

READING LIST

Year 7 recommended reading list

Watership Down by Richard Adams

Possibly the best and most well-known animal adventure. Fiver has a sixth sense for danger and he persuades Hazel to lead a group of rabbits to escape certain disaster and search for a new home.

The Goldfish Boy by Lisa Thompson

Matthew finds it almost impossible to leave his room and venture into the outside world due to his OCD and constant worries. But when a small child in the neighbourhood vanishes, he finds his heightened attention to detail an ideal tool when he turns detective to try and solve the mystery.

The Island at the End of Everything

by Kiran Millwood Hargrave

A thought provoking and atmospheric story about Amihan, who lives on an island affected by a leprosy outbreak. Forced to leave, she finds some unlikely allies in her quest to return home.

The Wolves of Willoughby Chase by Joan Aiken

In an alternative reality, King James III rules in 1832 and the country is plagued by wolves from the Channel Tunnel. But for Sylvia and Bonnie it isn't clear whether it's the wolves or their governess Miss Slighcarp that they should be more afraid of.

Peter Pan by JM Barrie

The timeless classic story of the boy who never grew up, Wendy and her brothers, and Neverland, where the Lost Boys are in constant danger from Captain Hook.

The Dark is Rising by Susan Cooper

Just prior to his 11th birthday, Will discovers he's the last person left with the power of the Old Ones, and his mission is to guard the Light and drive out the Dark.

Wolf by Gillian Cross

A haunting story of terrorism, impending doom, confusion and not really knowing your closest family members as well as you thought. Cassy finds some questions are best left unasked.

Boy and Going Solo by Roald Dahl

Roald Dahl's hilarious autobiographies – Boy, charting his childhood and school days, and Going Solo chronicling his early adult life.

The Diary of a Young Girl by Anne Frank

Anne Frank's diary, written when she was 13-15 and living in hiding above an Amsterdam warehouse during WW2.

Minders by Diana Hendry

Scully is learning to be a wizard with supernatural powers like his parents. Soon he finds himself in incredible danger.

A Wrinkle in Time by Madeleine L'Engle

Charles Wallace Murry's father has disappeared and Charles sets out to find a wrinkle in time – a gateway to a parallel universe – to try and save him.

Across the Barricades by Joan Lingard

Kevin and Sade live in Belfast, and the two of them being seen together isn't an option.

War Horse by Michael Morpurgo

A gripping description of the horrors of war, told from the perspective of Joey, a horse, who sees the senselessness of war and the importance of friendships more clearly than the soldiers around him.

Stone Cold by Robert Swindells

There is a serial killer targeting the young and homeless and Deb, an intrepid undercover journalist is determined to catch the killer – using herself as bait.

Northern Lights by Philip Pullman

When Lyra finds out there's an expedition to find other worlds very different to her own, a chain of events catapults Lyra into several perilous journeys and a search for the truth.

The Indian in the Cupboard by Lynne Reid Banks

Omri is disappointed with his birthday present – a little, red, plastic Indian figure – until it comes alive and becomes a real person.

Black Beauty by Anna Sewell

Victorian London is vividly portrayed through the eyes of a horse – Black Beauty.

The Eagle of the Ninth by Rosemary Sutcliff

Thousands of Roman soldiers marched into the mist and were never seen again. Young Marcus Aquilla sets out to find out what happened to them.

The Cay by Theodore Taylor

When World War II breaks out, 12 year old Phillip and his mother board the S. S. Hato but the ship is torpedoed, and Phillip is blinded by a blow on the head and left stranded on an island with a man named Timothy.

Cue for Treason by Geoffrey Trease

Two young runaways become actors in London, where they meet William Shakespeare. They then help foil a plot to kill the Queen.

The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn by Mark Twain

Huck Finn and Tom Sawyer have made lots of money, but all Huck wants is to escape from his guardian, Miss Sawyer.

Pig Heart Boy by Malorie Blackman

13 year old Cameron is dying and his only hope is a heart transplant. When there is no human hearts available his father finds a doctor willing to use a pig's heart.

A Rag, a Bone and a Hank of Hair by Nicholas Fisk

Set in the future when the birth rate has dropped after a nuclear disaster, the human race has started recycling people. 12 year old Brin observes a family of 'reborn' people who originally lived during WW2.

READING LIST

Year 8 recommended reading list

Welcome to Nowhere by Elizabeth Laird

Omar dreams of being a successful businessman and to rule the world but living in Syria, this 12 year old's dreams are set in a time and place where things can change rapidly – especially when his brother gets in a dangerous situation and the family has to flee to safety.

Animal Farm by George Orwell

A classic fable and allegory of a communist revolutionary dictatorship and tyranny which develops, told through the story of the animals of Manor Farm.

Chinese Cinderella by Adeline Yen Mah

The unforgettable story of a young Chinese girl's struggle to find acceptance within her own family and her survival amongst siblings and parents who think she represents bad luck. She finds writing a form of release.

The Coral Island by R.M. Ballantyne

A boy's own story of Ralph, Jack and Peterkin who are shipwrecked on a coral island. As they work together and discover how to live and survive on the island their world is suddenly threatened by pirates.

Coram Boy by Jamila Gavin

A stunning period drama of deception, child stealing, mistaken identity and searching for long lost families.

The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time by Mark Haddon

Christopher isn't like other teenagers. He finds it difficult to talk to other people, hates being touched and reacts badly to certain colours. When the neighbour's dog is murdered he causes chaos trying to find out who did it.

The Day of the Triffids by John Wyndham

Bill wakes up to find he's the only person left on Earth who can see. Everyone else has been blinded by a mysterious meteor event. Can he save the world from the extra-terrestrial carnivorous plants?

The Flame Trees of Thika by Elspeth Huxley

The author's autobiographical story of her life in Africa – living among the Kikuyu

in Kenya in a traditional grass house and working the land.

The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy by Douglas Adams

Arthur's Friday doesn't start well when his house is demolished. The Earth is obliterated soon after, to make way for a bypass, and he finds out his best friend is an alien. Can things get any worse?

The Hound of the Baskervilles by Arthur Conan Doyle

The Baskerville family is cursed by a ravenous supernatural dog intent on savaging them. Can Sherlock Holmes and Watson solve the mystery and save the family?

How I live now by Meg Rosoff

Daisy, a streetwise American 15 year old and Edmond, her cousin from England are evacuated to the countryside. After briefly falling in love, her world is shattered by an unimaginable event.

I am David by Anne Holm

The story of 15 year old David's quest – escaping from the concentration camp where he has lived his life and travelling across a Europe unknown to him to try and find home.

Joby by Stan Barstow

11 year old Joby finds the world he lives in strange and disturbing and struggles to understand the division in society, his friends and family.

Journey to the River Sea by Eva Ibbotson

An orphaned young girl and her governess travel thousands of miles from a boarding school to South America with distant relatives.

Lord of the Flies by William Golding

When a plane evacuating a group of schoolboys crashes on a remote island, the boys are left to fend for themselves with no adult supervision.

Nineteen Eighty Four by George Orwell

The dystopian novel in which the terms 'big brother' and 'room 101' first appeared. Winston Smith works for the Ministry of Truth where his job is to rewrite history. He rebels and longs for freedom.

Of Mice and Men by John Steinbeck

George and Lennie follow the American Dream and head to California. However, Lennie gets into trouble with his boss' daughter in law – trouble which George might not be able to help him with.

The Tulip Touch by Anne Fine

No-one wants anything to do with Tulip, who is avoided by children and teachers alike. But Natalie is drawn to her and finds her dangerous and interesting. When things go too far, Natalie isn't able to stop events spinning out of control, leading to an unexpected ending.

The Dam Busters by Paul Brickhill

The true story of 617 squadron's historic bombing raid on the Ruhr Dam using 'bouncing bombs' devised by Barnes Wallace.

The Giver by Lois Lowry

12 year old Jonas lives in a world with no poverty, no crime and where everyone is the same. But when he takes the role of 'receiver of memory' he becomes one of the only people to understand how the world he lives in came about.

Bridge to Terabithia by Katherine Paterson

Jess creates the world of Terabithia to escape from his annoying family. Reached only by a rope swing, he and his friend Leslie live out their adventures, until an earth shattering tragedy strikes.

I'm the King of the Castle by Susan Hill

Edmund immediately dislikes his new stepbrother Charles, who he sees as an intruder in his own home.

Treasure Island by R. L. Stevenson

The classic tale of Jim Hawkins and his adventure on the ship Hispaniola sailing to find hidden treasure. Intrigue, treachery, mutiny, castaways, crime and menacing Long John Silver dominate this roller coaster of cliff hangers and surprises.

Z for Zachariah by Robert O'Brien

Ann Burden has survived a nuclear war by living in a valley free of radiation. But when the only other person she knows becomes threatening, she decides to leave the valley to see if anyone else has survived.

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Year 9 recommended reading list

Monsters of Men by Patrick Ness

Monsters of Men explores the effects of war. A fast-moving dystopian thriller set in a fantasy world with a war to end all wars. Todd and Viola have to fight, but what are they fighting for, and is it worth it?

Maladapted by Richard Kurti

The only survivor of a terrorist attack on a packed train, Cillian starts to wonder if and why he was spared. Soon he finds himself drawn into a web of deceit and mind-bending revelations.

Are you there God? It's me Margaret by Judy Blume

Margaret is convinced she isn't normal. Her friends are more grown up than her, she's starting a new school and she's unsure whether to follow her mother's or her father's religion. So she talks to God, with surprising results.

Hatchet by Gary Paulsen

Brian, a streetwise teen who lives in the city, is left stranded in the wilderness after a plane crash – with only a hatchet to survive. Will he make it?

The Amnesia Clinic by James Scudamore

Anti is best friends with his polar opposite – Fabian. Athletic and popular, Fabian wishes his mother was still alive. The two set off to find a strange clinic in search of Fabian's mother – a clinic which no one is sure even exists.

Brave New World by Aldous Huxley

In the future, all society is overseen by the World Controllers. Everything is ordered and efficient. But Bernard has other ideas and wants to do more than ask questions.

Catch-22 by Joseph Heller

At the end of WW2, Yossarian thinks his life is in danger – not from the enemy, but from his own side. He tries to find any excuse to avoid the increasing number of dangerous missions.

The Catcher in the Rye by J. D. Salinger

Holden Caulfield is a teen who has just been kicked out of his fourth school. He has to grow up quickly in an adult world and work out who he can trust and who is 'phony'.

Dracula by Bram Stoker

A classic vampire tale following Dracula's move from Transylvania to England, pursued by Abraham Van Helsing, who is intent on exterminating him.

Empire of the Sun by J. G. Ballard

Jim's idyllic life in 1930s Shanghai takes an abrupt and horrifying turn with the Japanese invasion during WW2. The pre-school choirboy finds himself interred in prison camps for four years.

Frankenstein by Mary Shelley

Mary Shelley's gothic horror about a deranged scientist who wants to produce his own living creation from dead bodies.

Shakespeare: The World as a Stage by Bill Bryson

It explores the myths, lies and reality of Shakespeare's plays and brings to life the sixteenth century acting world.

To Kill a Mockingbird by Harper Lee

In this classic 1930s story, a black man is charged with raping a white girl and has to fight class, racial hatred and depression-era prejudice – as well as the courtroom. Atticus Finch, a white father, has the task of defending him.



READING LIST

Year 10 recommended reading list

Monsters of Men by Patrick Ness

An award-winning novel about Conor, a teenager who has the same dream – or nightmare – every night. But this time, when he wakes up, there's an otherworldly creature from his dream right outside his window. The creature demands one thing – the truth about everything.

We are all made of Molecules by Susin Neilsen

Stewart has a slightly different perspective on life to those around him. He finds life difficult enough before he is thrown together with his new stepsister, the extrovert and social magnet Ashley, and life gets even more interesting at school.

13 minutes: A Novel by Sarah Pinborough

Dead for 13 minutes, Natasha doesn't know how it happened or how she got there. But she is determined to find out.

Paper Butterflies by Lisa Heathfield

A heart-breaking story about June, who feels trapped in her life full of secrets and lies. She longs to escape and when she meets Blister she thinks she might have – but her new hope has unimaginable consequences.

Rose sees Red by Cecil Castellucci

A short novel set in Manhattan in the 1980s. A Russian and an American ballet dancer embark on a blossoming friendship despite political and cultural differences.

A Separate Peace by John Knowles

A modern classic exploring the world of introverted teenager Gene, who lives out WW2 at boarding school, and his polar opposite, Phineas, who is carefree and dangerous.

American Gods by Neil Gaiman

A gripping, yet peculiar, story about a man who is released from prison and meets a man who claims to be a godlike King of America. Together, they start to solve murders, sort problems, and make the country great by telling everyone what they want to hear. The climax builds with a storm of biblical proportions.

Wuthering Heights by Emily Bronte

A classic love story following the intertwining lives of Catherine and Heathcliffe. Spanning many years and life-changing events, this story of passion, revenge and betrayal is a classic.

Great Expectations by Charles Dickens

The life of Pip is explored in this timeless saga filled with unique and memorable characters about one boy's self-discovery and drive to become a man, despite unremitting adversity.

Rebecca by Daphne Du Maurier

A downtrodden orphan thinks her life has changed for the better after meeting Maxim de Winter in the South of France in a whirlwind romance. But moving to Cornwall reveals an unexpected ghost from the past and a nemesis in the mysterious housekeeper, Mrs Danvers. What happened to the previous Mrs de Winter?

Atonement by Ian McEwan

13 year old Briony Tallis stumbles upon something shocking which sets events into a downward spiral and a life changing crime. Can Briony ever put the pieces back together?

Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep? By Philip K Dick

After a devastating world war, Rick Deckard, a ruthless bounty hunter, takes an assignment to beat all others. Promised a huge reward, he soon finds himself in a bad dream of lies, plot, and treachery.

Long Walk to Freedom by Nelson Mandela

A thought-provoking and emotive autobiography which chronicles the first part of Nelson Mandela's life, leading up to his time in captivity. An examination of the triumph of the human spirit over adversity.

The Wasp Factory by Iain Banks

16 year old Frank thinks killing various family members was just a stage he was going through. A horror story with strong themes and an unforgettable twist.

The Road by Cormac McCarthy

This story follows father and son on a road trip across a post-apocalyptic American landscape heading for the hope and salvation on the coast.

All Quiet on the Western Front by Erich Maria Remarque

A dark first person account, this is a simply told, yet chilling, story of the realities of war. Pressed into action by a fervent and patriotic teacher, Paul soon witnesses conditions in the trenches. A moving story that beautifully illustrates the pointlessness of conflict.

Midnight's Children by Salman Rushdie

The story of Saleem, one of a thousand children born at exactly midnight. Like the other 999, he finds himself blessed, or cursed with a superpower. A moving story charting India's journey after independence.



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Year 11 recommended reading list

The Time Machine by H. G. Wells

A timeless classic of science fiction and adventure. A short novel which explores man's impact on the world and the pointlessness of war.

The Kite Runner by Khaled Hosseini

A highly anticipated and competitive local kite championship attracts Amir and Hassan, who are keen to win. Set in Afghanistan in 1975, this novel hinges on one event afterwards which will change Hassan's life forever, and one which years later he seeks to put right.

Birdsong by Sebastian Faulkes

Stephen moves to live with a family in northern France and soon falls in love. But as tensions rise in the build up to the First World War, so do tensions in his relationship. He escapes to fight for his country, not at all realising what awaits him.

On the Road by Jack Kerouac

Sal Paradise sets off on an American dream road trip with Dean Moriarty without either truly knowing what they are looking for. Risk-taking, limit-pushing and thrill-seeking at every turn, the pair's story is told in a gripping autobiographical style.

The Three Musketeers by Alexandre Dumas

A classic tale of intrigue and subterfuge. Aramis, Porthos, Athos; led by the hero D'Artagnan, try to save the queen and the state from the designs of the evil Cardinal Richelieu.

The Name of the Rose by Umberto Eco

Serial murders in the historical backdrop of a fourteenth-century Franciscan monastery in rural Italy captivate William, who is hired to solve the crimes.

War of the Worlds by H. G. Wells

Earth is being watched by an advanced and clever alien race. It's only a matter of time before they pick a moment to conquer all mankind.

Robinson Crusoe by Daniel Defoe

The original and ultimate castaway shipwreck survival story set on a West Indian tropical island with cannibals.

Pride and Prejudice by Jane Austen

A classic story of family instability, with well-meaning but unsubtle Mrs Bennett looking to marry off all of her daughters.

Don Quixote by Michael Cervantes

Don Quixote is a Spanish man sent slightly mad in his quest to live the life of a noble knight. Can his more level-headed aide, Sancho Panza, save him from himself?

Carrie by Stephen King

A modern horror novel. Teen Carrie starts to exhibit supernatural powers and she focuses those on those bullying her with spectacular and unexpected consequences.

The Last Lecture by Randy Pausch

Suffering from terminal cancer, Professor Randy Pausch gave one final lecture. In it, he described how to dream, how to overcome obstacles and how to live those dreams.

East of Eden by John Steinbeck

The descendants of Adam and Eve are recast as the warring Trask and Hamilton families in this tale of rivalry, lust and murder.

Fahrenheit 451 by Ray Bradbury

In a fantasy dystopia where books are forbidden and subject to enforced bureaucratic burning, a small group try to keep knowledge, reading and freedom alive.

Flowers for Algernon by Daniel Keyes

Charlie Gordon is a nice bloke with a very low IQ. He's the target of banter – not all of it pleasant – but he doesn't really notice and gets on with his life. That's until he volunteers for a radical treatment which causes his intelligence to grow day by day. Soon he sees a very different world.

Out of Shadows by Jason Wallace

Set in 1880s Zimbabwe during the rise of Robert Mugabe, times are changing fast in Robert's new boarding school. But one pupil is determined to resist change, determined at any cost.

