



## Recommended Reads: Years 7/8

### Action & Thrillers

*Bodyguard* or *Young Samurai* (& sequels); *Bullet Catcher* or *Gamer* by Chris Bradford\*  
*Alone* by DJ Brazier  
*Mortal Chaos, Speed Freaks, The Everest Files* (& sequels) or *Lie, Kill, Walk Away* - Matt Dickinson (!)  
*Lightning Girl* (& sequels) by Alesha Dixon \*  
*The London Eye Mystery* by Siobhan Dowd (!)  
*Silverfin* or *The Enemy* (& sequels) by C Higson  
*Stormbreaker* (& sequels) by A. Horowitz\*  
*Wild Boy* by Lloyd Jones  
*Girl Missing* (& sequels) by Sophie McKenzie  
*The Recruit* (& sequels) by R. Muchamore\*  
*Hatchet* by Gary Paulsen  
*Wolf Wilder, The Good Thieves, The Explorer, Rooftoppers* by Katherine Rundell  
*Night Speakers* or *Carjacked* by Ali Sparkes  
*Murder Most Unladylike* (& sequels) – R Stevens  
*Lost (Choose Your Own Adventure)* -T Turner.\*

### Dystopian & Science Fiction

*Gone* or *BRZK* (& sequels) -Michael Grant  
*The Boy Who Flew* by Fleur Hitchcock  
*The Giver* and *Gathering Blue* by Lois Lowry (!)  
*Legend* (& sequels) by Marie Lu  
*The Knife of Never Letting Go* (& sequels)-P Ness (!)  
*MetaWars: Fight for the Future* (&sequels)- Norton\*  
*Railhead & Mortal Engines* (& sequels)-P Reeve (!)^  
*Remade* (& sequels) or *Time Riders* - Alex Scarrow  
*Dry, Scythe, Unwind* (& sequels) – N Shusterman (!)  
*Contagion* or *Slated* (& sequels) by Teri Terry  
*The 5th Wave* (& sequels) by Rick Yancey (!)

### Fantasy, Magic Realism, Horror & Ghost

*Children of Blood and Bone* by Tomi Adeyemi  
*Cogheart* by Peter Bunzl  
*Mind Writer* by Steve Cole\*  
*Artemis Fowl* (& sequels) by Eoin Colfer (!)  
*The Dark is Rising* by Susan Cooper  
*The Stormkeeper's Island* by Catherine Doyle  
*Rumblestar* by Abi Elphinstone  
*Who Let the Gods Out* (& sequels) by Maz Evans  
*Ranger's Apprentice* or *Brotherband* - J Flanagan  
*Inkheart* (& sequels) by Cornelia Funke (!)  
*The Graveyard Book* by Neil Gaiman (!)  
*Blackberry Blue* by Jamila Gavin (!)  
*Girl of Ink and Stars* by Kiran Millwood Hargrave (!)  
*Skulduggery Pleasant* (& sequels) by Derek Landy  
*Zom-B* or *Cirque du Freak* (& sequels) by D. Shan\*  
*Eragon* (& sequels) by Christopher Paolini  
*Through Dead Eyes, Tales of Terror, Mister Creecher, The Last of Spirits* –C. Priestley  
*Northern Lights* (& sequels) by Phillip Pullman (!)  
*Goth Girl* (& sequels) by Chris Riddell\*  
*Mrs Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children* -Riggs  
*Percy Jackson* or *Kane Chronicles* series by Riordan  
*Thunderstruck* or *Unleashed* by Ali Sparkes\*  
*The Edge Chronicles* by P Stewart and C Riddell

### Humorous books

*Little Badman and the Invasion of the Killer Aunties* by Humza Arshad & Henry White\*  
*Millions, Cosmic or Broccoli Boy* by Frank C Boyce  
*The Last Kids on Earth* (& sequels) by Max Brallier  
*Fenway and Hattie* by Victoria Cole\*  
*Adventures of a Wimpy Vampire*(&more)-T.Collins\*  
*To Be a Cat* by Matt Haig  
*Cookie & the Most Annoying Boy...* by Konnie Huq\*  
*Enginerds* (& sequels) by Jarrett Lerner\*  
*Disaster Diaries: Zombies* (&sequels)-R McGeddon\*  
*The Donut Diaries* series – A McGowan\*  
*The Accidental Billionaire* series- T McLaughlin  
*The World of Norm* series by Jonathon Meres\*  
*Planet Omar* by Zanib Mian  
*Timmy Failure* series by Stephan Pastis\*  
*Middle School* series by James Patterson\*  
*Tom Gates* series by Liz Pichon (dyslexia-friendly)\*  
*Big Nate* series by Lincoln Peirce\*

*Killer Animals* series by Tracey Turner

## Relationships & Tough Situations

*Boy Underwater* by Adam Baron  
*Noughts and Crosses, Cloud Busting, Boys Don't Cry* or *Pig-Heart Boy* by Malorie Blackman (!)  
*Blubber* or anything by Judy Blume (!)  
*Artichoke Hearts, Jasmine Skies* or *Where the River Runs Gold* Sita Brahmachari  
*A Pocketful of Stars* by Aisha Bushby  
*One, Apple & Rain, Moonrise, Toffee* -S Crossan (!)  
*Blended* or *Out of My Mind* by Sharon Draper  
*Running on Empty* by S.E. Durrant  
*Mind the Gap, Being Billy or Saving Daisy* - P Earle\*  
*The Many Worlds of Albie Bright* –Chris Edge  
*Mockingbird* by Kathryn Erskine (!)  
*Tulip Touch, Goggle Eyes or Flour Babies* by A. Fine  
*Check Mates & The Bubble Boy* by Stewart Foster  
*Unstoppable* by Dan Freedman \*  
*George* by Alex Gino  
*Tall Story* or *Shine* by Candy Gourlay  
*The Island at the End of Everything*–KM Hargrave(!)  
*After the Fire* by Will Hill (!)  
*Boy in the Tower* by Polly Ho-Yen  
*A Different Dog* by Paul Jennings\*  
*Freedom: 1783* by Catherine Johnson  
*Red Sky in the Morning* by Elizabeth Laird (!)  
*Scarlet Ibis* by Gill Lewis  
*A Monster Calls* by Patrick Ness (!)  
*Word Nerd, We Are All Made of Molecules*-Nielsen  
*Wonder* by R.J. Palacio (!)  
*Pax* by Sarah Pennypacker (!)  
*Freak the Mighty* by Rodman Philbrick  
*My Sister Lives on the Mantelpiece* by A Pitcher (!)  
*Unboxed* by Non Pratt \*  
*Long Way Down* by Jason Reynolds  
*Esperanza Rising* by Pam Munoz Ryan  
*The Marvels* or *Wonderstruck* by Brian Selznick\*(!)  
*Stargirl* by Jerry Spinelli (!)  
*Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry* by Mildred Taylor (!)  
*The Hate U Give* by Angie Thomas (!)  
*Goldfish Boy* by Lisa Thompson  
*A Boy Called Hope* by Lara Williamson  
*Brown Girl Dreaming* by Jacqueline Woodson (!)  
*Front Desk* by Kelly Yang

*I am Malala* by Malala Yousafzai (!)

## Sports

*Booked, Crossover or Rebound* – K. Alexander\* (!)  
*Charlie Merrick's Misfits...* by David Cousins\*  
*Stat Man* by Alan Durant \*  
*The Beautiful Game* series by Dhami (girls' football)  
*Man of the Match* (& series) by Dan Freedman  
*The Number 7 Shirt* or *The Lion Roars* - A Gibbons\*  
*Kick* by Mitch Johnson  
*The Fix* by Sophie McKenzie\*  
*Ultimate Football Heroes Collection* – M&T Oldfield  
*Football Academy* or *Foul Play* series–Tom Palmer\*  
*Soccer Squad, Dream On (& series)* by Bali Rai\*

## War, Conflict and the Refugee Experience

*Soldier Dog* or *A Horse Called Hero* - Sam Angus  
*The Boy at the Top of the Mountain* or *The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas* by J Boyne (!)  
*Illegal* by Eoin Colfer \* (!)  
*Wolf Children, Red Shadow, Eleven Eleven, Auslander & True Stories* books – Paul Dowswell  
*Under a War-Torn Sky* by L.M. Elliott  
*Boy 87* by Ele Fountain  
*The Bone Sparrow* by Zana Fraillion (!)  
*Once* (& sequels) by Morris Gleitzman \* (!)  
*Bone Talk* by Candy Gourlay (!)  
*Grenade* by Alan Gratz  
*Orphan Monster Spy* by Matt Killeen  
*Inside Out and Back Again* by Thanhha Lai (!)  
*Buffalo Soldier* or *Apache* by Tanya Landman  
*Every Falling Star* (North Korea) by Sungju Lee  
*Dog Tags: Semper Fido* or *Strays* by C A London\*  
*Number the Stars* by Lois Lowry (!)  
*The Skylarks' War* by Hilary McKay  
*War Horse* or *Private Peaceful* by M Morpurgo (!)  
*Sunrise Over Fallujah* by Walter Dean Myers\*  
*A Night Divided* by Jennifer Nielson  
*Armistice Runner* or *Over the Line* by Tom Palmer\*  
*A Long Walk to Water* by Linda Sue Park  
*The Red Pencil* by Andrea David Pinkney  
*The Boy at the Back of the Class* by Onjali Rauf (!)  
*Salt to the Sea* by Ruta Sepetys (!)  
*Eagle of the Ninth* by Rosemary Sutcliffe (!)  
*Refugee Boy* by Benjamin Zephaniah

## ***The Book Thief*** by Marcus Zusak !

*Note to parents: Some books from this list are written for young adult readers; this means there may be occasional 'gritty' content. Generally by Key Stage 3 young people are ready for this, but parents know their children best; if you have queries about suitability, please check online reviews or ask your child's teacher.*

**\* = Top picks for reluctant readers**

**! = Mrs Visser's favourite reads**