



Recommended Reads: Years Keystage 3

Action & Thrillers

Bodyguard or *Young Samurai* (& sequels); *Bullet Catcher* or *Gamer* by Chris Bradford*
Alone by DJ Brazier
Mortal Chaos, Speed Freaks, The Everest Files (& sequels) or *Lie, Kill, Walk Away* - Matt Dickinson (!)
Lightning Girl (& sequels) by Alesha Dixon *
The London Eye Mystery by Siobhan Dowd (!)
Silverfin or *The Enemy* (& sequels) by C Higson (!)
Stormbreaker (& sequels) by A. Horowitz*
Wild Boy by Lloyd Jones
Girl Missing (& sequels) by Sophie McKenzie
The Recruit (& sequels) by R. Muchamore*
Hatchet by Gary Paulsen
Wolf Wilder, The Good Thieves, The Explorer, Rooftoppers by Katherine Rundell
Night Speakers or *Carjacked* by Ali Sparkes
Murder Most Unladylike (& sequels) – R Stevens
Lost (Choose Your Own Adventure) -T Turner.*

Dystopian & Science Fiction

Gone or *BRZK* (& sequels) -Michael Grant
The Boy Who Flew by Fleur Hitchcock
The Giver and *Gathering Blue* by Lois Lowry (!)
Legend (& sequels) by Marie Lu
The Knife of Never Letting Go (& sequels)-P Ness (!)
MetaWars: Fight for the Future (&sequels)- Norton*
Railhead & Mortal Engines (& sequels)-P Reeve (!)^
Remade (& sequels) or *Time Riders* - Alex Scarrow
Dry, Scythe, Unwind (& sequels) – N Shusterman (!)
Contagion or *Slated* (& sequels) by Teri Terry
The 5th Wave (& sequels) by Rick Yancey (!)

Fantasy, Magic Realism, Horror & Ghost

Children of Blood and Bone by Tomi Adeyemi
Cogheart by Peter Bunzl (!)
Mind Writer by Steve Cole*
Artemis Fowl (& sequels) by Eoin Colfer (!)
The Dark is Rising by Susan Cooper

The Stormkeeper's Island by Catherine Doyle
Rumblestar by Abi Elphinstone
Who Let the Gods Out (& sequels) by Maz Evans
Ranger's Apprentice or *Brotherband* - J Flanagan
Inkheart (& sequels) by Cornelia Funke (!)
The Graveyard Book by Neil Gaiman (!)
Blackberry Blue by Jamila Gavin (!)
Girl of Ink and Stars by Kiran Millwood Hargrave (!)
Skulduggery Pleasant (& sequels) by Derek Landy
Zom-B or *Cirque du Freak* (& sequels) by D. Shan*
Eragon (& sequels) by Christopher Paolini
Through Dead Eyes, Tales of Terror, Mister Creecher, The Last of Spirits –C. Priestley
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
Thunderstruck or *Unleashed* by Ali Sparkes*
The Edge Chronicles by P Stewart and C Riddell

Humorous books

Little Badman and the Invasion of the Killer Aunties by Humza Arshad & Henry White*
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*
To Be a Cat by Matt Haig
Cookie & the Most Annoying Boy... by Konnie Huq*
Enginerds (& sequels) by Jarrett Lerner*
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*
Planet Omar by Zanib Mian
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*
Killer Animals series by Tracey Turner

Relationships & Tough Situations

Boy Underwater by Adam Baron
Noughts and Crosses, Cloud Busting, Boys Don't Cry or *Pig-Heart Boy* by Malorie Blackman (!)
Blubber or anything by Judy Blume (!)

Artichoke Hearts, Jasmine Skies or Where the River

Runs Gold Sita Brahmachari

A Pocketful of Stars by Aisha Bushby

One, Apple & Rain, Moonrise, Toffee -S Crossan (!)

Blended or Out of My Mind 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

Mockingbird by Kathryn Erskine (!)

Tulip Touch, Goggle Eyes or Flour Babies by A. Fine

Check Mates & The Bubble Boy by Stewart Foster

Unstoppable by Dan Freedman *

George by Alex Gino

Tall Story or Shine by Candy Gourlay

The Island at the End of Everything–KM Hargrave(!)

After the Fire by Will Hill (!)

Boy in the Tower by Polly Ho-Yen

A Different Dog by Paul Jennings*

Freedom: 1783 by Catherine Johnson

Red Sky in the Morning by Elizabeth Laird (!)

Scarlet Ibis by Gill Lewis

A Monster Calls by Patrick Ness (!)

Word Nerd, We Are All Made of Molecules-Nielsen

Wonder by R.J. Palacio (!)

Pax by Sarah Pennypacker (!)

Freak the Mighty by Rodman Philbrick

My Sister Lives on the Mantelpiece by A Pitcher (!)

Unboxed by Non Pratt *

Long Way Down by Jason Reynolds

Esperanza Rising by Pam Munoz Ryan

The Marvels or Wonderstruck by Brian Selznick*(!)

Stargirl by Jerry Spinelli (!)

Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry by Mildred Taylor (!)

The Hate U Give by Angie Thomas (!)

Goldfish Boy by Lisa Thompson

A Boy Called Hope by Lara Williamson

Brown Girl Dreaming by Jacqueline Woodson (!)

Front Desk by Kelly Yang

I am Malala by Malala Yousafzai (!)

Sports

Booked, Crossover or Rebound – K. Alexander* (!)

Charlie Merrick's Misfits... by David Cousins*

Stat Man by Alan Durant *

The Beautiful Game series by Dhami (girls' football)

Man of the Match (& series) by Dan Freedman

The Number 7 Shirt or The Lion Roars - A Gibbons*

Kick by Mitch Johnson

The Fix by Sophie McKenzie*

Ultimate Football Heroes Collection – M&T Oldfield

Football Academy or Foul Play series–Tom Palmer*

Soccer Squad, Dream On (& series) by Bali Rai*

War, Conflict and the Refugee Experience

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 (!)

Illegal by Eoin Colfer * (!)

Wolf Children, Red Shadow, Eleven Eleven,

Auslander & True Stories books – Paul Dowswell

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

Orphan Monster Spy by Matt Killeen

Inside Out and Back Again by Thanhha Lai (!)

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*

Number the Stars by Lois Lowry (!)

The Skylarks' War by Hilary McKay

War Horse or Private Peaceful by M Morpurgo (!)

Sunrise Over Fallujah by Walter Dean Myers*

A Night Divided by Jennifer Nielson

Armistice Runner or Over the Line by Tom Palmer*

A Long Walk to Water by Linda Sue Park

The Red Pencil by Andrea David Pinkney

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 (!)

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

! = Our favourite reads