

Recommended Reads for Year 7&8

(Accelerated Reader)



The beast by Michaela Morgan

Keywords: Supernatural, Mystery stories

AR: 2.8, MY

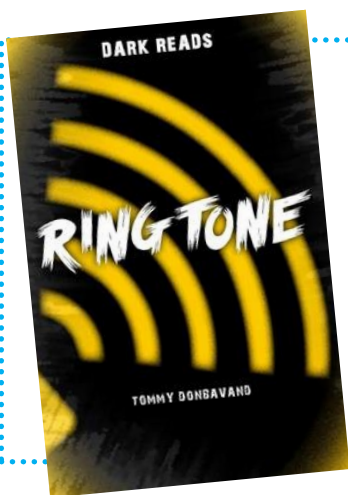
Two friends investigate a mystery in the woods and find the cause is not as supernatural as they had expected. When Robbie and Gaz hear a strange howling sound in the woods behind Robbie's house, they decide it's their chance to take a photo of a big cat and make a fortune selling it to the papers. Nothing quite goes according to plan, but Robbie and Gaz end up famous for entirely different reasons.

Half-pipe panic by Brandon Terrell

Keywords: Sport stories, Cartoons and comics, Winter sports

AR: 2.8, MY

Payton Park is a snowboarding artist. He's wowed many crowds with his incredible half-pipe stunts. But during a major competition, he falls hard while trying to pull off his biggest trick yet. Unfortunately, his main rival recorded his wipeout and put it on the Internet for all to see. Now the embarrassing moment keeps replaying in his mind. It's messing with his concentration and he can't seem to land any of his tricks. Can Park shake off his fears in time to nail his special move at the next big event?



Ringtone by Tommy Donbavand

Keywords: Death, Ghost stories, Dyslexia-friendly, Telephone, Horror stories

AR: 2.7 MY+

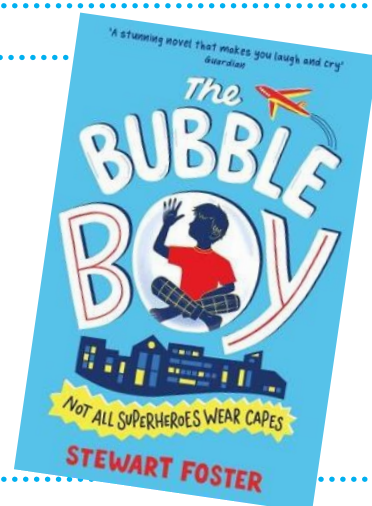
A teenage boy starts to get phone messages from his dead friend who he accidentally killed while they were both messing about in the woods. I didn't mean to kill my best friend. It was an accident. You have to believe me. But now, ever since I buried his body in the woods, he keeps ringing me. Using our own secret ringtone. He won't leave me alone...

The bubble boy by Stewart Foster

Keywords: Hospitals, Emotions, Diseases

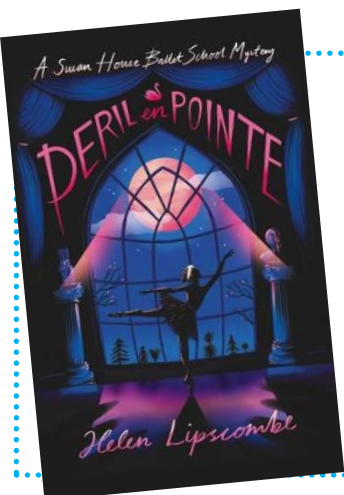
AR: 3.6 MY

An eleven-year-old boy is permanently confined to an isolation unit due to an immune system disorder, but conspires with his new nurse to have an adventure outside. Eleven-year-old Joe can't remember a life outside of his hospital room, with its beeping machines and view of London's rooftops. His condition means he's not allowed outside, not even for a moment, and his few visitors risk bringing life-threatening germs inside his 'bubble'. But then someone new enters his world and changes it for ever.



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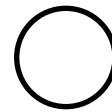


Peril en pointe by Helen Lipscombe

Keywords: School stories, Dancing, Ballet, Spies

AR: 3.9, MY

Milly yearns to dance like her ballerina mum - but during the biggest performance of her life, she messes up and her mum disappears. Milly's in trouble. Moments after messing up the most important dance of her life, her prima ballerina mother vanishes. And that's just the beginning. Out of the blue, Milly is invited to join a mysterious ballet school. But Swan House isn't just a school for ballet dancers. It's a school for spies. Milly learns that she and her mother are in terrible danger. But has she got what it takes to face peril en pointe?

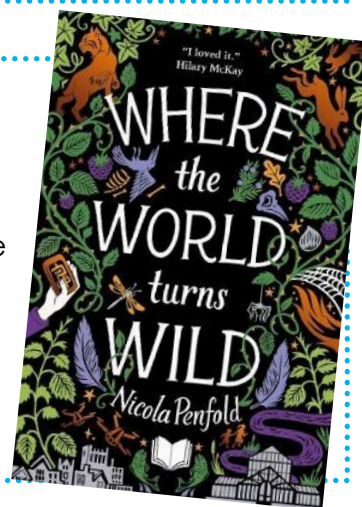
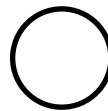


Where the world turns wild by Nicola Penfold

Keywords: Adventure stories, Nature, Siblings, Dystopia

AR: 3.9, MY+

Juniper Greene lives in a walled city from which nature has been banished, following the outbreak of a deadly man-made disease many years earlier. While most people seem content to live in such a cage, she and her little brother Bear have always known about their resistance to the disease, and dream of escaping into the wild. To the one place humans have survived outside of cities. To where their mother is. When scientists discover that the siblings provide the key to fighting the disease, the pair must flee for their lives.

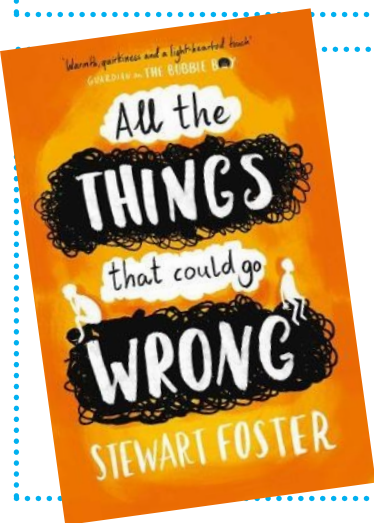
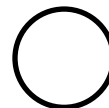


All the things that could go wrong by Stewart Foster

Keywords: Bullying, Mental Health, PSHE, Friendship

AR: 3.9, MY+

Two boys, one of whom has been bullying the other, are forced to spend the summer cooperating together in the building of a raft. Dan is angry. Nothing has been the same since his big brother left and he's taking it out on the nearest and weakest target: Alex. Alex is struggling. His OCD makes it hard for him to leave the house, especially when Dan and his gang are waiting for him at school. Then the boys' mums arrange for them to meet up and finish building the raft that Dan started with his brother. Two enemies stuck together for the whole of the school holidays - what could possibly go wrong?



Jemima Small Versus the Universe by Tamsin Winter

Keywords: School stories, Bullying, Body, Families

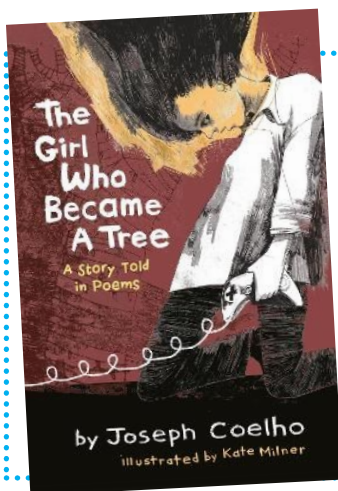
AR: 4.8 MY+

A girl mocked for being overweight decides to compete in her favourite TV show. Jemima Small is funny and smart. She knows a lot of things. Like the fact that she's made of 206 bones, over 600 muscles and trillions of cells. What she doesn't know is how that can be true and yet she can still sometimes feel like nothing. Or how being made to join the school's "special" healthy lifestyle group - aka Fat Club - could feel any less special. But Jemima also knows that the biggest stars in the universe are the brightest. And maybe it's her time to shine.



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The Girl Who Became a Tree by Joseph Coelho

Keywords: Poetry, Death, Parent and child, BAME author or illustrator

AR: 4.8 MY+

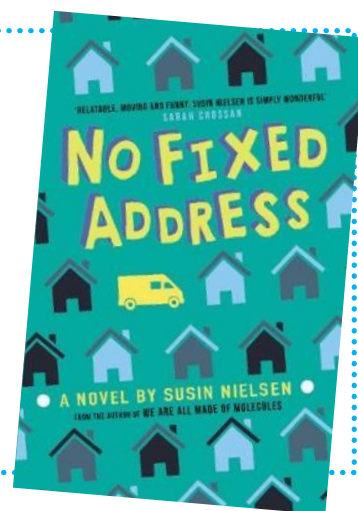
A story told in poems about a young girl deeply affected by her father's death, who finds herself in a strange library and a dark forest as she grapples with her loss. Daphne seeks solace both in the security of her local library and the escape her phone screen provides by blocking out the world around her. As Daphne tries to make sense of what has happened she recalls memories of shared times and stories past, and in facing the darkness she finds a way back from the tangle of fear and confusion, to feel connected once more with her friends and family.

No fixed address by Susin Nielsen

Keywords: Families, Adolescence, Homelessness

AR: 4.3 MY+

A boy has to hide from his friends and teachers the fact that he and his mum are living in a van. Felix Knutsson is nearly thirteen, lives with his mother and pet gerbil Horatio, and is brilliant at memorising facts and trivia. So far, pretty normal. But Felix and his mom Astrid have a secret: they are living in a van. Astrid promises it's only for a while until she finds a new job, and begs Felix not to breathe a word about it. But Felix has a plan to turn his and Astrid's lives around: he's going to go on his favourite game show Who, What, Where, When and win the cash prize. All he needs is a little luck and a lot of brain power...



Seasons of war by Derek Landy

Keywords: Fantasy stories, Horror stories

AR: 4.7 MY+

To avert catastrophe, Skulduggery and Valkyrie are sent on a secret mission that takes them away from everything they know, to a forsaken land of magic and grim, unrelenting terror. It is here that Valkyrie will have to fight the hardest - not only against the enemies who want her dead, but also against her own self-destructive impulses. It's only by crawling through darkness that she'll be able to once again stand in the light.

The Good Thieves by Katherine Rundell

Keywords: Adventure stories, Historical stories, Crime stories

AR: 5.1, MY

Vita Marlowe has a mission. Her beloved grandfather, Jack, has been cheated out of everything he owns by a notorious conman with Mafia connections. Seeing Jack's spirit is broken, Vita is desperate to make him happy again, so she devises a plan to outwit his enemies and recover his home. She finds a young pickpocket, working the streets of the city. And, nearby, two boys with highly unusual skills and secrets of their own are about to be pulled into her lawless, death-defying plan.



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The danger gang by Tom Fletcher

Keywords: Adventure stories, Fantasy stories

AR: 5.5, MY

Franky can't wait to move to his new town - although he wishes he didn't have to leave his best friend Dani behind. But everything changes after the storm, when strange green lightning and powerful thunder crash down on the town. From that night on, the kids who live on Franky's street start to change. One by one, they become a little odd. A little unusual. A little... magical. Franky's always wanted to be part of an amazing gang - just like his hero, super-spy Zack Danger! And soon, he realises that there's real danger in store for himself and his new friends. And so the Danger Gang is born...

Hell and high water by Tanya Landman

Keywords: BAME characters, Crime stories, Slavery, Smuggling, Historical

AR: 5.7 MY+

A mixed-race boy tries to prove his father's innocence when he is transported to the American colonies after being accused of theft. Set in eighteenth-century Devon, this is the story of Caleb, the son of a poor puppeteer. When his father is wrongfully accused of theft and sentenced to transportation, Caleb is left all alone in the world. As a mixed race boy living in an age of slavery, he has always been treated with fear and mistrust. Without his father he is more vulnerable than ever, and is forced to seek out his estranged aunt. After a body washes up on a nearby beach, a shattered Caleb finds himself involved in a dastardly plot: a plot that places him and his newfound family in mortal danger.



A skinful of shadows by Frances Hardinge

Keywords: Historical stories, Ghost stories, English Civil War

AR: 5.9, MY+

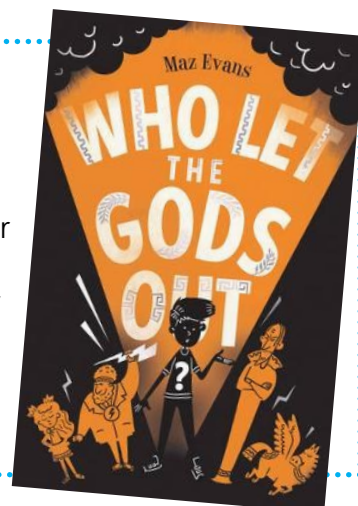
Set against the politics of the English Civil War, a teenage girl with the ability to house spirits inside her fights against an ancient family who plan to take over her body with their own spirits. Twelve-year-old Makepeace has learned to defend herself from the ghosts which try to possess her in the night, desperate for refuge, but one day a dreadful event causes her to drop her guard. And now there's a spirit inside her. But as she plans her escape and heads out into a country torn apart by war, Makepeace must decide which is worse: possession - or death.

Who let the gods out? by Maz Evans

Keywords: Humorous, Adventurs, Fantasy stories, Myths and legends

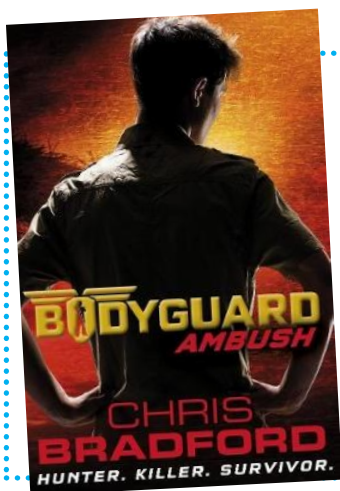
AR: 5.8, MY

Elliot teams up with Olympian gods when he and the zodiac Virgo accidentally released the sleep daemon from his prison. Elliot's mum is ill and his home is under threat, but a shooting star crashes to earth and changes his life forever. The star is Virgo - a young Zodiac goddess on a mission. But the pair accidentally release Thanatos, a wicked death daemon imprisoned beneath Stonehenge, and must then turn to the old Olympian gods for help. After centuries of cushy retirement on earth, are Zeus and his crew up to the task of saving the world - and solving Elliot's problems too?



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Ambush by Chris Bradford

Keywords: Adventure stories, Survival, Africa, Thrillers

AR: 6.6, MY+

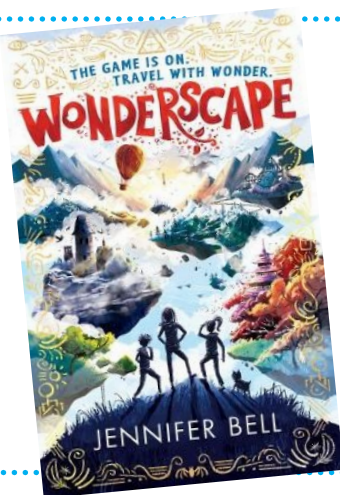
Teenage martial arts expert Connor Reeves is tasked with protecting a foreign ambassador's family on safari. Considered the perfect assignment, the holiday turns to hell when their convoy is ambushed by gunmen. Fleeing through the bush, Connor and his assigned family become the prey in a shoot-to-kill hunt across the African plains. As they fight for their survival, Connor realizes the gunmen are the least of their problems. For no amount of bodyguard training can prepare him for the wilds of Africa and one prowling hungry leopard...

Sky song by Abi Elphinstone

Keywords: Adventure stories, Fantasy stories, Arctic

AR: 6.1 MY

Two children set off on a quest to defeat the evil Ice Queen who keeps their world in her icy grip. In the snowy kingdom of Erkenwald, whales glide between icebergs, wolves hunt on the tundra and polar bears roam the glaciers. But the people of this land aren't so easy to find. Because Erkenwald is ruled by the cruel Ice Queen and the tribes must stay hidden; if they are caught in the open they risk capture and imprisonment by the evil sorceress.



Wonderscape by Jennifer Bell

Keywords: Adventure stories, Fantasy stories, Computer games

AR: 6.1, MY

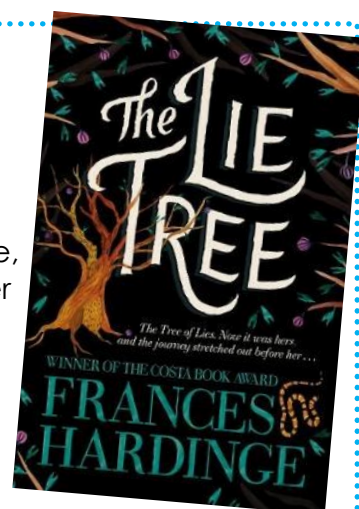
Three children are trapped in a computer game, three hundred years in the future, and must work together to get back home. When Arthur, Ren and Cecily investigate a mysterious explosion on their way to school, they find themselves trapped aboard The Principia - a scientific research ship sailing through hazardous waters, captained by one Isaac Newton. Lost in the year 2473 in the Wonderscape, an epic in-reality adventure game, they must call on the help of some unlikely historical heroes, to play their way home before time runs out.

The lie tree by Frances Hardinge

Keywords: Horror stories, Death, Award winners, Gothic fiction

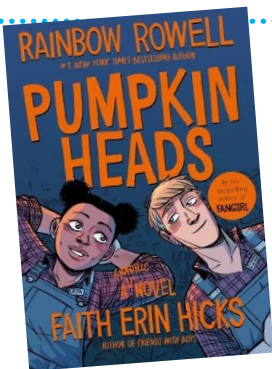
AR: 6.4 MY +

Sixteen-year-old Faith uses the powers of a mysterious tree that thrives on lies to uncover the suspicious circumstances of her archaeologist father's death. The tree only grows healthy and bears fruit if you whisper a lie to it. The fruit of the tree, when eaten, will deliver a hidden truth to the person who consumes it. The bigger the lie, the more people who believe it, the bigger the truth that is uncovered. The girl realises that she is good at lying and that the tree might hold the key to her father's murder, so she begins to spread untruths far and wide across her small island community. But as the tree bears more and more fruit, she discovers something terrifying - that her lies were closer to the truth than she could ever have imagined...



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Pumpkinheads by Rainbow Rowell and Faith Erin Hicks (Illustrator)

Keywords: Friendship, Multicultural society, Cartoons and comics

AR: 2.9, MY+

Deja and Josiah are seasonal best friends. Every autumn, all through high school, they've worked together at the best pumpkin patch in the whole wide world. They say goodbye every Halloween, and they're reunited every September 1st. But this Halloween is different - Josiah and Deja are finally seniors, and this is their last season at the pumpkin patch. Their last shift together. Their last goodbye. Josiah's ready to spend the whole night feeling melancholy about it. Deja isn't ready to let him. She's got a plan: what if instead of moping, they went out with a bang? What if their last shift was an adventure?



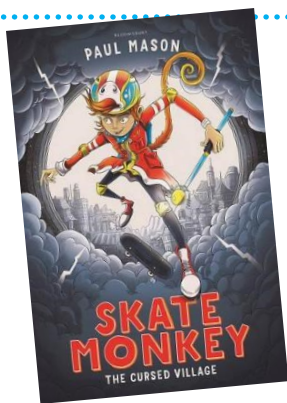
Blood moon by Barbara Catchpole and Nigel Dobbyn (Illustrator)

Keywords: Horror stories, Detective stories, Wolves, Dyslexia-friendly

AR: 2.6, MY+

A young police detective encounters a mad scientist who is experimenting with wolves and homeless people to create werewolves. London detective Matt Blake remembers his last case. Little did he know the horrors he would find under the light of the blood moon.

'Dark Reads' are very short novels (just 600 words), with stories that excite and even scare. Each book is based on a classic tale or horror story from the masters of their craft.



The cursed village by Paul Mason and Robin Boyden (Illustrator)

Keywords: Adventure stories, Mystery stories, Dyslexia-friendly

AR: 2.9, MY

Monkey, Zu and Sandy have to save a village that is over-run by half-zombie, half-vampire monsters. Monkey and his friends, Zu and Sandy, lived in the Emperor's Cloud Palace. But they played all sorts of tricks on people, so, as a punishment, the Jade Emperor sent them down to Earth. They can only return if they prove that they can use their magical powers for good. Adventure is never far away! In 'The Cursed Village,' something is very wrong in Weston. People are living in fear of the half-zombies, half-vampires that are roaming the streets. Can the friends save the village from the monsters?

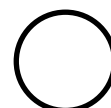


The Middler by Kirsty Applebaum and Matt Saunders (Illustrator)

Keywords: Adventure stories, Friendship, Dystopia

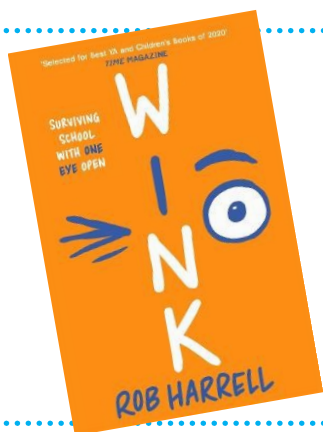
AR: 3.3 MY

An ignored middle child is torn between capturing an enemy and protecting her friend. Eleven-year-old Maggie lives in Fennis Wick, enclosed and protected from the outside world by a boundary, beyond which the Quiet War rages and the dirty, dangerous wanderers roam. Her brother Jed is an eldest, revered and special. A hero. Her younger brother is Trig - everyone loves Trig. But Maggie's just a middler; invisible and left behind. Then, one hot September day, she meets Una, a hungry wanderer girl in need of help, and everything Maggie has ever known gets turned on its head.



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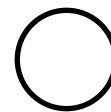


Wink by Rob Harrell

Keywords: Cancer, Relationships

AR: 3.9, MY

Ross Molloy just wants to be normal. He doesn't want to lose his hair, or wear a weird hat, or deal with the disappearing friends who don't know what to say to 'the cancer kid'. But with his recent diagnosis of a rare eye cancer, simply blending in is no longer an option. Ross - and his friends and his family - all need to work out how to deal with this devastating challenge that Life has thrown down. Maybe Batpig can come to the rescue?

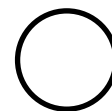


Black Brother, Black Brother

Keywords: Families, School stories, Sport stories, North America, Fencing, BAME characters

AR: 3.4, MY

A young African American school boy is suspended and learns to fence in order to be recognised for his personal qualities, not just by his skin colour. As one of the few black boys at Middlefield Prep, he feels as if he is constantly swimming in whiteness. Most of the students don't look like him. Dubbed the "Black Brother," Donte's teachers and classmates make it clear they wish he were more like his lighter skinned brother, Dre. Quiet, obedient. When an incident with "King" Alan leads to Donte's arrest and suspension, he knows the only way to get even is to beat the king of the school at his own game: fencing.



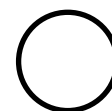
Wilderness by Roddy Doyle

Keywords: Adventure stories, Adolescence, Stepfamilies

AR: 3.0, MY

A teenage girl realises that her father and step family are important to her.

While Tom and Johnny are on a husky safari in Finland, their half-sister Grainne stays behind to face the mother who abandoned her. For the boys, every minute in the icy wilderness is a thrill until the night their mothers sled disappears in a snowstorm. She's lost in the swirling darkness and it's up to them to rescue her...



City of Ghosts by Victoria Schwab

Keywords: Ghost stories, Supernatural, Scotland

AR: 4.8, MY

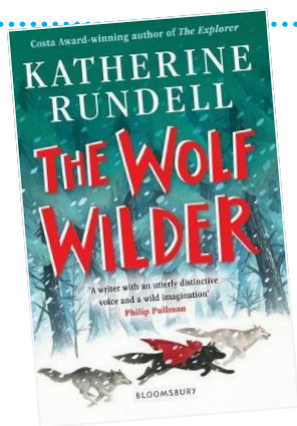
A girl with the ability to enter the world of the dead after a near-drowning accident finds herself in a city of ghosts when she goes to Edinburgh with her parents who are filming a ghost hunting program there.

Ever since Cass almost drowned, she can pull back the Veil that separates the living from the dead and enter the world of spirits. Her best friend is even a ghost. When Cass's parents start hosting a TV show about the world's most haunted places, the family heads off to Edinburgh, Scotland. Here, graveyards, castles, and secret passageways teem with restless phantoms. And when Cass meets a girl who shares her "gift," she realises how much she still has to learn about the Veil and herself.



Recommended Reads for Year 7&8

(Accelerated Reader)



Katherine Rundell and Marie-Alice Harel

Keywords: Historical stories, Russian history, Parent and child

AR: 4.5, MY

A girl raised with wolf companions joins rebellious villagers against an oppressive general to rescue her mother from prison. Feodora and her mother live in the snowbound woods of Russia, in a house full of food and fireplaces. Ten minutes away, in a ruined chapel, lives a pack of wolves. Feodora's mother is a wolf wilder, and Feo is a wolf wilder in training. When the murderous hostility of the Russian Army threatens her very existence, Feo is left with no option but to go on the run. What follows is a story of revolution and adventure, about standing up for the things you love and fighting back. And, of course, wolves.

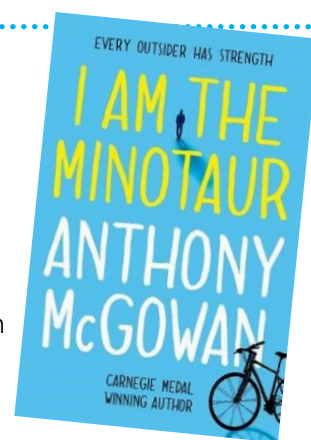
Recommended by a CTA student

I am the Minotaur by Anthony McGowan

Keywords: Adolescence, Bullying, Dyslexia-friendly

AR: 4.6, MY+

A bullied fourteen-year-old boy tries to get the attention of a girl in school by finding her stolen bicycle. Matthew is 14 and is struggling to fit in - something that's extra hard when you're taking care of your mum, being bullied at school, and have earned the nickname Stinky Mog because of your poor personal hygiene. On top of all that, he wants to catch the attention of one of the coolest girls in school, Ari. Ari doesn't walk: she floats, like mist on the water. When Ari's brand new bike is stolen, Matthew spots his chance to make a good impression by getting it back for her... But will he just end up in even more trouble or is Matthew about to learn that friendship and heroes can be found in unlikely places?

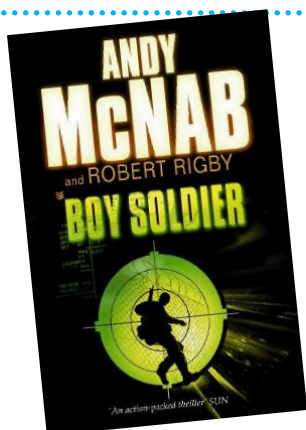


A Boy Called Christmas by Matt Haig

Keywords: Adventure stories, Fantasy stories, Christmas

AR: 4.4, MY

A boy journeys to the elf kingdom to find his father and ends up helping the elves start a Christmas tradition. You are about to read the true story of Father Christmas. It is a story that proves that nothing is impossible. If you are one of those people who believe that some things are impossible, you should put this book down right away. It is most certainly not for you. Because this book is FULL of impossible things. A Boy Called Christmas is a tale of adventure, snow, kidnapping, elves, more snow, and an eleven-year-old boy called Nikolas, who isn't afraid to believe in magic.



Boy Soldier by Andy McNab

Keywords: Adventure, danger, military, mystery, conspiracy

AR: 5.4, UY

Danny's grandfather, Fergus Watts, was an SAS hero who turned traitor, or so Danny's been told. After being rejected by the army, Danny sets out to track down his grandfather. But he discovers that he's not the only person searching for Fergus.

Recommended by a CTA student: This was a great book in my opinion, it is mainly about a boy who wished to be a soldier but gets declined. It is very engaging and only 292 pages long. I would recommend it for anyone who is interested in books about war. I really enjoyed this!

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A Place Called Perfect by Helena Duggan

Keywords: Family, coming of age, mystery, conspiracy

AR: 5.0, MY

Violet quickly discovers there's something weird going on in her town - she keeps hearing voices, her mam is acting strange and her dad has disappeared. When she meets Boy she realises that her dad is not the only person to have vanished. Book one in the trilogy, followed by; *The Trouble with Perfect* and *The Battle for Perfect*.

Recommended by a CTA student.

(Also in the series, 'The Trouble with Perfect' and 'The Battle for Perfect'.)

The Nowhere Emporium by Ross MacKenzie

Keywords: Adventure, Danger, Fantasy, Imagination, Magic

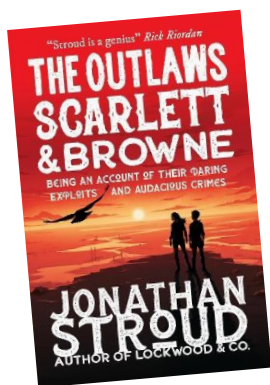
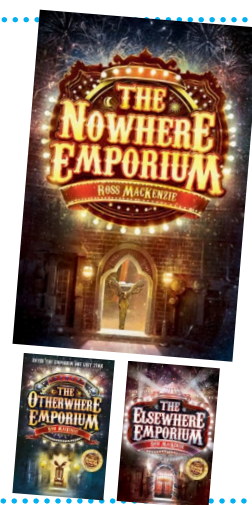
AR: 5.0, MY

When the mysterious Nowhere Emporium arrives in Glasgow, orphan Daniel Holmes stumbles upon it quite by accident. Before long, the shop and its owner, Mr Silver - draw Daniel into a breath-taking world of magic and enchantment.

Recruited as Mr Silver's apprentice, Daniel learns the secrets of the Emporium's vast labyrinth of passageways and rooms—rooms that contain wonders beyond anything Daniel has ever imagined. But when Mr Silver disappears, and a shadow from the past threatens everything, the Emporium and all its wonders begin to crumble.

Recommended by a CTA student.

(Also in the series, 'The Elsewhere Emporium' and 'The Otherwhere Emporium'.)



The outlaws Scarlett and Browne: being an account of their daring exploits and audacious crimes by Jonathan Stroud

Keywords: Adventure stories, Fantasy stories, Dystopia

AR: 5.3, MY+

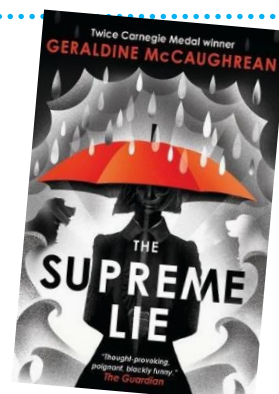
In a catastrophe-ravaged future England, two teenagers defy the rigid rules and they begin to acquire a legendary status. England has been radically changed by a series of catastrophes - large cities have disappeared and London has been replaced by a lagoon. The surviving population exists in fortified towns where they cling to traditional ways, while strangely evolved beasts prowl the wilderness beyond. Conformity is rigidly enforced and those who fall foul of the rules are persecuted: some are killed, others are driven out into the wilds. Only a few fight back - and two of these outlaws, Scarlett McCain and Albert Browne, display an audacity and talent that makes them legends.

The Supreme Lie by

Keywords: Science fiction

AR: 5.6, UY

When the leader of a state flees after disastrous flooding, her maid is forced to impersonate her to keep the elite rulers in charge. Fifteen-year-old Gloria is maid to Afaia's tyrannical Head of State, Madame Suprema. When the country is hit by unprecedented flooding, Madame Suprema runs away, fearing she will be blamed for the crisis. To cover up this cowardly act, Gloria is made to step into Madame Suprema's shoes and is thrust into a world of corrupt and desperate politicians. As Gloria becomes aware of the forces toying with her every move, she must take decisions that could save, or end, thousands of lives - including her own...



Recommended Reads for Year 7&8

(Accelerated Reader)



The White Giraffe by Lauren St. John

Keywords: Animals, South Africa, Family, Imagination.

AR: 6.2, MY

Martine is eleven when she is sent to live on a game reserve in Africa, a place where mysteries and secrets abound, a place where the intoxicating magic of the savannah casts all sorts of spells. One lonely night, Martine looks out of her window and sees a young giraffe, its white and silver coat tinged with cinnamon in the moonlight. In that moment she knows she is prepared to risk everything for it. The giraffe looks at her as if it is waiting for her.

Recommended by a CTA student.

The first instalment of the African Adventure series.

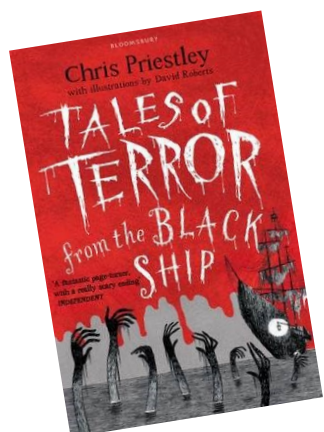
Survival in space: the Apollo 13 mission : an incredible true story by David Long

Keywords: Space flight, Disasters, Dyslexia-friendly

AR: 6.6, MY

Charts the Apollo 13 mission and the problems that had to be overcome.

April 1970: Apollo 13 was launched from the Kennedy Space Center in Florida. It should have been the third manned Apollo mission to land on the moon. But when an explosion on board damaged the spacecraft, it became a perilous and near-impossible fight for survival. The crew board travelled further into space than any other humans before them. In this gripping retelling of the astonishing Apollo 13 mission, David Long shows how courage, determination and teamwork succeeded in beating all odds to bring the spacecraft home.



Tales of Terror from the Black Ship

Keywords: : Gothic fiction, Ghost stories, Horror stories

AR: 6.7, MY

Two children spend a stormy night in the company of a strange sailor who tells them grisly tales. The Old Inn clings precariously to a cliff top above a storm-lashed ocean. Ethan and Cathy are sick. Their father has left them to fetch a doctor... but they are not alone for long. A visitor comes begging for shelter, and so the children, who have an unnatural appetite for stories of a macabre persuasion, sit out the throes of the storm in the company of a sailor with more than enough grisly tales to satisfy them. But something about the man puts Ethan on edge, and he is anxious for the storm to blow over, their father to return and the long night to come to an end. I yourself against

Black and British by David Olusoga

Keywords: History, Great Britain, BAME history, BAME author or illustrator

AR: 8.2, UY

A short introduction to Black British history. When did Africans first come to Britain? Who are the well-dressed black children in Georgian paintings? Why did the American Civil War disrupt the Industrial Revolution? These and many other questions are answered in this essential introduction to 1800 years of the Black British history: from the Roman Africans who guarded Hadrian's Wall right up to the present day. Shortlisted - British Book Awards - Children's Illustrated & Non-Fic 2021.



Recommended Reads for Year 7&8

(Accelerated Reader)



Smile by Raina Telgemeier

Keywords: Teeth, Adolescence, Cartoons and comics

AR: 2.6, MY

A teenage girl has to negotiate the typical traumas of high school, boys and friendships whilst enduring continuous dental treatments. Raina just wants to be a normal girl, but one night after Girl Scouts she trips and falls severely injuring her two front teeth. What follows is a long and frustrating journey with on-again, off-again braces, surgery, embarrassing headgear and even a retainer with fake teeth attached. And on top of all that, there's still more to deal with: a major earthquake, boy confusion and friends who turn out to not be so friendly. Raina's story takes us from middle school to high school, where she discovers her artistic voice, finds out what true friendship really means, and where she can finally...smile.

Ghost camp by Jillian Powell

Keywords: Adventure stories, Ghost stories, Camping

AR: 2.3, MY

Three friends camp in a woods which is haunted by the ghost of a boy who was hanged for a crime he did not commit. Ben, Rashid and Eddie are about to learn that it is important that you pick the right spot to camp on... if you want a good, safe night's sleep.



Breaking the rules by Maxine Linnell

Keywords: Friendship, Adolescence, Internet,

AR: 2.8, MY+

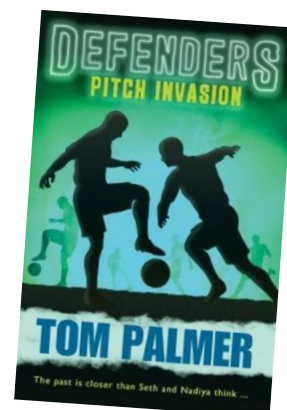
After her family move to a new city, a lonely teenage girl makes friends with a boy on Facebook, but finds out that he is not who he says he is when they arrange to meet up. Mo hates her new school and her new town. She has no friends and home life is awful. So when a nice guy friends her on Facebook, she's happy to accept. His messages keep her going while life just gets worse. Then he invites her to meet him. And Mo decides to take a risk...

Pitch invasion by Tom Palmer

Keywords: Historical stories, Football, Supernatural, Anglo-Saxons

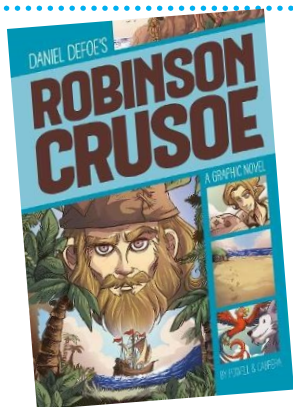
AR: 3.9, MY

Seth is haunted by horrific visions surrounding an Iron Age hill fort when he and his mother visit Cornwall. A tense Seth is waiting to hear if his mum's got the 'all-clear'. But instead of relaxing in Cornwall, Seth is haunted by visions. Heads on spikes - bloodied and rotten, eyes pecked out - surrounding an Iron Age hill fort to keep intruders away. When Seth meets two football-crazy brothers from Aleppo their stories offer him a new sense of courage. Can he look death in the face and restore calm to the present?



Recommended Reads for Year 7&8

(Accelerated Reader)

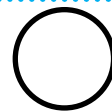


Robinson Crusoe: a graphic novel by Daniel Defoe, Martin Powell and Eva Cabrera (Illustrator)

Keywords: Adventure stories, Islands, Cartoons and comics, Classic fiction

AR: 3.7, MY

A retelling of Defoe's classic adventure story in a graphic novel format. Young Robinson Crusoe has grown bored with life, so he runs away from home to travel the world. One night, a terrible storm strikes his ship. Robinson awakens to find the ship destroyed and the entire crew dead. All alone on a deserted island, Robinson prepares for a life of solitude only to come face to face with pirates, hungry cannibals and a new friend.

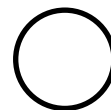


Run wild by Gill Lewis

Keywords: Friendship, Wolves, Nature, Dyslexia-friendly

AR: 3.5, MY

A group of friends find an injured wolf-dog cross on wasteland near their London home when they try to find somewhere they can skateboard. Izzy and Asha need a space to call their own, where they can practise their skateboarding away from the Skull brothers and escape from trouble at home. But the derelict gas-works where they stake their claim already belongs to something else - a wilderness they never expected to find and an injured wolf that desperately needs their help. Can they reconnect to the wild and save the wolf? Or is their pack too weak to fight much stronger powers?

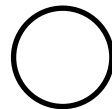


Stage fright by Jo Cotterill

Keywords: School stories, Friendship, Adolescence, Acting, Dyslexia-friendly

AR: 3.7, MY+

A girl relies on her friends' support as she copes with family problems and her stage fright for the upcoming school play that she is starring in. Alice's parents are having problems and she has the lead in the school play. Can her friends help her to get over her stage fright? Bloomsbury High Low books encourage and support reading practice by providing gripping, age-appropriate stories for struggling and reluctant readers, those with dyslexia, or those with English as an additional language.

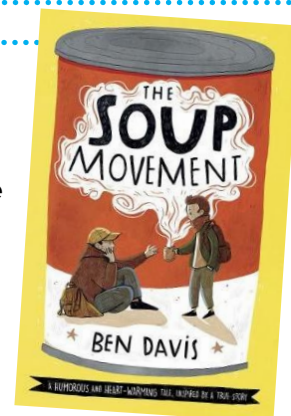


The soup movement by Ben Davis

Keywords: Friendship, Homelessness

AR: 4.3, MY

A thirteen-year-old boy in remission from cancer moves to a new town. When he gets some chips for lunch, he gives the soup his mother had made to a homeless man and so sets in motion a growing trend of acts of kindness. To aid his recovery from a life-threatening illness Ethan and his family move out of the city for a healthy new start. Ethan's getting enough funny looks as the new boy at school as it is, without his Mum giving him homemade soup every day for lunch! But when Ethan meets a homeless man called Harry, and gives him the soup, it is the start of an unlikely friendship. Soon the two of them begin giving soup to the other homeless people around town and when his sister shares their antics on Instagram the #SOUPMOVEMENT begins-they even make it on the news!



Recommended Reads for Year 7&8

(Accelerated Reader)

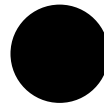


Boy, Everywhere by A M Dassu

Keywords: Immigration, Refugees

AR: 4.8, MY+

Boy, Everywhere chronicles the harrowing journey taken by Sami and his family from privilege to poverty, across countries and continents, from a comfortable life in Damascus, via a smuggler's den in Turkey, to a prison in Manchester. Once safe in the UK, Sami is bullied and decides he'd do just about anything to return to Damascus - including, possibly, becoming a stowaway. His is a story of survival, of family, of bravery...and of how thin the line is between "them" and "us".



First light by Rebecca Stead

Keywords: Adventure stories, Fantasy stories, Arctic

AR: 4.8, MY

When Peter joins his parents who are part of an expedition team in Greenland, he discovers that there are people who live under the ice caps. Peter can't wait to join his parents on an expedition to the ice caps of Greenland to study global warming. But while he's there, he begins to suspect there might be another reason for this trip other than scientific research. And in another world, there is Thea, who lives with her family under the ice, and is desperate to see what's above it. When Thea and Peter meet, two worlds will collide, and a host of secrets will be released.

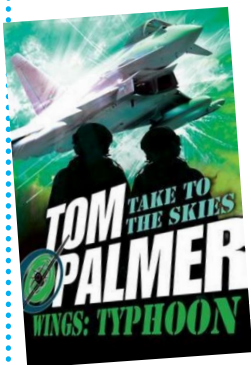


Typhoon by Tom Palmer

Keywords: Brothers and sisters, Sport stories, Ghost stories, Sibling rivalry, Football, Aircraft

AR: 4.0, MY

Football rival sisters have to test their loyalty to each other when they discover they are flying a real fighter plane in WWII after entering a flight simulator ride. It's the last day at football summer school. Jess is moving in for an easy shot on goal when the roar of a fighter jet nearly flattens her with shock. For Maddie it's the final straw. Once the sisters were the best of friends, but now tensions between them are at fever pitch. Can Jess and Maddie join forces again to survive a challenge that will test them to the very limit?

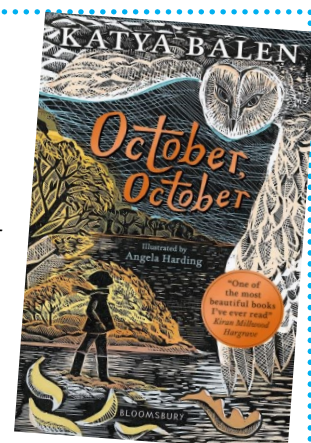


October, October by Katya Balen

Keywords: Animal stories, Families, Nature, Owls

AR: 5.7, MY

An eleven-year-old girl's world is turned upside-down when she has to go and live with her mother in the city after her father, with whom she lives in the woods, is seriously injured in an accident. A classic in the making for anyone who ever longed to be WILD. October and her dad live in the woods. They sleep in the house Dad built for them and eat the food they grow in the vegetable patches. They know the trees and the rocks and the lake and stars like best friends. They read the books they buy in town again and again until the pages are soft and yellow - until next year's town visit. They live in the woods and they are wild. And that's the way it is. Until the year October turns eleven. That's the year October rescues a baby owl. It's the year Dad falls out of the biggest tree in their woods. The year the woman who calls herself October's mother comes back. The year everything changes.



Recommended Reads for Year 7&8

(Accelerated Reader)



When the Sky Falls by Phil Earle

Keywords: Animal stories, World War 2, Historical stories, Death, Zoos, Gorillas

AR: 5.4, MY

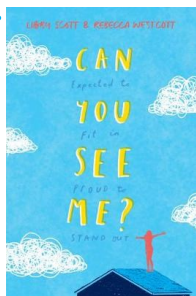
An evacuated boy builds a relationship with the gorilla at the zoo owned by the woman with whom he's been billeted. Inspired by a true story. It's 1940, and Joseph has been packed off to stay with Mrs F, a gruff woman with no great fondness for children. To Joseph's amazement, she owns the rundown city zoo where Joseph meets Adonis, a huge silverback gorilla. Adonis is ferociously strong and dangerous, but Joseph finds he has an affinity with the lonely beast. But when the bombs begin to fall, it is up to Joseph to guard Adonis's cage should it be damaged by a blast. Will Joseph be ready to pull the trigger if it comes to it?

Floodworld by Tom Huddleston

Keywords: Adventure stories, Floods, Science fiction

AR: 5.0, MY+

Set in a futuristic London long flooded by water, two children find themselves on the run when they find themselves mixed up in a larger conspiracy. Kara and Joe spend their days navigating the perilous waterways of a sunken city, scratching out a living in the ruins. But when they come into possession of a mysterious map, they find themselves in a world of trouble. Suddenly everyone's after them: gangsters, cops and ruthless Mariner pirates in their hi-tech submarines. The two children must find a way to fight back before Floodworld's walls come tumbling down...



Can You See Me? By Libby Scott and Rebecca Westcott

Keywords: Friendship, Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEN, Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), Neurodiversity

AR: 5.6, MY

An autistic girl learns to be herself instead of trying to hide her condition from people around her. Tally is ten years old and she's just like her friends. Well, sometimes she is. If she tries really hard to be. Because there's something that makes Tally not the same as her friends. Something she can't cover up, no matter how hard she tries: Tally is autistic. Tally's autism means there are things that bother her even though she wishes they didn't. It means that some people misunderstand her and feel frustrated by her. People think that because Tally's autistic, she doesn't realise what they're thinking, but Tally sees and hears - and notices - all of it. There are two more books in this series.

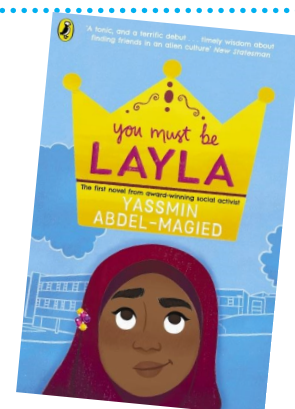


You must be Layla Yassmin Abdel-Magied

Keywords: Families, Black, Asian or minority ethnic characters

AR: 5.7, MY

Thirteen-year-old Layla sets out to prove that she deserves her scholarship at her new school by entering a big robotics competition. Layla believes she was right to stand up for herself against a bully, but it's landed her a suspension - not the way she (or her parents) would have wished to begin her time at her fancy new school! This is just a setback though, and she's determined to prove that she does deserve her scholarship by making new friends and setting her sights on inventing something that could win the big robotics competition. But where to begin?



Recommended Reads for Year 7&8 (Accelerated Reader)

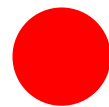


The diamond of Drury Lane by Julia Golding

Keywords: Historical stories, Mystery stories, Theatre, Award winners

AR: 5.6, MY+

Set in 1790s Covent Garden, London the first case of Cat Royal, an orphan who lives at the back of the real-life theatre in Drury Lane. The streets of London and the world of the theatre are my home. Dark secrets, rogues, villains and adventures lie on every cobbled corner. And now I have a mystery to solve. But are you bold enough to follow me? If so, read on...

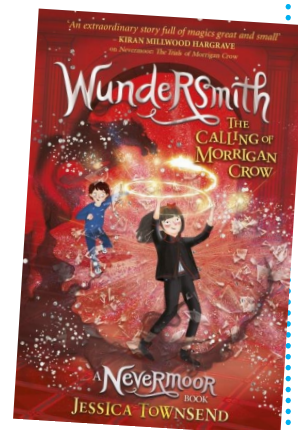


Wundersmith: the calling of Morrigan Crow by Jessica Townsend

Keywords: Adventure stories, Fantasy stories, Magical stories

AR: 6.0, MY

After being accepted into the Wundrous Society, Morrigan Crow discovers that the city of Nevermoor isn't the safe haven she hoped it would be. Morrigan Crow has escaped her deadly curse and joined the Wundrous Society. It promises her protection, friendship and belonging for life - but then Morrigan doesn't receive the welcome she hoped for. Morrigan is a rare Wundersmith, but instead of the Society helping her to embrace her power, they seem to want to suppress her mysterious ability at all costs. To make things worse, the magical city of Nevermoor is quickly turning from a place of safety into one of danger. Society members are disappearing, someone is blackmailing Morrigan's new friends, turning them against her - and Ezra Squall, the vilest man who ever lived, is determined to lure Morrigan from the Society by promising to teach her how to use the Wunder that calls to her, which is becoming ever harder to resist. Has Morrigan's dream of escaping her cursed life ended before it truly began?



Hero on a bicycle by Shirley Hughes

Keywords: Adventure stories, World War 2, Historical stories

AR: 6.0, MY

When Paolo's family is approached by the Italian Partisans to help two prisoners of war escape the Germans he gets a chance to use his bicycle and local knowledge to help out. It is 1944 and Florence is occupied by Nazi German forces. The Italian resistance movement has not given up hope, though - and neither have Paolo and his sister, Constanza. Both are desperate to fight the occupation, but what can two siblings do against a whole army with only a bicycle to help them?

George's cosmic treasure hunt by Stephen Hawking, Lucy Hawking

Keywords: Adventure stories, Science fiction, Space stories

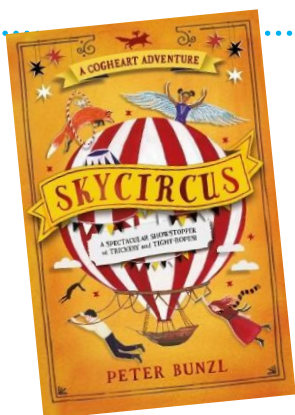
AR: 6.1, MY

Annie and George go to Mars to see why a robot there is behaving oddly. George's best friend Annie needs help. Her scientist father, Eric, is working on a space project - and it's all going wrong. A robot has landed on Mars, but is behaving very oddly. And now Annie has discovered something weird on her dad's super-computer. Is it a message from an alien? Could there be life out there? How do you find a planet in outer space? And if you could talk to aliens, what would you say? This terrific adventure is not only an action-packed rollercoaster ride into a dramatic treasure hunt across the cosmos but is also FILLED with masses of all the LATEST scientific knowledge about our Universe including special essays from some of the top scientists in the world!



Recommended Reads for Year 7&8

(Accelerated Reader)



Skycircus by Peter Bunzl

Keywords: Adventure stories, Mystery stories, Victorians

AR: 6.0, MY

Lily and Robert are kidnapped while visiting a travelling skycircus. When a travelling skycircus arrives in Brackenbridge, Lily and Robert can't wait to step onboard. But behind the daredevil deeds of the bewitching bird-girl and the lobster-handed boy, something sinister lurks. And soon, the watchful ringmistress, Madame Lyons-Mane, reveals a deadly plan for Lily. Could the secrets of Lily's past hold their only chance of escape from this terrible trap?

The Song of the Quarkbeast by Jasper Fforde

Keywords: Adventure stories, Fantasy stories, Magical stories

AR: 6.3, MY+

Jennifer must thwart King Snodd's plans to take complete control of all the world's magical powers. A long time ago magic faded away, leaving behind only yo-yos, the extremely useful compass-pointing-to-North enchantment and the spell that keep bicycles from falling over. Things are about to change. Magical power is on the rise and King Snodd IV of Hereford has realised that he who controls magic controls almost anything. One person stands between Snodd and his plans for power and riches beyond the wildest dreams of avarice. Meet Jennifer Strange, sixteen-year-old acting manager of Kazam, the employment agency for sorcerers and soothsayers. With only one functioning wizard and her faithful assistant 'Tiger' Prawns, Jennifer must use every ounce of ingenuity to derail King Snodd's plans.



Where the river runs gold by Sita Brahmachari

Keywords: Brothers and sisters, Adventure stories, Environment, Climate

AR: 6.1, MY

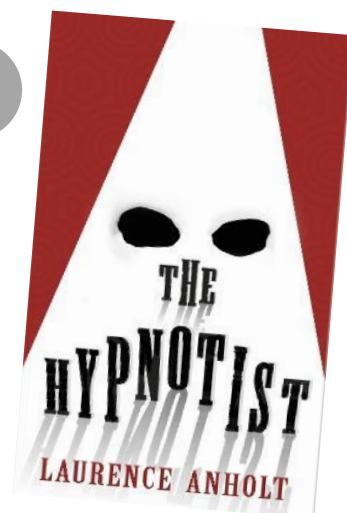
Two children must risk everything to escape their fate and find the impossible... Kairos City was beautiful once, before the storm. Now the flowerbeds are built over with brick, the bees are long gone and children are sent to Freedom Fields to pollinate crops by hand for the good of the nation. Eleven-year-old Shifa knows her twin Themba won't survive this harsh existence for long: they have to escape. But then she uncovers an impossible secret. If she can protect it on their perilous journey home, Shifa could change everything.

The hypnotist by Laurence Anholt

Keywords: Friendship, Historical stories, United States of America, Racism

AR: 6.6 UY

Set in the American Deep South in the 1960s, a black teenager and a University professor experience and fight to overcome extreme racism and the KKK. Jack has left his native Ireland and is making a new life as Professor of Neurology at a university in the American South. He has certain skills, honed over his lifetime, that he mostly keeps hidden. Skills in hypnotism and mind control... Thirteen-year-old Pip is plucked out of an orphanage by a farmer, hired as a farm-hand, and as carer for the farmer's wife. But Pip is black. The farmer and his wife are white. And this is 1960s America, where race defines you and overshadows everything. As racial tensions reach boiling point with a danger closer to home and more terrifying than either thought possible, Jack and Pip's lives become inextricably linked. And Jack's hypnotic skills are called on as never before...



Recommended Reads for Year 7&8 (Accelerated Reader)



Little Bird flies by Karen McCombie

Keywords: Families, Historical stories, Scotland, Islands

AR: 6.4, MY+

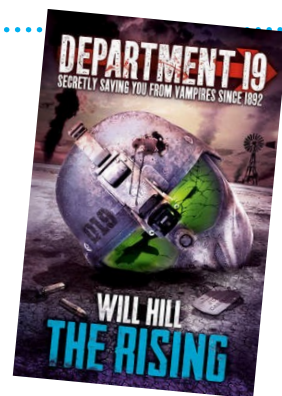
A crofter's daughter leaves her life on a remote Scottish island to start a new life in America and escape the tyrannical rule of the Laird who owns the island. It's 1861. Little Bird lives on the remote Scottish island of Tornish, a crofter's daughter with a secret. Although she loves her island, with its wild seas and big skies, she guiltily nurses a secret dream of flight - to America and the freedom of the New World. Then, suddenly, the time for daydreaming is over. The new Laird of the island is cruel and dangerous. Little Bird must escape in search of a new life. But the journey is hard and what does the future hold for her?

The Rising, by Will Hill

Keywords: Horror stories, Vampires, Thrillers, Supernatural

AR: 7.5, UY

A secret government agency attempts to stop the resurrection of Dracula while combating internal traitors. Department 6 is the Army. Department 13 is MI5. Department 19 is all that stands between you and the end of the world... After the terrifying attack on Lindisfarne at the end of the first book, Jamie, Larissa and Kate are recovering at Department 19 headquarters, waiting for news of Dracula's stolen ashes. They won't be waiting for long. Vampire forces are gathering. Old enemies are getting too close. And Dracula! is rising.



Larklight by Philip Reeve

Keywords: Adventure stories, Science fiction, Victorians

AR: 7.0, MY

In an alternative steampunk reality that has invented space flight, Arthur and his sister Myrtle save the Solar System from threatening white spiders, known as the First Ones. Arthur (Art) Mumby and his irritating sister Myrtle live with their father Revd Marmaduke Mumby in the huge and rambling house, Larklight, travelling through space on a remote orbit far beyond the moon. One ordinary sort of morning they receive a correspondence informing them that a gentleman is on his way to visit, a Mr Webster. Visitors to Larklight are rare if not unique, and a frenzy of preparation ensues. But is it the wrong sort of preparation, as they discover when their guest arrives, and a Dreadful and Terrifying (and marvellous) adventure begins. It takes them to the furthest reaches of known space, where they must battle the evil First Ones in a desperate attempt to save each other-and the universe.

Fly by night by Frances Hardinge

Keywords: Adventure stories, Fantasy stories

AR: 7.1, MY

Set in an alternative historical world, a young girl and her goose companion become accidental heroes of a revolution. As the realm struggles to maintain an uneasy peace after years of civil war and tyranny, a twelve-year-old orphan and her loyal companion, a grumpy goose, are about to become the unlikely heroes of a radical revolution. Mosca Mye is on the run, heading for the city of Mandelion. There she finds herself living by her wits among cut-throat highwaymen, spies and smugglers. With peril at every turn, Mosca uncovers a dark plot to terrorise the people of Mandelion, and soon merry mayhem leads to murder...

