



SHSSFC English Dept Recommended Reads Year 7 & 8

Action, Adventure, Mystery & Thrillers

Storm Catchers by Tim Bowler

The Terrible Thing [...] Barnaby Rooker - John Boyne

Bodyguard or *Gamer* (& sequels) by Chris Bradford*

Alone by DJ Brazier

Mortal Chaos or *Lie, Kill, Walk Away* –M Dickinson

The London Eye Mystery by Siobhan Dowd

The Girl Who Stole An Elephant by Nizrana Farook

The Boy Who Flew by Fleur Hitchcock

High Rise Mystery & Mic Drop by Sharna Jackson

Girl Missing (& sequels) by Sophie McKenzie

The Recruit (& sequels) by Robert Muchamore*

Hatchet by Gary Paulsen

Ruby in the Smoke by Phillip Pullman

Wolf Wilder or *The Explorer* by Katherine Rundell

Murder Most Unladylike (& sequels) – R Stevens

Lost (Choose Your Own Adventure) -T Turner.*

Dystopian & Science Fiction

The Infinite by Patience Agbabi

Ink (& sequels) by Alice Broadway

Where the River Runs Gold by Sita Brahmachari

Gone or *BRZK* (& sequels) -Michael Grant

The Giver and *Gathering Blue* by Lois Lowry

The Dog Runner by Bren Macdibble

Killer T by Robert Muchamore

The Knife of Never Letting Go (& sequels)-P Ness

Railhead & Mortal Engines (& sequels)-P Reeve

Scythe, Unwind, Dry (& sequels) – N Shusterman

Destination Earth by Ali Sparkes

Contagion or *Slated* (& sequels) by Teri Terry

The 5th Wave (& sequels) by Rick Yancey

Fantasy, Magic Realism, Horror & Ghost

Children of Blood and Bone by Tomi Adeyemi

The House With Chicken Legs (& *Girl/Bear*)-S. Anderson

Asha & The Spirit Bird by Jasbinder Bilan

Mind Writer by Steve Cole*

Artemis Fowl (& sequels) by Eoin Colfer

Rumblestar by Abi Elphinstone

Who Let the Gods Out (& sequels) by Maz Evans

Ranger's Apprentice or *Brotherband* - J Flanagan

Inkheart (& sequels) by Cornelia Funke

The Graveyard Book by Neil Gaiman

Blackberry Blue by Jamila Gavin

Brightstorm: A Sky-Ship Adventure by Vashti Hardy

Girl of Ink and Stars by Kiran Millwood Hargrave

Skulduggery Pleasant (& sequels) by Derek Landy

Eragon (& sequels) by Christopher Paolini

Tales of Terror, Mister Creecher –Chris Priestley

Northern Lights (& sequels) by Phillip Pullman

Goth Girl (& sequels) by Chris Riddell*

Mrs Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children -Riggs

Zom-B or *Cirque du Freak* (& sequels) by D. Shan*

Oh My Gods by Alexandra Sheppard

Black Panther the Young Prince by Roland L Smith

The Edge Chronicles by P Stewart and C Riddell

Humorous books

Little Badman & [...] Killer Aunties - Humza Arshad

Millions, Cosmic or Broccoli Boy by Frank C Boyce

The Last Kids on Earth (& sequels) by Max Brallier*

Fenway and Hattie by Victoria Cole*

Adventures of a Wimpy Vampire(&more)-T.Collins*

The 13-Storey Treehouse (& series) by A Griffiths*

Cookie & the Most Annoying Boy... by Konnie Huq*

Enginerds (& sequels) by Jarrett Lerner*

Disaster Diaries: Zombies (&sequels)-R McGeddon*

The Accidental Billionaire series- T McLaughlin

The World of Norm series by Jonathon Meres*

Accidental Trouble: Planet Omar by Zanib Mian

Middle School series by James Patterson*

Tom Gates series by Liz Pichon (dyslexia-friendly)*

Big Nate series by Lincoln Peirce*

Killer Animals series by Tracey Turner

Relationships & Tough Situations

Cyborg Cat (& sequels)- Ade Adepitan*

Boy Underwater by Adam Baron

Noughts and Crosses, Hacker, Boys Don't Cry or Pig-Heart Boy by Malorie Blackman

Blubber or anything by Judy Blume

Artichoke Hearts or *Jasmine Skies* -S. Brahmachari

A Pocketful of Stars by Aisha Bushby

New Kid or *Class Act* by Jerry Craft

One, Apple & Rain, Moonrise, Toffee -S Crossan

Bud Not Buddy by Christopher Paul Curtis

Stella By Starlight or *Blended* by Sharon Draper

Running on Empty by S.E. Durrant
Mind the Gap, Being Billy or Saving Daisy - P Earle*
The Many Worlds of Albie Bright –Chris Edge
Mockingbird by Kathryn Erskine
Tulip Touch, Goggle Eyes or Flour Babies by A. Fine
Lenny’s Book of Everything by Karen Foxlee
Check Mates & The Bubble Boy by Stewart Foster
Unstoppable by Dan Freedman*
One Crazy Summer by Rita Williams-Garcia
George by Alex Gino
Tall Story or Shine by Candy Gourlay
The Island at the End of Everything–KM Hargrave
After the Fire by Will Hill
Boy in the Tower by Polly Ho-Yen
A Different Dog by Paul Jennings*
Red Sky in the Morning by Elizabeth Laird
Scarlet Ibis by Gill Lewis
Out of Heart by Irfan Master
Lark (& series) by Anthony McGowan *
A Monster Calls by Patrick Ness
No Fixed Address or Word Nerd – Susin Nielsen
Wonder by R.J. Palacio
Pax or Here in the Real World - S Pennypacker
Freak the Mighty by Rodman Philbrick
Unboxed by Non Pratt *
A Good Kind of Trouble by Lisa Moore Ramee
Long Way Down, Look Both Ways, Ghost -Reynolds*
Ghost Boys or Black Brother[...] Jewell P Rhodes
Esperanza Rising by Pam Munoz Ryan
Operation Frog Effect by Sarah Scheerger
Can You See Me or Do You Know Me–Scott & Westcott
The Marvels or Wonderstruck by Brian Selznick*
The Boxer by Nikesh Shukla
Stargirl by Jerry Spinelli
Clean Getaway by Nic Stone
Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry by Mildred Taylor
The Hate U Give by Angie Thomas
Goldfish Boy by Lisa Thompson
The 1000 Year Old Boy by Ross Welford
A Boy Called Hope by Lara Williamson
Brown Girl Dreaming or Harbor Me - J Woodson

Sports

Booked, Crossover or Rebound – K. Alexander*
Stat Man by Alan Durant *
Man of the Match (& series) by Dan Freedman

The Number 7 Shirt or The Lion Roars - A Gibbons*
Kick by Mitch Johnson
The Fix by Sophie McKenzie*
The Greatest: Muhammed Ali by Walter D Myers*
Ultimate Football Heroes Collection – M&T Oldfield*
Football Academy or Foul Play series–Tom Palmer*
Soccer Squad, Dream On (& series) by Bali Rai*
Outcasts United (young people edition) -W. St John
The Football Boy Wonder (& sequels) - Martin Smith*
Pay Attention, Carter Jones by Gary Schmidt*

History, War, Conflict & Refugee Experience

Soldier Dog or A Horse Called Hero - Sam Angus
The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas by J Boyne
Illegal by Eoin Colfer *
Wolf Children, Red Shadow, Eleven Eleven -Dowswell
Under a War-Torn Sky by L.M. Elliott
Boy 87 by Ele Fountain
The Bone Sparrow by Zana Fraillion
Once (& sequels) by Morris Gleitzman *
Bone Talk by Candy Gourlay
Grenade by Alan Gratz
Race to the Frozen North, Blade and Bones or Sawbones* by Catherine Johnson
Orphan Monster Spy by Matt Killeen
Inside Out and Back Again by Thanhha Lai
Buffalo Soldier or Apache by Tanya Landman
Every Falling Star (North Korea) by Sungju Lee
Dog Tags: Semper Fido or Strays by C A London*
Diver’s Daughter: A Tudor Story by P Lawrence
Shadow or In the Mouth of the Wolf -Morpurgo
Sunrise Over Fallujah by Walter Dean Myers*
A Night Divided by Jennifer Nielson
Armistice Runner or Over the Line by Tom Palmer*
A Long Walk to Water by Linda Sue Park
The Red Pencil by Andrea David Pinkney
Now or Never: A Dunkirk Story by Bali Rai*
The Boy at the Back of the Class by Onjali Rauf
Salt to the Sea by Ruta Sepetys
Eagle of the Ninth by Rosemary Sutcliffe
Refugee Boy by Benjamin Zephaniah
The Book Thief by Marcus Zusak

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

* = Top picks for reluctant readers

Highlighted = BAME authors