

Key stage 3 Reading List



'Books can be dangerous. The best ones should be labelled, 'This could change your life.'

Helen Exley



'You know you've read a good book when you turn the last page and feel a little as if you have lost a friend.'

Paul Sweeney

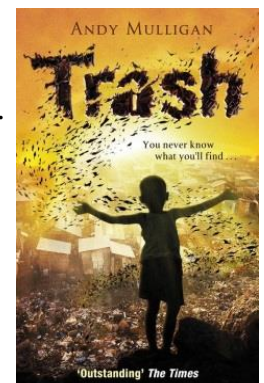


Reading is the key to improving all aspects of your English work, and it will benefit you in other curriculum areas too. More importantly, you may be inspired, able to relax more easily, and your imagination will flourish...

† Titles that are more challenging

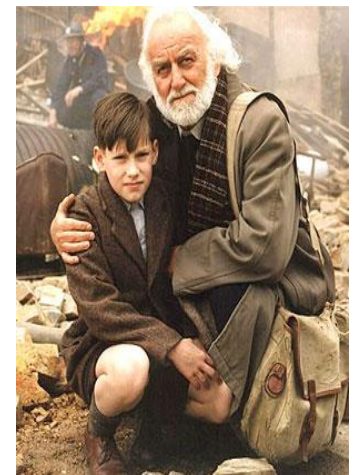
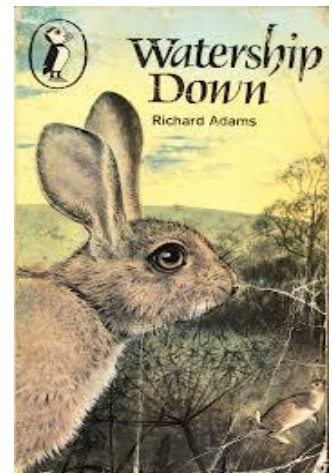
Adventure

- Exodus** Julie Bertagna - A quest for survival and a search for a new world.
- Hacker** Malorie Blackman - A computer hacking adventure.
- Storm Catchers** Tim Bowler - Kidnap and mystery.
- Millions** Frank Cottrell Boyce - Adventure & dealing with grief.
- Silverfin** Charlie Higson - James Bond, the original superspy is back, aged 13!
- Scorpia** Anthony Horowitz - The MI6 adventure spy adventure series
- Journey to the River Sea** Eva Ibbotson - An adventure along the Amazon.
- Star of Kazan** Eva Ibbotson - A family mystery.
- Thunder and Lightnings** Jan Mark - An adventure mystery all about planes
- Underworld** Catherine Macphail - A school trip that goes wrong...
- Trash** Andy Mulligan - Three friends find something extraordinary. From that moment on they are hunted without mercy
- Windsinger** William Nicholson - a rebellious and fast-paced adventure.
- Seeker** William Nicholson - a thrilling, high-octane adventure.
- Bridge to Terabithia** Katherine Patterson - An adventure mystery.
- Johnny and the Bomb** Terry Pratchett - A time travelling adventure!
- Brother in the Land** Robert Swindells - A nuclear attack on earth!



Classic

- **Watership Down** Richard Adams - A small band of rabbits set out on a perilous journey to find a safe home.
- **Little Women** Louisa May Alcott - A family drama following the lives of the March sisters.
- **Jane Eyre** Charlotte Bronte - The story of a young girl's passage to adulthood in the early nineteenth century.
- **Wuthering Heights** Emily Bronte - A wild, passionate story set on a lonely moorland.
- **Great Expectations** Charles Dickens - A gripping drama which opens in an overgrown churchyard on the eerie Kent marshes.
- **The Secret Garden** Frances Hodgson-Burnett - An adventure into a secret garden, showing that people can change.
- **Goodnight Mr Tom** Michelle Magorian - A long-bereaved old man grudgingly takes London evacuee into his home.
- **Anne of Green Gables** L. M. Montgomery - The first of a series of books about an orphan girl and her new life.
- **Five Children and It** Edith Nesbit - Five children find a cantankerous sand fairy in a gravel pit.
- **The Railway Children** Edith Nesbit - A family move to a house near the railway, after their father is imprisoned having been falsely accused of spying.
- **Heidi** Johanna Spyri - Set in Switzerland, a story of friendship and family.

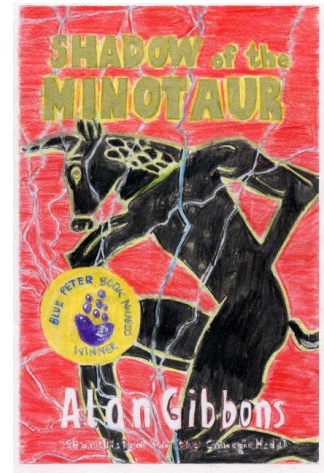


Fantasy

- **Midget** Tim Bowler - Unable to speak, but powerful; family conflict
- **Basilisk** N. M. Brown - A story of two worlds
- **The Hunger Games** series Suzanne Collins - A terrifying and exhilarating thriller!



- **The Dark is Rising series** Susan Cooper - A series of five books, beginning with 'Over Sea, Under Stone' - a story of a quest
- **Ingo** Helen Dunmore - Mermaids and coping with loss
- **Dark Ground** Gillian Cross - A boy is forced to survive in a dangerous world with a twist
- **Shadow of the Minotaur** Alan Gibbons - A gripping, fantasy thriller. Phoenix hates his new home and the new school where he is bullied.
- **Across the Nightingale Floor** Liam Hearn - The first of a trilogy - a mystery in the Orient (Grass for his Pillow & Brilliance of the Moon)
- **Doomspell** Cliff McNish - A magical fantasy
- **The Snow Spider** Jenny Nimmo - The first of a trilogy (Emlyn's Moon & The Chestnut Soldier) about a boy magician
- **Tom's Midnight Garden** Philippa Pearce - A time travelling adventure
- **Northern Lights** Philip Pullman - A trilogy exploring authority and other worlds (The Subtle Knife & The Amber Spyglass)
- **Mortal Engines** Phillip Reeve - Set in a world where moving cities trawl the globe, Tom and Hester have been thrown out of theirs.
- **Percy Jackson series** Rick Riordan - Join the adventures of Percy Jackson and his demigod friends as they fight mythological monsters and the forces of the titan lord Kronos.
- **Harry Potter** J. K. Rowling - A series of books about the life of a wizard as he goes through Hogwarts School
- **Secret Songs** Jane Stemp - A story of family secrets
- **Lord of the Rings** J. R. R. Tolkien - A trilogy about a quest to rid the world of the power of the ring
- **The Dreamwalker's Child** Steve Voake - Sam Palmer is knocked off his bike and wakes in Aurobon, a parallel world where insects are used as war machines.
- **Mirror Dreams** Catherine Webb - A magical adventure with wizards...



Funny

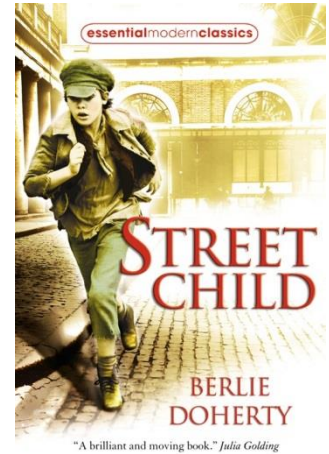
- **Agent Z** Mark Haddon - Very funny! Read it and find out...
- **Diary of a Wimpy Kid** Jeff Kinney - A hysterically funny story about a boy who finds himself in ridiculous situations.
- **The World of Norm** Jonathan Meres - A funny, clever book about the hapless 12-year old Norm.
- **The Race for the Lost Keystone** Val Rutt - An amusing adventure story - talking animals, a mad great-aunt...
- **Billionaire Boy** David Walliams - The story of a boy with a billion pounds and not a single friend!
- **Demon Dentist** David Walliams - Full of mad characters and hilarious jokes, this is the thriller for you!
- **Mr Stink** David Walliams - An original, touching, twisted, and most of all hilarious novel
- **Ratburger** David Walliams - A screamingly funny novel about a little girl called Zoe and the evil Burt from Burt's Burgers who is after her pet rat!
- **The Boy in the Dress** David Walliams - Charming and surprising, the story of a boy called Dennis who is a little different!



Historical

- **Carrie's War** Nina Bawden - Evacuation & adventure during WW2
- **PoW** Martin Booth - A novel of conflict and adventure.
- **Kezzie** Theresa Breslin - Mining and transportation...
- **Remembrance** Theresa Breslin - The story of two families in WW1.
- **King of Shadows** Susan Cooper - A time travel adventure into the world of Shakespeare

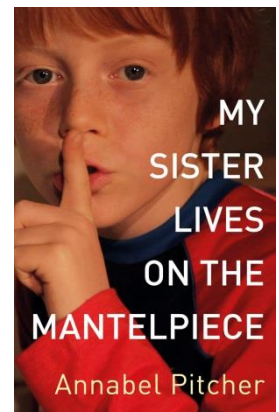
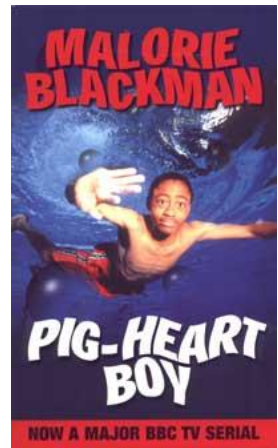
- †**Arthur and the Seeing Stone** Kevin Crossley-Holland - The first of a trilogy set in Medieval England (Arthur at the Crossing Places & King of the Middle March)
- †**The Kin** Peter Dickinson - A historical family adventure
- **Children of Winter** Berlie Doherty - Set in Eyam - a village isolated by the plague in the 1600s
- **Street Child** Berlie Doherty - The story behind the foundation of Dr Barnado's children's homes
- **The Diary of Anne Frank / Diary of a Young Girl** Anne Frank - The diary of a Jewish girl in hiding during WW2
- †**Coram Boy** Jamilla Gavin - Orphans, the Coram Hospital, Slaves...
- **Changeling** Philippa Gregory - The year is 1453 and all signs point to it being the end of the world.
- **Stars of Fortune** Cynthia Harnett - What happened when Elizabeth I was imprisoned by Mary I?
- **I Am David** Ann Holm - A journey from imprisonment
- **When Hitler Stole Pink Rabbit** Judith Kerr - A humorous adventure story from WW2
- **Witch Child** Celia Rese- Sixteenth century witch hunts - a horror mystery
- **The Silver Sword** Ian Serraillier - A journey to escape from attack during the WW2
- †**Last Train from Kummersdorf** Lesley Wilson - Consider the events of the WW2 from the perspective of two young Germans.



Emotional and thought-provoking

- **My name is Mina** David Almond - a thought-provoking and extraordinary prequel to 'Skellig.'
- **Soundtrack** Julie Bertagna - Dealing with grief and loss

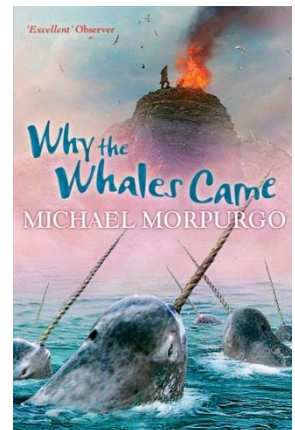
- **Pig-Heart Boy** Malorie Blackman - Heart transplant, animal rights, life and death.
- **†Noughts & Crosses** Malorie Blackman - Issues of racism and prejudice from a different perspective. First of a trilogy (Knife Edge & Checkmate).
- **Walk Two Moons** Sharon Creech - Dealing with grief and family life, with a mystery unfolding
- **Refugee Boy** Benjamin Zephaniah - Story of a young Ethiopian boy , whose parents abandon him in London to save his life.
- **Goggle Eyes** Anne Fine - Living with separated parents / divorce
- **Love Aubrey** Suzanne LaFleur - A young girl recovering from the tragedy of losing her father and sister in an automobile accident, and from the confusion of being abandoned by her grieving mother.
- **Inventing Elliot** Graham Garner - Bullying
- **The Edge** Alan Gibbons- A boy and his mother escape from a life of fear in an abusive relationship
- **Red Sky in the Morning** Elizabeth Laird - The impact of having a disabled baby brother.
- **Jake's Tower** Elizabeth Laird - Step families / abuse
- **My Sister Lives On The Mantelpiece** Annabel Pitcher - The story of a young boy's struggle to make sense of the loss that tore his family apart.



Friendships and Relationships

- **Blubber** Judy Blume - Bullying and family issues
- **Are you there God? It's me, Margaret** Judy Blume - Friendship & growing up; thoughts about God and the world.
- **Summer Dream** Cathy Cassidy - The more Summer tried to find perfection, the more lost she becomes.
- **Flour Babies** Anne Fine - Parenting and family values

- **Mister God, This is Anna** Fynn - A conversation about life and the universe - an interesting story about a girls' experiences as she grows up.
- **Girl Missing** Sophie Mackenzie- Lauren has always known she has been adopted but is it possible she was snatched from an American family at birth?
- **Double Image** Pat Moon- Coping with loss and mental health issues
- **Daughter** Isobel Moore - The life of a young girl caring for a mother with Alzheimer's Disease
- **The War of Jenkins' Ear** Michael Morpurgo - Boarding school, acceptance and the question of belief.
- **Why The Whales Came** Michael Morpurgo- Dealing with death, separation, prejudice...a beautifully told story
- **Sisterland** Linda Newbery- A parallel story between WW2 and the present
- **Stop Pretending** Sonya Sones- An unusual collection of poems exploring the feelings of a girl whose sister suffers from mental illness
- **Best Friends** Jacqueline Wilson - A delightfully touching and entertaining story.



Science Fiction

- **Grinny** Nicholas Fiske - An alien great aunt - a humorous read!
- **Hybrids** David Thorpe - A thrilling sci-fi novel set in the believable near future.

Stories from other cultures

- **Little Soldier** Bernard Ashley - Bullying, family, racism
- **†The Alchemist** Paul Coelho - The story of a boy's quest for the Elixir of Life. Very philosophical.
- **Life in Afghanistan under the Taliban** Deborah Ellis - The first of three books - Pavana's Journey & Mud City
- **†Daughter of the Wind** Suzanne Fisher-Staples Issues facing a Muslim desert girl

- **Under the Persimmon Tree** Suzanne Fisher-Staples Afghanistan under the Taliban
- **Lost for Words** Elizabeth Lutzeier - Moving to England
- **The Other Side of Truth** Beverley Naidoo - Refugees and immigration. Also read the sequel - 'Web of Lies'.
- **Zlata's Diary** Zlata Filipovic - A diary from war torn Eastern Europe
- **Thura's Diary** Thura Al-Windawi - A diary from war torn Iraq
- **AK** Peter Dickinson - The story of a boy soldier
- **White Stranger** Susan Gates- How do we view the values and morals of people from different backgrounds and cultures?
- **The Wheel of Surya** Jamilla Gavin- The first in a trilogy about a life between India and the UK and the conflicting cultures (The Eye of the Horse & Track of the Wind)
- **The Garbage King** Elizabeth Laird- Street children in South Africa
- **No Turning Back** Beverley Naidoo- Street children in South Africa
- **Out of Bounds** Beverley Naidoo - A collection of short stories - one from each decade of Apartheid, showing the gradual process of change in South Africa
- **Motherland** Vineeta Vijayaraghavan - The story of a girl sent to India to explore possibilities for an arranged marriage.

