



Recommended Reads for Year 5/6/7

Action & Mystery

The Middler by Kristy Applebaum. A thriller set in a dark future – middle children especially will love it!

Airman by Eoin Colfer. A fast-paced action book, perfect for anyone fascinated by adventure/flight.

The London Eye Mystery by Siobhan Dowd. How can someone disappear from the London Eye?

High Rise Mystery by Sharna Jackson. A tech-savvy detective duo fight crime in London.

From the Mixed Up Files of Mrs Basil E Frankweiler by EL Konigsburg. Imagine running away to 'live' in an art museum. Unforgettable.

Beetle Boy by MG Leonard. A mystery adventure with a boy and beetle in search of a missing dad.

Kensuke's Kingdom by Michael Morpurgo. Michael is stranded on an island – but is he alone?

The Explorer by Katherine Rundell. Stranded in the Amazon jungle, will Fred survive?

Murder Most Unladylike by Robin Stevens. Hazel and Daisy find the corpse of the Science Mistress – but then the corpse disappears. What happened?

Slick by M.M. Vaughan. A science fiction mystery about advertising, androids & humans + friendship.

H.I.V.E. by Mark Walden. A Hogwarts of sorts but for villains. Filled with action and humour.

Time Travelling with a Hamster by Ross Welford. Time-travel, mischief, grief – and a pet hamster.

Fantasy Adventure or Magic Realism

The Girl Who Drank the Moon by K Barnhill. A witch & a poetic swamp monster. Newbery winner.

Cogheart by Peter Bunzl. Murder, mayhem – and a mechanical fox – in a Victorian-style world.

Artemis Fowl (and sequels) by Eoin Colfer. A 12 yo criminal mastermind attacks high-tech fairies.

Skellig or ***Kit's Wilderness*** by David Almond.

Beautifully written books. A Carnegie winner.

King of Shadows by Susan Cooper. Time-travel back to Shakespeare's Globe. Superb writing.

Sky Song by Abi Elphinstone. A magical tale about a snowy kingdom controlled by an evil Ice Queen - and Eska who breaks free from a cursed music box.

Who Let the Gods Out (& sequel) by Maz Evans. A zodiac goddess, a death daemon & Greek gods!

Ranger's Apprentice: Ruins of Gorlan by J Flanagan. Will must protect the kingdom from evil magic.

Inkheart (& sequels) by C. Funke. A fantasy adventure about the power of words and stories.

Girl of Ink and Stars by KM Hargrave. A map-maker's daughter, a missing friend & a fire demon!

The Whispers by Greg Howard. A powerful family drama with creatures who can grant wishes.

Skulduggery Pleasant by Derek Landy. The detective is a skeleton! Funny and action-packed.

The Legend of Podkin One-Ear by K Larwood.

Destruction, magic, evil, adventure – and rabbits!

Wolf Brother (& series) by Michelle Paver. Only Torak - and a wolf cub - can save the world.

Percy Jackson and the Lightning Thief (& series) by Riordan. Drama, battles and Greek mythology!

Eragon (& sequels) by Christopher Paolini. Dragons, elves, monsters and magic; great for able readers.

Mortal Engines (& sequels) by Phillip Reeve.

Predator cities on wheels feed on smaller towns.

The Curse of the Gloamglozer: Edge Chronicles (& series) by Paul Stewart and Chris Riddell. An extraordinary meld between text and illustration.

The Lost Magician by P. Torday. Step through the Narnia-esque library door for an adventure.

Fun

The Person Controller by David Baddiel. Fred and Ellie love video games but struggle at school. Then they get a bizarre controller with hilarious results!

Runaway Robot by FC Boyce. A fun, moving story of a boy with a prosthetic hand & a one-legged robot.

Fenway and Hattie by Victoria Cole. Written from the point-of-view of Fenway, the dog. Hysterical!

Flora and Ulysses by Kate DiCamillo. A squirrel with superpowers, a self-described 'cynic' and comic book-style illustrations. Newbery winner.

Enginerds by Jarret Lerner. Super-smart boys vs farting robots – a funny, action-packed novel.

The Accidental Billionaire by Tom McLaughlan. Jasper creates the world's first talking cat – and becomes rich. But are talking cats a good idea?

My Brother is a Superhero (& sequels) by David Solomon. Life is not fair: Luke loves comics, but it is his geeky older brother who gets superpowers.

Ghosts and Horror

The Savage by David Almond. What if your writing became reality – and you have created a savage?

Doll Bones by Holly Black. Eleanor Black died in 1895 – and now she wants to play.

The Graveyard Book by Neil Gaiman. Possibly the best opening to a story ever! Carnegie & Newbery.

Uncle Montague's Tales of Terror by C. Priestley. A collection of intertwined, spine-tingling stories.

Relationships & Tough Situations

The One and Only Ivan by K Applegate. Story 'told' by an exploited gorilla. Newbery winner.

Boy Under Water by Adam Baron. A funny and poignant book sensitively exploring depression.

Cloud Busting or **Pig-Heart Boy** by Malorie Blackman. Inspiring and heart-warming books.

Running on the Roof of the World - J Butterworth. After Tash's parents are seized, she makes a dangerous journey across the mountains of Tibet.

The Dog Who Lost His Bark by Eoin Colfer. An extraordinary story of loneliness, pain & friendship.

Walk Two Moons by Sharon Creech. A moving Newbery medal winner about grief and love.

Apple and Rain by Sarah Crossan. Apple's mother has returned after 11 years away...

Because of Winn Dixie by Kate DiCamillo. Opal's mother is gone – will a stray dog help?

Running on Empty by SE Durrant. AJ's grandfather has died and he is trying to keep his family together by doing what he does best – running.

The Many Worlds of Albie Bright by C Edge. Can Albie bring his mum back using quantum physics?

The Bubble Boy by Stewart Foster. Because of his health, 11 year old Joe is stuck in hospital. And yet...

The Bone Sparrow by Z Fraillion. Subhi is a refugee camp child – a story of friendship and resilience.

Boy in the Tower by Polly Ho-Yen. Ade is trapped in a tower block with bizarre attacking plants.

The Eleventh Trade by Alyssa Hollingsworth. A refugee story about trading, loyalty and friendship.

Hello, Universe by EE Kelly. A story of unusual friendships from 4 points of view. Newbery winner.

Red Sky in the Morning by Elizabeth Laird. Anna's brother Ben is severely disabled. Will she cope?

A Story Like the Wind by Gill Lewis. Refugees in a boat sharing a story, hoping for freedom.

A Monster Calls by Patrick Ness. A harrowing and powerful book about family, fear, illness and imagination. Won both Carnegie and Greenaway.

Wonder by R.J. Palacio. A heart-warming story of a boy with a severe facial deformity.

Pax by Sara Pennypacker. A beautifully written story of a boy and his fox, who struggle to reunite.

The Boy at the Back of the Class by Onjali Rauf. The story of a new refugee boy and his classmates who fight against the odds.

As Brave As You by Jason Reynolds. What does it mean to be brave? Disability, diversity and truth.

Wonderstruck by Brian Selznick. Two stories: Ben's is in words from 1977, and Rose's is in pictures from 1927. Extraordinary mix of image and language.

The Great Blue Yonder by Alex Shearer. This is the story about Harry's afterlife. Poignant yet funny.

The Goldfish Boy by Lisa Thompson. Lonely Matthew has OCD and stays in his room—but then a toddler neighbour disappears. Can Matthew help?

How I Became a Ghost (& sequels) by Tim Tingle. A Choctaw Trail of Tears story – stunning.

The 1000 Year Old Boy by Ross Welford. Imagine living as an 11 year old for a thousand years...

War & History

Soldier Dog by Sam Angus. Stanley is a dog-handler in WWI. Will his dog save countless lives?

The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas by John Boyne. A shocking story of friendship during the Holocaust.

Letters from the Lighthouse by Emma Carroll. 12 yo Olive has been evacuated to a lighthouse during WWII – but her sister is missing. Extraordinary.

Under a War-Torn Sky by L.M. Elliott. Pilot Henry is shot down over Nazi-occupied Europe...

Once (&sequels) by Morris Gleitzman. A Jewish boy trying to find his parents in Nazi-occupied Poland.

Race to the Frozen North by Catherine Johnson.

Based on M. Henson's life, this is a story of a fight against prejudice and cruelty to become a pioneer.

Number the Stars by Lois Lowry. Why did most Jews in Nazi Denmark survive? Newbery winner.

Armistice Runner by Tom Palmer. Lily's gran has Alzheimer's – but will the WWI diaries of her brave great-great-granddad reconnect them?

Cloud Boy by Marcia Williams. A story of friendship between Angie and Harry--and of war: Angie's finds her grandmother's POW letters.