



Unless otherwise stated, these books are suitable from Year Eight and up, but please do research the books yourself before selecting them to ensure that they are appropriate for your child.

Action and Adventure

R. M. Ballantyne	The Coral Island: A Tale of the Pacific Ocean	The adventures of three boys marooned on a South Pacific island.
Malorie Blackman	Hacker	Two computer whizz kids try to prove that their father is innocent of a bank theft.
Peter Cocks	Eddie Savage Series	A teenager begins to investigate the murder of his brother.
Suzanne Collins	The Hunger Games	Set in a dark vision of the near future, a terrifying reality TV show is taking place. Twelve boys and twelve girls are forced to appear in a live event called The Hunger Games. There is only one rule: kill or be killed.
Ian Fleming	Casino Royale	The first of Fleming's 007 adventures.
John Marsden	When the War Began Series	This futuristic thriller series deals with the invasion of Australia by an unknown enemy.
Yann Martel	Life of Pi	After the tragic sinking of a cargo ship, a solitary lifeboat remains bobbing on the Pacific Ocean. Some of the survivors include: a sixteen-year-old boy named Pi; a hyena and a zebra.
Kirsty Murray	Vulture's Gate	The treacherous journey of Bo and Callum as they attempt to survive in an uncertain world.
Chris Ryan	Flash Flood: Code Red	Ben is on a trip to London to meet his mum. However, an accident at the Thames Barrier, combined with a tidal surge and a dramatic thunderstorm suddenly turns his trip into something totally different.
Chris Wooding	Storm Thief	A story that follows the lives of Rail and Moa, who are two teenage thieves.

Growing Up and Relationships

Eve Ainsworth	Seven Days	School should be a safe place for Jess, but it's not...
Malorie Blackman	Boys Don't Cry	Dante discovers that he is a father the same day that he gets his A-Level results.
Jim Carrington	Inside my Head	A tale of school bullying told from three different points of view: the bully's friend; the victim and the girl in the middle.
Siobhan Curham	Don't Stop Thinking About Tomorrow	Fourteen-year-old Grace lives with her beloved vinyl collection, her mum...and her mum's depression. When Grace's mum's disability benefits are cut, Grace and her mother are plunged into a life of poverty.
Jenny Davis	If Only I'd Known	An emotional novel that focuses on two love-struck teenagers as they attempt to rescue their new pregnant neighbour.

Phil Earle	Being Billy	Billy Finn has spent eight years in a care home. He is angry – with the system, the social workers, and the mother who gave him away.
Anne Fine	The Tulip Touch	A story about the destructive friendship of two young girls.
John Green	The Fault in our Stars	A very powerful story about a terminally ill young girl who falls in love.
Mary Hooper	Megan Trilogy	Fifteen-year-old Megan discovers that she is five months pregnant in her 'Personal Development' class. This is the story of how she copes and the decisions that she makes.
Emiko Jean	Tokyo Ever After	This is the story of an ordinary Japanese-American girl who discovers that her father is the Crown Prince of Japan.
Alice Kuiper	Lost for Words	A teenager tries to come to terms with the death of her sister.
Suzanne LaFleur	Love, Aubrey	A heart-breaking story about a girl who, having survived a car accident that killed her father and sister, is then abandoned by her mother.
Elizabeth Laird	Welcome to Nowhere	Twelve-year-old Omar and his brothers and sisters were born in Bosra, Syria. Omar's goal in life is to become a successful businessman. However, when his older brother, Musa, gets mixed up with some political activists, everything changes.
Emma Lord	You Have a Match	Abby signs up for a DNA service and discovers she has a secret sister who is an Instagram star.
Nicola Penfold	Between Sea and Sky	Pearl lives on a floating oyster farm with her sister and father. She refuses to set foot on land following the death of her mum. However, when Nat comes from the mainland to spend the summer with Pearl's family, he shares a secret that forces Pearl to risk everything.
Lucy Powrie	The Paper and Hearts Society	A book about what happens when you give up on trying to fit in and let your weird out.
Meg Rosoff	How I Live Now	Fifteen-year-old Daisy thinks she knows everything about love. One summer, her dad sends her away for the countryside to stay with cousins she has never met. There she will discover what real love is: something violent, mysterious and wonderful.
Benjamin Zephaniah	Refugee Boy	Life is not safe for Alem. His father is Ethiopian, his mother is Eritrean. The two countries are at war. Alem is excited to spend a holiday in London with his father. However, one morning Alem wakes up to find that his father is gone.
Gabrielle Zevin	Elsewhere	Liz is killed in a hit and run accident and her 'life' takes a very unexpected turn. In this novel, death is a new start.

Classics

Jane Austen	Northanger Abbey	Catherine Morland is one of ten children. She is immersed in the world of attentive men and elaborate balls. But when one her suitors takes her to his family estate, Northanger Abbey, she becomes lost in the gothic mystery which surrounds it.
John Buchan	The 39 Steps	Richard Hannay finds a corpse in his flat, and becomes involved in a plot by spies.
Daniel Defoe	Robinson Crusoe	The classic tale of an adventurous young man who sets off to see the world.
Susan Hill	I'm the King of the Castle	Young Edmund Hooper doesn't want anyone else in Warings, the rambling Victorian house he lives in. Nevertheless, Charles Kingshaw and his mother are soon installed and Edmund sets about persecuting his new playmate.

Barry Hines	A Kestrel for a Knave	Life is tough and cheerless for Billy Casper, a troubled teenager growing up in a small Yorkshire town. Billy discovers a new passion in life when he finds Kes, a kestrel hawk.
E. Nesbit	Five Children and It	Five children find themselves in a tricky situation when they come face to face with a grumpy sand-fairy.
Mary Norton	The Borrowers	The Borrowers live in secret places of quiet old houses; behind the mantelpiece and under the kitchen clock. They own nothing and borrow everything. They think that human beings were invented just to do the dirty work.
George Orwell	Nineteen Eighty-Four: A Novel	A dystopian novel that takes place in an imagined future where the world has fallen victim to continual war and omnipresent government surveillance.
Dodie Smith	I Capture the Castle	Cassandra Mortmain lives with her bohemian family in a crumbling castle in the middle of nowhere. Her journal records her eccentric family life. However, everything is turned upside down when the American heirs to the castle arrive, and Cassandra finds herself falling in love.

Fantasy

Trudi Canavan	Black Magician Trilogy	A complex tale of conspiracy and magic.
Eoin Colfer	The Supernaturalist	Unwanted by his parents, Cosmo Hill is put to work by the state, testing highly dangerous products. Cosmo realises that he must get away, and escapes with the help of The Supernaturalists, a group of kids who have special abilities.
Katharine & Elizabeth Corr	A Throne of Swans	When her father dies, Aderyn inherits the role of Protector of Atratys, a dominion in a kingdom where nobles can transform into birds. Aderyn's ancestral bird is a swan. However, since witnessing the death of her mother, Aderyn has been unable to transform. Now she must venture to the Citadel to seek truth about her mother's death and to fight for the land she has vowed to protect.
James Dashner	The Mazerunner Series	When the lift cranks open, the only thing Thomas remembers is his first name. But he's not alone – an army of boys welcomes him to the Glade, an encampment in the centre of a terrible maze. The Gladers have no idea why they are there, or what has happened to the outside world. But when a girl arrives with a message, they must find a way out – or die.
Cornelia Funke	Inkheart Trilogy	Meggie loves books. So does her father, Mo. However, he has not read aloud to her since her mother mysteriously disappeared. They live quietly until the night that a stranger knocks at their door.
Liam Hearn	Across the Nightingale Floor Series	A series about the search for a boy with special powers after his family have been killed by an evil warlord.
Stuart Hill	Cry of the Icemark Series	When her father dies nobly in battle, fourteen-year-old Thirrin becomes Queen of the Icemark, a tiny kingdom forever caught between dangerous neighbours. Thirrin must raise an army to protect her people.
Bex Hogan	Viper Series	Fantasy, pirates and romance.
Derek Landy	Skulduggery Pleasant	Meet the great Skulduggery Pleasant: wise-cracking detective, powerful magician, master of dirty tricks. Oh yeah. And the dead. Then there's

		his sidekick, Stephanie. She's...well...she's a twelve-year-old girl. With a pair like this on the case, evil had better watch out!
Michelle Lovric	The Water's Daughter	A fantasy novel about a girl who can see history with her touch.
Stephanie Meyer	Twilight Series	The famous series which sees vampires falling in love and fighting werewolves.
Elizabeth Norris	The Unravelling	The world is going to end in 23 days. What can Jeanne do to stop it?
Terry Pratchett	The Colour of Magic	Somewhere on the frontier between thought and reality exists the Discworld. This is a parallel time and place which might sound and smell very much like our own, but which looks completely different. Particularly as it is carried through space on the back of a giant turtle.
Rick Riordan	Percy Jackson and the Olympians Series	Half boy. Half God. All Hero. I was just a normal kid, going to school, playing basketball, skateboarding. The usual. Until I accidentally vaporised my maths teacher. Now I spend my time battling monsters and generally trying to stay alive.
G. P. Taylor	Shadowmancer	Obadiah Demurral is a sorcerer who is seeking to control the highest power in the Universe.
Teresa Tomlinson	Moon Riders	A young Amazon woman, Myrina, becomes one of the warrior priestesses known as the Moon Riders.
J. R. R. Tolkien	The Lord of the Rings	The Dark Lord Sauron is after a magical ring, which has fallen into the wrong hands.
Katherine Paterson	Bridge to Terabithia	When a girl named Leslie Burke moves into a neighbouring farm, Jess Aarons' life changes forever.
John Wyndham	The Day of the Triffids	When a freak cosmic event renders most of the Earth's population blind, Bill Masen is one of the lucky few to retain his sight.

The Environment

Lauren James	Green Rising	Gabrielle is a climate-change activist who shoots to fame when she becomes the first teenager to display a supernatural ability to grow plants from her skin.
J. W. Lynne	Above the Sky (and series)	Eighteen-year-old Seven and her best friend, Ten, live where all is peaceful...except for the violent war raging above the sky. Lifelike humanoid robots and self-operated drones tend to everyone's needs, leaving people free to spend their time as they wish. However, there are strict rules and very few choices...
William Sutcliffe	The Summer We Turned Green	It is the summer holidays, and thirteen-year-old Luke's life has been turned upside down. First, his older sister Rose 'moved across the road', where a community of climate rebels are protesting the planned airport expansion. Then, his dad followed her.

Horror

Nick Lake	Nowhere on Earth	It starts with a plane crash. There are survivors: a teenage girl and her little brother. They are running from something. But what?
Becca Black	iDracula	A quirky, modern rewrite of <i>Dracula</i> for the iPhone generation.
Malorie Blackman	Dead Gorgeous	After moving to the countryside, Nova befriends a dead boy.

Sharon Gosling	Fir (Red Eye)	Moving from Stockholm to an isolated pine plantation in Sweden is bad enough, but when the snows come early and all the links to the outside world are cut off, things take a turn for the worse.
Carol Hedges	Red Velvet	As soon as she walks into the old Tudor mansion, Elly senses that something is wrong. She feels like the house hates her and then strange things start happening to her. She hears ghostly singing and sees people dressed in the woods in old-fashioned clothes.
Edward Hogan	Daylight Saving	Daniel encounters the spirit of a dead girl on holiday.
Robin Jarvis	Dancing Jax	A supernatural thriller about a group of children who find a cursed book.
Cliff McNish	Breathe: A Ghost Story	Jack is used to danger. His asthma has nearly killed him more than once. But his new home has a danger he's never known before – the spirits of the dead. They can't breathe, but in Jack's house they chase, hide and scream. Only Jack can see and hear them. And only he can save himself and his mother.
Patrick Ness	More Than This	A boy called Seth drowns, desperate and alone in his final moments. But then he wakes. He is naked, thirsty and starving. But alive. How is that possible?
Charlie Price	Hear the Dead Cry	A supernatural thriller about a teenager who has the gift of hearing dead people talk.
Cate Tiernan	Sweep Trilogy	Morgan Rowlands never thought she was anything other than a typical sixteen-year-old girl. But when she meets Cal, a captivatingly handsome coven leader, she makes a discovery that turns her world upside down.
Bryony Pearce	Savage Island (Red Eye)	When reclusive millionaire Marcus Gold announces that he's going to be staging an 'Iron Teen' competition, a group of friends sign up. The prize is £1 million pounds each. However, when the competition begins, the group soon begins to regret their decision.
Marcus Sedgwick	My Swordhand is Singing	An original interpretation of the vampire myth, and the story of a father and son.
Catherine Storr	Marianne Dreams	Returning to the same dream world night after night, Marianne encounters a strange, but oddly familiar boy.

History

Aidan Chambers	Postcards from No Man's Land	Seventeen-year-old Jacob is abroad on his own visiting his grandfather's grave at the commemoration of the Second World War Battle of Arnhem in Holland. An intensely moving novel, spanning 50 years, which powerfully evokes the atmosphere of war.
Michael Cronin	Against the Day	A believable account of what might have happened if Germany had successfully invaded the UK in World War Two.
Paul Dowswell	Auslander	Impressive thriller set in World War Two from the point of view of a German teenager.
Jamila Gavin	Coram Boy	The Coram man takes babies and money from desperate mothers, promising to deliver them safely to a Foundling Hospital in London. Instead, he murders and buries them by the roadside.
Alan Gibbons	An Act of Love	Two best friends grow apart when one of them joins the army and goes to Afghanistan.
Caroline Lawrence	The Roman Mysteries Collection	A seventeen book series of stories based around Roman mysteries.

Sally Nicholls	All Fall Down	The Black Death of 1349 was the deadliest plague in human history. This is a powerful and inspiring story of survival in the face of real-life horror. .
Anna Perera	Guantanamo Bay	A fifteen year old British boy is abducted and taken to Guantanamo Bay.
Celia Rees	The Fool's Girl	Love, loss, beliefs and destiny in the time of Shakespeare.
James Riordan	Sweet Clarinet	Billy thought wartime was fun: fiery skies and playing amongst the rubble. Then a bomb falls on a shelter where he and his mother are taking refuge. Waking in hospital horribly burned, he longs for death until a precious gift from a soldier similarly disfigured gives him hope.

Sports

Neil Arksey	MacB	A version of <i>Macbeth</i> on the football field. MacB, with the help of his friend, Banksie, plans to supplant Duncan King as the star striker in their school football team.
Neil Arksey	Playing on the Edge	A futuristic thriller where football has achieved world domination.
Trevor Colgan	The Stretford Enders Series	Teenage football fanatics and their lives, loves and dreams of making it big.
Mal Peet	Keeper	The tale of the world's greatest goalkeeper: El Gato. As Paul interviews El Gato, the World Cup stands on the table between them. In the hours that follow, El Gato tells his incredible story: how he, a poor logger's son, learns to become the best goalkeeper in the world.

Our World, Other Worlds

Sita Brahmachari	Where the River Runs Gold	A novel about Shifa and her brother, Themba, who live in Kairos City with their father, Nabil. This novel is about a destroyed earth as a result of climate change.
Jess Butterworth	Running on the Roof of the World	There are two words banned in Tibet. Two words that can get you locked in prison. I watch the soldiers tramping away and call the words after them: 'Dalai Lama.'
Emiko Jean	Tokyo Ever After	Izumi Tanaka has lived an uneventful seventeen years in her small town. But when she discovers that her unknown father is the Crown Prince of Japan, her life soon changes.
Amy Raphael	The Forest of Moon and Sword	Twelve-year-old Art lives in a small village in Scotland. Her mother has always made potions that cure the sick, but now the townspeople say she is a witch. When Art's mother is arrested and taken to England, Art must go on a journey to save her. Will she reach her mother, before it's too late?
Chris Vick	Girl. Boy. Sea.	A British boy narrowly survives the sinking of his yacht in a huge storm off the coast of Morocco. After a few days alone at sea, Bill rescues a girl clinging for her life to a barrel and they form a friendship.

Animals

Richard Adams	The Plague Dogs	Two dogs escape from an experimental research lab in the Lake District, where they have been horribly tortured and mistreated in the name of Science.
Anthony McGowan	Brock	A tale about one boy's determination to save a badger cub from the destructive hands of a local gang.
Terry Pratchett	The Amazing Maurice and his Educated Rodents	Every town in Discworld knows the stories about rats and pipers. Maurice – a streetwise tomcat – leads a band of educated ratty friends on a nice little earner.

Diversity

Sita Brahmachari	Tender Earth	Leila is struggling: her best friend is striking out on her own; her new friend has secrets that Leila cannot access. When Leila discovers her grandmother's 'Protest Book', listing all of the protests that she attended, Leila decides it is time for her to get her own voice heard.
Sharon G. Flake	The Skin I'm In	Maleeka Madison has low self-esteem because she is darker skinned than most other black girls. However, her new teacher, Miss Saunders has a rare skin condition. The teacher withstands the snickers and shouts from the students, but can Maleeka accept friendship and accept the skin she's in?
Muhammad Khan	Kick the Moon	A high school drama that deals with serious matters like racism, toxic masculinity, bullying and finding your voice.
Rachael Lucas	The State of Grace	Grace is autistic and has her own way of looking at the world. She's got a horse and a best friend and that's pretty much all she needs. But when Grace kisses Gabe, things start to change and the world doesn't make sense to her anymore.
Brittany Morris	Slay	A fierce teen game developer battles a real-life troll intent on ruining the Black Panther-inspired video game she created and the safe community it represents for black gamers.
Susin Nielson	No Fixed Address	This novel follows Felix as he navigates school and friendship whilst living in a van.
Rodman Philbrick	Freak the Mighty	Kevin and Max are accustomed to ridicule: Kevin because he is small and disabled and Max because he is huge and perceived to be stupid. When fate throws this seemingly mismatched pair together, the result is awesome.
Onjali Q. Rauf	The Star Outside My Window	Following the disappearance of her mum, ten-year-old Aniyah suddenly finds herself living in foster care.
Nic Stone	Dear Martin	Justyce McAllister is top of his class and set for great things – but none of that matters to the police officer who just put him in handcuffs.
Jerry Spinelli	Stargirl	Now a film on Disney+ this is a book about a girl who attends high school for the first time.
Nicola Yoon	The Sun is also a Star	When two young people meet on a train and fall in love, they have to make some difficult decisions.
Benjamin Zephaniah	Face	A young man's life is completely changed when his face is badly scarred in an accident.

Girl Talk

Sophie Bennett	The Look	Edwina is scouted by a model agency at the same time her older sister is diagnosed with cancer.
Anne Brashares	The Sisterhood of the Travelling Pants Series	The entertaining story of how four friends use an old pair of jeans to remain connected when they are apart.
Holly Bourne	The Yearbook	This is a smart and sassy high school drama, where the editor of the school yearbook serves up some truths about the school's 'mean girls'.
Lil Chase	Boys for Beginners	Tom-boy Gwennie realises she'll have to change after meeting Charlie.
Sarah Mlyowsky	Gimme a Call	Devi finds that she can talk to her future self with her mobile.

Non-Fiction

Maya Angelou	I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings	Classic autobiography of a young black girl struggling against the brutal American race discrimination in the 1930s.
Bean Appleby & Louise Spilsbury	What is Feminism? Why Do We Need It?	A brilliant introduction for children to feminism, looking at feminism in history and issues in today's society.
Clare Balding	Fall Off, Get Back On, Keep Going	With personal stories from Clare herself and from the lives of people she most admires, children will discover how to develop courage in the face of tough situations.
Juno Dawson	What is Gender? How Does it Define Us? And Other Big Questions	This informative book helps children explore questions about gender and identity, as well as other issues.
Gerard Durrell	My Family and Other Animals	A warm, funny account of family and animal life in Corfu.
Elspeth Huxley	The Flame Trees of Thika: Memories of an African Childhood	When Elspeth Huxley's father buys a remote plot of land in Kenya, the family sets off to discover their new home: 500 acres of Kenyan scrubland, infested with ticks and white ants.
Peter Frankopan	The Silk Roads: A New History of the World	Frankopan aims to tell the history of the world, not from a European or Western perspective, but through the lenses of places we don't know so much about.
David Olusoga	Black and British: A Short, Essential History	When did Africans first come to Britain? Who are the well-dressed black children in Georgian paintings? These, and many other questions are answered in this essential introduction to 1800 years of the Black British history.
Kate Power	The Bigger Picture Book of Amazing Dyslexics and the Jobs They Do	A beautifully designed book full of wise words and encouragement from successful dyslexics working in comedy, architecture, law, fashion and many other amazing careers.

Rashmi Sirdeshpande	Good News	Pandemics, war, terror, natural disasters – the world seems to be full of bad news and it can all feel scary. However, there are also tons of great things happening too!
Adeline Yen Mah	Chinese Cinderella	Jung-ling's family considers her bad luck because her mother died giving birth to her. They discriminate against her and make her feel unwanted. Her stepmother is vindictive and cruel and her father is dismissive. This is a story of survival in the light of mental and physical cruelty.