

Our Recommended Reading for Years 7 and 8

* = Content is slightly more mature

! = One of our favourite reads

Action, Adventure, Mystery & Thrillers:

The Terrible Thing [...] Barnaby Brocket (John Boyne)
 Bodyguard or Gamer (and sequels) (Chris Bradford) *
 Mortal Chaos or Lie, Kill, Walk Away (M Dickinson) !
 The London Eye Mystery (Siobhan Dowd) !
 The Girl Who Stole An Elephant (Nizrana Farook)
 Boy Overboard (Morris Gleitzman)
 Hide and Seeker by Daka Hermon
 Murder in Midwinter by Fleur Hitchcock
 High Rise Mystery & Mic Drop (Sharna Jackson)
 Have No Secrets (Penny Joelson) !
 The Long Weekend Savita Kalhan
 Don't Doubt the Rainbow by Anthony Kessel
 Eight Pieces of Silva/Splinters of Sunshine-Lawrence * !
 Where the World Ends (Geraldine McCaughrean) * !
 Hide & Secrets or Girl Missing & sequels (S McKenzie)
 Edge of Extinction by Laura Martin
 The Recruit & sequels or Killer T (R Muchamore) *
 Hatchet (Gary Paulsen)
 Ruby in the Smoke (Phillip Pullman)
 Wolf Wilder, Rooftopper The Explorer (K Rundell)
 Murder Most Unladylike & sequels (R Stevens)
 Girl. Boy. Sea (Chris Vick)
 The Extinction Trials or The Infinity Files (S M Wilson)

Dystopian & Science Fiction:

The Infinite & sequels (Patience Agbabi)
 The Middler or Troofriend (Kirsty Applebaum)
 The Last Human (Lee Bacon)
 Ink & sequels (Alice Broadway) *
 City of Rust (Gemma Fowler)
 Gone or BRZK (and sequels) (Michael Grant)
 How I Saved the World in a Week (Polly Ho-Yen)
 Nowhere on Earth (Nick Lake)
 The Giver and Gathering Blue (Lois Lowry) * !
 The Supreme Lie (Geraldine McCaughrean) !
 Show Us Who You Are (Elle McNicholl)
 No Man's Land (Joanna Nadin)
 The Knife of Never Letting Go (and sequels) (P Ness) * !
 Railhead & Mortal Engines & sequels (P Reeve) !
 Scythe, Unwind, Dry & sequels (N Shusterman) * !
 Destination Earth (Ali Sparkes)
 Contagion or Slated & sequels (Teri Terry)
 The Kid Who Came From Space (Ross Welford)
 The 5th Wave & sequels (Rick Yancey) !
 Fantasy, Magic Realism, Horror & Ghost:
 The House With Chicken Legs and Girl/Bear
 (S Anderson)
 Six of Crows (Leigh Bardugo) *
 Asha and The Spirit Bird (Jasbinder Bilan)
 Artemis Fowl & sequels (Eoin Colfer)
 Pet (Akwaeke Emezi) *
 Who Let the Gods Out & sequels (Maz Evans)
 Ranger's Apprentice or Brotherband (J Flanagan)
 Inkheart & sequels or Reckless (Cornelia Funke) !
 The Graveyard Book (Neil Gaiman) !
 Blackberry Blue (Jamila Gavin) !
 Rumaysa: A Fairytale (Radiya Hafiza)
 Brightstorm: A Sky-Ship Adventure (Vashti Hardy)

Animal Fiction:

The One and Only Ivan (K Applegate) (gorillas)
 The Shark Caller (Zillah Bethell) !
 Fenway and Hattie (Victoria Cole) (dogs)
 The Last Bear (Hannah Gold) (polar bear)
 A Street Dog Named Pup (Gill Lewis) !
 War Horse (Michael Morpurgo) !
 A Wolf Called Wander (Rosanne Parry)
 Pax (Sarah Pennypacker) (foxes) !
 Where the Red Fern Grows (Wilson Rawls) (dogs) !
 Cat Tales: True Stories of Fantastic Felines (P Rich)
 Varjak Paw (S F Said) (cats)
 I, Cosmo (Carlie Sorosiak) (dogs)
 Dreaming the Bear (Mimi Thebo) (grizzly bears)
 The Dog Who Saved the World (Ross Welford)

Environment & Climate Change:

Where the River Runs Gold (Sita Brahmachari)
 World Burn Down (Steve Cole) (SR)
 Breathe (Sarah Crossan)
 Melt (Ele Fountain)
 Squirm, Flush, Chomp or Hoot (Carl Hiaasen)
 FloodWorld & DustRoad (Tom Huddleston)
 Song of the Dolphin Boy (Elizabeth Laird)
 Moon Bear or White Dolphin (Gill Lewis) !
 The Dog Runner, Across the Risen Sea (B Macdibble) !
 Between Sea and Sky & World Turns Wild (N Penfeld)
 Here in the Real World (Sarah Pennypacker) !
 Dry (Neal & Jarrod Shusterman) !
 The Summer We Turned Green (William Sutcliffe)
 No One is Too Small to Make a Difference (G Thunberg)
 Harklights (Tim Tilley)
 The Last Wild & sequels (Piers Torday)

Graphic Novels (GN), Short Stories (SS), Verse Novels (VN), Super-Readables (SR):

Booked, Crossover, Rebound (Kwame Alexander) (VN)
 Gamer & sequels (Chris Bradford) (SR)
 El Deafo (Cece Bell) (GN)
 Jon for Short (Malorie Blackman) (SR)
 Worst Case Collin (Rebecca Caprara) (VN)
 Mind Writer (Steve Cole) (SR)
 New Kid or Class Act (Jerry Craft) (GN)
 Grave Matter (Juno Dawson) (SR)
 Stat Man (Alan Durant) (SR)
 Edgar & Adolf (Phil Earle & Michael Wagg) (SR)
 Flying Lessons & Other Stories (Ellen Oh) (SS)
 Coraline (Neil Gaiman & C Russell) (GN)
 The Greatest: Muhammed Ali (Alan Gibbons) (SR)
 Amazons, Abolitionists and Activists: A Graphic History of Women's Fight for Rights (Mikki Kendall) (GN)
 Amulet: The Stonekeeper (Kazu Kibuishi) (GN)
 Rat (Patrice Lawrence) (SR)
 In the Key of the Code (Aimee Lucido) (VN)
 I am Minotaur (Anthony McGowan) (SR)
 Run Rebel (Manjeet Mann) (VN) *
 145th Street: Short Stories (Water Dean Myers)
 White Bird (R J Palacio) (GN)
 Unboxed (Non Pratt)

Girl of Ink and Stars (Kiran Millwood Hargrave) !
 Skulduggery Pleasant & sequels (Derek Landy)
 Eragon & sequels (Christopher Paolini)
 Tales of Terror, Mister Creecher (Chris Priestley)
 Northern Lights (and sequels) (Phillip Pullman) !
 Goth Girl (and sequels) (Chris Riddell) *
 Mrs Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children (Ransom Riggs)
 Alcatraz and Evil Librarians & sequels (B Sanderson)
 Zom-B or Cirque du Freak & sequels (D Shan) *
 Oh My Gods (Alexandra Sheppard)
 Black Panther the Young Prince (Roland L Smith)
 Fear Street (R L Stine)
 The Edge Chronicles (P Stewart and C Riddell)
 Children of the Quicksands by Efu Traore

Relationships & Tough Situations:

Cyborg Cat & sequels (Ade Adepitan) * !
 Boy Underwater (Adam Baron) !
 Noughts and Crosses * or Pig-Heart Boy (M Blackman) !
 Artichoke Hearts or Jasmine Skies (S Brahmachari)
 A Pocketful of Stars (Aisha Bushby)
 One, Apple & Rain, Moonrise, Toffee (S Crossan) * !
 Heartbeat (Sharon Creech)
 Me, My Dad and the End of the Rainbow (B Dean)
 Stella By Starlight or Blended (Sharon Draper) !
 Running on Empty (S E Durrant)
 Mind the Gap, Being Billy or Saving Daisy (P Earle)
 The Many Worlds of Albie Bright (Chris Edge)
 Mockingbird (Kathryn Erskine) !
 Tulip Touch, Goggle Eyes or Flour Babies (A Fine)
 Lenny's Book of Everything (Karen Foxlee)
 Check Mates & The Perfect Parent Project (S Foster) !
 One Crazy Summer (Rita Williams-Garcia)
 When Life Gives You Mangoes (Kereen Getten) !
 George or Rick (Alex Gino)
 Tall Story or Shine (Candy Gourlay)
 The Island at the End of Everything (K M Hargrave) !
 After the Fire (Will Hill) * !
 Boy in the Tower (Polly Ho-Yen)
 Red Sky in the Morning or Secret Friends (E Laird) !
 Scarlet Ibis, Swan Song, or Eagle Warrior (Lewis) (SR)
 Rain Reign (Ann M Martin)
 Brock, Pike, Rook & Lark (Anthony McGowan) * !
 A Kind of Spark (Elle McNicholl) !
 A Monster Calls (Patrick Ness) !
 No Fixed Address or Word Nerd (Susin Nielsen) * !
 Wonder or Pony (R J Palacio) !
 Pax or Here in the Real World (S Pennypacker) !
 A Good Kind of Trouble (Lisa Moore Ramee)
 The Star Outside My Window (Onjali Rauf) !
 Long Way Down (VN or GN) (Jason Reynolds) * !
 Ghost Boys or Black Brother[...] (Jewell P Rhodes) !
 Can You See Me or Do You Know Me (Scott & Westcott)
 The Marvels or Wonderstruck (Brian Selznick) (1/2 GN)
 The Boxer (Nikesh Shukla) * !
 Counting by 7's (Holly Goldberg Sloan)
 Stargirl (Jerry Spinelli) * !
 Clean Getaway or Fast Pitch (Nic Stone)
 The Hate U Give (Angie Thomas) * !
 Goldfish Boy (Lisa Thompson)

Miles Morales: Spider Man (Jason Reynolds) (GN)
 Look Both Ways (Jason Reynolds) (SS)
 Pumpkin Heads (Rainbow Rowell) (GN)
 Dark Peak (Marcus Sedgwick) (SR)
 Operation Frog Effect (Sara Scheerger)
 Dracula (Bram Stoker r- etold by Burgan & Ruiz) (GN)
 The Small Things (Lisa Thompson) (SR)
 Lost - Choose Your Own Adventure (Tracey Turner) (SR)
 Stargazing (Jen Wang) (GN)

Humorous books:

Little Badman & [...] Killer Aunties (Humza Arshad)
 Millions, Cosmic or Broccoli Boy (Frank C Boyce)
 The Last Kids on Earth & sequels (Max Brallier)
 Adventures of a Wimpy Vampire & more (T Collins)
 The 13-Storey Treehouse & series (A Griffiths)
 How to Survive Without Grownups (Larry Hayes)
 Cookie & the Most Annoying Boy... (Konnie Huq)
 Enginerds & sequels (Jarrett Lerner)
 Disaster Diaries: Zombies &sequels (R McGeddon)
 The Accidental Series (Tom McLaughlin)
 The World of Norm series (Jonathon Meres)
 Accidental Trouble: Planet Omar (Zanib Mian)
 Timmy Failure series (Stephan Pastis)
 Super-Miraculous Journey of Freddie Yates (Pearson) !
 The Boy Who Made Everyone Laugh (Helen Rutter)
 Tom Gates Series (Liz Pichon) (dyslexia-friendly)
 Something I Said (Ben Bailey Smith)
 Big Nate Series (Lincoln Peirce)
 The Day the Screens Went Blank (Danny Wallace)

The Immigrant Experience & Refugees:

No Ballet Shoes in Syria (Catherine Bruton)
 Efen Divided (Ernesto Cisneros) !
 Illegal (Eoin Colfer) (GN)
 Boy, Everywhere (A M Dassu) !
 Boy 87 (Ele Fountain)
 The Bone Sparrow (Zana Fraillion) !
 The Island (Armin Greder) (PB for older readers)
 Amina's Voice (Hena Khan)
 Welcome to Nowhere (Elizabeth Laird)
 When Stars Are Scattered (Jamieson & Mohamed) (GN)
 Inside Out and Back Again (Thanhha Lai) ! (VN)
 The Crossing (Manjeet Mann) * (VN)
 A Long Walk to Water (Linda Sue Park)
 The Red Pencil (Andrea David Pinkney)
 Esperanza Rising (Pam Munoz Ryan)
 The Arrival (Shaun Tan) (PB for older readers)
 Other Words For Home (Jasmine Warga) (VN)
 Front Desk (Kelly Yang)
 The Windrush Child or Refugee Boy (B Zephaniah) *

Sports:

Booked, Crossover or Rebound (K Alexander) * !
 Unstoppable or Man of the Match (Dan Freedman)
 Kick (Mitch Johnson)
 The Fix (Sophie McKenzie)
 The Greatest: Muhammed Ali (Walter D Myers) *
 Ultimate Football Heroes Collection (M & T Oldfield)
 Football Academy or Foul Play Series (Tom Palmer)

The 1000 Year Old Boy or Time/Hamster (Ross Welford)
A Boy Called Hope or Ocean/Armchair (L Williamson)
Brown Girl Dreaming or Harbor Me (J Woodson) * !

History, War & Conflict:

Soldier Dog or A Horse Called Hero (Sam Angus)
Unbound (Anne Burg) * (VN)
The Short Knife (Elen Caldecott) * !
Wolf Children, Red Shadow, Eleven Eleven (Dowswell)
Copper Sun (Sharon Draper) * !
The Last Paper Crane (Kerry Drewery) !
When the Sky Falls (Phil Earle) (WWII)
Under a War-Torn Sky or Suspect Red (L M Elliott)
Once & sequels (Morris Gleitzman)
Bone Talk (Candy Gourlay) !
Grenade, Ground Zero or Prisoner B-3087 (Alan Gratz) *
The Goose Road (Rowena House)
Race to the Frozen North, 1783, Blade and Bones or
Sawbones (Catherine Johnson) !
When the World Was Ours (Liz Kessler) *
Orphan Monster Spy (Matt Killeen) * !
Crusade (Elizabeth Laird)
Buffalo Soldier, Apache or Lightning Strike (T Landman) *
Dog Tags: Semper Fido or Strays (C A London) *
Diver's Daughter: A Tudor Story (P Lawrence)
The Skylarks' War or The Swallows' Flight (H McKay)
Red Stars (Davide Morosinotto) *
Shadow or In the Mouth of the Wolf (Morpurgo)
Sunrise Over Fallujah (Walter Dean Myers)*
After the War, Armistice Runner or Over/Line (T Palmer)
Now or Never: A Dunkirk Story or The Royal Rebel: The
Life of Suffragette Princess Sophia Singh (Bali Rai)
Salt to the Sea or Fountains of Silence (R Sepetys) * !
Eagle of the Ninth (Rosemary Sutcliffe) !
The Land or Roll of Thunder (Mildred D Taylor) *
Cane Warriors (Alex Wheatle) * !
The Book Thief (Marcus Zusak) * !

Becoming Muhammed Ali (J Patterson & K Alexander)
Soccer Squad, Dream On & series (Bali Rai)
Gloves Off (Louisa Reid) * (VN)
Ghost, Patina, Sunny, Lu (Track series) (J Reynolds)
Macbeth United: A Football Tragedy (Michael Rosen)
Outcasts United (young people edition) (W St John)
The Football Boy Wonder & sequels (Martin Smith)
Pay Attention, Carter Jones (Gary Schmidt) * !

Other recommended books:

The Extraordinary Life by Michelle Obama
Talking Turkeys by Benjamin Zephaniah - (poetry)
Exceptional Men in Black History by Vashti Harrison
Little Leaders: Bold Women in Black History by Vashti
Harrison