

Year 8 Recommended Reading List

All of the books on this list are recommended by Mr Johnston, Mr Banks and the English Teachers. These books have been ranked according to reading level, but anybody can read any book in this list. They are all in the LRC and on Accelerated Reader. See which level matches you the best below:

Key:

Anything in Orange - I am a confident reader and enjoy books

Anything in Blue - I am a competent reader, but I don't like thick books

Anything in Green - I struggle with some words and don't really enjoy books

- These books contain violence, sex and/or disturbing themes, in order to read these you will have to get permission from your Parent/Guardian. Get a slip from Mr Johnston in the LRC.

Historical			
The Book Thief	Markus Zusak	Death relates the story of Liesel, a young German girl whose book-stealing and story-telling talents help sustain her family and the Jewish man they are hiding, as well as their neighbours.	<input type="checkbox"/>
The Boy In The Striped Pyjamas	John Boyne	Bruno and his family leave Berlin after his father is promoted to commandant at Auschwitz concentration camp. Bruno's innocence leads him to strike up a friendship with the boy on the other side of the fence which leads to a tragic end	<input type="checkbox"/>
All Quiet on the Western Front	Erich Maria Remarque	German soldiers fight and suffer through the chaos of World War I.	
Kestrel for a knave	Barry Hines	A lonely boy trains a kestrel to fly under his control amidst the gritty realities of a northern mining town. A true classic	
Treasure Island	Robert Louis Stevenson	A tale of piracy on the tropical seas, of treachery and greed combined with romance, treasure and adventure. Robert Muchamore's favourite book.	

Humour/Adventure

Hatchet	Gary Paulsen	After a plane crash, thirteen-year-old Brian spends 54 days in the wilderness, learning to survive initially with only the aid of a hatchet given to him by his mother, and learning also to survive his parents' divorce.	
Hitch hikers Guide to the Galaxy	Douglas Adams	Arthur Dent must find a new home after the world is destroyed, to make way for the new hyperspatial express route. Ridiculously funny.	
How I live now	Meg Rosoff	During what is meant to be a perfect summer, Daisy is sent from America to live in England. War breaks out, and the country is occupied. Then Daisy falls in love.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Flour Babies	Anne Fine	A boy becomes attached to the "baby" he's carried around in school as a class experiment.	
Georgia Nicholson series	Louise Rennison	These stories detail events in Georgia Nicholson's life her promiscuous mother, embarrassing father and eccentric younger sister as well as her inability to choose between her initial boyfriend Robbie, the Italian Masimo, and her close friend Dave.	

Dystopian/Fantasy

Dystopian/Fantasy			
Day of the Triffids	John Wyndham	After waking up in hospital, Bill Masen finds civilisation has come to an end. His greatest threat comes from plants genetically engineered who feed on human flesh.	
Fahrenheit 451	Ray Bradbury	The main character struggles with excessive controls on individual liberty in a world where a Fireman's job is to burn books.	
Slated	Teri Terry	In a future England, sixteen-year-old Kyla is one of the "Slated," those whose memories have been erased, usually because they have committed serious crimes. As she observes strange events, she gains memories that put her in danger.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Power of 5 series	Anthony Horowitz	The series focuses on five modern day teenagers with some sort of power who are expected to defeat the Old Ones and save humanity.	
Bloodtide	Melvin Burgess	London, in ruins, is in the hands of two warring families of ganglords. The wedding meant to cement a truce is disrupted by the coming to life of a mysterious prisoner.	
The Enemy Series	Charlie Higson	In London, a year after a mystery virus has turned anyone over sixteen into voracious, cannibalistic, zombie-like creatures, the surviving children have formed a number of groups to better survive and combat the threat	<input type="checkbox"/>
Blood Red Road	Moira Young	In a distant future, eighteen-year-old Lugh is kidnapped, leaving his twin sister Saba and nine-year-old Emmi to trail him across the bleak Sandsea,	<input type="checkbox"/>
Gone Series	Michael Grant	In a small town on the coast of California, everyone over age fourteen disappears, setting up a battle between the remaining town residents and the students from a local private school.	<input type="checkbox"/>

Life

Life			
We Are All Made Of Molecules	Susin Nielsen	Thirteen-year-old Stewart and mean-girl Ashley must find common ground when his dad moves in with his new girlfriend, Ashley's mum, whose gay ex-husband lives in their guest house.	
Before I Die	Jenny Downham	Tessa, a terminally ill teenage girl, makes and carries out a list of things to do before she dies.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Brock	Anthony McGowan	Follow Nicky's struggles as he tries to look after his brother Kenny in the absence of his mum and dad. Both their lives are changed forever when they witness a terrible act of destruction.	
The Fix	Sophie Mckenzie	Colts' star striker, Blake, is offered money to fix his team's matches. He accepts so he can help his mum pay the rent but soon wishes he hadn't.	
The Art of Being Normal	Lisa Williamson	David wants to be a girl. Leo wants to be invisible. When Leo stands up for David in a fight, an unlikely friendship forms.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Looking for JJ	Anne Cassidy	Jennifer Jones is released from prison after serving six years for killing her best friend when she was just ten. She and the press want to know if she deserves happiness.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Bad Alice	Jean Ure	When Duffy, a boy suffering from Tourette's, meets Alice, a girl who no one seems to like, they form a bond. Then Alice shows Duffy a story she is writing, and he realises that her bad girl attitude comes from problems at home she cannot voice.	

Prize Winners

Am I Normal yet?	Holly Bourne	All Evie wants is to be normal. Now that she's almost off her meds and at a new college where no one knows her as the-girl-who-went-nuts, there's only one thing left to tick off her list.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Crongton Knights	Alex Wheatle	When Mckay strays off his council estate on a mission to help out a girl, he finds himself facing a friend's crazy ex-boyfriend, some power-tripping hood-rats and a notoriously violent gangster.	<input type="checkbox"/>
A Monster Calls	Patrick Ness	Conor awakens to find a monster outside his bedroom window--not the one from his recurring nightmare, but an ancient, wild creature that wants him to face truth and loss.	
One	Sarah Crossan	Conjoined twins Grace and Tippi go to school for the first time after a life spent being homeschooled. Soon they are forced to make a difficult decision. Carnegie Prize Winner 2016	
Chaos Walking series	Patrick Ness	The three novels feature two adolescents, Todd Hewitt and Viola Eade, who encounter various moral issues and high stakes as the alien planet around them erupts into war.	
Frozen Charlotte	Alex Bell	Sophie arrives at the old schoolhouse to spend the summer with her cousins. Brooding Cameron with his scarred hand, strange Liliias with a fear of bones and Piper, who seems just a bit too good to be true. And then there's her other cousin. The girl with a room full of antique dolls. The girl that shouldn't be there. The girl that died	<input type="checkbox"/>

Authors to read

These authors write for all levels of reader, if you need help picking a book, just ask Mr Johnston in the LRC

Darren Shan	His books are best read in order, but can be read as a standalones.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cathy Cassidy	Great for girls, especially the Sundae Girls series	
Lemony snicket	The author of A Series of Unfortunate Events and All The Wrong Questions.	
Jenny Downham	An excellent writer for young people	<input type="checkbox"/>