

Grades 6,7 and 8: suggested reading

Red: the book may be available in the school library

Blue: the book is not currently in the school library

Fear and Horror

Cirque du Freak by Darren Shan Darren Shan seems like your average boy, then, one day, his best mate Steve gets tickets for a freak show and Darren sees things that no average boy would dream of. What about the mysterious people in blue-hooded robes whose faces you never see? And is Mr Crepsley really a vampire? **Series of 12 books**

Witch Child by Celia Rees Mary's grandmother is executed for witchcraft, and Mary is forced to leave her home to avoid the same fate. She flees to the English countryside, but when the atmosphere of superstition and suspicion becomes all consuming she leaves on a boat for America in the hope that she can start over and forget her past. But during the journey, she realises that the past is not so easy to escape.

Uncle Montague's Tales of Terror by Chris Priestley Uncle Montague lives alone in a big house and his regular visits from his nephew give him the opportunity to relive some of the most frightening stories he knows. But Uncle Montague's Tales of Terror, it transpires, are not so much works of imagination as dreadful lurking memories of an earlier time in which he lived a very different life to his present solitary existence..

Graveyard Book by Neil Gaiman When Bod is a baby he escapes a murderer intent on killing his entire family and he is brought up by the resident ghosts, ghouls and spectres in his local graveyard. But the murderer still looking for him - after all, he is the last remaining member of the family.

The Stuff of Nightmares by Malorie Blackman Kyle has always been afraid of things, like dying. When he gets on the train that is taking him and his class on a school trip Death enters the train and Kyle moves with him, passing his friends, who are frozen in time, in life-or-death situations.

Coraline by Neil Gaiman Coraline steps through a door in her new home into a twisted version of her world that is familiar, and yet sinister. Matters get even more surreal for Coraline when her "other" parents beyond the door seem reluctant to let her leave.

Rare beasts by Charles Ogden (IN Primary Library) Creepy twins Edgar and Ellen are bad, bad, bad. And it's never long before they're up to mischief ...Soon dozens of pets are separated from their loving owners and trapped in the dank basement of Edgar and Ellen's home, each undergoing its own unique and terrible transformation...! **Read any of the series of 10 books**

Travel Back in Time: Historical Fiction

The Roman Mysteries by Caroline Lawrence Summer AD 79, and Flavia and her friends set sail for Naples, to stay with her uncle near Pompeii. They are on a quest to solve a riddle that may lead to treasure. But then tragedy strikes: Mount Vesuvius erupts and the friends must flee for their lives. **Try any of the individual stories in the series of 10**

I Coriander by Sally Gardner Coriander, has an idyllic childhood in 1650's London until she, is left with her stepmother who shuts her away in a chest and leaves her to die. But she emerges into a fairy world where time has no meaning. She returns aged 17 to kidnapping, murder and romance.

At the Sign of the Sugared Plum by Mary Hooper Hannah is going to London to help her sister in her shop 'The Sugared Plum'. But she doesn't get the message to stay away. The Plague is taking hold of London and she arrives to the horror of the disease and death carts. **Read the sequel Petals in the Ashes**

Coram Boy by Jamila Gavin 1700s - Toby and Aaron are living at Coram's Hospital for parentless children. Toby has been rescued from slavery and Aaron is the illegitimate son of a wealthy man. They are looked after by Mishbut but his motives are not straightforward. Could he be Meshak, the son of a wicked child-killer who was hanged at the gallows for his crimes?

Jammy Dodgers on the Run by Bowering Sivers Three ragamuffin, pickpocketing brothers Billy, Ned and Jem know every jammy scam and dodge going on the Victorian London streets. When Billy goes missing Jem and Ned must rescue him. **Four more books in the series.**

War Horse by Michael Morpurgo In 1914, Joey, a young farm horse, is sold to the army and sent to war. With his officer, he charges towards the enemy, witnessing the horror of the frontline. But even in the desolation of the trenches, Joey's courage touches the soldiers around him.

Goodnight Mister Tom by Michelle Magorian Willie Beech, a sad child, is evacuated to the country at the start of WW2. Old Tom Oakley is not pleased at having to take an evacuee but the pair become friends. But Willy's happiness is spoiled when his mother calls him back to London...

Once by Morris Gleitzman Felix live in an orphanage but is convinced his parents are still alive. He escapes and goes on a long and dangerous journey through Nazi occupied Poland to try and find them. **Now, Then and After continue the story.**

Dare to be Different: Unusual Characters

The Truth About Leo by David Yelland Leo's dad has changed. Since Mum died, his drinking is worse and he's a different person. Leo is covering up for him and when things get bad Leo escapes into his own head, pretending everything's OK. Things need to change - what can he do?

Stargirl by Jerry Spinelli Stargirl arrives at quiet Mica High in a burst of colour and sound. She captures Leo's heart with just one smile and the other students are enchanted too until they turn on her. Stargirl is shunned for everything that makes her different, and Leo urges her to become the very thing that can destroy her: normal. **Love, Stargirl is the sequel.**

The Boy in the Dress by David Walliams Dennis is a boy who lives in a boring street in a boring town, and he doesn't have much to look forward to. But what he does have is dreams - and once he starts to follow them, things will never be the same again.

My Name is Mina by David Almond Why should a book tell a tale in a dull straight line? Mina writes in her notebook. Mina's life in her own words: her stories and dreams, experiences and thoughts, her scribbles and nonsense, poems and songs. Her vivid account of her vivid life. **Read the sequel Skellig.**

London Eye Mystery by Siobhan Dowd Ted and Kat watched their cousin Salim get on board the London Eye. But when it landed Salim did not get off. How on earth could he have disappeared into thin air? Ted whose brain works in its own special way, and Kat, follow a trail of clues across London in a desperate bid to find their cousin.

The Savage by David Almond (IN Primary Library) After his dad's death, Blue finds himself dreaming of a wild kid living in the woods by his house, surviving on a diet of berries. But the savage pays a night-time visit to the local bully, boundaries and Blue begins to wonder where he ends and the savage begins.

The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time by Mark Haddon Fifteen-year-old Christopher has a photographic memory. He understands maths and science. What he can't understand are other human beings. When he finds his neighbour's dog lying dead on the lawn, he decides to track down the killer and write a murder mystery about it. But what other mysteries will he end up uncovering?

You're Having A Laugh: Humour

Ribblestrop by Andy Mulligan (IN Primary Library) Roofless dormitories, distracted teachers and a lethally dangerous underground labyrinth - Ribblestrop's visionary headmaster is out of his depth even before the pupils arrive! And when they do - what a bunch!...Anything could happen - and anything does! **Follow it with the sequel Return to Ribblestrop**

Sparks by Ally Kennen When Carla's beloved Grandpa dies, she is inconsolable. Then she finds a secret letter, and decides to give him the end he always wanted; a Viking funeral, in a burning boat heading out to sea. Carla and her siblings set out on a crazy, funny dangerous race against time to achieve the impossible.

Big Nate- The Boy With the Biggest Head in the World by Lincoln Pierce

Big-head Nate Wright believes he is destined for greatness! He's a table tennis champ, a genius comic book artist and self-proclaimed king of his class. One school morning Nate forgets his lunch, has a test he hasn't studied for, accidentally body slams his head teacher and manages to insult his least favourite teacher. But a little thing like having-the-worst-day-ever won't hold him back. **Four more in the series.**

The Iron, the Switch and the Broom Cupboard by Michael Lawrence Jiggy jumped into the school broom cupboard to avoid a teacher. When he emerges from his hiding spot into a parallel universe, he's not impressed! And there's not a lion or a witch in sight...In this new world, Jiggy finds he has swapped places with a boy called Juggy who is about to go on a school trip to compete in the UK Extreme Ironing Championships... **Many more Jiggy Mccue stories to explore**

Land-Lubbers by Alex Shearer Twins Clive and Eric are living with their Dad who is manager of a swanky London hotel. When some jewellery goes missing from the hotel safe their Dad is the prime suspect. The twins know he is innocent, and in a display of courage and daring, the boys set out to prove that their Dad is not guilty, getting into a whole lot of trouble in the process.

You're a Bad Man, Mr Gum! by Andy Stanton (IN Primary Library) Mr Gum is a truly nasty old man. He's absolutely grimsters. But this book is not just about him. There is also a little girl called Polly, an evil butcher, heroes and sweets and stuff, and Jake the dog, who must be saved from terrible, terrible evil. **Read any of the books in the hilarious Mr Gum series.**

Whisked Away to Another World: Fantasy

Chronicles of Ancient Darkness: Wolf Brother by Michelle Paver Thousands of years ago a demon in the body of a ferocious bear is determined to destroy the world. One boy can stop it - 12 year old Torak. He has a terrifying quest in a world of wolves, tree spirits and Hidden People, a world in which trusting a friend means risking your life. **If you enjoy it continue reading the series of six books**

Skulduggery Pleasant by Derek Landy Skulduggery Pleasant: detective, magician, master of dirty tricks and dead. His sidekick is Stephanie a twelve-year-old girl. When they are pursued by evil forces intent on recovering a mysterious key Stephanie and Skulduggery embark on a journey to ensure evil won't know what's hit it. **If Skulduggery Pleasant gets under your skin carry on reading the series.**

The Keys to the Kingdom – Mr Monday by Garth Nix (IN Primary Library) Arthur Penhaligon is visited by Mister Monday, who gives him an atlas and a magic key. With these "gifts", Arthur has new powers and responsibilities. Arthur's family are under threat from an outbreak of drug-resistant flu and it seems the cure can only be found inside a vast house that only Arthur can see. **Read more of Arthur's adventures in Grim Tuesday...**

Varjak Paw by SF Said Varjak Paw is a cat who discovers a mystical, magical martial art. He must learn to fight: for his way, his identity, his life. He must fight his family, vicious gangs of street cats and dangerous dogs. He must fight to survive in a city where cats mysteriously vanish. **For more of this cat try the sequel The Outlaw Varjak Paw**

Artemis Fowl by Eoin Colfer Twelve-year-old villain, Artemis Fowl, is the most ingenious criminal mastermind in history. His bold and daring plan is to hold a leprechaun to ransom. But he's taking on more than he bargained for when he kidnaps Captain Holly Short for Holly is a true heroine. **Artemis carries on his adventures in a series of 7 more books.**

Percy Jackson and the Lightning Thief by Rick Riordan Percy is a reluctant half-blood son of a Greek God. He spends his time fighting with swords, battling monsters, and generally trying to stay alive. Zeus, God of the Sky, thinks he has stolen his lightning bolt - and making Zeus angry is a very bad idea. Percy must find the lightning bolt before a fully-fledged war of the Gods erupts. **Percy continues his adventures in 5 more books.**

Stories from Global Cultures

Refugee Boy by Benjamin Zephaniah Alem is on holiday with his father in London. He has never been out of Ethiopia before. One day Alem wakes up to find father has left him. Because of the political problems in Ethiopia his parents felt he would be safer in London. Alem is now on his own, in the hands of social services and the Refugee Council. He lives from letter to letter, waiting to hear from his father, and in particular about his mother, who has gone missing.

Trash by Andy Mulligan Raphael spends his days wading through mountains of trash, sorting it, breathing it, sleeping next to it. One day when a leather bag falls into his hands his world turns upside down. It's a bag of clues. Soon Raphael and his friends Gardo and Rat are running for their lives. As they uncover a dead man's mission to put right a terrible wrong.

The Unforgotten Coat by Frank Cottrell Boyce (IN Primary Library) Two refugee brothers from Mongolia are determined to fit in with their Liverpool schoolmates. They bring so many tales with them that their new friend, Julie, can't tell truth from fantasy as she remembers the friendship that was ended when Chingis and his family were forced to return to Mongolia.

Little Soldier by Bernard Ashley Kaninda survives a brutal attack on his village in East Africa and joins the rebel army, where he's trained to use weapons. Aid workers take him to London, to a new family and school. But tribal conflicts are everywhere, and on the streets its estate versus estate. Kaninda wants to get back to his own war and take revenge on his enemies. But he is drawn into a dangerous local conflict that spirals out of control.

Bend It Like Beckham by Narinder Dhani Jess's parents want her to be a nice, conventional Indian girl. They pray she will settle down, study for law school and learn to cook chapatti. But Jess has other plans. She wants to play football like her hero, David Beckham. Anyone can cook Aloo Gobi but who can bend it like Beckham?

Breadwinner by Deborah Ellis Parvana's father is arrested and taken away by Taliban soldiers. Under Taliban law, women and girls are not allowed to leave the house on their own. Parvana, her mother, and sisters must stay inside. Four days later, the food runs out. They face starvation. Parvana must pretend to be a boy to save her family. In fear she goes out - and witnesses the horror of landmines, and the Taliban. She suffers beatings and the desperation of trying to survive. But even in despair lies hope. **The sequel follows Parvana in Parvana's Journey.**

Classics for Young People

Stig of the Dump by Clive King (IN Primary Library) Barney is a solitary boy. One day he falls into a cave on the edge of a disused chalk-pit. Here he meets a man shaggy hair and two bright black eyes', wearing a rabbit skin and speaking in grunts. He names him Stig. Nobody believes Barney when he talks about Stig but for him the cave-man is real. And so their adventures begin!.

Alice in Wonderland by Lewis Carroll One hot summer's day Alice tumbles down a rabbit hole - and finds herself in Wonderland, where everything is topsy-turvy. Alice grows very tall and shrinks very small. She swims in a pool of her own tears, attends the maddest of tea parties, and meets the smiling Cheshire Cat, the smoking Caterpillar and Humpty Dumpty. But how can she get back to her own world? **Follow the madcap adventure with Through the Looking Glass**

The Little Prince by Antoine De Saint-Exupery A pilot, crashes in the desert where he meets a little prince who comes from a planet called Asteroid 325. The little prince took great care of this planet, stopping any bad seeds from growing. A rose sprouted on the planet and he fell in love with it. But he caught the rose lying one day, and decided that he could not trust her, growing lonely he sets out to explore other planets and cure his loneliness.

I Capture the Castle by Dodie Smith Cassandra belongs to an extraordinary family including her writer father and lute-playing stepmother, who communes with nature near the, tumble-down castle that is their home. Cassandra's diary reveals how their lives are changed forever when two American brothers arrive to lay claim, to their home, and to their hearts.

A Christmas Carol by Charles Dickens Ebenezer Scrooge is a mean, miserable, bitter old man with no friends. One cold Christmas Eve, three ghosts take him on a scary journey to show him the error of his nasty ways. By visiting his past, present and future, Scrooge learns to love Christmas and the people all around him.

The Indian in the Cupboard by Lynne Reid Banks (IN Primary Library) Omri has a plastic North American Indian, Little Bull, who comes alive when he puts him in an old cupboard. Little Bull is everything an Indian brave should be. But Omri soon discovers that being in charge of a real human is a big responsibility. When his best friend, Patrick, is let in on the secret, he soon realises that life-changing decisions lie ahead. **There are 4 more books telling of Little Bull and Omri's adventures**

Families, Friends & Feelings: Relationships

A Greyhound of a Girl by Roddy Doyle (IN Primary Library) Twelve year old Mary O'Hara's joke-cracking grandmother is near the end of her life. Letting go is hard - until a mysterious young woman appears at Mary's door. She is the ghost of Granny's long-dead mammy and her mission is to help her dying daughter say goodbye to the ones she loves. But first she needs someone to drive them all to the old family farm for a visit to the past.

Love Aubrey by Suzanne LaFleur Something has happened and 11 year old Aubrey is all alone except for Sammy, her new pet fish. She hides away and takes care of herself and writes letter even if no one ever reads them. With the help of her grandmother and new friends, Aubrey learns that she is not alone, and takes her first steps toward the future.

Al Capone Does My Shirts by Geniifer Choldenko Moose and his family move to the prison island of Alcatraz. They share it with a few other families and lots of heavy-duty criminals including Al Capone. Moose's sister starts a new school, which everyone hopes will help her join in with those around her. When Moose comes up with some pretty cunning money-making schemes based on his famous neighbours, he does not count on his sister becoming involved. **Follow it up with Al Capone Shines My Shoes.**

Ruby Holler by Sharon Creech (IN Primary Library) Tiller and Sairy live a quiet life in Ruby Holler; their children have long since left home and they are happy with their routines. One day they decide they want to undertake a big adventure and they need companions to accompany them. They adopt two children from the local orphanage and form an unlikely foursome. The children cannot believe they are really 'wanted' and Tiller and Sairy have to deal with some pretty unconventional behaviour on the part of the children.

The Fire Eaters by David Almond 1962 and Bobby Burns contemplates the end of the world as the USA and Soviet Union seem to be heading toward nuclear war. A loving family, seaside home and good friends form the foundation of Bobby's life but Bobby's father is ill, class differences are separating him from his best friend, and a ruthless schoolmaster is forcing Bobby to understand that everything has a price. But Bobby has a wonder-working friend called Ailsa Spink. And he's found the fire-eater, a devil called McNulty. What can they do together on Bobby's beach? Is it possible to work miracles? Will they be able to transform the world?

Roller Coaster Reads: Action Adventure

The Recruit (Book 1) and the Cherub Series by Robert Muchamore A terrorist doesn't let strangers in her flat - they might be undercover police or intelligence agents, but her children bring their mates home. The terrorist doesn't know a kid has bugged every room in her house, cloned the hard drive on her PC, and copied her phone book. The kid works for CHERUB - secret agents - nobody suspects a kid of spying.

Silverfin (Book 1) and the Young Bond Series by Charlie Higson Young James Bond is sent away to public school where he meets enemies and beats bullies. At the remote Scottish home of his Aunt and Uncle he discovers a local Laird is conducting scientific experiments in his castle that prove he is very mad, a threat to society and must be defeated.

Mondays Are Murder (Book 1) and the Poppy Fields Murder Mystery Series by Tanya Landman (IN Primary Library) When Poppy Fields goes on an activity holiday to a remote Scottish island, she is looking forward to a week of climbing, hill-walking and horse riding. But when an instructor has a fatal abseiling accident Poppy discovers that his rope was cut. When more instructors start to have "accidents", she suspects foul play, and investigates.

The Set-up (Book 1) and The Medusa Project series by Sophie McKenzie 14 years ago, scientist William Fox implanted 4 babies with the Medusa gene for psychic abilities. Fox died and the babies were hidden away. Now teenagers they are unaware that their psychic powers are about to kick in. When they do Nico thinks his new abilities will bring him money, power and the girl of his dreams. He's about to find out how wrong he is...

The Case of the Disappearing Detective (Book 1) in the Baker Street Boys Series by Anthony Read The Baker Street Boys are helping Sherlock Holmes solve a case involving a mysterious American when Holmes disappears. The Boys realize he has been kidnapped by a gang who are planning to assassinate Queen Victoria. The Boys must get into Windsor Castle and persuade the Queen of the danger she faces.

The H-Bomb Girl by Stephen Baxter 1962 and in Cuba, on the other side of the earth, nuclear tensions are at breaking point. The end of the whole world could be just days away. 14-year-old Laura Mann is on the run, hunted by strange forces fighting over the future of humanity. Laura is the H-Bomb girl and about to discover that her own life is at stake - in ways she could never have imagined . . .

Poetry for Young People

[Love that Dog by Sharon Creech \(IN Primary Library\)](#) At first, Jack does not want to write poetry because 'boys don't write poetry. Girls do'. But his teacher Miss Stretchberry encourages him to tell his own story in a poem. Eventually he is able to write a poem about his relationship with his dog Sky.

[Hate that Cat by Sharon Creech \(IN Primary Library\)](#) Jack is back at school and still enjoying lessons with Miss Stretchberry. But he doesn't agree with her about everything. For example, Miss Stretchberry likes cats, and Jack hates them. Or does he?

[Another Night before Christmas by Carol Anne Duffy \(IN Primary Library\)](#) It's the night before Christmas and a young girl creeps down the stairs, determined to find out for certain whether Santa is real . . . But try as she might, she can't keep awake and is soon fast asleep. This is a modern version of a Victorian Christmas classic.

[Watch Out for Sprouts by Simon Bartram](#) Collection of doodles, poems and bits of trivial advice and information. There are poems about Dads, sausages, toilets, family relationships, puddle worlds, schoolwork (eaten by the dog) and the Sunday afternoons of childhood.

[Talking Turkeys by Benjamin Zephaniah \(IN Primary Library\)](#) "Wanna be in our gang? We cause Peace, Fighters fear us, On de streets." Poems to be read, sung, hip-hopped and rapped out loud.

[New and Collected Poems for Children by Carol Anne Duffy](#) A collection of old and new poems including the Loch Ness Monster's husband, the oldest girl in the world and a herd of cows on a shopping trip to Manchester.

[Read Me and Laugh: A funny poem for every day of the year](#) A collection of funny poems by lots of different poets. There is a different poem for every day of the year. Some will make you smile, some will make you laugh but they will all brighten your day.

[Michael Rosen's A to Z: The Best Children's Poetry from Agard to Zephaniah](#) The poet Michael Rosen has collected many poems written by many different poets. There are poems from many cultures, voices and sounds and they are all happy to be read out loud.