



## Great Reads for First Years

### ADVENTURE

#### **Young Samurai Series by Chris Bradford**

August 1611: Jack Fletcher is shipwrecked off the coast of Japan. Rescued by a legendary sword master, his only hope is to become a Samurai warrior.

#### **Ruby Redfort Series by Lauren Child**

She's a genius code-cracker, a daring detective, and a gadget-laden special agent - who just happens to be a thirteen-year-old girl!

#### **The Alex Rider Series by Anthony Horowitz**

Meet Alex Rider: fourteen-year-old, star athlete and top spy for MI6, bringing evil villains to justice all over the world.

#### **The Medusa Project Series by Sophie McKenzie**

14 years ago, four babies were secretly implanted with a gene for psychic abilities. Now they are teenagers and about to form a secret crime-fighting force.

#### **Rooftoppers by Katherine Rundell**

Join plucky heroine Sophie, her eccentric guardian Charles, and her intrepid orphan allies on the rooftops of Victorian Paris.

#### **Young Bond Series by Charlie Higson and Steve Cole**

Before the name became a legend; before the boy became a man...

#### **A Series of Unfortunate Events by Lemony Snicket**

The novels tell the story of three children, Violet, Klaus and Sunny Baudelaire, who become orphans following a fire and are sent to live with Count Olaf, who attempts to steal their inheritance.

### THRILLERS/MYSTERY

#### **Girl, Missing Series by Sophie McKenzie**

Lauren has always known she was adopted but a little research turns up the possibility that she was snatched from an American family as a baby...

#### **Murder Most Unladylike Series by Robin Stevens**

Daisy and Hazel set up a secret detective agency at Deepdean School for Girls.

#### **Scarlet and Ivy Series by Sophie Cleverly**

A spine-tingling mystery set in a creepily atmospheric boarding school. Ivy must uncover the secrets behind her twin sister, Scarlet's disappearance before it's too late.

#### **Truly Devious by Maureen Johnson**

Ellingham Academy is a famous private school in Vermont for the brightest. Mr Ellingham's wife and daughter were kidnapped. The only real clue was a mocking riddle listing methods of murder, signed with the frightening pseudonym "Truly, Devious." It became one of the great unsolved crimes of American history.

#### **The London Eye Mystery by Siobhan Dowd**

11.32am: Ted and Kat watch their cousin, Salim get on board the London Eye.  
12.02am: The pod lands and the doors open. Everyone exits - everyone but Salim.

#### **I Have No Secrets by Penny Joelson**

Fourteen-year-old Jemma has severe cerebral palsy. Unable to communicate or move, she relies on her family and carer for everything. She has a sharp brain and inquisitive nature, and knows all sorts of things about everyone. But when she is confronted with this terrible secret, she is utterly powerless to do anything.

#### **Artemis Fowl by Eoin Colfer**

Just twelve years old and already he's a criminal genius, plotting to restore his family's fortune with a spot of corruption and kidnapping.

### TEENAGE/FAMILY

#### **The Land of Neverendings by Kate Saunders**

When Emily's sister Holly dies, she is surprised to find that she misses her toy bear, Bluey, almost as much as Holly. Strange things start to happen. Emily dreams of talking toys visiting her bedroom, telling her that they have come from Smockeroon, and have a message for her from Bluey.

**The Chocolate Box Girls Series by Cathy Cassidy**

Sweet-as-ice-cream series about five sisters living by the sea.

**Apple and Rain by Sarah Crossan**

When Apple's mother returns after eleven years of absence, will she find the answer to her burning question - why did you go?

**Moonrise by Sarah Crossan**

Joe hasn't seen his brother for ten years, and it's for the most brutal of reasons.

Ed is on death row.

But now Ed's execution date has been set, and Joe is determined to spend those last weeks with him, no matter what other people think...

**Wonder by R J Palacio**

Born with a terrible facial abnormality, Auggie has been home-schooled by his parents. Now, for the first time, he's going to a real school - and he's dreading it.

**Rebound by Kwame Alexander**

Twelve year old Charlie Bell is mourning the loss of his father. Over the course of a long hot summer and under the tutelage of ornery Granddaddy and cousin Roxie, an unexpected talent emerges on the court, but can he keep to the rules off court?

**The Goldfish Boy by Lisa Thompson**

Twelve year old Matthew is confined to his house by obsessive-compulsive disorder, which is manifested in a severe fear of germs and sickness. When a neighbouring toddler goes missing it soon becomes clear that Matthew was the last person to see him alive.

**CLASSICS**

**The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe by C.S. Lewis**

Four adventurous siblings, Peter, Susan, Edmund and Lucy, step through a wardrobe door and into the land of Narnia, a land of eternal winter, enslaved by the White Witch.

**Swallows and Amazons by Arthur Ransome**

The Walker children set sail on the Swallow and head for Wild Cat Island and high adventure with the Blackett sisters, the fierce Amazon pirates.

**Little House on the Prairie series by Laura Ingalls Wilder**

Classic tales about life on the frontier and America's best-loved pioneer family.

**Treasure Island by Robert Louis Stevenson**

Treasure Island tells of Jim Hawkins' boyhood adventure on a quest for treasure.

**The Secret Garden by Frances Hodgson Burnett**

What little girl can turn a whole household upside down and breathe new life back into a strange, old manor?

**FANTASY**

**Septimus Heap by Angie Sage**

The series follows the adventures of Septimus Heap who, as a seventh son of a seventh son, has extraordinary magical powers.

**The House with Chicken Legs by Sophie Anderson**

Marinka dreams of a normal life, where her house stays in one place long enough for her to make friends. But her house has chicken legs and moves on without warning.

**The Name of this Book is SECRET Series by Pseudonymous Bosch**

Two children face dastardly villains in a quest to find the secret of eternal youth.

**The Emerald Atlas Series by John Stephens**

An ancient prophecy is fulfilled, and three children are thrown into a dangerous world. Billy dreams of becoming a stand-up comedian but worries his stutter will get in the way. When he starts secondary school, he has a bully to deal with and a talent show to enter. Can he fulfil his dreams and make some new friends along the way?

Alternate reality of dark enchantments and terrifying monsters.

**GLOBAL ISSUES**

**Spilled Water by Sally Grindley**

Lu Si-yan is just 11 when she is sold into domestic service by her uncle.

### **Shadow by Michael Morpurgo**

Never have Aman and his mother needed a friend more than when a starving Springer Spaniel appears in the mouth of their Afghan cave.

### **Trash by Andy Mulligan**

Raphael lives on a dumpsite. One lucky/unlucky day, he makes an extraordinary and deadly discovery.

## **HUMOUR**

### **Spy School by Stuart Gibbs**

Ben Ripley may only be in middle school, but he's already pegged his dream job: CIA or bust. Unfortunately for him, his personality doesn't exactly scream "secret agent." In fact, Ben is so awkward, he can barely get to school and back without a mishap.

### **The World of Norm by Jonathan Meres**

Why on earth did Norm's family have to move, anyway? In their old house he'd never tried to pee in anything other than a toilet. And when Norm is in bed, he's kept awake by his dad snoring like a constipated rhinoceros!

### **The Private Blog of Joe Cowley by Ben Davis**

So here's the thing. I've decided to start writing a blog. A private one. The idea is that it'll help me sort my life out, because quite frankly, it can't get much worse. I gained the nickname Puke Skywalker after vomiting over Louise Bentley.

### **The Boy Who Made Everyone Laugh by Helen Rutter**

Billy dreams of becoming a stand-up comedian but worries his stutter will get in the way. When he starts secondary school, he has a bully to deal with and a talent show to enter. Can he fulfil his dreams and make some new friends along the way?

## **HORROR & GHOST STORIES**

### **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 retell some of the most frightening stories he knows.

### **My Swordhand is Singing by Marcus Sedgwick**

Peter doesn't understand why his father carries a long battered box everywhere they go, and why he is forbidden to know its contents...

### **The Prince of Mist by Carlos Ruiz Zafon (not Accelerated Reader)**

1943: As war sweeps across Europe, Max's father moves his family to an old wooden house on the coast. As soon as they arrive, strange things begin to happen.

### **The Graveyard Book by Neil Gaiman**

After the grisly murder of his entire family, a toddler wanders into a graveyard where the ghosts and other supernatural residents agree to raise him as one of their own.

### **Cirque Du Freak by Darren Shan**

Darren goes to a banned freak show with his best mate Steve. It's the wonderfully gothic Cirque Du Freak where weird, frightening half human/half animals appear who interact terrifyingly with the audience.

### **A Skinful of Shadows by Frances Hardinge**

Set against the politics of the English Civil War, a teenage girl with the ability to house spirits inside her fights against an ancient family who plan to take over her body with their own spirits.

### **A Monster Calls by Patrick Ness**

The monster showed up just after midnight. As they do. But it isn't the monster Conor has been expecting.

### **A Greyhound of a Girl by Roddy Doyle**

Greyhound of a Girl is a funny and tender tale about four generations of an Irish family, and the special bonds between mothers and daughters.

## **SCIENCE FICTION & DYSTOPIA**

### **Ready Player One by Ernest Cline**

In the year 2045, reality is an ugly place. The only time teenage Wade Watts really feels alive is when he's jacked into the virtual utopia known as the OASIS. Wade has devoted his life to studying the puzzles hidden within this world's digital confines.

### **The Giver by Lois Lowry**

It is the future. There is no war, no hunger, no pain. But when he is selected as the Receiver of Memory, Jonas discovers that all is not as perfect as it seems.

### **The Declaration Series by Gemma Malley**

It is the year 2140 and people can live for ever. No one wants another mouth to feed, so Anna lives in a Surplus Hall - but at least she wasn't put down at birth.

### **The Call by Peadar O'Guilin**

Imagine a world where you might disappear any minute, only to find yourself alone in a grey sickly land, with more horrors in it than you would ever wish to know about and then you hear a horn and you know that whoever lives in this hell has got your scent and the hunt has already begun.

### **Sputnik's Guide to Life on Earth by Frank Cottrell Boyce**

The Blythes are a big, warm rambunctious family who live on a small farm and sometimes foster children. Now Prez has come to live with them. But, though he seems cheerful and helpful, he never says a word.

### **Itch by Simon Mayo**

Itchingham Lofte, known as Itch, is 14 and loves science, especially chemistry. He's also an element-hunter; he's decided to collect all the elements in the periodic table, which has some interesting and rather destructive results in his bedroom.

## **HISTORICAL**

### **Things a Bright Girl Can Do by Sally Nicholls**

1914 the world stands on the edge of change but women still have no vote. Evelyn is rich and clever, but she isn't allowed to go to university. Life is set out for her....

### **I, Coriander by Sally Gardner**

Kidnapping, murder, enchantment and romance in 1650s London.

### **At the Sign of the Sugared Plum & Petals in the Ashes by Mary Hooper**

Country girl Hannah moves to London just in time to experience the Great Plague of 1665 and the Great Fire of London in 1666 in these action-packed stories.

### **The Lady in the Tower by Marie-Louise Jensen**

Spring 1540: "You are in grave danger. Mother, will you run away with me if I can free you?" Eleanor's mother is imprisoned in an isolated part of the castle.

### **The Roman Mysteries Series by Caroline Lawrence**

Flavia Gemina and her three friends solve mysteries in the ancient Roman Empire.

### **When Hitler Stole Pink Rabbit by Judith Kerr**

Anna is too busy with school work and tobogganing to listen to the talk of Hitler. But one day she and her brother are rushed out of Germany in alarming secrecy, away from everything they know.

### **Wolf Brother Series by Michelle Paver**

1000s of years ago, the land is one dark forest, its people hunter-gatherers. A terrifying quest lies ahead for 12-year-old Torak in a world of wolves, magic and tree spirits.

### **Five Children on the Western Front by Kate Saunders**

A moving sequel to E. Nesbit's *Five Children and It*, set on the eve of the First World War. The five children have grown up – and war will change their lives for ever.

### **The My Story Series published by Scholastic**

A series of historical fictional diaries set at critical points in the past and including real life events and personalities.