

Recommended Reads: Years 7/8

Note to parents: Some books from this list are written for young adult readers; this means there may be occasional 'gritty' content.

Generally by Key Stage 3 young people are ready for this, but parents know their children best; if you have queries about suitability, please check online reviews or ask your child's teacher.

* = Top picks for reluctant readers;

! = Casterton English Team favourites

Action, Adventure, Mystery & Thrillers

Storm Catchers by Tim Bowler

The Terrible Thing [...] Barnaby Rooket - John Boyne

Bodyguard or *Gamer* (& sequels) by Chris Bradford*

Mortal Chaos or *Lie, Kill, Walk Away* –M Dickinson

The London Eye Mystery by Siobhan Dowd

The Girl Who Stole An Elephant by Nizrana Farook

Boy Overboard by Morris Gleitzman

The Boy Who Flew by Fleur Hitchcock

High Rise Mystery & Mic Drop by Sharna Jackson

The Long Weekend by Savita Kalhan*

Girl Missing (& sequels) by Sophie McKenzie

The Recruit (& sequels) or *Killer T* -R Muchamore*

Hatchet by Gary Paulsen

Ruby in the Smoke by Phillip Pullman

Wolf Wilder, Rooftopper The Explorer by K Rundell (!)

Murder Most Unladylike (& sequels) – R Stevens

Lost (Choose Your Own Adventure) -Tracey Turner.*

Girl. Boy. Sea by Chris Vick

The Extinction Trials by SM Wilson

Dystopian & Science Fiction

The Infinite by Patience Agbabi

The Middler or *Troofriend* by Kirsty Applebaum

Ink (& sequels) by Alice Broadway

Where the River Runs Gold by Sita Brahmachari

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

Nowhere on Earth by Nick Lake

The Giver and *Gathering Blue* by Lois Lowry

The Dog Runner, Across the Risen Sea & How to Bee by

Bren Macdibble – environmental dystopia

Killer T by Robert Muchamore

The Knife of Never Letting Go (& sequels)-P Ness (!)

Railhead & Mortal Engines (& sequels)-P Reeve

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

Destination Earth by Ali Sparkes

Contagion or *Slated* (& sequels) by Teri Terry

The Kid Who Came From Space by Ross Welford

The 5th Wave (& sequels) by Rick Yancey

Fantasy, Magic Realism, Horror & Ghost

The House With Chicken Legs & Girl/Bear -S. Anderson

Asha & The Spirit Bird by Jasbinder Bilan

Mind Writer by Steve Cole*

Artemis Fowl (& sequels) by Eoin Colfer

Who Let the Gods Out (& sequels) by Maz Evans (!)

Ranger's Apprentice or *Brotherband* - J Flanagan

Inkheart (& sequels) or *Reckless* by Cornelia Funke

The Graveyard Book by Neil Gaiman (!)

Blackberry Blue by Jamila Gavin

Brightstorm: A Sky-Ship Adventure by Vashti Hardy

Girl of Ink and Stars by Kiran Millwood Hargrave

Skulduggery Pleasant (& sequels) by Derek Landy

Eragon (& sequels) by Christopher Paolini

Tales of Terror, Mister Creecher –Chris Priestley

Northern Lights (& sequels) by Phillip Pullman (!)

Goth Girl (& sequels) by Chris Riddell*(!)

Mrs Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children -Riggs

Alcatraz & Evil Librarians (& sequels) by B Sanderson

Zom-B or *Cirque du Freak* (& sequels) by D. Shan*

Oh My Gods by Alexandra Sheppard

Black Panther the Young Prince by Roland L Smith

The Edge Chronicles by P Stewart and C Riddell

Humorous books

Little Badman & [...] Killer Aunties - Humza Arshad

Millions, Cosmic or Broccoli Boy by Frank C Boyce (!)

The Last Kids on Earth (& sequels) by Max Brallier*

Fenway and Hattie by Victoria Cole*

Adventures of a Wimpy Vampire(&more)-T.Collins*

The 13-Storey Treehouse (& series) by A Griffiths*

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

Enginerds (& sequels) by Jarrett Lerner*

Disaster Diaries: Zombies (&sequels)-R McGeddon*

The Accidental Billionaire series- T McLaughlin

The World of Norm series by Jonathon Meres*

Accidental Trouble: Planet Omar by Zanib Mian

Timmy Failure series by Stephan Pastis*

Tom Gates series by Liz Pichon (dyslexia-friendly)*

Big Nate series by Lincoln Peirce*

Relationships & Tough Situations

Cyborg Cat (& sequels)- Ade Adepitan*

The One and Only Ivan by Katherine Applegate

Boy Underwater by Adam Baron

Noughts and Crosses or ***Pig-Heart Boy*** - M Blackman (!)
Blubber or anything by Judy Blume
Artichoke Hearts or ***Jasmine Skies*** -S. Brahmachari
A Pocketful of Stars by Aisha Bushby
Efren Divided by Ernesto Cisneros
New Kid by Jerry Craft
One, Apple & Rain, Moonrise, Toffee -S Crossan
Stella By Starlight or ***Blended*** by Sharon Draper
Running on Empty by S.E. Durrant
Mind the Gap, Being Billy or Saving Daisy - P Earle*
The Many Worlds of Albie Bright –Chris Edge
Pet by Akwaeke Emezi
Mockingbird by Kathryn Erskine
Tulip Touch, Goggle Eyes or Flour Babies by A. Fine
Lenny’s Book of Everything by Karen Foxlee
Check Mates & The Bubble Boy by Stewart Foster
One Crazy Summer by Rita Williams-Garcia
George by Alex Gino
Tall Story or ***Shine*** by Candy Gourlay
The Island at the End of Everything by KM Hargrave
After the Fire by Will Hill
Boy in the Tower by Polly Ho-Yen
A Different Dog by Paul Jennings*
Red Sky in the Morning or Song/Dolphin Boy -E Laird
Scarlet Ibis by Gill Lewis
Rain Reign by Ann M Martin
Brock, Pike, Rook & Lark by Anthony McGowan *
A Monster Calls by Patrick Ness (!)
No Fixed Address or ***Word Nerd*** – Susin Nielsen
Wonder by R.J. Palacio (!)
Pax or ***Here in the Real World*** - S Pennypacker
Unboxed by Non Pratt *
A Good Kind of Trouble by Lisa Moore Ramee
Long Way Down, Look Both Ways, Ghost -Reynolds*(!)
Ghost Boys or ***Black Brother[...]*** Jewell P Rhodes (!)
Esperanza Rising by Pam Munoz Ryan
Operation Frog Effect by Sarah Scheerger
Can You See Me or ***Do You Know Me***–Scott & Westcott
The Marvels or ***Wonderstruck*** by Brian Selznick*
The Boxer by Nikesh Shukla (!)
Stargirl by Jerry Spinelli
Clean Getaway by Nic Stone
Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry by Mildred Taylor (!)
The Hate U Give by Angie Thomas (!)
Goldfish Boy by Lisa Thompson
The 1000 Year Old Boy or ***Time/Hamster*** Ross Welford (!)

A Boy Called Hope or ***Ocean/Armchair*** - by L Williamson
Brown Girl Dreaming or ***Harbor Me*** - J Woodson
Front Desk by Kelly Yang

Sports

Booked, Crossover or Rebound – K. Alexander*
Stat Man by Alan Durant *
Unstoppable or ***Man of the Match*** - Dan Freedman*
The Number 7 Shirt or ***The Lion Roars*** - A Gibbons*
Kick by Mitch Johnson
The Fix by Sophie McKenzie*
The Greatest: Muhammed Ali by Walter D Myers*
Ultimate Football Heroes Collection – M&T Oldfield*
Football Academy or ***Foul Play*** series–Tom Palmer*
Soccer Squad, Dream On (& series) by Bali Rai*
Outcasts United (young people edition) -W. St John
The Football Boy Wonder (& sequels) - Martin Smith*
Pay Attention, Carter Jones by Gary Schmidt*

History, War, Conflict & Refugee Experience

Soldier Dog or ***A Horse Called Hero*** - Sam Angus
The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas by J Boyne
The Short Knife by Elen Caldecott
Illegal by Eoin Colfer *
Wolf Children, Red Shadow, Eleven Eleven -Dowswell
Copper Sun by Sharon Draper
Under a War-Torn Sky by L.M. Elliott
Boy 87 by Ele Fountain
The Bone Sparrow by Zana Fraillion (!)
Once (& sequels) by Morris Gleitzman * (!)
Bone Talk by Candy Gourlay
Grenade by Alan Gratz
Race to the Frozen North*, 1783, Blade and Bones or
Sawbones by Catherine Johnson
Orphan Monster Spy by Matt Killeen
Inside Out and Back Again by Thanhha Lai
Crusade by Elizabeth Laird
Buffalo Soldier or ***Apache*** by Tanya Landman
Every Falling Star (North Korea) by Sungju Lee
Dog Tags: Semper Fido or ***Strays*** by C A London*
Diver’s Daughter: A Tudor Story by P Lawrence
Shadow or ***In the Mouth of the Wolf*** -Morpurgo
Sunrise Over Fallujah by Walter Dean Myers*
A Night Divided by Jennifer Nielson
After the War, Armistice Runner or ***Over/Line***-T Palmer*
A Long Walk to Water by Linda Sue Park
The Red Pencil by Andrea David Pinkney
Now or Never: A Dunkirk Story by Bali Rai*

The Boy at the Back of the Class by Onjali Rauf (!)

Salt to the Sea by Ruta Sepetys (!)

Eagle of the Ninth by Rosemary Sutcliffe (!)

Refugee Boy by Benjamin Zephaniah

The Book Thief by Marcus Zusak !