

## **Beaudesert Park School – Get Reading 2017 -2018**

This list is intended to be a guide to books old and new that have proved popular, accessible, engaging or challenging for children in Years 4 to 8. The aim is to help you choose reading material that engrosses you in the written word and fosters a passion for reading. The new interactive links will help you to review and recommend books to other children so that next year the ‘Get Reading List’ will have been largely made by you!

Books with an asterisk (\*) are less suitable for those below Year 8. Those with a plus (+) are easier reads.

There are limits to the number of books we can include in this list. Please ask your English teachers, the librarian, your parents and your friends for recommendations about good reads. All recommendations are subjective, but we hope that you will find some books you love on this list.

If you think we have missed out some great reads then let us know and we can add them to the list. We need your help to keep the list current and relevant to you and other children like you. New books are being published all the time so join the ‘Get Reading’ team with a review of your latest find!

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## **Beaudesert Park School – Get Reading 2017 -2018**

### **1.Action, Adventure and Special Agents**

**Frank Cotterell Boyce**

**Millions**

When brothers Damian and Anthony unwittingly come into possession of the proceeds of a train robbery, they find themselves with millions of pounds to spend in the next 17 days. Damian believes the money comes from God and should be used for doing good, but Anthony has different ideas. Meanwhile, the robbers are looking for their money... but will they eventually catch them?

**Lauren Child**

**Look Into My Eyes** followed by **Take Your Last Breath, Catch Your Death, Feel the Fear and Pick Your Poison**

Ruby Redfort is an awesome super-detective, genius code-cracker and gadget-laden special agent. This witty and absorbing book, from a multi award-winning author.

**Eoin Colfer**

**Artemis Fowl**

12-year-old villain, Artemis Fowl, is the most ingenious criminal mastermind in history. His adventures may be in the fairy world – but there's enough high-speed action to satisfy any reader looking for adventure and seven further books to keep you happy! The eighth and final book is **Artemis Fowl and the Last Guardian**.

**Josh Lacey**

**Island of Thieves**

Tom Trelawney was looking for excitement, but he got more than he bargained for! When his parents left him with his eccentric Uncle Harvey for a few days, they had no idea that he would immediately set off for South America on a quest for hidden gold. This is a good, old-fashioned treasure hunt, set in the modern day.

**Charlie Higson**

**Silverfin** followed by **Blood Fever, Double or Die, Hurricane Gold and By Royal Command**

This first book in a series of adventures about the young James Bond starts with Bond as a 13-year old at Eton in the 1930s. It is a page-turning adventure that introduces us to the future hero of millions of people around the world! If you enjoy these, you should read the new series which continues after James is expelled from Eton, beginning with Young Bond: Shoot to Kill, written by Steve Cole.

**Antony Horowitz**

**Stormbreaker**

The first in a gripping series that follows the super - if reluctant - young spy Alex Rider through his many adventures. Once you're hooked, you will want to read on to the ninth and final book in the series, **Scorpia Rising**, and then, perhaps, the exciting prequel **Russian Roulette**, which charts the journey of a young schoolboy into the hired assassin Yassen Gregorovich.

**+ The Falcon's Malteser**

The first book in the Diamond Brothers series. When a lot of money is left in the hands of Tim Diamond, he suddenly has every criminal looking for him.

**Gary Paulsen**

**Hatchet** followed by **The River, Brian's Winter, Brian's Return, Brian's Hunt**

Brian is on his way to Canada to visit his estranged father when the pilot of his small prop plane suffers a heart attack. Brian is forced to crash-land the plane in a lake--and finds himself stranded in the remote Canadian wilderness with only his clothing and the hatchet his mother gave him as a present before his departure. Award winning, heart stopping adventure follows.

**Geraldine McCaughrean**

**Not the End of the World**

Everyone knows the story of the Flood, the men God chose to survive, the animals that went in two by two. But what about the others that sailed on the Ark - the women and the children? This adventure story asks what it was really like when the heavens opened and the world drowned - and what might have happened in the days that followed. This is an extremely compelling and at times very frightening story, beautifully written.

**Robert Muchamore**

**'Cherub' series**

There are no super-villains or high-tech gadgets in this addictive series. It is simply fast-paced action based around the CHERUB organization for child spies. The first title is The Recruit, and the seventeenth, New Guard, has just been published. This series, as well as the author's 'Henderson's Boys' series, can be violent and sometimes unsuitable for the under-11s, but they are unsurpassed at gripping and holding the reluctant reader.

**Chris Ryan**

**Survival**

Alex, Li, Paulo, Hex and Amber are marooned on a desert island after a shipwreck, and they must combine all their knowledge and skills if they are to stay alive. Team 'Alpha



## **+Hodgeheg**

Hedgehog adventures from the master of animal stories and old Beaudesertian.

**+Sophie's Snail** followed by **Sophie's Tom, Sophie Hits Six, Sophie in the Saddle, Sophie is Seven, Sophie's Lucky**

Sophie's one and only ambition in life is to become a Lady Farmer, and to this end she has an ever increasing collection of pets, many of which are the focus of individual books (such as in 'Sophie's Tom' and 'Sophie's Lucky'). She is a determined young lady who can often come across as stubborn, but is portrayed as loveable nonetheless.

## **+The Water Horse**

Kirstie and Angus finds a strange sea egg on a Highland beach and they take it home where a mysterious creature hatches in the bath and grows and grows and grows... Hints of the Loch Ness monster flow through this enchanting story.

## **Gill Lewis**

## **Gorilla Dawn**

Deep in the heart of the African jungle, a baby gorilla is captured by a group of rebel soldiers. Imara and Bobo are two children also imprisoned in the rebels' camp. When they learn that the gorilla is destined to be sold into captivity, they swear to return it to the wild despite the terrible consequences of getting caught. This author has the rare ability to write about humans and animals with equal empathy and moral argument, and you should also try *White Dolphin, Sky Hawk or Moon Bear* by the same author.

## **Geoffrey Malone**

## **Elephant Ben**

Ben is in the bush with his game-warden father. They see a family of elephants in distress, Temba's calf has fallen into swamp mud and is drowning. The elephants struggle to rescue him. Ben gathers his courage to attach straps while his father winches the elephant out. Temba learns the smell of these humans who helped, and the elephants move on. Ben and his father stumble into an elephant poachers' camp and are taken prisoner. Only Ben's link with Temba can save them now ... Also *Tiger, Wolf* by the same author.

## **Michael Morpurgo**

## **Shadow**

At first, Aman is wary of the dog that shows up outside the caves in Afghanistan where he lives with his mother. Yet when Aman and his mother finally decide to flee from the horror of war, 'Shadow' will not leave their side.

## **Adolphus Tips**

A cat, a wartime evacuation of Devon farmland and a love story fill this novel from the master of children's literature

### **+Little Foxes**

Billy Bunch was abandoned on a police station doorstep when he was a baby. Years later he is a lonely boy who finds friendship with foxes.

### **+Tom's Sausage Lion**

Nobody believes Tom when he tells them there is a lion in the garden... A great introduction to the delights of a Morpurgo novel.

### **+The Butterfly Lion**

A lion, a lonely childhood and a friendship. Short but punchy - a real treat.

### **Born To Run**

Rescued from a river, this is a greyhound's tale about how even dogs can have more than one life.

### **Kenneth Opel**

### **Silverwing** followed by **Sunwing** and **Firewing**

Shade, a young bat and the runt of his colony, is determined to prove himself on the perilous winter migration, but his boldness leads him into great danger.

### **Megan Rix**

### **The Runaways**

Shanti and her calf Tara are part of a circus that is forced to close during WWI. Shanti is sent to help on a farm, and Tara, separated too soon from her mother, is in danger. Only old Harvey, the circus collie dog, can help her find her mother. So dog and elephant set out on a journey across England. If you love dogs as much as this author does, then try her other titles such as ***Bomber Dog***, ***The Hero Pup*** or ***The Victory Dogs***.

### **Katherine Rundell**

### **The Wolf Wilder**

Twelve-year-old Feo has grown up in the wilds of Russia, helping her mother to teach tamed wolves to fend for themselves once more. When her mother is captured and the wolves she loves become the targets of the murderous Russian Army, Feo gathers her pack of wolves and heads for St. Petersburg, on a journey that will change all of Russia.

### **Lauren St. John**

### **The White Giraffe** followed by **Dolphin Song**, **The Last Leopard**

When Martine's parents are killed, she has to move to South Africa to live with her grandmother. An extraordinary adventure begins as she befriends a legendary white giraffe and subsequently discovers she has some mysterious powers over animals.

**Lucy Strange**

**The Secret of Nightingale Wood**

Idie Grace is twelve when she inherits a grand old house on a Caribbean island, and is sent away from grey old England to paradise. As a lady of property Idie can do as she pleases, so she fills the house with exotic animals, keeps her beloved horse in the hallway, and carries a grumpy, talking cockatoo called Homer on her shoulder. But the island house holds as many secrets as it does animals, and the truth behind Idie's inheritance is the biggest secret of all.

**Robert Westall**

**Blitz Cat**

Told from the perspective of a black cat in war torn England, this is the tale of a cat who searches tirelessly for its owners. Everyone who meets her is touched by the encounter.

### **3.Classic**

**Louisa M Alcott**

**Little Women**

The four March sisters face challenges whilst their father is away fighting in the American Civil War. This novel charts their passage from childhood to adulthood.

**Michael Bond**

**A Bear Called Paddington**

This book, the first in the Paddington series, was published over 50 years ago, but it genuinely is 'timeless'. The humour and charm will win you over just as it did your parents (and perhaps your grandparents!). Watch the film, but read the books too!

**Lucy M. Boston**

**The Children of Green Knowe**

The recent DVD release of a classic BBC series of these books has prompted the good reads team to include this wonderful book in the list. The first of the six-book series about Green Knowe is a perfectly crafted story of a lonely little boy who spends the Christmas holidays with his great grandmother, and who meets some ghostly companions from long ago.

**Lewis Carroll**

**Alice's Adventure in Wonderland**

Curious Alice, the bossy White Rabbit, the formidable Queen of Hearts and the Mad Hatter are among the best-loved, most iconic literary creations of all time. Now that Alice has been in print for over 150 years, and a new film of Alice Through the Looking Glass has just come out, perhaps it is time to read it if you haven't already done so?

**Roald Dahl**

**Charlie and the Chocolate Factory**

Poor and starving, Charlie Bucket wins one of only six golden tickets that allow the lucky six winners to enter Willie Wonka's chocolate factory. Accompanied by the lovable Grandpa Joe, Charlie embarks on a journey of discovery.

**Antoine de Saint-Exupery**

**The Little Prince**

The story of a little prince who falls to earth from a star, and of an airman, crash-landed in a desert, who seeks to understand the prince's secret. It's a wise fable about what is important in life that some believe is the most beautiful book of the twentieth century.

**Sir Arthur Conan Doyle**

**The Hound of the Baskervilles**

Sir Charles's mysterious death in the grounds of Baskerville Hall brings Sherlock Holmes to the scene of one of his most famous and intriguing cases. Try this classic of crime fiction, or start with the Sherlock Holmes short stories.

**Alan Garner**

**The Weirdstone of Brisingamen**

Colin and Susan have to spend six months with an elderly couple in their old-fashioned farm house in the heart of Cheshire. Here, they get sucked into a world of old and new magic in a scary tale that combines fantasy, a real landscape and an ancient legend.

**William Golding**

**Lord of the Flies**

During an unnamed time of war, a plane carrying a group of British schoolboys is shot down over the Pacific. The pilot of the plane is killed, but many of the boys survive the crash and find themselves deserted on an uninhabited island, where they are alone without adult supervision.

**Kenneth Grahame**

**The Wind in The Willows**

When Mole goes boating with the Water Rat he discovers a whole new world of adventure on the river. The writing may seem old-fashioned at first, but prepare to be won over by the quirkiness of the characters, particularly the irrepressible Mr Toad.

**Clive King**

**Stig of the Dump**

Barney discovers a caveman in a quarry. He befriends 'Stig' and learns many useful lessons about reusing and recycling waste. Still as relevant today as when it was written in 1963. Full of adventures featuring leopards, robbers and cavemen...

**C.S Lewis**

**The Chronicles of Narnia**

When Peter, Susan, Edmund and Lucy first step into the world behind the magic wardrobe, they little realise what adventures are about to unfold. And as the story of Narnia begins, so does a classic tale that has enchanted readers for over half a century.

**E.Nesbit**

**Five Children and It**

First published in 1902, this book was brought back into the limelight in 2014 when a new 'sequel' by Kate Saunders, **Five Children on the Western Front, won the Costa Book Award**. It's the story of a wonderfully grumpy sand fairy, or Psammead, who grants the children wishes just for one day, and then is unsympathetic when their often silly wishes end in disaster!

**Mary Norton**

**The Borrowers**

Pod, Homily and daughter Arrietty, are a family of tiny people, who live under the floorboards and "borrow" scraps and oddments from the "human beans" above. In 2007 this book was selected by judges of the Carnegie Medal as one of the ten most important children's novels of the past 70 years.

**\*George Orwell**

**Animal Farm**

In uncomplicated language, this fable brings to life the reality of Russian Communism. The animals, led by the pigs Napoleon and Snowball, drive out Farmer Jones and set up an Animals' Republic. Yet, as one form of tyranny is replaced by another, the animals soon realize that "all animals are equal, but some are more equal than others."

**Arthur Ransome**

**Swallows and Amazons**

Four young children in the Lake District set out in their boat to an island of adventure. Camping under open skies, swimming in clear water, fishing and exploring is the stuff of childhood dreams, which makes this such an enduring classic. A new BBC film of the book is released in 2016, so it's a good time to try the first in this 12-book series.

**Anna Sewell**

**Black Beauty**

The original horse story, the trials and tribulations of Black Beauty from his carefree days as a colt on an English farm with his mother, to his difficult life pulling cabs in London, to his happy retirement in the country. Along the way, he meets with many hardships and recounts many tales of cruelty and kindness.

**\*John Steinbeck**

**Of Mice and Men**

Streetwise George and his childlike friend Lennie are searching for work in the fields, sustained by their loyalty to each other and their dream that one day they'll find a place of their own. Simple to read, yet full of tension, drama and emotion.

**Rosemary Sutcliff**

**The Eagle of the Ninth**

A young Roman officer sets out to discover the truth behind the disappearance of the Ninth Legion, who marched into the mists of Northern Britain and never returned. This wonderfully vivid story may tempt you to read other books by the same author such as **Sun Horse, Moon Horse**.

**J.R.R Tolkien**

**The Hobbit**

Wizards, dwarves and dragons may be the stuff of fairy tales, but this book is in a class of its own - light-hearted enough for younger readers, yet with a dark edge that may intrigue you enough to want to tackle Tolkien's masterpiece, The Lord of the Rings.

## **4. Different Countries and Cultures**

**Frank Cottrell Boyce**

**The Unforgotten Coat**

The story of two brothers from Mongolia who go to school in Merseyside, before being forced to return to their homeland is told by their friend Julie, also in Year 6. This heart-warming story with a serious message won the **Guardian Children's Fiction Prize in 2012**

**Sarah Crossan**

**The Weight of Water**

This coming-of-age story, which won the **2013 UKLA Book Award**, tackles the alienation experienced by many young immigrants. Despite being written entirely in verse, it is utterly page-turning as the reader shares the experiences of a young girl who demonstrates how quiet courage prevails.

**Matt Dickinson**

**The Everest Files**

Ryan is on a gap year in Nepal when a local girl begs him to investigate why her 16-year-old friend Kami never returned from Everest. What emerges is a shocking story of human errors as seen through the eyes of a young Sherpa - a stark reminder of the dangers involved at altitude and the true price paid for standing on top of the World.

**Deborah Ellis**

**The Breadwinner** followed by **Parvana's Journey** and **Mud City**

This story of a young girl trying to support her family is an inspirational story about the plight of a family living under the Taliban regime in Afghanistan.

**Sally Grindley**

**Spilled Water**

When her husband dies, Lu Si-Yan's mother is encouraged to sell her young daughter into domestic service. Nearly two years will pass before she can get back home. This powerful novel, which won the **Nestlé Children's Book Prize**, portrays a harsh childhood with a rare dignity and beauty.

**Eva Ibbotson**

**Journey to the River Sea**

This award-winning story of an orphaned London schoolgirl and her formidable governess's journey to South America has already achieved 'classic' status. It's a magical adventure story imbued with the heat and mystery of the Amazon rain forest.

**Elizabeth Laird**

**The Fastest Boy in the World**

Elizabeth Laird's fiction is always rooted firmly in the real world and in parts of the world that we may not know much about. In her latest book she tells the story of 11-year-old Solomon who loves to run and longs to emulate the gold-medal-winning athletes of the Ethiopian National Olympic team. It is an easy read, but one with a real impact that was **shortlisted for the 2015 Carnegie Medal**.

**Irfan Master**

**A Beautiful Lie**

Set in India in 1947, the backdrop to this touching book is the Partition of India – a key event in Indian history. Bilal is determined to protect his dying father from the news of Partition, as he knows it will break his father's heart.

**Geraldine McCaughrean**

**The Middle of Nowhere**

A vivid story of life in Australia's outback during the 19th century. After her mother dies from a snakebite and her father becomes reclusive, Comity turns to Fred, the Aboriginal yard boy, who becomes her only friend. Then Fred becomes the target of a new assistant's cruel games and events begin to spiral dangerously out of control.

**Andy Mulligan**

**Trash**

Raphael spends his days wading through mountains of steaming trash: sifting it, sorting it, breathing it, sleeping next to it. Until the day he finds a small leather bag, and his world turns upside down. With his friends Gardo and Rat, he finds himself running for his life as he tries to fulfil a dead man's mission to right a terrible wrong.

**Beverley Naidoo**

**The Other Side of Truth**

This Carnegie Medal-winning book tells the story of Sade and her brother Femi, who have to flee their home in Nigeria after an assassination attempt on their father's life. When the children are abandoned by their escort in London they find themselves alone in a new, often hostile, environment. Also try **Journey to Jo'burg** or **No Turning Back** by the same author.

**Linda Sue Park**

**A Long Walk to Water**

The girl, Nya, is fetching water from a pond that is two hours walk from her home: she makes two trips to the pond every day. The boy, Salva, becomes one of the "lost boys" of Sudan, refugees who cover the African continent on foot as they search for their families and for a safe place to stay.

**Benjamin Zepaniah**

**Refugee Boy**

Alem's mother is Eritrean, his father Ethiopian, and with both countries at war his family is not safe anywhere. For his own safety, Alem is left in London by his father, where he becomes a refugee – with only the social services and the Refugee Council to protect him. The author shows how every refugee has a unique story to tell.

## **5.Fantasy and Magic**

**David Almond**

**Skellig**

Michael moves to a new house and has a dangerously ill baby sister. In the garage he meets a strange creature who reveals a pair of wings at his shoulders and introduces himself as "Skellig" to Michael and Mina, his friend. Michael's baby sister comes dangerously close to death, necessitating heart surgery. Also **Kit's Wilderness** and **My Dad's a Birdman**

**Malorie Blackman**

**Noughts and Crosses**

In this renowned fantasy quartet, Callum is a Nought, a second-class citizen, and Sephy is a Cross, the daughter of a powerful man. Their friendship crosses the boundaries of race and society and proves – ironically – that life is never black and white.

**Noble Conflict**

Years after a violent war destroyed much of the world, Kaspar has grown up in a society based on peace and harmony. protected by a force of highly trained Guardians. But after he joins this elite group he begins to suspect that all he has been told about their history, and about the 'rebels' beyond the city walls, is not absolutely true.

**Suzanne Collins**

**The Hunger Games** followed by **Catching Fire** and **Mockingjay**

In a dark vision of the future a terrifying reality show is taking place. To punish citizens for an earlier rebellion twelve boys and twelve girls are forced to fight like gladiators in a futuristic arena. The event is broadcast live, but for the contestants there is only one rule: kill or be killed.

**Cressida Cowell**

**How to Train Your Dragon**

This first book in a wonderfully witty series of stories about Hiccup the Useless, and his dragon, Toothless, is guaranteed to appeal to even the most reluctant reader! How to Fight a Dragon's Fury is the twelfth in the series, and the last—so far!

**James Dashner**

**The Maze Runner** followed by **The Scorch Trials**, **Death Cure** and **The Kill Order**

So there's this kid who wakes up in an elevator with no memory of his past other than the fact that his name is Thomas. When the elevator doors open, he is pulled into a huge glade by a bunch of teenage boys who also have no memories besides what they should be called.

**Helen Dunmore**

**Ingo followed by The Tide Knot, The Deep**

Set in Cornwall, where Sapphire and Conor's father has disappeared in mysterious circumstances. Conor is convinced he is still alive and then Conor disappears. Sapphire discovers a whole new world of Mer people and the quest to find her father and brother continues as she learns more about the Mer folk. Better known as an adult writer, this book has been enjoyed by older girls.

**Cornelia Funke**

**Dragon Rider**

Firedrake, a brave young dragon, his loyal brownie friend Sorrel and a lonely boy called Ben embark on a magical journey to find the legendary place where silver dragons can live in peace for ever. Along the way, they discover new friends in unlikely places and a courage they never knew they had. A classic dragon fantasy from a renowned author.

**Inkheart followed by Inkspell**

Meggie is the daughter of a revered bookbinder called Mo who, when his past catches up with him, is forced to reveal to his daughter his terrible secret: he has the ability, or curse, to breathe life into any story he reads and make the characters come alive.

**Neil Gaiman**

**The Graveyard Book**

When a baby escapes a murderer intent on killing the entire family, who would have thought it would find safety and security in the local graveyard? Brought up by the resident ghosts, ghouls and spectres, Bod has an eccentric childhood learning about life from the dead. But for Bod there is also the danger of the murderer still looking for him. Will Bod survive to be a man? Also **Coraline**

**Michelle Harrison**

**The Thirteen Treasures** followed by **The Thirteen Curses, The Thirteen Secrets and One Wish (prequel)**

While visiting her grandmother's house, an old photograph leads Tanya to an unsolved mystery. Fifty years ago a girl vanished in the woods nearby - a girl Tanya's grandmother will not speak of. Fabian, the caretaker's son, is tormented by the girl's disappearance. Together, Tanya and Fabian decide to find the truth. But Tanya has her own secret: the ability to see fairies. And, after disturbing an intruder in the night, it emerges that someone else shares her ability...

**Eva Ibbotson**

**The Secret of Platform 13**

Four magical figures arrive through a door under Platform 13 at King's Cross Station to rescue their prince, stolen as a baby nine years before. Unfortunately, the prince has become a horrible boy called Raymond Throttle, who doesn't want to be rescued! This author was delighting readers long before Harry Potter discovered Platform 13 ¾!

**Robin Jarvis**

**The 'Redwall' series**

These are not just books about a group of animals; they are stunning tales of good battling against evil, taking the reader on roller-coaster adventures. There are 22 titles, which you can read in any order, but it is probably best to start with Redwall.

**Ursula Le Guin**

**A Wizard of Earthsea**

Ged lives in the island archipelago of Earthsea, a land populated by strange magic and dragons, where young wizards like him are sent to hone their powers. After accidentally unleashing some of the most powerful magic ever to scar the face of the earth, Ged clearly has a lot to learn! This unforgettable trilogy is a benchmark of fantasy writing.

**Ian MacEwan**

**The Daydreamer**

Peter is a boy who loves to daydream, each chapter in this engaging story reveals another of his amazing daydreams from vanishing cream to crazy demonic dolls. A cracking read.

**Gemma Malley**

**The Declaration Trilogy followed by The resistance  
The Legacy**

A tense and dramatic novel speculating on life in a future where drugs have banished old age and death. Mostly for teens, but the quality of writing is such that thoughtful younger children could approach it too.

**Kiran Millwood Hargrave**

**The Girl of Ink and Stars**

Forbidden to leave her island, Isabella dreams of the faraway lands her cartographer father once mapped. When her friend disappears, she volunteers to guide the search. The world beyond the walls is a monster-filled wasteland and beneath the dry rivers and smoking mountains, a fire demon is stirring from its sleep. Soon, following her map, her heart and an ancient myth, Isabella discovers the true end of her journey: to save the island itself.

**William Nicolson**

**The Wind Singer followed by Slaves of Mastery and  
Firesong**

In the walled city of Aramanth, exams are everything. When Kestrel Hath dares to rebel, the Chief Examiner sentences the family to the harshest punishment. Desperate to save them, Kestrel and her twin brother, Bowman, set out on a terrifying journey - to the true source of the evil that grips Aramanth. Don't miss the classic fantasy trilogy!

**Garth Nix**

**Sabriel**

The (very) long-awaited fifth instalment of The Old Kingdom series is published in October, so it is time to re-introduce this epic fantasy! An Abhorsen is someone who puts the dead back to rest, but it's in only one bloodline, and Sabriel is the Abhorsen-in-waiting. When her father goes missing, Sabriel has to leave her school and plunge into a world of danger in this hugely imaginative good vs. evil fantasy.

**Michele Paver**

**Wolf Brother followed by Spirit Walker, Soul Eater, Outcast, Oath Breaker and Ghost Hunter**

The multi-award-winning 'Chronicles of Ancient Darkness' series takes its readers back in time 6000 years to an atmospheric world of snowy wilderness, hunter-gatherer clans and unearthly superstitions. Fantasy – and yet the author's deep research into primitive peoples makes the books utterly believable. Also read her absorbing '**Gods and Warriors**' series, beginning with **The Outsiders**.

**Christopher Paolini**

**Eragon followed by Eldest, Brisingr and Inheritance**

Begun when the author was only 15, this compelling story of a boy and his dragon has enough new ideas and twists and turns to make it stand out among its competitors in the genre of quest fantasy.

**Philip Pullman**

**Northern Lights Followed by The Subtle Knife and The Amber Spyglass**

Lyra, the heroine of this award-winning trilogy, has to battle against the dark powers that hold her world in thrall. Her adventures with witches, armoured bears, angels and daemons create a classic fantasy world in which to lose yourself.

**Celia Rees**

**Witch Child**

The year is 1659, a time of fear and lies. For Mary Newbury, it is a time of desperation. While she watches, unable to intervene, her wise and beloved grandmother is falsely condemned, tortured, and hanged as a witch. ... Mary flees to the New World and struggles to keep her history a secret. Also **Pirates** and **Sorceress**.

**\*Ransom Riggs**

**Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children**

This is an unforgettable novel that mixes fiction and photography in a thrilling reading experience. As our story opens, a horrific family tragedy sets sixteen-year-old Jacob journeying to a remote island off the coast of Wales, where he discovers the crumbling ruins of Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children. As Jacob explores its abandoned bedrooms and hallways, it becomes clear that the children were more than just peculiar. And somehow impossible though it seems, they may still be alive...

**J.K Rowling**

**Harry Potter series**

If Harry Potter and his adventures at Hogwarts have passed you by, then where have you been?

**J.K. Rowling**

**Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them: The Original Screenplay**

When Magizoologist Newt Scamander arrives in New York, he intends his stay to be just a brief stopover. However, when his magical case is misplaced and some of Newt's fantastic beasts escape, it spells trouble for everyone . . .

**Kate Saunders**

**The Curse of the Chocolate Phoenix**

A secret government department, once again, needs the magical help of Oz and Lily in a desperate mission. The children must travel back in time to the height of the Blitz. Can they defeat some very dangerous supernatural creatures and save London's famous cathedral from destruction by fire?

**Paul Stewart and Chris Riddell The Edge Chronicles**

Currently consisting of 4 sequences of titles, but each book is a stand-alone adventure, full of humour and fantastically illustrated by Chris Riddell. The series covers a 600-year period, divided into three "Ages of Flight" and is set in the Edge - a vast outcropping into the sky, with a river pouring over the tip.

## **6. Historical Fiction**

**Bernard Cornwell**

**The 'Sharpe' series**

Set in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century, this series contains vivid scene setting and pithy historical detail, exhilarating action, and the larger-than-life figure of Richard Sharpe of the Light Company.

**Berlie Doherty**

**Treason**

Will Montague is a page to Prince Edward, son of Henry VIII, but after his father is accused of treason, Will is forced to flee Hampton Court and go into hiding in the back streets of London. The story of Will's brave attempts to free his father, by a two-times Carnegie medallist, brings the Tudor period vividly to life.

**Sally Gardner**

**The Red Necklace**

Despite containing elements of magic and fantasy, this book is an action-packed, historically accurate story set in the middle of the bloody French Revolution. It tells the story of Yann Margoza, a gypsy boy entangled in the follies of the aristocracy and the sufferings of ordinary people as their lives move relentlessly towards the tragic and horrific days of the Terror.

**Jamila Gavin**

**Coram Boy**

In the late 1700's the circumstances of birth meant everything. Toby and Aaron may both be living at Coram's Hospital for orphans, but Toby has been rescued from a life of slave labour in a faraway country, while Aaron is the illegitimate son of the heir to a large estate. Despite only being published in 2000, this gripping book has already achieved 'classic' status.

**Conn Iggulden**

**Wolf of the Plains**

A man without a tribe on the harsh Mongolian plains is at great risk, so the young boy abandoned with his siblings struggles to survive by gathering together a group of outsiders like him. Hunted and alone, he dreams of uniting the tribes into one nation, under his leadership. He will become Genghis Khan.

**Tania Landman**

**Hell and Highwater**

When his father is arrested and transported to the Colonies, Caleb is left alone desperately trying to clear his father's name. He eventually finds an aunt he's never met and receives a strange, cold welcome. Then a body washes up on the nearby beach and Caleb is caught up in a terrifying net of lies and intrigue. Soon he and his new family are in mortal danger.

**Marie-Louise Jensen**

**The Girl in the Mask**

Set in Georgian England, fifteen-year-old Sophia is forced by her father to give up everything she loves. She is ordered to make a new life in Bath. By day, she is trapped in the social whirl of balls and masquerades. By night, she secretly swaps her ball gowns for breeches, and turns to highway robbery to get her revenge. When one man begins to take a keen interest in her, Sophia must keep her distance, or risk unmasking her secret life.

**Elizabeth Laird**

**Crusade**

When Adam's mother dies unconfessed, he pledges to save her soul with dust from the Holy Land, so he grabs the chance to join the Crusade to reclaim Jerusalem. Salim is apprenticed to a travelling doctor from Jerusalem, but his employment leads him into Sultan Saladin's camp – and into battle with the barbaric invaders. Gradually, the two boys' lives converge, with life-changing consequences for both.

**Caroline Lawrence**

**Roman Mysteries**

The books take place in the ancient Roman Empire during the reign of the Emperor Titus. They detail the adventures of four children who solve mysteries and have adventures in Ostia, Rome, Greece, and beyond: Flavia, a Roman girl who lives in Ostia; Nubia, a slave girl from Africa; Jonathan, a Jewish boy; and Lupus, a mute beggar boy.

**Roman Quests: Escape from Rome**

It's a cause for celebration when the renowned expert on all things Roman, whose 'Roman Mysteries' have captivated readers for many years, begins a brand new series. It is AD 94. When the evil Emperor Domitian sends soldiers to seize his family's home in the middle of the night, Juba must escape with his brother and sisters and journey to distant Britannia to find a safe haven for the family.

**Brian Selznick**

**The Invention of Hugo Cabret**

Twelve-year-old Hugo lives in the walls of a busy Paris train station, where his survival depends on secrets and anonymity. But when his world suddenly interlocks with an eccentric girl and the owner of a small toy booth in the train station, Hugo's undercover life, and his most precious secret, are put in jeopardy.

**Lucy Worsley**

**My Name is Victoria**

Miss V. Conroy is good at keeping secrets. She likes to sit as quiet as a mouse, neat and discreet. But when her father sends her to Kensington Palace to become the companion to Princess Victoria, Miss V soon finds that she can no longer remain in the shadows. Torn between loyalty to her father and her growing friendship with the wilful and passionate Victoria, Miss V has a decision to make: to continue in silence, or to speak out.

## **7.Humour**

**David Baddiel**

**The Parent Agency**

Barry has had enough. He's made a list of things he doesn't like about his parents when he suddenly finds himself transported to the 'Parents Agency' to find new parents who all meet his criteria. ..Who will he pick? Full of humour and silly puns, it will make you feel grateful for your own parents. Also **AniMalcolm**.

**Malorie Blackman**

**+Operation Gadgetman!**

Beans calls her dad 'Gadgetman' because of the amazing gadgets he invents –everything from exploding biscuits to spy kits.

**Frank Cottrell Boyce**

**The Astounding Broccoli Boy**

As usual, this author has written a book full of silliness but with serious themes of self- belief and tolerance. It's about a boy who turns green and acquires superpowers, such as the ability to "slightly teleport"! If you enjoy this quirky book then try the author's other books **Millions, Framed, Cosmic** or his latest: **Sputnik's Guide to Life on Earth**.

**Desirable**

A funny story about George – unpopular at school- who receives an old bottle of aftershave from a relative for his birthday. Disappointed, George is stunned to find the contents change his life.

**Andy Griffiths**

**+The 13 Storey Treehouse**

A cartoon illustrated story about the most amazing treehouse ever. Secret science labs, catapults and a clever marshmallow machine are just some of the unexpected things found inside. Great for reluctant readers.

**Jeff Kinney**

**+Diary of a Wimpy Kid**

The first book in a series that needs no introduction, save that to say that in 2013 it was voted - by children - the Blue Peter Best Children's Book of the Last 10 Years.The 11th in the series,

Double Down, is published in November 2016.

**Stephen Pastis**

**+Timmy Failure: Mistakes Were Made**

Timmy Failure, with the help of his polar bear, Total, runs the "best" detective agency in town – Total Failure, Inc. .Timmy already has plans for world domination, despite his decidedly unorthodox methods. Perfect for fans of Wimpy Kid and Big Nate.

**L.Pichon**

**+The Brilliant World of Tom Gates**

Tom Gates' exercise books are full of his doodles, cartoons and thoughts, as well as comments from his long-suffering teacher. The hilarious results, now in ten volumes, have won many awards!

**Jeremy Strong**

**+My Brother's Famous Bottom**

Nicholas's dad has a plan to make some fast cash. Some disposable-nappy people are looking for a beautiful botty for their new advert and all his baby brother has to do is pass the audition! This author's daft humour is perfectly pitched for the younger reader, and older readers should try **Weird and Stuff** by the same author.

**Jamie Thomson**

**Dark Lord: The Teenage Years followed by A Fiend in Need and Eternal Detention**

Imagine an evil Dark Lord, defeated and hurled into the Pit of Uttermost Despair...and landing in a supermarket car park in the body of a 13-year old schoolboy! This hilarious book, which won the **2012 Roald Dahl Funny Prize**, follows Dirk Lloyd (as he is known on earth), as he struggles to reconcile his evil soul with his puny human body.

**Sue Townsend**

**\*The Diary of Adrian Mole**

**David Walliams**

**Gansta Granny, Ratburger, Billionaire Boy, The Boy in the Dress, The Midnight Gang and The Worst Kids in the World, Demon Dentist  
Awful Auntie**

Stella Saxby is the sole heir to Saxby Hall. But awful Aunt Alberta and her giant owl will stop at nothing to get it from her. Luckily Stella has a secret – and slightly spooky – weapon up her sleeve! Another wonderful Walliams book - full of funny lists, silly words and wicked humour.

## **8.Memoirs**

**Bill Bryson**

**\*The Life and Times of the Thunderbolt Kid**

This is a very funny memoir of the author's childhood in mid-1950s Iowa. Though some of his experiences are unfamiliar to someone born in another decade and another continent, the book relates what growing up is like for an average boy in an average family: making friends, going to school, imagining yourself to be a superhero...

**Matt Dickinson**

**The Death Zone**

1996: Ten expeditions from around the world were preparing for their push on the summit of Mount Everest. Yet 24 hours later, eight of those climbers were dead, victims of a devastating storm. Against all odds, film-maker Matt Dickinson managed to battle through hurricane-force winds to reach the summit and this gripping book is the result.

**Roald Dahl**

**Boy followed by Going Solo**

Roald Dahl would have turned 100 this year, and his wonderful memoir recounts the story of his childhood – the funny stories and the tragedies, the glorious holidays and the grisly days at boarding school. His later experiences as a fighter pilot in World War II are told with equal brilliance in *Going Solo*.

**Gerald Durrell**

**My Family and Other Animals**

This ever-popular classic contains the amusing memoirs of an English boy growing up on Corfu. Gerald collects all kinds of animals and insects and brings them back to the house, much to his family's dismay.

**Anne Frank**

**Diary of Anne Frank**

Anne Frank kept a diary from June 1942 to August 1944 whilst hiding from the Nazis. It has now become one of the most famous memoirs ever published.

**Bear Grylls**

**Mud, Sweat and Tears**

Bear Grylls has survived in dangerous environments few would dare to visit. From secret childhood missions to climb the town's school buildings, to starring in his own TV series and becoming Chief Scout, this is the thrilling story of everyone's favourite real-life action man. **The Junior edition of this book is the one to read.**

**Judith Kerr**

**When Hitler Stole Pink Rabbit**

This largely autobiographical trilogy is also one of the best books written about World War II. It is a touching story of how a child's innocence was stolen by Hitler and the Nazis - along with her pink rabbit.

**Adeline Yen Mah**

**Chinese Cinderella**

The author grew up in a relatively wealthy Chinese family in the 40s and 50s, yet the privileges that money would normally give such a child passed her by as she grew up in a family who simply did not love her.

**Michael Morpurgo**

**Singing for Mrs. Pettigrew**

Interspersing short autobiographical reminiscences with delightful stories, this is not just a memoir, but a

book of short stories and a guide to writing from a master of the art. It should appeal to everyone - of whatever age.

**Joe Simpson**

**Touching The Void**

During an ascent of the 21,000ft Siula Grande peak in the Peruvian Andes, Joe Simpson and his climbing partner, Simon Yates, had achieved the summit before the first disaster struck. What happened next is the subject of this riveting book.

**Malala Yousafzai**

**I Am Malala**

When the Taliban took control of the Swat Valley, one girl fought for her right to an education. On Tuesday, 9 October 2012, she almost paid the ultimate price when she was shot in the head at point-blank range. Malala Yousafzai's extraordinary journey has taken her from a remote valley in northern Pakistan to the halls of the United Nations. She has become a global symbol of peaceful protest and is the youngest ever winner of the Nobel Peace Prize. **This is the junior edition of her best-selling autobiography.**

## **9. Mysteries and Detection**

**Malorie Blackman**

**Hacker**

When Vicky's father is accused of stealing over a million pounds from the bank where he works, she is determined to prove his innocence. But how? There's only one way - to attempt to break into the bank's computer files. Even if Vicky is the best hacker in the world, will she find the real thief before they find her?

**Siobhan Dowd**

**The London Eye Mystery**

Ted and his sister Kat don't usually get along, but when their cousin vanishes whilst riding on the London Eye they become sleuthing partners to follow a trail of clues across London in a desperate bid to find their cousin. Ultimately it comes down to Ted, whose brain works in its own unique way, to find the key to the mystery.

**Jack Higgins**

**Sure Fire**

A life can be changed in a split second. For 15-year-old twins Rich and Jade, the death of their mother in a tragic car accident has uncovered a surprising secret. Also **Death Run**

**Fleur Hitchcock**

**Murder in Midwinter**

The thrills come thick and fast in this nail-biting action drama that takes the reader from busy London to rural Wales. The book finds the time to take in the themes of city/country divides, sibling bonds and family rifts. In fact, it is as much about a family coming together as it is about ramping up the tension.

**Andrew Lane**

**Young Sherlock Holmes: Death Cloud**

This series imagines the iconic detective as the brilliant but troubled teenage son of an army officer. When his father is posted to India, Sherlock is sent to stay with his eccentric aunt and uncle, where he uncovers his first murder and meets his first villain!

**Louis Sachar**

**Holes**

Stanley Yelnats' family has always been unlucky, so he is not too surprised when he is sent to Camp Green Lake Juvenile Detention Centre and told to dig holes, five foot wide by five foot deep. The evil warden claims that it is character building, but this is a lie and Stanley must dig up the truth. Also read *Small Steps*, the sequel to this famous book.

**Lauren St John**

**Dead Man's Cove**

When orphaned Laura Marlin moves to live with her uncle in Cornwall, she longs for a life of excitement just like the characters in her favourite detective novels. Her chance comes sooner than she expects...This first book won the 2011 Blue Peter Book of the Year Award, and all the books in the series are well written and enormously gripping.

**Robin Stevens**

**Murder Most Unladylike followed by Arsenic for Tea, First Class Murder, Jolly Foul Play and Mistletoe and Murder.**

When Daisy Wells and Hazel Wong set up their own detective agency they can't find anything exciting to investigate. Then Hazel finds the dead body of Science mistress, Miss Bell, in the Gym. Now they have a murder and more than one person at Deepdean School For Girls has a motive!

## **10.Myths and Legends**

**Susan Cooper**

**'The Dark is Rising' Sequence**

If you enjoy myths and legends, you'll love this classic fantasy series. Magic, evil, kings and wizards, the Holy Grail, and the power of the 'Old Ones' to infect the modern world... It's all here in a sequence that starts with **Over Sea Under Stone**.

**Alan Gibbons**

**Shadow of the Minotaur**

Phoenix is a death-defying hero of the Greek myths, battling Medusa and the invincible Minotaur...but only when he's not being bullied at school. Real life meets mythology meets fantasy in this story about a virtual reality game that becomes all too real.

**Philip Reeve**

**Here Lies Arthur**

Gwyna is just a small girl when she is bound in service to Myrddin the bard, yet she is an integral part of his plan to build the very human Arthur into the mythical hero his people need him to be.The triumph of this award-winning book is its ability to tell the story of Arthur in realistic terms without spoiling the charm of the myth.

**Rick Riordan**

**Percy Jackson and the Lightning Thief followed by The Sea of Monsters, The Titan's Curse, The Battle of the Labyrinth and The Last Olympian**

"Look, I didn't want to be a half-blood." So begins one of the most popular children's series in recent years, as Percy Jackson learns that he is not just an ordinary teenager, but a 'demigod' who must help avert a war among the gods of Olympus. Those feeling bereft at the end of this brilliant series can read on in the 'Heroes of Olympus' series.

**Rick Riordan**

**The Red Pyramid followed by Throne of Fire and The Serpent's Shadow**

Percy Jackson fought Greek gods. Now the gods of Egypt are waking in the modern world, and the three books in 'The Kane Chronicles' contain the author's trademark action, suspense and humour! If you prefer Norse mythology, then the author's got that covered too - in his new series about Magnus Chase, beginning with The Sword of Summer and continuing this October with The Hammer of Thor.

**\*Marcus Sedgewick**

**The Ghosts of Heaven**

**Shortlisted for the CILIP Carnegie Medal 2016**

It's there when a girl walks through the forest, the moist green air clinging to her skin. There centuries later in a pleasant green dale, hiding the treacherous waters of Golden Beck that take Anna, who they call a witch. There on the other side of the world, where a mad poet watches the waves and knows the horrors they hide, and far into the future as Keir Bowman realises his destiny. Each takes their next step in life. None will ever go back to the same place. The spiral has existed as long as time has existed. Follow the ways of infinity to discover its meaning.

**Rosemary Sutcliff**

**Beowulf: Dragonslayer**

In this thrilling re-telling of the Anglo-Saxon legend, Rosemary Sutcliff recounts Beowulf's most terrifying quests: against Grendel the man-wolf, against the hideous sea-hag and, most courageous of all - his fight to the death with the monstrous fire-drake.

## **11. Personal Journeys**

**Malorie Blackman**

**Cloud Busting**

Sam doesn't want to be friends with Davey, he thinks Davey's a moron. But one day Davey saves Sam's life and a bond is formed between them. Little by little Sam has to admit, when it's just the two of them, Davey is a lot of fun. But then something terrible happens to Davey. Told in verse, in first person, this is the touching story of an extraordinary friendship, that changes two boys' lives for ever.

**\*Tim Bowler**

**Game Changer**

Mikey is frightened of open spaces and would much rather curl up in his room. In an

attempt to overcome his fear he decides to accompany his sister to a noisy, public place, but things go badly wrong when he encounters a gang and witnesses something terrible... Like other titles by this author, this taut thriller is well-suited to **Year 8 readers** who want a short read but a powerful one.

**Zana Fraillon**

### **The Bone Sparrow**

Born in a refugee camp, all Subhi knows of the world is that he's at least 19 fence diamonds high and at night he dreams that the sea finds its way to his tent, bringing with it unusual treasures. One day it brings him Jimmie. Carrying a notebook that she's unable to read and wearing a sparrow made out of bone around her neck - both talismans of her family's past and the mother she's lost - Jimmie strikes up an unlikely friendship with Subhi beyond the fence.

**Elizabeth Laird**

### **Red Sky In the Morning**

Anna struggles to come to terms with having a disabled brother. This short but thought provoking story charts Anna's journey from embarrassment to a deep love. This is a tear jerker! Based on the author's own experiences with her brother.

**\*Mark Haddon**

### **Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night Time**

This famous book has won many awards including the **Whitbread Book of the Year Award 2003**. The narrator is Christopher Boone who has Asperger's Syndrome: he knows a lot about maths and very little about human beings.

**Ann M.Martin**

### **How to Look for a Lost Dog**

11-year-old Rose is autistic and struggles to understand her classmates. But when her father gives her a stray dog, which she names Rain, the dog becomes her best friend, her anchor in a confusing world. So when Rain goes missing during a storm, Rose refuses to stop looking for her.

**Patrick Ness**

### **A Monster Calls**

A novel filled with love, loss and hope. Conor has the same dream every night, ever since his mother first fell ill, ever since she started the treatments that don't quite seem to be working. But tonight is different. Tonight, when he wakes, there's a visitor at his window. It's ancient, elemental, a force of nature. And it wants the most dangerous thing of all from Conor. It wants the truth.

**R.J Palacio**

### **Wonder**

Auggie wants to be an ordinary ten-year-old. He does ordinary things - eating ice cream, playing on his Xbox. He feels ordinary - inside. But ordinary kids don't make other ordinary kids run away screaming in playgrounds. Ordinary kids aren't stared at wherever they go.

**Helen Peters**

**The Secret Hen House Theatre**

Since the death of her mother, Hannah's family life has been somewhat chaotic. Her father is absorbed by running their dilapidated farm, and the four children are increasingly left to their own devices.

**Sally Nicholls**

**Ways to Live Forever**

Sam is eleven years old. He collects stories and fantastic facts. He wants to know about UFOs and horror movies and airships and ghosts and scientists, and how it feels to kiss a girl. And because he has leukaemia he wants to know the facts about dying. Sam needs answers to the questions nobody will answer. Funny and honest, it is one of the most powerful and uplifting books you will ever read.

**Louis Sachar**

**There is a Boy in the Girls' Bathroom**

Bradley Chalkers is a bully. He tells lies and picks fights. The teachers say he has "serious behaviour problems." Yet the new school counsellor thinks Bradley could change, if only he wasn't afraid to try. A deft and funny book about a serious issue.

**Kim Slater**

**A Seven Letter Word**

Since Finlay's mother vanished two years ago his stutter has become almost unbearable. Bullied at school and ignored by his father, the only way to get the words out is by writing long letters to his ma which he knows she will never read, and by playing Scrabble online

**\*Dodie Smith**

**I Capture The Castle**

Better known for **101 Dalmatians**, this is a coming of age novel is most suited to Year 8 girls. It begins with the captivating line "I am sitting writing this with my feet in the sink". The family have no money, but live in a crumbling wreck of a castle; while their father struggles with writer's block, his daughters struggle with growing up. Of its time but still appealing to an avid reader.

**Jenny Valentine**

**Fire Colour One**

Iris's father, Ernest, is at the end of his life and she hasn't even met him. Her best friend, Thurston, is somewhere on the other side of the world. Everything she thought she knew is up in flames. Now her mother has declared war and means to get her hands on Ernest's priceless art collection. But Ernest has other ideas. There are things he wants Iris to know after he's gone. And the truth has more than one way of coming to light.

**Benjamin Zephaniah**

**Face**

Martin Turner is 'Mr.Cool' and his looks are very important to him. He is the leader

of a local gang and this confers on him a powerful status. His life is transformed after a car accident that leaves him facially disfigured from burns.

**\*Melvin Burgess**

**Billy Elliot**

Set during the 1984-5 miners' strike the story follows the fortunes of Billy Elliot who struggles against his family and background to become a ballerina. Best known as a film and stage play, but still a good read with energy and wit.

## **12.School Stories**

**Anthony Buckeridge**

**Jennings goes to School**

The books in which J.C.T. Jennings first made his debut over 60 years ago, are still fresh and funny for each generation of prep school boys! In this first title, Jennings and his best friend are new boys at Linbury Court Prep School, and it's not long before they start causing havoc!

**Gillian Cross**

**The Demon Headmaster followed by The Prime Minister's Brain, The Revenge of the Demon Headmaster, The Demon Headmaster Strikes Again, The Demon Headmaster Takes Over and Facing the Demon Headmaster**

The children at Dinah's new school are very robotic, and she soon realises that they are under the demonic power of the creepy Headmaster. Now she must try to stop his evil plan to dominate not just the school, but the nation. Although first published over 30 years ago, this series remains fresh and exciting - and not too creepy!

**Anthony Horowitz**  
**Groosham Grange**

**Groosham Grange followed by Return to**

Sent to Groosham Grange as a last resort by his parents, David Eliot soon discovers that his new school is a very weird place. New pupils are made to sign their names in blood, the French teacher disappears every full moon and the assistant headmaster keeps something very chilling in his room... A dark and witty read for all ages.

**Gene Kemp**

**The Turbulent Term of Tyke Tyler**

Wherever best-friends Tyke Tiler and Danny Price are, there is usually trouble – and it's usually trouble that Tyke has to sort out. Their last term at Cricklepit Combined School is full of the usual fun and madness, until Tyke learns that much more is at stake. This former Carnegie Medal book is both entertaining and thought-provoking.

**Andy Mulligan**  
**Ribblestrop Forever**

**Ribblestrop followed by Return to Ribblestrop and**

It's hard to categorize this tale about a disastrous school whose pupils can be counted on the fingers of one hand, but it's a hugely entertaining read, whose first sequel won the 2011 Guardian Children's Fiction Prize. As one reviewer wrote: "Ribblestrop has the 'crazy school' appeal of Hogwarts and the grim humour of Lemony Snicket"!

**Jill Murphy**

**+The Worst Witch**

Follows Mildred Hubble's adventures as she trains to be a witch. The teachers have fabulous names such as Miss Hardbroom and Miss Bat. A great new series on the BBC should bring more readers to this cracking collection of easier reads for younger girls.

**Jenny Nimmo**

**Midnight for Charlie Bone**

Charlie doesn't want to believe he can hear the voices of people in photographs, but his horrible aunts are delighted with his magical talent and pack him off to a school for children with 'gifts'. This is the first in a wonderful series of eight books.

## **13.Short Stories**

**\*Roald Dahl**

**Skin and Other Stories**

Dahl's darkly funny stories were written for adults, but this selection has been chosen as an introduction for teenagers to his spellbinding stories with a twist at the end. If you don't think you like short stories, these will probably change your opinion!

**Anthony Horowitz**

**Horowitz Horror**

Classy horror stories from a powerful writer. They manage to be subtle, imaginative, sometimes funny and always chilling. Also look out for More Horowitz Horror.

**Paul Jennings**

**Undone**

Also: **Unreal!, Unbelievable! and many other titles**

Paul Jennings's short stories are funny, moving and refreshingly unpredictable. They are a great choice for any reluctant readers and appeal to all ages.

**Rudyard Kipling**

**Just So Stories**

How did the camel get his hump? Why won't cats do as they are told? How did an inquisitive elephant change the lives of elephants everywhere? These are wonderful stories full of quirky, offbeat humour that should be part of every reader's library.

## **14.Science Fiction**

**Douglas Adams**

**The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy**

Arthur's friend Ford Prefect comes along and tells Arthur three important things: 1) He, Ford, is an alien from Beetlegeuse; 2) He, Ford, is a writer for the Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy, and 3) The Earth is about to be destroyed. Ford helps Arthur to escape with him on a Vogon ship.

**Eoin Colfer**

**Airman**

This historical fantasy, shortlisted for the 2009 Carnegie Medal, tells the story of Conor Broekhart, a boy who was born to fly. In an age of discovery and invention, many dreamed of flying, but for Conor flight was his destiny. In one dark night on the Island of Great Saltee, a cruel betrayal destroyed his life and stole his future.

**Sharon Gosling**

**The Diamond Thief** followed by *The Ruby Airship* and *The Sapphire Cutlass*

When 16-year-old circus performer Rémy Brunel is brought to London to steal a famous diamond on behalf of her evil circus master, she finds herself pitted against a young detective called Thaddeus Rec. This exciting book is part historical fiction, part fantasy, part steampunk - and well worth trying.

**Madeleine L'Engle**

**A Wrinkle in Time**

When Charles goes searching through a "wrinkle in time" for his lost father, he finds an evil planet where all life is enslaved by a huge pulsating brain known as "it". This is the first book in the 'Time Quartet', a classic of children's science fiction.

**Philip Reeve**

**Mortal Engines** followed by *Predator's Gold*, *Infernal Devices* and *A Darkling Plain*

This multi-award winning quartet is set in a future world that relies on old technology and where mobile cities fight for survival. The first instalment introduces Tom, who falls from the fast-moving city of London and is forced to survive on the 'Bare Earth'.

**Jules Verne**

**Around the World In Eighty Days**

This book, along with other Verne classics, was written before the great scientific advances of the twentieth century. Yet, far from seeming dated, his exciting books prove him to have been a true visionary. If Steampunk is basically Victorian science fiction, then Jules Verne was its true founder!

**Mark Walden**

**Earthfall**

Sam wakes to see strange vessels gathered in the skies around London and people streaming past towards the enormous ships, which emit a persistent noise. Only Sam seems immune to the signal. It is only when Sam is rescued by a band of other teen survivors that he discovers the truth behind the invasion and how he can fight back...

## **15.Sports Stories**

**Claire Balding**

**The Racehorse Who Wouldn't Gallop**

The rags to riches story of Charlie who buys the racehorse no-one else wants and goes on to enter him in the Derby. With a terrific cast of characters, animal and human, it's a properly heart-warming story. Heaven in a feed-bucket for pony-mad readers, this will win everyone's heart!

**Bob Cattell**

**Glory in the Cup**

Hooker, Cal, Erica and the rest are all big cricket fans. When a teacher suggests they form a proper team the Glory Gardens XI is born. This is the first title in the 'Glory Garden' series, which is recommended by the English Schools Cricket Association.

**Morris Gleitzman**

**Extra Time**

This best-selling Australian author always manages to bring humour to serious topics, and this is no exception. In this charming, easy-to-read book, he introduces us to a marauding fluffy mascot, a wise-as-an-owl landlady and a WAG called Terrine, in an irresistible story of how one boy helps stressed-out top footballers find the fun in a kickabout again, with help from his fearsome agent (and little sister), Bridie.

**Tom Palmer**

**+Foul Play followed by Dead Ball, Off Side, Killer**

**Pass and Own Goal**

Danny Harte is obsessed with two things – watching football and tackling crime. So when his hero, the legendary footballer Sam Roberts is kidnapped, Danny gets on the case, and fast! Younger boys, or those who want an easier read, should also try the author's brilliant 'Football Academy' series, beginning with Boys United.

**Tom Palmer**

**+Rugby Academy: Combat Zone followed by  
Surface to Air and Deadlocked**

Woody's mad on football, and dreams of playing for his country one day. His dad is a fighter pilot heading off to war in the Middle East, and Woody suddenly finds himself in a boarding school for the children of the armed forces - where everyone is rugby mad. He is worried and unhappy; will rugby be his saviour? This 'dyslexia friendly' series will grab any sports-mad reader!

**Gerard Siggins**

**Rugby Spirit followed by Rugby Warrior, Rugby Rebel and Rugby Flyer**

Eoin has just joined a new school where everyone is mad about rugby, yet he has never held a rugby ball before. With new rules to learn, new friends to make and new teachers to get a handle on, he really doesn't need to have Richie Duffy, the resident bully, picking him out as his latest target. There are relatively few rugby stories around (lots about football!), and this is a great read for any keen sportsmen.

## **16. Wartime**

**Martin Booth**

**Music on the Bamboo Radio**

Nicholas Highgate, separated from his parents during the Japanese invasion of Hong Kong, is smuggled to the mainland by his Chinese nurse and disguised as a Chinese boy. As he grows to manhood he witnesses the atrocities and deprivations of the Japanese occupation and is himself drawn into the Communist resistance activities. The book ends when the Japanese surrender and Nicholas is reunited with what remains of his family.

**John Boyne**

**The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas**

Nine-year-old Bruno knows nothing of the Final Solution and the Holocaust. He is oblivious to the appalling cruelties being inflicted on the people of Europe by his country. All he knows is that he has been moved from a comfortable home in Berlin to a house in a desolate area where there is nothing to do and no one to play with. Until he meets Shmuel, a boy who lives a strange parallel existence on the other side of the adjoining wire fence and who, like the other people there, wears a uniform of striped pyjamas.

**The Boy at the Top of the Mountain**

Like the author's other novel set in World War 11, *The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas*, this is a deceptively simple book with a very young protagonist. It is the story of Pierrot, a young French boy who, after being orphaned, goes to live with his aunt who is a servant in Adolf Hitler's mountaintop home in Austria – the Berghof or 'Eagle's Nest'. As Pierrot is taken under Hitler's wing, we watch with mounting unease his struggle between unquestioning devotion to Hitler and loyalty to his old friends and family.

**Paul Dowswell**

**Bomber also Eleven Eleven and Auslander**

Harry Friedman is the gunner on an American Flying Fortress stationed in East Anglia. World War II is raging and every air crew faces terrible odds on bombing missions. To stay alive, Harry will need luck on his side and courage. This is just the most recent of the author's brilliant wartime novels, which include *Eleven Eleven* and *Auslander*.

**Michael Foreman**

**+ War Game**

An illustrated children's novel about a football game in World War 1.

**Morris Gleitzman**

**Once followed by Then, Now, After and Soon**

It is 1942 and 9-year old Felix escapes from his orphanage in Poland in a desperate attempt to find his Jewish parents who, he believes, are still alive and in danger. The book brilliantly captures the thinking of a small boy in a frightening.

**Ann Holm**

**I Am David**

David escapes from a concentration camp and flees across Europe. He is utterly alone - whom can he trust? What will await him back home? And all the while he knows that they may catch up with him.

**Elizabeth Laird**

**Oranges in No Man's Land**

Ayesha and her young brothers find themselves refugees in a bombed out flat in Beirut with only an elderly grandmother to care for them. When their Grandmother becomes seriously ill, Ayesha quickly realises that no-one else will take responsibility and she undertakes a perilous journey across no man's land to enemy-held territory in search of a doctor and vital medicines.

**Michele Magorian**

**Goodnight Mr. Tom**

Willie is evacuated to the country at the start of World War Two. A sad, deprived child, he begins to flourish under the care of old Tom Oakley, but his happiness is shattered by a summons from his mother back in London. This touching children's classic deserves to be read by all.

**Michael Morpurgo**

**War Horse**

The First World War is revealed in all its complexity and brutality through the adventures of a farm horse from Devon.

**Private Peaceful**

This brilliant book, which won the Red House Children's Book Award 2004, tells the poignant and moving story of a young soldier, Private Thomas Peaceful, as it charts the last eight hours of a young life, blending the innocence of a rural childhood with the horror of a World War 1 battlefield.

**Eagle in the Snow**

Drawing on the true story of Private Henry Tandey, VC, the author interweaves fiction and history in the way he does so well. In the middle of World War II a young boy and his mother are on a train when they come under attack from German aircraft. As the train waits in a tunnel for the attack to pass, a strange man tells a story about a young soldier in the First World War – a soldier who had the opportunity to kill Hitler but saved him with compassion...

## **+Friend or Foe**

Evacuated from London, David and Tucky feel like the war is a long way away from their rural existence until a plane crash that makes them responsible for the fate of two German pilots.

### **William Osborne**

### **Hitler's Angel**

Otto and Leni have escaped to England from Nazi Germany, but now the British want them to go back on a secret operation codenamed Wolfsangel. Their mission is kidnap a girl whose identity is such that if they succeed, it could change the course of the war. Packed with enthralling historical details, this is a riveting read.

### **Jill Paton Walsh**

### **The Dolphin Crossing**

Pat and his friend John both know the risks they are running in taking a boat across the Channel in the spring of 1940. But they also know they have to do something to help the British soldiers stranded in Dunkirk.

### **James Riordan**

### **When the Guns Fall Silent**

The author was one of our most powerful writers of war stories, and this book has been re-published to mark the centenary of the start of WWI. Based on the now well-known story of the Christmas Day football game, it is an outspoken.

### **Kate Saunders**

### **Five Children and the Western Front**

A sequel to E. Nesbit's Five Children and It, set on the eve of the First World War. The five children have grown up - war will change their lives for ever. Cyril is off to fight, Anthea is at art college, Robert is a Cambridge scholar and Jane is at high school. The Lamb is the grown up age of 11, and he has a little sister, Edith, in tow. The sand fairy has become a creature of stories ... until he suddenly reappears. The Psammead is here for a reason, and his magic might have a more serious purpose.

### **Ian Serraillier**

### **The Silver Sword**

Alone in a Poland devastated by World War Two, Jan and his three friends cling to the silver sword as a symbol of hope as they search for their parents. This moving account of an epic journey gives a remarkable insight into the reality of war.

### **Sandi Toksvig**

### **Hitler's Canary**

April 1940. German troops are pouring into Denmark., and the Danes decide to take action, Bamse and his family take part in one of history's most dramatic rescues: smuggling Denmark's Jewish population across the water to Sweden, and safety.

**Robert Westall**

**The Machine Gunners**

When Chas McGill finds a crashed German bomber in the woods complete with machine gun, he knows he has not only beaten his rival in the race to find the best war souvenir, but he can also play a role in the war.

**Kingdom by the Sea**

When a bomb during an air raid destroys Harry's home and kills his family, he knows that he is all alone in the world and has only himself to rely on. Anxious that he will be sent to live with his fussy Cousin Elsie he goes on the run across the war-battered land of North East England, his only friend in his journey a stray dog that he meets on the beach. Will Harry ever find a place to call home again, or will he be on the run forever?

**\*Markus Zusak**

**The Book Thief**

In Nazi Germany in 1939 Death has never been busier. Liesel, a nine-year-old girl, is living with a foster family, as her parents have been taken away to a concentration camp. Death narrates her story, and that of the other ordinary Germans around her, with a slightly confused, bemused air over the antics of humanity

## **17.Recent Award Winners**

**Pamela Butchart**

**My Head Teacher is a Vampire Rat**

**Federation of Children's Book Groups Book Awards 2016 (Younger Readers)**

Izzy and her friends have decided that their new head teacher is a vampire rat, based on him being slightly scary, having the blinds drawn in his office during the day and the fact he's banned garlic bread at lunchtimes. Now they just have to come up with a plan to vanquish him... Also try other immensely readable books by this author, such as The Spy Who Loved School Dinners, which was voted Blue Peter Book of the Year in 2015.

**Sarah Crossan**

**One**

**Carnegie Medal 2016**

Grace and Tippi are conjoined twins, united in blood and bone. It's a situation that most of us could never begin to understand, and yet the story of their lives – as narrated by Grace – seems almost normal as they make friends and deal with everyday family life. Heart-wrenching and heart-warming in equal measure, this unusual book is also written entirely in free verse. If you enjoy this, also look out for this author's Apple and Rain which won the Federation of Children's Book Groups Book Award 2016 for older readers.

**Gill Lewis**

**Scarlet Ibis**

### **Little Rebels Children's Book Award 2015**

This new award is for books which celebrate diversity, equality and inclusion, and this uplifting book is a worthy winner. Scarlet is used to looking after her brother, Red. He's special - different. So when Scarlet and Red are split up an adventure is sure to follow.

**Ross MacKenzie**

**The Nowhere Emporium**

### **Blue Peter Book of the Year 2016, Scottish Children's Book Award 2016 (8-11)**

Daniel Holmes is on the run from the bullies in his children's home when he ducks into a mysterious 'Emporium'. The next day, intrigued, he makes his way back there - but the owner is amazed, as no-one is supposed to remember visiting the shop. So begins Daniel's magical adventure in a shop that offers wonders to people across the globe and over the centuries.

**Patrick Ness**

**The Knife of Never Letting Go (First book in The Chaos Walking Trilogy)**

### **Guardian Children's Fiction Prize 2008**

Imagine you're the only boy in a town of men. And you can hear everything they think. And they can hear everything you think. Imagine you don't fit in with their plans... Todd Hewitt is just one month away from the birthday that will make him a man. But his town has been keeping secrets from him. Secrets that are going to force him to run...

**Sally Nicholls**

**An Island of Our Own**

### **Blue Peter Book of the Year 2016, Scottish Children's Book Award 2016 (8-11)**

Siblings Jonathan, Holly and Davy have been struggling to survive since the death of their mother, and are determined to avoid being taken into care. When the family's wealthy but eccentric Great-Aunt Irene has a stroke, they go to visit her. Unable to speak or write, she gives Holly some photographs that might lead them to an inheritance that could solve all their problems. But they're not the only ones after the treasure.

**Katherine Rundell**

**Rooftoppers**

### **Waterstone's Children's Book Prize 2014 (5-12), Blue Peter Best Story Award 2014**

In this utterly charming, rather quirky book, one-year-old Sophie is found floating in a cello case after a shipwreck, and is taken in by her rescuer - a generous and very polite Englishman, who lives by his own rules. It's a fairy tale of sorts (but without any fairies) about what can happen when you never ignore life's 'possibles'.

**Hot off the press:**

**The Explorers**

A plane crash in the Amazon leads four children on an amazing journey of discovery.

**Robin Stevens**

**The Guggenheim Mystery**

This well-known author of detective stories has written a book based on the idea for a novel by Siobhan Dowd. Mr.Mac says it is brilliant!

### **18.Dyslexia Friendly**

Please look on the following websites and ask the librarian for help.

Barrington Stoke Publications

British Dyslexia Association

### **19.Your Recommendations For Next Year's 'Get Reading List'.**

To make a recommendation go to the Library Home Page.