

# Recommended Reads: Years 7/8

## 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

**Oliver Twist** 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

**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

**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

**The Graveyard Book** by Neil Gaiman

**Girl of Ink and Stars** by Kiran Millwood Hargrave

**Skulduggery Pleasant** (& sequels) by Derek Landy

**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  
***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**