

Recommended Reads for Year 5/6/7

Action & Mystery

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?

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

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.

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

Chronicles of Narnia by CS Lewis. Superb!

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 magic.

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 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.

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 (& 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 KM Hargrave. A map-maker's daughter, a missing friend & a fire demon!

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

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.

The Curse of the Gloamglazer: 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 comic book-style illustrations. Newbery winner 2014.

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?

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 2014.

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

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.

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 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.

Hello, Universe by Erin Entrada Kelly. Through 4 intertwining points of view, a story of unusual friendships. Newbery winner 2018.

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

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.

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.

Brown Girl Dreaming by J Woodson. Growing up in the segregated South – a 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.