

## Recommended Reads: Years 7/8

### Action & Thrillers

*Bodyguard* or *Young Samurai* (& sequels); *Bullet Catcher* or *Gamer* by Chris Bradford\*

*Heist Society* or *I'd Tell You I Love You But Then I'd Have to Kill You* (& sequels) by Ally Carter

*Mortal Chaos*, *Speed Freaks*, *The Everest Files* (& sequels) or *Lie, Kill, Walk Away* - Matt Dickinson (!)

*The London Eye Mystery* by Siobhan Dowd (!)

*DC Comics: Secret Hero Society*—Fridolfs & Nguyen\*

*Mission Survival* series by Bear Grylls\*

*Silverfin* or *The Enemy* (& sequels) by C Higson

*The Outsiders* by SE Hinton (!)

*Stormbreaker* (& sequels) by A. Horowitz\*

*Itch* (& sequels) by Simon Mayo

*Where the World Ends* by G. McCaughrean

*Girl Missing* (& sequels) by Sophie McKenzie

*Boy Soldier & Dropzone* (& sequels) by A McNab

*The Recruit* (& sequels) by R. Muchamore\*

*Maximum Ride* (& sequels) by J Patterson

*Hatchet* by Gary Paulsen

*Agent 21* (& sequels) by Chris Ryan

*Night Speakers* or *Carjacked* by Ali Sparkes

*Murder Most Unladylike* (& sequels) – R Stevens

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

### Classics or Challenging Reads

*Little Women* by Louisa May Alcott

*Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* by Lewis Carroll

*The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes* by A C Doyle

*Diary of Anne Frank* by Anne Frank (!)

*The Old Man and the Sea* by Ernest Hemingway (!)

*To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee (!)

*Call of the Wild* by Jack London

*Animal Farm* by George Orwell

*Black Beauty* by Anna Sewell

*Treasure Island* by Robert L Stevenson

*Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry* by Mildred Taylor (!)

*The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* by Mark Twain

*Around the World in 80 Days* by Jules Verne

*The Sword in the Stone* by TH White (!)

### Dystopian & Science Fiction

*Matched* (& sequels) by Ally Condie (!)

*The Maze Runner* (& sequels) by J Dashner

*Cell 7* (& sequels) by Kerry Drewery

*The Gender Game* by Bella Forrest

*Gone* (& sequels) or *Monster* by Michael Grant

*Illuminae* (& sequels) by A Kaufmann and J Kristoff

*Department 19* (& sequels) by Will Hill

*I Am Number Four* (& sequels) by P Lore

*The Giver* and *Gathering Blue* by Lois Lowry (!)

*Legend* (& sequels) by Marie Lu

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

*MetaWars: Fight for the Future* (&sequels)- Norton\*

*Railhead* (& sequels) by Philip Reeve (!)

*Divergent* (& sequels) by Veronica Roth

*Remade* (& sequels) or *Time Riders* - Alex Scarrow

*Scythe* or *Unwind* (& sequels) – Neal Shusterman (!)

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

*The 5th Wave* (& sequels) by Rick Yancey (!)

### Fantasy, Magic Realism, Horror & Ghost

*Cogheart* by Peter Bunzl

*Mind Writer* by Steve Cole\*

*Artemis Fowl* (& sequels) by Eoin Colfer (!)

*The Dark is Rising* by Susan Cooper

*Who Let the Gods Out* by Maz Evans

*Ranger's Apprentice* series by John Flanagan

*Inkheart* (& sequels) by Cornelia Funke (!)

*The Graveyard Book* by Neil Gaiman (!)

*A Skinful of Shadows* by Frances Hardinge

*Girl of Ink and Stars* by Kiran Millwood Hargrave

*Skulduggery Pleasant* (& sequels) by Derek Landy

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

*Eragon* (& sequels) by Christopher Paolini

*Discworld* (and other series) by Terry Pratchett

*Through Dead Eyes* or *Mister Creecher* –C. Priestley

*Northern Lights* (& sequels) by Phillip Pullman

*Goth Girl* (& sequels) by Chris Riddell\*

*Mrs Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children* -Riggs

*Percy Jackson* or *Kane Chronicles* series by Riordan

*The Monsters We Deserve* by Marcus Sedgwick

*Thunderstruck* or *Unleashed* by Ali Sparkes\*

*Finding Sky* (& sequels) by Joss Stirling

*The Edge Chronicles* by P Stewart and C Riddell

## Humorous books

*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\*  
*Demolition Dad* (& sequels) – Phil Earle\*  
*Enginerds* (& sequels) by Jarrett Lerner\*  
*Disaster Diaries: Zombies* (&sequels)-R McGeddon\*  
*The Donut Diaries* series – A McGowan\*  
*The Accidental Billionaire* series- T McLaughlin  
*The World of Norm* series by Jonathon Meres\*  
*Timmy Failure* series by Stephan Pastis\*  
*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  
*Gangsta Granny* (& more) by David Walliams\*  
*What Not To Do If You Turn Invisible* – R Welford

## Relationships & Tough Situations

*Noughts and Crosses, Cloud Busting, Boys Don't Cry* or *Pig-Heart Boy* by Malorie Blackman (!)  
*Blubber* or anything by Judy Blume  
*Artichoke Hearts* or *Jasmine Skies* - S Brahmachari  
*Walk Two Moons* by Sharon Creech  
*One, Apple&Rain* or *Weight of Water*-S Crossan (!)  
*Out of My Mind* by Sharon Draper  
*Mind the Gap, Being Billy or Saving Daisy* - P Earle\*  
*The Many Worlds of Albie Bright, Jamie Drake*  
*Equation or Infinite Lives of Maisie Day* –C. Edge  
*Mockingbird* by Kathryn Erskine (!)  
*Tulip Touch, Goggle Eyes or Flour Babies* by A. Fine  
*The Bubble Boy* by Stewart Foster  
*The Bone Sparrow* by Zana Fraillion (!)  
*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  
*Red Sky in the Morning* by Elizabeth Laird (!)  
*Every Falling Star* (North Korea) by Sungju Lee  
*A Monster Calls* by Patrick Ness (!)  
*Word Nerd, We Are All Made of Molecules*-Nielsen  
*Wonder* by R.J. Palacio (!)

*Pax* by Sarah Pennypacker (!)  
*My Sister Lives on the Mantelpiece* by A Pitcher (!)  
*Esperanza Rising* by Pam Munoz Ryan  
*The Marvels* or *Wonderstruck* by Brian Selznick\*(!)  
*Stargirl* by Jerry Spinelli (!)  
*The Hate U Give* by Angie Thomas (!)  
*A Boy Called Hope* by Lara Williamson  
*Beyond the Bright Sea* by Lauren Wolk  
*Brown Girl Dreaming* by Jacqueline Woodson (!)  
*I am Malala* by Malala Yousafzai

## Sports

*Booked, Crossover or Rebound* – K. Alexander\* (!)  
*Charlie Merrick's Misfits...* by David Cousins\*  
*The Beautiful Game* series by Dhimi (girls' football)  
*Man of the Match* (& series) by Dan Freedman  
*The Number 7 Shirt* or *The Lion Roars* by A Gibbons  
*The Fix* by Sophie McKenzie\*  
*Football Academy* series – Tom Palmer\*  
*Foul Play* (& sequels) or *Black Op* by Tom Palmer  
*Soccer Squad* and series by Bali Rai\*

## War & Conflict

*Soldier Dog* or *A Horse Called Hero* - Sam Angus  
*The Boy at the Top of the Mountain* or *The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas* by J Boyne (!)  
*Red Shadow, Eleven Eleven or Auslander*-Dowswell  
*Under a War-Torn Sky* by L.M. Elliott  
*Once* (& sequels) by Morris Gleitzman (!)  
*Inside Out and Back Again* by Thanhha Lai  
*Dog Tags: Semper Fido* or *Strays* by C A London\*  
*Number the Stars* by Lois Lowry (!)  
*War Horse* or *Private Peaceful* by M Morpurgo (!)  
*Sunrise Over Fallujah* by Walter Dean Myers\*  
*A Night Divided* by Jennifer Nielson  
*The Red Pencil* by Andrea David Pinkney  
*The Sniper* or *When the Guns Fell Silent* – J Riordan  
*A Soldier's Friend* (series) by Megan Rix  
*Salt to the Sea* by Ruta Sepetys (!)  
*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

! = Mrs Visser's favourite reads