

## Reading List – Years 7/8

Extensive 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...

Below is a list of books, organised into sections with very brief comments about them. This list is just a starting point – there is a wealth of good books being published all the time. We have tried to select a variety of books so that you will be able to find a book that you will really enjoy. Most of these titles are available in the library, but you may have to search a little further afield for some.

Recommend books to your friends and swap books you have enjoyed with each other. When you have read a book you have enjoyed, look for other titles by the same author.

### 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.
The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time	Mark Haddon	A murder mystery like no other.
Silverfin	Charlie Higson	James Bond is back, aged 13 years. The original superspy.
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 on a heap of trash. From that moment on they are hunted without mercy.
Windsinger	William Nicholson	Social hierarchy & family love – the first of the ‘Wind on Fire’ trilogy (Slaves of the Mastery & Firesong)
Seeker	William Nicholson	The first in another trilogy from William Nicholson

Bridge to Terabithia	Katherine Patterson	An adventure mystery.
Johnny and the Bomb	Terry Pratchett	A time travelling adventure!
Brother in the Land	Robert Swindells	What will happen to the earth in the event of a nuclear attack?

### Classical

Jane Eyre	Charlotte Bronte	The story of a young girl's passage to adulthood in the early nineteenth century.
The Secret Garden	Frances Hodgson-Burnett	An adventure into a secret garden, showing that people can change...
Anne of Green Gables	L. M. Montgomery	The first of a series of books about an orphan girl and her new life...detailed and descriptive...
Heidi	Johanna Spyri	Set in Switzerland, a story of friendship and family

### Fantasy

Skellig	David Almond	A strange man found in a garage is the start of an angelic mystery.
Midget	Tim Bowler	Unable to speak, but powerful; family conflict
Basilisk	N. M. Brown	A story of two worlds
†The Dark is Rising series	Susan Cooper	A series of 5 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.
Harry Potter	J. K. Rowling	A series of books about the life of a wizard as he goes through Hogwarts School - don't just rely on the films - read the books!
Holes	Louis Sachar	A mystery unfolds in a prison camp in desert America
Secret Songs	Jane Stemp	A story of love, Silkies, the sea...
Lord of the Rings	J. R. R. Tolkien	A trilogy about a quest to rid the world of the power of the ring - don't just rely on the films!
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...

### **A bit of fun...**

Agent Z	Mark Haddon	Very funny! Read it and find out...
The Race for the Lost Keystone	Val Rutt	An amusing adventure story – talking animals, a mad great-aunt...

### **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...
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
Private Peaceful	Michael Morpurgo	The personal story of a soldier during WW1
Witch Child	Celia Rees	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.

### Real Life Issues

Soundtrack	Julie Bertagna	Dealing with grief and loss
Pig-Heart Boy	Malorie Blackman	Heart transplant, animal rights, life & death.
†Noughts & Crosses	Malorie Blackman	Issues of racism & prejudice from a different perspective. First of a trilogy (Knife Edge & Checkmate).
Blubber	Judy Blume	Bullying and family issues
Hello God, It's me, Margaret	Judy Blume	Friendship & growing up; thoughts about God and the world.
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
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
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
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
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.
Stop Pretending	Sonya Sones	An unusual collection of poems exploring the feelings of a girl whose sister suffers from mental illness

### 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. Lots of thinking required!
Breadwinner	Deborah Ellis	Life in Afghanistan under the Taliban. 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".
Chinese Cinderella	Adeline Yen Mah	The life of an orphan child in China
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