



Great Reads for Second Years

GLOBAL AND SOCIAL ISSUES

Refugee by Alan Gratz

Josef is a Jewish boy living in 1930s Nazi Germany. With the threat of concentration camps looming, he and his family board a ship bound for the other side of the world...

Isabel is a Cuban girl in 1994. With riots and unrest plaguing her country, she and her family set out on a raft, hoping to find safety in America...

Mahmoud is a Syrian boy in 2015. With his homeland torn apart by violence and destruction, he and his family begin a long trek towards Europe...

The Bone Sparrow by Zana Fraillon

A deeply moving story about a refugee boy who has spent his entire life living in a detention centre.

I am Malala by Malala Yousafzai

When the Taliban took control of the Swat Valley, one girl fought for her right to an education. On 9 October 2012, she was shot in the head at point-blank range...

Welcome to Nowhere by Elizabeth Laird

Twelve-year-old Omar and his brothers and sisters were born and raised in the beautiful and bustling city of Bosra, Syria. Omar does not care about politics - all he wants is to grow up to become a successful businessman who will take the world by storm.

The Bubble Boy by Stewart Foster

11-year-old Joe cannot remember a life outside of his hospital room, with its beeping machines and view of London's rooftops. His condition means he is not allowed outside, not even for a moment, and his few visitors risk bringing life-threatening germs inside his 'bubble'. But then someone new enters his world and changes it forever.

TEENAGE

My Name is Mina by David Almond

Mina writes and writes in her notebook, Mina's life in Mina's own words: her stories and dreams, experiences and thoughts...a prequel to *Skellig*.

Love Aubrey by Suzanne LaFleur

Something terrible has happened and Aubrey is on her own. She is determined to hide away and take care of herself, because facing the truth is too much to bear.

Feeling Sorry for Celia by Jaclyn Moriarty

When Elizabeth's best friend Celia runs away to join the circus, she has to go to the rescue, which isn't easy when she's generally incompetent at being a teenager...

My Sister Lives on the Mantelpiece by Annabel Pitcher

A book about 10-year-old Jamie, and the way his life and his family are shaped by the sister in an urn on the mantelpiece.

Geek Girl by Holly Smale

Nobody at school seems to like her, so when geeky Harriet is spotted by a top model agent, she grabs the chance to reinvent herself...

Hate by Alan Gibbons

6 months ago Eve's sister, Rosie, died after an unprovoked attack. Eve cannot imagine life without her. 6 months ago Anthony witnessed a vicious assault.

The Outsiders by S E Hinton

A story of struggle, growing up, gangs and peer pressure. A modern teenage classic.

The Curious Incident of the Boy in the Night-Time by Mark Haddon

A murder mystery novel like no other. The detective, and narrator, is Christopher Boone. Christopher is fifteen and has Asperger's Syndrome.

One by Sarah Crossan

Grace and Tippi are twins - conjoined twins. Their lives are about to change. No longer able to afford home schooling, they must venture into the world.

SCIENCE FICTION AND DYSTOPIAN NOVELS

The Territory by Sarah Govett

5th June 2059. Noa Blake is just another normal 15 year old with exams looming. Except in The Territory normal isn't normal. The richest children have a node on the back of their necks and can download information, bypassing the need to study.

Warcross by Marie Lu

When a game called Warcross takes the world by storm, one girl hacks her way into its dangerous depths.

Mortal Engines by Philip Reeve

In a dangerous future, huge motorized cities hunt, attack and fight each other for survival. As London pursues a small town, young apprentice Tom is flung out into the wastelands, where a terrifying cyborg begins to hunt him down.

Exodus Series by Julie Bertagna

It is 2099 – and the world is gradually drowning, as mighty Arctic ice floes melt, the seas rise and land disappears forever beneath storm-tossed waves...

Noughts and Crosses by Malorie Blackman

Sephy is a cross – a member of the dark-skinned ruling class. Callum is a nought – a 'colourless' member of the underclass who were once slaves to the crosses...

The Divergent Series by Veronica Roth

The Dystopian society defines its citizens by their social and personality-related affiliation with five different factions, which removes the threat of anyone exercising independent will and threatening the populations safety.

Blood Red Road by Moira Young

Set in a violent future world, when Saba's twin brother is snatched by mysterious black-robed riders, she sets out on an epic quest to rescue him.

Uglies by Scott Westerfield

It is set in a future post-scarcity dystopian world in which everyone is considered an "ugly", but then turned "pretty" by extreme cosmetic surgery when they reach the age 16.

HISTORICAL

Where the World Ends by Geraldine McCaughrean

In the Summer of 1727, a group of men and boys are put ashore on a remote sea stack to harvest birds for food. No one returns to collect them. Why?

Daughter of Fire and Ice by Marie-Louise Jensen

15-year-old Thora is a gifted healer who has visions of the future. She voyages to Iceland on a fateful journey of discovery and romance.

The Foreshadowing by Marcus Sedgwick

Sasha has visions and premonitions of death. It is the outbreak of WW1 and her two brothers have enlisted to fight in the Trenches.

I Am David by Anne Holm

The story of a young boy's journey through Europe after escaping from the concentration camp where he has lived all his life.

The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas by John Boyne

While Bruno is exploring his new environment, he meets another boy whose life and circumstances are very different to his own, and their meeting results in a friendship that has devastating consequences.

Goodnight Mr Tom by Michelle Magorian

Young Willie Beech is evacuated to the country as Britain stands on the brink of the Second World War. A sad, deprived child, he slowly begins to flourish under the care of old Tom Oakley - but his new-found happiness is shattered by a summons from his mother back in London.

Over The Line by Tom Palmer

It's 1914 and Jack is making his debut as a pro footballer. But his first match is marred by a demonstration demanding that the teams sign up to do their duty in France.

Private Peaceful by Michael Morpurgo

A stunning novel of the First World War, a boy who is on its front lines, and a childhood remembered.

HORROR & GHOST STORIES

The Woman in Black by Susan Hill

Arthur Kipps, a junior solicitor, is summoned to attend the funeral of Mrs Alice Drablow, the sole inhabitant of Eel Marsh House. It is not until he glimpses a wasted young woman, dressed all in black, that a creeping sense of unease takes hold.

The Wrong Train by Jeremy de Quidt (not Accelerated Reader)

It is late and dark. A boy rushes to catch a train. Suddenly he realises that it is the wrong train. He gets off at the next station. But he's still not scared... Yet.

Red Velvet by Carol Hedges

Elly has always had a strange feeling about the old house. Then the skeleton of a girl, dressed in red velvet, is found shut away in an old chest.

Frozen Charlotte by Alex Bell

Dunvegan School for Girls has been closed for many years. Converted into a family home, the teachers and students are long gone. But they left something behind... The girl with a room full of antique dolls. The girl that died.

Charlotte Says by Alex Bell

Jemima receives a box of Frozen Charlotte dolls from a mystery sender and she begins to remember – a séance with the dolls, a violent argument with her step-father and the inferno that destroyed their home.

Sleepless by Lou Morgan

Young, rich and good-looking, Izzy and her friends lead seemingly perfect lives but exams are looming and at a school like Clerkenwell failure is not an option.

Flesh and Blood by Simon Cheshire

The Greenhills are hiding something and Sam's determined to find out what it is. As his investigation unfolds, he realizes the lies reach further than he ever imagined.

Mister Creecher by Chris Priestley

A gripping gothic novel. Billy is a street urchin, pickpocket and petty thief. Mister Creecher is a monstrous giant of a man who terrifies all he meets.

Zom-B Series by Darren Shan

A 12 book series (with a short, additional 13th book that takes place after book 6) about B Smith, a teenager who must struggle to find a place in a world of racism, zombies and darkness.

CLASSICS

The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy by Douglas Adams

It's an ordinary Thursday lunchtime for Arthur Dent until his house gets demolished. The Earth follows shortly afterwards to make way for a new hyperspace express route, and his best friend has just announced that he's an alien.

The Hound of the Baskervilles by Arthur Conan Doyle

This is the third of the crime novels written by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle featuring the detective Sherlock Holmes.

Animal Farm by George Orwell

A classic fable and allegory of a communist revolutionary dictatorship and the tyranny which develops told through the story of the animals of manor farm.

1984 by George Orwell

The dystopian novel in which the term 'big brother' and 'room 101' first appeared.

A Little Princess by Frances H Burnett

Now Sara is no longer a princess but a beggar, she must depend on the power of her imagination to lift her above the misery of her circumstances.

Lassie Come Home by Eric Knight

When Joe's father loses his job, Lassie must be sold and she is taken to Scotland - too far for any dog to make it home alone. But Lassie is not just any dog.

Anne of Green Gables by L M Montgomery

Marilla and Matthew Cuthbert are in for a big surprise. They want an orphan boy to help with the work at Green Gables – but a skinny, red-haired girl turns up instead.

The Eagle of the Ninth by Rosemary Sutcliffe

Marcus has to find out what happened to his father, who led the lost ninth legion. So he sets out on a quest so dangerous that nobody expects him to return.

FANTASY

The Skulduggery Pleasant Series by Derek Landy

Meet the great Skulduggery Pleasant: wise-cracking detective ... oh and dead.

His Dark Materials Series by Philip Pullman

"Without this child, we shall all die." Lyra Belacqua's destiny will take her to the frozen lands of the Arctic, where witch-clans reign and ice-bears fight.

Heroes of Olympus Series by Rick Riordan (not Accelerated Reader)

When Jason, Piper and Leo crash land at Camp Half-Blood, they have no idea what to expect but apparently this is the only safe place for children of the Greek Gods.

The Shapeshifter Series by Ali Sparkes (not Accelerated Reader)

Adventure, conspiracy and shapeshifting - X-Men meets Alex Rider.

Finding Sky Series by Joss Stirling

Welcome to the world of the Savants-people with extraordinary mental powers – their destiny is to seek their other half, their soul finder.

HUMOUR

The Secret Diary of Adrian Mole 13 ¾ by Sue Townsend

Adrian Mole's first love, Pandora, has left him; a neighbour, Mr. Lucas, appears to be seducing his mother (and what does that mean for his father?); the BBC refuses to publish his poetry; and his dog swallowed the tree off the Christmas cake. "Why" indeed.

Only You Can Save Mankind by Terry Pratchett

The alien spaceship is in his sights. His finger is on the Fire button. Johnny Maxwell is about to set the new high score on the computer game *Only You Can Save Mankind*. Suddenly, a message appears: *We wish to talk. We surrender.* But the aliens aren't supposed to surrender—they're supposed to die!

Gangsta Granny by David Walliams

Our hero Ben is bored beyond belief after he is made to stay at his grandma's house. She's the boringest grandma ever: all she wants to do is to play Scrabble, and eat cabbage soup. But there are two things Ben doesn't know about his grandma. 1) She was once an international jewel thief. 2) All her life, she has been plotting to steal the Crown Jewels, and now she needs Ben's help...

THRILLERS

The Graces by Laure Eve

Everyone said the Graces were witches. They moved through the corridors like sleek fish, ripples in their wake. Stares followed their backs and their hair. They had friends, but they were just distractions. They were waiting for someone different.

The Bodyguard Series by Chris Bradford

In a dangerous world, *everyone* needs protection. Adults are no longer the only target for hostage-taking, blackmail and assassination - kids are too ...

Young Sherlock Holmes Series by Andrew Lane

A series of young adult Thriller novels by British author Andrew Lane featuring Arthur Conan Doyle's detective Sherlock Holmes as a teenager in the 1860s that is faced with numerous crimes and adventures throughout the series.

Cherub Series by Robert Muchamore

CHERUB agents are aged between 10 and 17, they slip under adult radar and get the information that sends criminals and terrorists to jail...

H.I.V.E. Series by Mark Walden

H.I.V.E. (Higher Institute of Villainous Education) is a top-secret school of applied villainy where children are sent to develop into criminal masterminds!

The Ruby in the Smoke by Philip Pullman

When her dear father is drowned in suspicious circumstances in the South China Sea, Sally is left to fend for herself, an orphan and alone in the smoky fog of Victorian London. Though she doesn't know it, Sally is already in terrible danger.

Murder on the Orient Express by Agatha Christie

Just after midnight, a snowdrift stops the luxurious Orient Express in its tracks. An American man lies dead in his compartment, stabbed a dozen times, his door locked from the inside. Isolated and with a killer in the midst, detective Hercule Poirot must identify the murderer, in case he or she decides to strike again.

Boy Soldier Series by Andy McNab

Danny Watts' grandfather, Fergus, was a traitor - an SAS explosives expert who betrayed his country and his regiment for money. At least, that is what 17-year-old Danny is told when his hopes of becoming a soldier are destroyed forever.