

Year 8 "Recommended Reading" List



ACTION AND ADVENTURE

Gilman, David	Devil's Breath (Danger Zone series)	Max is on the run - he was almost killed by an assassin & his father's been kidnapped. An action thriller.
Harris, M G	The Invisible City (Joshua Files series)	Josh's Dad has gone missing - his quest takes him to the Mexican Jungle, looking to unravel a Mayan prophecy.
McNab, Andy	Boy Soldier	McNab draws on his own SAS experience to write this part-biographical account of his younger days in the SAS.
Muchamore, Robert	The Escape (Henderson's Boys series)	Set in France 1940 - the British Secret Service needs help from children working undercover to win the the war.
Ryan, Chris	Flash Flood (Code Red series)	There's been a major disaster, the Thames Barrier has gone and London is under water. It's a battle for survival.
Simpson, Craig	Special Operations: Dogfight (Special Operations series)	In Nazi-occupied Norway two boys join the Resistance, risking arrest, torture and execution.

SCIENCE-FICTION

Blackman, Malorie	Noughts and Crosses (Noughts & Crosses series)	A look at racism and prejudice in an alternative society.
Collins, Suzanne	Hunger Games (Hunger Games series)	16 year old Katniss represents her district in the annual Hunger Games - this is a fight to the death on live TV.
Higson, Charlie	The Enemy (The Enemy series)	When the sickness came every adult was wiped out, and only children under 14 remain, fighting to survive.
Malley, Gemma	The Declaration (Declararation series)	Anna should not have been born. It is 2140 and people can live forever. A thought-provoking dystopian novel.
McKenzie, Sophie	The Set-Up (Medusa Project series)	Four babies were implanted with the Medusa gene 14 years earlier, giving them psychic powers.
Ness, Patrick	The Knife of Never Letting Go (Chaos Walking series)	Imagine a world where you can hear everyone's thoughts and they can hear yours. Todd realises secrets have been kept from him, and these will force him to run.
Scarrow, Alex	Time Riders (Time Riders series)	Three teens rescued from impending death in 1912, 2010 and 2029 are used to fix broken time.
Westerfeld, Scott	Uglies (Uglies series)	In the future plastic surgery is taken to the extreme - at 16yrs Uglies are transformed into Pretties.

FAMILY AND RELATIONSHIPS

Bailey, Helen	Life at the Shallow End (Electra Brown series)	Electra's family is falling apart, so she turns to her friends in her hour of need.
Cassidy, Cathy	Cherry Crush (Chocolate Box Girls series)	Cherry moves to Somerset with her Dad, to a new Mum and four step-sisters. Rivalry over a boy creates conflict.
Cousins, David	Fifteen Days Without a Head	Teenage Lawrence wants a normal life, but it's not easy when your Mum is a depressed alcoholic & your six year old brother thinks he's a dog. When his Mum fails to return home one night he struggles to save his family.
Dessen, Sarah	The Truth About Forever	Silently struggling with her father's death, a new group of friends helps Macy reconnect with her life.
Limb, Sue	Flirting for England: Girl 15 (Jess Jordan series)	The agony, ecstasy & embarrassment of being a teenager.
Palacio, RJ	Wonder	Auggie has a disfigured face and struggles for acceptance.
Rosoff, Meg	How I live Now	An American teenage girl gets to know her family in England during an undisclosed war.

GHOST AND HORROR

Armstrong, Kelley	The Summoning (Darkest Powers series)	Chloe just wants to be like any other teenager, then she starts seeing ghosts everywhere and gets sent to a home for disturbed kids. Strange things occur...
Cast, P C	Marked (House of Night series)	16yr old Zoe is Marked as a fledgling vampire, she must develop her special powers at the House of Night school.
Meyer, Stephanie	Twilight (Twilight series)	Bella Swan moves to gloomy Forks and meets the mysterious and alluring Edward Cullen.
Noel, Alyson	Evermore (The Immortals series)	Since surviving a fatal car crash, Ever is haunted by her sister's ghost. She also hears the voices & sees auras of those around her. Why doesn't this work on Damen?
Sedgwick, Marcus	My Swordhand is Singing	Vampire tale set in 17th century Europe.
Shan, Darren	Lord Loss (Demonata series)	On first meeting Lord Loss, Grubs Grady learns that: the world is vicious, magic exists, & demons are real.

HUMOUR

Barker, Dominic	The Boy Who Didn't Want to Save the World (Blart series)	Blart just wants to farm pigs, but a wizard tells him mankind depends on him, so he reluctantly sets off on a quest...
Collins, Tim	Because The Undead Have Feelings Too (Diary of a Wimpy Vampire series)	Nigel became a vampire at the unfortunate age of 15, so must face an eternity with acne, a breaking voice and an ineptitude with girls. Follow his diary...
Cousins, Dave	Fifteen Days Without a Head	When his Mum fails to come home, 15yr old Laurence is afraid he and his 6yr old brother will be taken into care. For 2 weeks he manages to trick neighbours and keep up the pretence.
Patterson, Jamie	I Funny	Jamie enters a competition to find 'The Funniest Kid on the Planet' - he fears his disability may influence the judges.
Robb, Andy	Geekhood: Close Encounters of the Girl Kind	14yr old Archie is a Geek to his core, an expert in his Role Playing games. A girl appears & his quest for her heart begins.
Thomson, Jamie	Dark Lord: The Teenage Years	Dirk has a dark secret - according to him he is the earthly carnation of a Dark Lord and he must regain his rightful place in the Universe. Or is he just a confused boy?
Shearer, Alex	The Invisible Man's Socks	A school trip to the Museum of Little Horrors results in a curse on the unruly class - will they learn their lessons?

FANTASY

Canavan, Trudi	The Magician's Guild (Black Magician series)	An untrained magician is on the loose. She must be found before her uncontrolled powers destroy her & her city.
Delaney, Joseph	The Spook's Apprentice (Wardstone Chronicles series)	Old Gregory has protected the county for years, ridding villages of evil. Thomas is the only hope to succeed him.
Flanagan, John	The Ruins of Gorlan (The Ranger's Apprentice series)	15 year old Will is chosen to be a Ranger's apprentice - he must learn battle skills fast as the kingdom is threatened.
Landy, Derek	Skulduggery Pleasant (Skulduggery Pleasant series)	He's a wise-cracking detective, a powerful magician, and the sworn enemy of evil.
McNish, Cliff	The Doomspell (Doomspell series)	Rachel and her brother are dragged into another world by a witch, so begins a battle of good vs evil.
Nix, Garth	Sabriel (Old Kingdom series)	Sabriel sets out on a quest to avenge the death of her father.
Pike, Aprilynne	Wings (Laurel series)	15 year old Laurel is changing, and is about to discover a deep and powerful magic holds the key to her destiny.
Pullman, Philip	Northern Lights (His Dark Materials series)	Lyra and her daemon Pantalaimon journey north to find her friend Roger, as rumours spread that scientists perform unspeakable experiments on captured children.
Snyder, Maria V	The Poison Study (Poison Study series)	Yelanda is saved from execution by agreeing to be official food taster, risking slow poisoning.
Stroud, Jonathan	The Amulet of Samarkand (Bartimaeus Series)	The magician's apprentice summons the djinni Bartimaeus to steal a powerful amulet.

MYSTERY AND THRILLERS

Bowler, Tim	Blood Child	Will lies on a deserted lane, he's had an accident and has no memory. At night he is tormented by visions, by day hostile strangers. Can he unravel the town's mystery?
Cassidy, Anne	Missing Judy	Mystery surrounds the disappearance of a five year old, and her 16 year old sister feels guilty eight years later.
Grant, Michael	Gone (Gone series)	Suddenly there are no adults, they vanish without a trace. It's all about survival, a world with no rules.
Haddon, Mark	Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time	A murder-mystery like no other. The detective narrator has Asperger's syndrome, knowing a lot about maths but little about people. His quest is to unravel a dog's death.
Lane, Andrew	Death Cloud (Young Sherlock Holmes series)	It is 1868 and Sherlock is 14yrs. The brilliant but troubled teenager investigates his first murder case.
Mckenzie, Sophie	Blood Ties (Blood series)	Theo is determined to find the father he thought died, & finds Rachel who has questions about her own identity.
Rawsthorne, Paula	The Truth About Celia Frost	Celia is a freak - at least that's what everyone thinks. Her life is ruled by a strange disorder, but there are secrets and lies to be uncovered. Gripping thriller.
Rose, Malcolm	Traces (Framed series)	At 16, Luke is the youngest person to qualify as a forensic investigator. His first case awaits...
Shearer, Alex	Tins	Fergal collects metal tins, but life changes when he finds a finger in one tin & the word 'help' scrawled in another.
Valentine, Jenny	Finding Violet Park	Lucas finds an urn containing Violet Park's ashes in a taxi office. His quest to unravel the mystery leads back to himself.
Ward, Rachel	Numbers (Numbers series)	Jem has a secret - she sees a number when she looks in someone's eyes, the day they die. On a day out queuing for the London Eye, everyone she sees shares a number.
Westerfeld, Scott	Uglies (Uglies series)	In the future plastic surgery is taken to the extreme. At 16yrs, Uglies are transformed into Pretties.

SPORT

Bennett, Veronica	Fish Feet	15 year old Eric loves dancing. His friends and family oppose his desire to audition for the Royal Ballet School.
Cattell, Bob	Glory in the Cup (Glory Gardens series)	A cricket team is set up - a must for cricket fans, as they follow the trials and tribulations of the team.
Gibbons, Alan	Some You Win (Total Football series)	As new captain of the Rough Diamonds, Kev pulls the team up from the bottom of the league.
Gourlay, Candy	Tall Story	Andi is short, but wishes she could play on the school basketball team. Her half brother comes to stay from the Phillipines - he's a giant and shares her love of basketball.
Hamilton, Bethany	Soul Surfer	True story of a girl who lost her arm in a shark attack and her determination to surf again.
Palmer, Tom	Black Op (The Squad series)	The Squad - teenage spies & part of the England youth football team, sent wherever trouble is brewing!
Peet, Mal	Keeper (Paul Faustino series)	Football novel about a Brazilian goal-keeper and his mysterious coach from the rain forest .

CLASSICS

Alcott, Louisa M	Little Women	A tale of four sisters growing up in 1860's America, written from Jo's viewpoint, a would-be writer.
Marshall, J Vance	Walkabout	Two children, survivors of an air crash, make their journey across the harsh Australian desert, aided by an Aboriginal boy on 'walkabout'.
Nesbit, E	The Railway Children	When their father is taken away, three children start a new life in the country with their mother, by a railway.
Smith, Dodie	I Capture the Castle	A novel of first love, with an eccentric family of sisters living in a dilapidated castle.
Wells, H G	War of the Worlds	The Martians descend on an unsuspecting 19th century world. Their tripods fire heat rays causing mass destruction.