

Recommended Reads for Year 7

Action & Mystery

The Girl Who Speaks Bear by Sophie Anderson. Found abandoned in a bear cave as a baby, Yanka has always wondered about where she is from.

The Short Knife by Elen Caldecott. It is the year 454AD and Britain has been thrown into the chaos of the Dark Ages.

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

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

The Diamond of Drury Lane (& sequels) by Julia Golding. Orphan, adventurer, actress: Cat Royal.

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?

Foul Play by Tom Palmer. A fast-paced detective novel, perfect for football and crime story fans!

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

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. This book has it all: adventure, mischief, family, grief, time-travel – and a pet hamster.

Challenging reads and/or classics

Little Women by Louisa May Alcott. Is it possible to read this book without crying?

The Secret Garden by Francis H Burnett. Inspiring story of the power of nature and friendship.

Alice's Adventures in Wonderland by Lewis Carroll. Bizarre adventures down a rabbit hole.

Coram Boy by Jamila Gavin. Abandoned children, slavery, love, greed – and music – in 18thc. England

The Northern Lights (& sequels) by Phillip Pullman. A magnificent series for able readers.

Black Beauty by Anna Sewell. The ultimate book for horse-lovers – but have the tissues ready!

Treasure Island by Robert Louis Stevenson. A boy hero, pirates, buried treasure and adventure!

The Adventures of Tom Sawyer by Mark Twain. The incorrigible and unforgettable Tom...

The Hobbit by JRR Tolkien. Hobbits, dragons, wizards and dwarves...let your imagination fly.

The Sword in the Stone by TH White. The King Arthur story – with talking animals and

The Silver Sword by Ian Serrallier. An epic journey of refugee children through Europe after WWII.

Fantasy Adventure or Magic Realism

The Girl Who Drank the Moon series by Kelly Barnhill. Magic, love, a misunderstood witch and a poetry-spouting swamp monster. Newbery winner 2017.

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.

Ash Mistry and the Savage Fortress (& series) by Sarwat Chadda. Set in India, and great for fans of Percy Jackson or Skulduggery Pleasant.

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

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

Ranger's Apprentice: Ruins of Gorlan (& series) by John Flanagan. The Rangers protect the kingdom from evil magic – and now Will is becoming one.

Inkheart (& sequels) by Cornelia Funke. An awesome fantasy/adventure book about the incredible power of words and stories.

Girl of Ink and Stars by Kiran M Hargrave. An enchanting story of a map-maker's daughter, a missing friend -- and a fire demon!

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

Run Rebel by Manjeet Man. Amber is trapped. Now she is ready to fight for her mother, her sister, herself.

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

Percy Jackson and the Lightning Thief (& series) by Rick Riordan. A hilarious modern twist on Greek mythology. Filled with drama and battles.

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. A highly imaginative and exciting world.

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



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!

Sputnik's Guide to Life on Earth by Frank C Boyce. It's up to Prez to save the planet in this side-splitting, crazy – and moving – story.

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 hilarious comic book-style illustrations. Newbery winner.

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 Zach who gets superpowers from a visiting alien. Laugh-out-loud funny!

Ghosts and Horror

The Savage by David Almond. What if your writing became reality – and you have created a savage? Graphic novel components in this powerful book.

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

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

Uncle Montague's Tales of Terror by Chris Priestley. A collection of short, spine-tingling stories connected by a central narrative.

Relationships & Tough Situations

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

Cloud Busting or Pig-Heart Boy by Malorie Blackman. Poignant and inspiring books.

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. A poignant book ideal for those who love Jacqueline Wilson

Because of Winn Dixie by Kate DiCamillo. Opal's mother is gone and she wonders why. Then she goes to a supermarket and comes home with a dog.

The Bone Sparrow by Zana Fraillon. Subhi is a refugee camp child living in disturbing conditions. A story of imagination, resilience and friendship.

Boy in the Tower by Polly Ho-Yen. Ade is trapped in a tower block with bizarre plants attacking the buildings him – and his mum won't leave.

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

In the Key of Code by Aimee Lucido. A lonely new girl and an unlikely friendship formed in school code club.

Relationships & Tough Situations

continued

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.

As Brave As You by Jason Reynolds. What does it mean to be brave? Disability, diversity and truth explored from 11 yo perspective. Beautiful.

The Great Blue Yonder by Alex Shearer. This is the story about Harry's afterlife. Sometimes funny, sometimes achingly sad. A beautiful book.

Smart: A Mysterious Crime, a Different Detective by Kim Slater. Kieran has special needs and a difficult family life –but is determined to discover who murdered the homeless man. Compelling.

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.

Brown Girl Dreaming by Jacqueline Woodson. Growing up in the segregated American South – a poignant and powerful story in poems.

War

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. Set in WWII: 12 yo Olive has been evacuated to a lighthouse – 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 fast-paced story of a young Jewish boy trying to find his parents in Nazi-occupied Poland.

Number the Stars by Lois Lowry. Why did most Jews in Nazi Denmark survive? Powerful historical fiction and a Newbery winner.

Recommended Reads

Unit One: The Boy at the Back of the Class by Onjali Rauf & Refugee Boy by Benjamin Zephaniah

Unit Two: Once by Morris Gleitzman & Armistice Runner by Tom Palmer

Unit Three: The Bone Sparrow by Zana Fraillon & Goldfish Boy by Lisa Thompson

Unit Four: The Invisible Hand by James Hartley & Our Beautiful Game by Lou Kuenzler

Unit Five: Rhythm and Poetry by Karl Nova & Kill Shakespeare by Conor McCreery and Anthony Del Col

Unit Six: I am Malala by Malala Yousafzai & Heartstopper by Alice Oseman

