormkeeper's Island* by Catherine Doyle

*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

*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

*Through Dead Eyes, Tales of Terror, Mister*

*Creecher, The Last of Spirits* –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

*Thunderstruck* or *Unleashed* by Ali Sparkes\*

*The Edge Chronicles* by P Stewart and C Riddell

### Humorous books

*Little Badman and the Invasion of the Killer*

*Aunties* by Humza Arshad & Henry White\*

*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\*

*To Be a Cat* by Matt Haig

*Cookie & the Most Annoying Boy...* by Konnie Huq\*

*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\*

*Planet Omar* by Zanib Mian

*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

### Relationships & Tough Situations

*Boy Underwater* by Adam Baron

*Noughts and Crosses, Cloud Busting, Boys Don't*

*Cry* or *Pig-Heart Boy* by Malorie Blackman

*Blubber* or anything by Judy Blume

*Artichoke Hearts, Jasmine Skies* or *Where the River*

*Runs Gold* Sita Brahmachari

*A Pocketful of Stars* by Aisha Bushby

***One, Apple & Rain, Moonrise, Toffee*** -S Crossan  
***Blended or Out of My Mind*** 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  
***Check Mates & The Bubble Boy*** by Stewart Foster  
***Unstoppable*** by Dan Freedman \*  
***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\*  
***Freedom: 1783*** by Catherine Johnson  
***Red Sky in the Morning*** by Elizabeth Laird  
***Scarlet Ibis*** by Gill Lewis  
***A Monster Calls*** by Patrick Ness  
***Word Nerd, We Are All Made of Molecules***-Nielsen  
***Wonder*** by R.J. Palacio  
***Pax*** by Sarah Pennypacker  
***Freak the Mighty*** by Rodman Philbrick  
***My Sister Lives on the Mantelpiece*** by A Pitcher  
***Unboxed*** by Non Pratt \*  
***Long Way Down*** by Jason Reynolds  
***Esperanza Rising*** by Pam Munoz Ryan  
***The Marvels* or *Wonderstruck*** by Brian Selznick\*  
***Stargirl*** by Jerry Spinelli  
***Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry*** by Mildred Taylor  
***The Hate U Give*** by Angie Thomas  
***Goldfish Boy*** by Lisa Thompson  
***A Boy Called Hope*** by Lara Williamson  
***Brown Girl Dreaming*** by Jacqueline Woodson  
***Front Desk*** by Kelly Yang  
***I am Malala*** by Malala Yousafzai

## **Sports**

***Booked, Crossover or Rebound*** – K. Alexander\*  
***Charlie Merrick's Misfits...*** by David Cousins\*  
***Stat Man*** by Alan Durant \*  
***The Beautiful Game*** series by Dhami (girls' football)  
***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\*  
***Ultimate Football Heroes Collection*** – M&T Oldfield  
***Football Academy* or *Foul Play*** series—Tom Palmer\*  
***Soccer Squad, Dream On (& series)*** by Bali Rai\*

## **War, Conflict and the Refugee Experience**

***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  
***Illegal*** by Eoin Colfer \*  
***Wolf Children, Red Shadow, Eleven Eleven, Auslander & True Stories*** books – Paul 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  
***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\*  
***Number the Stars*** by Lois Lowry  
***The Skylarks' War*** by Hilary McKay  
***War Horse* or *Private Peaceful*** by M 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  
***The Boy at the Back of the Class*** by Onjali Rauf  
***Salt to the Sea*** by Ruta Sepetys  
***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