



Recommended Reads:

Years 8/9

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

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The London Eye Mystery by Siobhan Dowd (!)

Silverfin or **The Enemy** (& sequels) by C Higson

Stormbreaker (& sequels) by A. Horowitz*

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

Ink (& sequels) by Alice Broadway

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

The Boy Who Flew by Fleur Hitchcock

The Giver and **Gathering Blue** by Lois Lowry (!)

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

The House With Chicken Legs & The Girl Who Speaks Bear by Sophie Anderson

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

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

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 &[...] Killer Aunties by
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*

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 or **Jasmine Skies** -S.
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

Lenny's Book of Everything by Karen
Foxlee

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*

Race to the Frozen North or **1783** by C
Johnson*

Red Sky in the Morning by Elizabeth Laird
(!)

Scarlet Ibis by Gill Lewis

Lark (& series) by Anthony McGowan

A Monster Calls by Patrick Ness (!)

No Fixed Address or **Word Nerd** by Susan
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, Look Both Ways, Ghost or Patina by Jason Reynolds*
Esperanza Rising by Pam Munoz Ryan
The Marvels or Wonderstruck by Brian Selznick*(!)

The Boxer by Nikesh Shukla (!)

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 (!)

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*

Pay Attention, Carter Jones by Gary Schmidt*

War, Conflict and the Refugee Experience

Soldier Dog or A Horse Called Hero - Sam Angus

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**

(i) = teachers' favourites