

KS3 Recommended Reading List

This list has been created by students in Years 7 and 8. These are the books that changed their lives, kept them awake at night, and encouraged them to keep reading.

C = challenging read

* = might include some older teen issues and/or themes

Where a series is indicated, the named book is the title of book #1.

Audible is currently releasing hundreds of free audible books for children. Visit them at <https://stories.audible.com/start-listen> to get started.

<p style="text-align: center;">Mystery/Thriller</p> <p>'Strange Star' Emma Carroll 'The London Eye Mystery' Siobhan Dowd 'A Good Girl's Guide to Murder' Holly Jackson * 'All These Beautiful Strangers' Elizabeth Klehfoth 'Ruby Redfort' (series) Lauren Child 'Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children' Ransom Riggs 'We Were Liars' E Lockhart C * 'Girl, Missing' (series) Sophie McKenzie 'The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Nighttime' Mark Haddon * 'Turtles All the Way Down' John Green 'I'd Tell You I Love You, But Then I'd Have To Kill You' (series) Ally Carter 'Finding the Fox' (series) Ali Sparkes</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Action/Adventure</p> <p>'Stormbreaker' (series) Anthony Horowitz 'The Hunger Games' (trilogy) Suzanne Collins * 'Itch' Simon Mayo 'Orphan Monster Spy' Matt Kileen * 'The Silver Brumby Stories' Elyne Mitchell 'Beetle Boy' (series) M.G. Leonard 'Northern Lights' (series) Philip Pullman C 'A Series of Unfortunate Events' (series) Lemony Snicket 'The Recruit (series)' Robert Muchamore* 'Kensuke's Kingdom' Michael Morpurgo 'Contagion' Teri Terry 'The Hit' Allen Zadoff 'Agent 21' Chris Ryan 'Gold of the Gods' Bear Grylls 'Tiger Wars' Steve Backshall 'Noughts and Crosses' Malorie Blackman *</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Comedy</p> <p>'The Brilliant World of Tom Gates' (series) Liz Pichon 'Asterix the Gaul' (series) Rene Goscinny and Albert Uderzo 'Holes' Louis Sachar 'Small Steps' Louis Sachar 'Diary of a Wimpy Kid' (series) Jeff Kinney David Walliam books David Baddiel books 'The Secret Diary of Adrian Mole aged 13 ¾' 'Sue Townsend' * 'My Brother is a Superhero' David Solomons</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Fantasy</p> <p>'Eragon' (series) Christopher Paolini C 'Ingo' (series) Helen Dunmore 'Skulduggery Pleasant' (series) Derek Landy 'The Hobbit' and 'Lord of the Rings' (series)' J R R Tolkien* 'The Girl of Ink and Stars' Kiran Millwood Hargrave 'Percy Jackson and the Lightning Thief' (series) Rick Riordan 'The Wolves of Willoughby Chase' Joan Aiken 'Skinful of Shadows' Frances Harding 'The Phantom Tollbooth' Norton Juster 'Throne of Glass' (series) Sarah J Maas *C 'Vampire Academy' (series) Richelle Mead * 'Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone' (series) J.K.Rowling 'Twilight' (series) Stephenie Meyer * 'Trial By Fire' Josephine Angelini</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Romance</p> <p>'To All the Boys I've Loved Before' Jenny Han 'The Fault in Our Stars' John Green C* 'Am I Normal Yet?' (series) Holly Bourne 'Everything Everything' Nicola Yoon 'Soulmates' Holly Bourne* 'Struck' (series) Joss Stirling "The Truth About Forever' Sarah Dessen 'Falling Fast' Sophie McKenzie 'Love Song' Sophia Bennett</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Crime</p> <p>'Theodore Boone' (series) John Grisham 'Murder Most Unladylike' (series) Robin Stevens 'One of Us is Lying' Karen McManus * 'Looking for JJ' Anne Cassidy * 'The Edge of Nowhere' (series) Elizabeth George 'Trash' Andy Mulligan 'Wolf Hollow' Lauren Wolk</p>

<p style="text-align: center;">Sci-fi</p> <p>'Ender's Game' Orson Scott Card C Warhammer series C 'Trilogy of Time' Samantha Dickens 'The Extinction Trials' S M Wilson * 'The Hitch Hiker's Guide To The Galaxy'(series) Douglas Adams</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Historical</p> <p>'Hetty Feather' Jaqueline Wilson 'War Horse' Michael Morpurgo 'Private Peaceful' Michael Morpurgo 'Adolphus Tips' Michael Morpurgo 'Rooftoppers' Katherine Rundell 'Frost Hollow Hall' Emma Carroll 'The Book Thief' Markus Zusak C* 'The Boy in Striped Pyjamas' John Boyne 'Salt to the Sea' Ruth Sepetys 'Things a Bright Girl Can Do' Sally Nicholls *</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Teenage Issues (growing up)</p> <p>'Wonder' R J Palacio 'Geek Girl' Holly Smale 'One' Sarah Crossan * 'Poet X' Elizabeth Acevedo * 'Sophie's World' Jostein Gaarder C 'The Manifesto On How to be Interesting' Holly Bourne * 'I Am Not a Number' Lisa Heathfield * 'If I Stay' Gayle Forman * 'The Fault in Our Stars' John Green * C 'The Bone Sparrow' Zana Fraillon 'After the Fire' Will Hill * 'The Hate U Give' Angie Thomas</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Dystopian</p> <p>'Divergent' (series) Veronica Roth 'The Hunger Games' (series) Suzanne Collins * 'Mortal Engines' (series) Philip Reeve 'Slated' (series) Terri Terry 'The Red Queen' (series) Victoria Aveyard 'Breath' Sarah Crossan 'Legend' (series) Marie Lu 'The Supernaturalist' Eoin Colfer 'The Maze Runner' James Dashner 'The Knife of Never Letting Go' Patrick Ness C 'How I Live Now' Meg Rosoff * 'Gone' Michael Grant</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Horror</p> <p>'Buried Thunder' by Tim Bowlet 'The Thief of Always' Clive Barker 'The Enemy' (series)* Charlie Higson</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Non-fiction</p> <p>'The Diary of a Young Girl' Anne Frank 'Bob, No Ordinary Cat' James Bowen (adapted for early teen readers) 'A Dog Called Hope' Damien Lewis C* 'Feminists Don't Wear Pink' Scarlet Curtis * 'I Am Malal' Malala Yousafzai</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Classics</p> <p>'Oliver Twist' Charles Dickens 'Anne of Green Gables' L M Montgomery 'The Little Prince' Antoine De Saint- Exupery 'Jane Eyre' Charlotte Bronte 'Pride and Prejudice' Jane Austen 'To Kill a Mockingbird' Harper Lee</p>	<p>We would always suggest that students read the book <i>before</i> they watch any film version of a text. However, if they are going to tackle a classic novel, it's sometimes a good idea to watch the film first, to support their reading of a more challenging text.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Other types of text</p> <p>Penguin have published some fantastic graphic novels of many of these very popular books, including some of the books on the classic list.</p> <p>Books for students with dyslexia Barrington Stoke publish dyslexia friendly books for teenagers. These are widely available from libraries, bookshops and from the Barrington Stoke website. https://www.barringtonstoke.co.uk/</p>	