

## **Year 7 Suggested Reading List**

### **Refugee Boy Benjamin Zephaniah**

Alem is on holiday with his father for a few days in London. He has never been out of Ethiopia before and is very excited. They have a great few days together until one morning when Alem wakes up in the bed and breakfast they are staying at to find the unthinkable. His father has left him so that he can find a better life as a lonely refugee in London.

### **Swallows and Amazons Arthur Ransome**

It is the wholesome story of four young children, John, Susan, Titty and Roger, who set out in their boat (the Swallow of the title) to an island of adventure.

### **Zlata's Diary Z. Filipovic**

Non-fiction. The diary of an intelligent 10 year old girl written in Sarajevo during the war 1991-1993.

### **The Turbulent Term of Tike Tyler Gene Kemp**

Wherever best-friends Tyke Tiler and Danny Price are, there is usually trouble – stolen money, a sheep's skeleton, fights in class – and it's usually trouble that Tyke has to sort out.

### **Alone on a Wide Wide Sea Michael Morpurgo**

The story of an orphan is shipped to Australia alone in 1947 without family or understanding why he has to go.

### **Mind Readers Pete Johnson**

Matt's magic crystal enables him to read people's minds, but how will this extraordinary power affect his everyday life.

### **The Protectors Pete Johnson**

Josh and Andy sign up to become anti-bullying counsellors because they see it as a chance to skive. But, when they discover that younger pupils are being terrorised by a gang, they are determined to help the victims.

### **Kingfisher Book of Myths and Legends Retold by A. Horowitz**

This collection of over 30 myths and legends, retold by Anthony Horowitz, includes: "Isis and Osiris"; "Pyramus and Thisbe"; "Orpheus in the Underworld"; and "The Dragon and St George".

### **The Machine Gunners Robert Westall**

Chas McGill has the second-best collection of war souvenirs in Garmouth, and he desperately wants it to be the best. When he stumbles across the remains of a German bomber crashed in the woods - its shiny, black machine-gun still intact - he grabs his chance. Soon he's masterminding his own war effort with dangerous and unexpected results....

### **Room 13 Robert Swindells**

Somebody was in there. Somebody - or something...There is no room thirteen in the creepy Crow's Nest Hotel, where Fliss and her friends are staying on a school trip. Or is there? For at the stroke of midnight, something peculiar happens to the door of the linen cupboard next to room 12.

### **Flour Babies Anne Fine**

When the annual school science fair comes round, Mr Cartwright's class don't get to work on the Soap Factory, the Maggot Farm or the Exploding Custard Tins. To their intense disgust they get the Flour Babies - sweet little six-pound bags of flour that must be cared for at all times.

### **Professor Branestawm N. Hunter**

He's madly sane and cleverly dotty. Professor Branestawm is the most absent-minded inventor you'll ever meet and no matter how hard he tries his brilliant ideas never seem to keep him out of crazy scrapes.

### **The Kite Rider Geraldine McCaughrean**

Haoyou knows that his father's spirit lives among the clouds above Ancient China. He also knows that to save his mother from being forced into a new marriage he must now follow in his father's footsteps and take to the skies, riding a kite through the clouds and the spirits of the dead.

### **The Other Side of Truth Beverly Naidoo**

This is the story of 12 year-old Sade and her brother Femi who flee to Britain from Nigeria. Their father is a political journalist who refuses to stop criticising the military rulers in Nigeria. Their mother is killed and they are sent to London. Abandoned at Victoria Station by the woman paid to bring them to England, Sade and Femi find themselves alone in a new, often hostile, environment. Seen through the eyes of Sade, the novel explores what it means to be classified as 'illegal' and the difficulties which come with being a refugee.

### **Blitz Boys Lynda Newbery**

A story set in London during the Blitz. With German planes blitzing London, the wreckage can be an exciting place to play after the fear of the night has died down.

### **Hatchet Gary Paulsen**

There was a wild crashing sound, a ripping of metal, and the plane blew through the trees, out over the water and down, down to slam into the lake ...Brian is a city boy. Not used to living rough. Until his plane crash-lands in the Canadian wilderness. All he has is a hatchet - and a desperate will to survive.

### **Hoot Carl Hiassen**

Roy Eberhardt has recently, and unhappily, arrived in Florida. Roy's family moves a lot so he's used to the new-kid drill - and to bullies like Dana Matherson. Anyway, it's because of Dana that Roy gets to see the mysterious running boy. Suddenly life in Florida is looking up.

### **Crowstarver Dick King-Smith**

When Tom the shepherd comes across a wailing little bundle in the lambing pens, it changes his life. He and his wife are childless and are delighted to adopt the baby, but soon realize that "Spider" is no ordinary child.

### **Alex Rider series Anthony Horowitz**

Meet Alex Rider, the teenage super-spy. Dragged unwillingly from his safe normal life Alex is thrown head first into a series of extraordinary adventures. Series includes: Stormbreaker, Point Blanc, Skeleton Key, Eagle Strike, Scorpia, Ark Angel, Snakehead, Crocodile Tears.

### **Cosmic Frank Cottrell Boyce**

Liam is too big for his boots. And his football strip. And his school blazer. But being super-sized height-wise has its advantages: he's the only eleven-year-old to ever ride the G-force defying Cosmic rollercoaster. Long-legged Liam makes a giant leap for boykind by competing with a group of adults for the chance to go into space. Is Liam the best boy for the job?

### **The Canterville Ghost Oscar Wilde**

This is Oscar Wilde's tale of the American family moved into a British mansion, Canterville Chase, much to the annoyance its tired ghost.

### **The Children of Charlecote Philippa Pearce**

Set before the first First World War, this book tells the story of Tom, Laura, Hugh, and Margaret, whose home is the great house, Charlecote, set in the Warwickshire countryside. Despite their privileged background, the children are not always happy - their parents are stern and Tom is sent away to boarding school. But when the holidays come, the four of them have many adventures together in the grounds of the house.

### **Tom's Midnight Garden Philippa Pearce**

When Tom is sent to his aunt's house for the summer he resigns himself to weeks of boredom. Lying awake one night he listens to the grandfather clock in the hall strike every hour. Eleven . . . Twelve . . . Thirteen. Thirteen! Tom rushes down the stairs and opens the back door. There, awaiting him, is a beautiful garden. A garden that shouldn't exist.

### **His Dark Materials Philip Pullman**

Lyra Belacqua and her animal daemon live half-wild and carefree among scholars of Jordan College, Oxford. The destiny that awaits her will take her to the frozen lands of the Arctic, where witch-clans reign and ice-bears fight. Her extraordinary journey will have immeasurable consequences far beyond her own world...

Consists of three books: Northern Lights, The Subtle Knife, and The Amber Spyglass

### **The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy Douglas Adams**

One Thursday lunchtime Earth is unexpectedly demolished to make way for a new hyperspace bypass. For Arthur Dent, who has only just had his house demolished that morning, this is already more than he can cope with. Sadly, however, the weekend has only just begun.

### **The Hound of the Baskervilles Sir Arthur Conan Doyle**

The terrible spectacle of the beast, the fog of the moor, the discovery of a body: this classic horror story pits detective Sherlock Holmes against dog.

### **The Guild Trilogy Joshua Mowll**

While on board the Expedient, Doug and Becca MacKenzie stumble across an amazing secret. What unfolds is a story of two young people caught up in an astonishing adventure and a story of an ancient order created to protect the world from evil.

In order: Operation Red Jericho, Operation Typhoon, Operation Storm City

### **The Johnny Maxwell Series Terry Pratchett**

A series of three books starring Johnny Maxwell, a young boy of 12 who sees things that other people just don't see, from aliens to ghosts to time-travelling bag ladies.

From the author of the acclaimed Discworld series.

### **Kit's Wilderness David Almond**

When Kit moves to Stoneygate--a once thriving mining village haunted by a long-ago tragedy which killed 117 children--he is befriended by the wretched, sullen John Askew, a boy whose very soul has been fractured by his violent upbringing. As Kit's grieving grandfather begins to lose his grip on life, Kit is irresistibly drawn into a treacherous game played for the highest of stakes.

### **The Tripods Trilogy John Christopher**

Massive, alien machines, the Tripods had ruled Earth for hundreds of years and enslaved the minds and bodies of most adults.

The books are: White Mountains, City of Gold, and Pool of Fire

### **Larklight Philip Reeve**

Arthur (Art) Mumby and his irritating sister Myrtle live with their father in the huge and rambling house, Larklight, travelling through space on a remote orbit far beyond the Moon when a visitor arrives. Visitors to Larklight are rare if not unique, and a frenzy of preparation ensues. When their guest arrives a Dreadful and Terrifying (and Marvellous) adventure begins. Followed by Starcross and Mothstorm.

### **The Diary of a Young Girl Anne Frank**

Non-fiction. The diary of Anne Frank, kept between 1942 and 1944, detailing her extraordinary experiences during the war.

### **Arthur – The Seeing Stone Kevin Crossley Holland**

Young Arthur de Caldicott is anxious to grow up, spread his wings and become a knight. But for now he must content himself with the life he has in the bosom of his family and friends. One day one of these friends, the old and mysterious Merlin, gives Arthur a special stone, and from that moment his life becomes entwined with that of King Arthur himself...

### **Shadow of the Minotaur Alan Gibbons**

'Real life' or the death defying adventures of the Greek myths, with their heroes and monsters, daring deeds and narrow escapes - which would you choose? For Phoenix it's easy. He hates his new home and the new school where he is bullied. He's embarrassed by his computer geek dad. But when he logs on to The Legendeer, the game his dad is working on, he can be a hero.

### **Coram Boy Jamila Gavin**

Coram Boy is a glorious web of changing fortunes and subtle intrigues. There is tragedy and corruption, hope and evil. Sometimes brutal and sometimes unceasingly bleak, the genre of historical fiction has rarely been this good.

### **Calling a Dead man Gillian Cross**

When John, an explosives expert, dies in an accident in Russia, his sister Hayley and his friend Annie go there to mourn. Before long they begin to suspect that there is more to John's death than meets the eye, and that certain people are desperately trying to keep them away from the truth.

### **Feather Boy Nicky Singer**

Robert's participation in the Elders Project begins a sequence of events that change his life forever. Members of his class are chosen to visit the elderly - to interact with them and to find out about their lives. Robert's main attacker, Jonathan Niker, may think them all "vegetables", but Robert's own buried true-life personality is slowly unearthed by Edith Sorrel--a prickly resident who singles him out as her boy to talk to.

**The Secret Diary of Adrian Mole Sue Townsend**

At thirteen years old, Adrian Mole has more than his fair share of problems - spots, illhealth, parents threatening to divorce, rejection of his poetry and much more - all recorded with brilliant humour in his diary.

**The Devil in the Fog Leon Garfield**

George Treet is happy with his life as part of a family of travelling actors. But George's world turns upside down when he discovers that Mr Treet is not his real father, and that he must go and live with his real family.

**Just William series Richmal Crompton**

A series of books starring William, the naughtiest, funniest boy in children's fiction.

**Treasure Island R. L. Stevenson**

An absorbing tale of buccaneers, a map, a romantic quest for treasure, it is also the story of the brilliantly drawn Long John Silver.

**The Woolpack Cynthia Harnett**

A thrilling evocation of a boys' adventures in pre-Tudor England, when the wool trade (and the king) became embroiled in the money-lending of the Lombards.

**The Lion Children Travers. A. McNeice**

Non-fiction. The true story of a group of three English children living in Botswana

**Sweet Clarinet James Riordan**

When Billy is hideously scarred by the bomb that leaves him both homeless and orphaned, his only dream is of dying so that he can be rid of the tremendous pain that the physical and mental scars of the Blitz inflicted. But when a wounded soldier makes him the gift of a clarinet, Billy begins to once more face up to life and a future he once believed held nothing for him.

**A Time to Fight Back J. Pettit**

Describes the experiences of eight European and Asian children who risked their lives to provide support to the Allies during World War II.

**Gulliver's Travels (retold) J. Swift/J. Riordan**

A retelling of the classic adults book that is now a children's favourite which retains the pace of the original as well as much of Jonathon Swift's original language.

**Wolf Brother Michelle Paver**

The book begins dramatically with the death of Torak's father, the mage, Fa, from mortal wounds inflicted by a giant, possessed bear. Fa's dying words bind Torak to a quest to find the mythical Mountain of the World Spirit. Only there will Torak find the strength needed to defeat the demonic creature and killer of men.

**The Bronte Girls Gary Kilworth**

Modelled on the Brontes' parsonage at Haworth. a deeply felt and passionate story of parents and children and the uneasy frontier between love and hate.

### **The Red Pony John Steinbeck**

Jody begins to learn about adulthood - its pain, its responsibilities and its problems - through his acceptance of his father's gifts. First he is given a red pony, and later he is promised the colt of a bay mare. Yet both of these gifts bring him tragedy as well as joy, and Jody is taught not only the harsh lessons of life and death, but made painfully aware of the fallibility of adults.

### **Walkabout James Vance Marshall**

Mary and her young brother Peter are the only survivors of an air crash in the middle of the Australian outback. Facing death from exhaustion and starvation, they meet an aboriginal boy who helps them to survive, and guides them along their long journey.

### **Great Expectations Charles Dickens**

"Great Expectations" traces the growth of the book's narrator, Philip Pirrip (Pip), from a boy of shallow dreams to a man with depth of character. From its famous dramatic opening on the bleak Kentish marshes, the story abounds with some of Dickens's most memorable characters.

### **The Lantern Bearers Rosemary Sutcliffe**

The last of the Roman army have set sail and left Britain for ever, abandoning it to civil war and the threat of a Saxon invasion. Aquila deserts his regiment to return to his family, but his home and all that he loves are destroyed. Years of hardship and fighting follow and in the end there is only one thing left in Aquila's life - his thirst for revenge . .

### **The Eagle of the Ninth Rosemary Sutcliffe**

The Ninth Legion marched into the mists of northern Britain - and they were never seen again. Four thousand men disappeared and their eagle standard was lost. It's a mystery that's never been solved, until now . . .

### **World of 1001 Mysteries Russell Stannard**

The Council of the Federation of Universes has decreed that the universe is to be destroyed. Not just the Earth, but the Sun, the Stars, Space, Time - everything. No-one can convince the appeals judge that he is wrong - until he visits Earth.

### **Smith Leon Garfield**

Young Smith was a pickpocket - a very accomplished one. But one day his pickpocketing was to lead him into a sinister and dangerous web of murder, intrigue and betrayal.

### **The Moon of Gomrath Alan Garner**

Enthralling sequel to The Weirdstone of Brisingamen

It is the Eve of Gomrath – the night of the year when the Old Magic is aroused. Had Colin and Susan known this, they would never have lighted a fire on the Beacon, thereby releasing the uncontrollable ferocity of the Wild Hunt.

### **The Day of the Triffids John Wyndham**

When Bill Masen wakes up blindfolded in hospital there is a bitter irony in his situation. Carefully removing his bandages, he realizes that he is the only person who can see: everyone else, doctors and patients alike, have been blinded by a meteor shower. Now, with civilization in chaos, the triffids - huge, venomous, large-rooted plants able to 'walk', feeding on human flesh - can have their day.

### **Wolf Gillian Cross**

Cassy lives with her granny, until the night that she hears strange footsteps coming into their flat. The next morning, she is packed off to her mum's - a squat in London that her beautiful, simple mother shares with a couple of actors. Cassy does her best to throw herself into her mother's life, even agreeing to take part in their travelling show called 'Wolf'. But she can't ever get rid of the feeling that something is following her, and something bad is going to happen.

### **Moonfleet J. Meade Maulkner**

Everyone in the tiny village of Moonfleet lives by the sea one way or another, so it's no surprise when young John Trenchard gets involved in the smuggling trade. Forced to flee England with a price on his head, John little guesses the adventures and trials he will have before he sees Moonfleet again or the change in his fortunes when he does.

### **And Then There Were None Agatha Christie**

A fast paced and ingenious mystery novel by the acclaimed mystery writer.

### **The Call of the Wild Jack London**

Jack London's tale of a dog's fight for survival in the harsh and frozen Yukon is one of the greatest animal stories ever written. It tells of a dog born to luxury but sold as a sledge dog, and how he rises magnificently above all his enemies to become one of the most feared and admired dogs in the North.

### **The Wing Singer William Nicholson**

In the walled city of Aramant, exams are everything - not only for children, but for whole families. When Kestrel Hath dares to rebel, the Chief Examiner humiliates her father and sentences the family to the harshest punishment. Desperate to save them, Kestrel discovers that life in Aramant was once different - and if she can find the secret of the Wind Singer, maybe life can change for the better once more.

First book of The Wind on Fire trilogy, followed by Slaves of the Mastery and Firesong

### **His Dark Materials Philip Pullman**

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### **Witch Child Celia Rees**

Mary's grandmother is executed for witchcraft, and Mary is forced to leave her home to avoid the same fate. At first 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.

### **Ring of Bright Water Gavin Maxwell**

The story of Gavin Maxwell's life with otters on the remote west coast of Scotland remains one of the most lyrical, moving descriptions of a man's relationship with the natural world.