



Padgate Academy Recommends

25 Reading Books

for Year 8 students.

	Name of Book	Written by	Blurb
1	A Long Way Home	<i>Saroo Brierley</i>	A full-length account of the author's inspirational effort to find his India birthplace describes how he was accidentally separated from his family in the mid-1980s, his survival on the streets of Calcutta, his adoption by an Australian family and his headline-making Google Earth search.
2	Adventures of a young naturalist	<i>David Attenborough</i>	In 1954, a young television presenter named David Attenborough was offered the opportunity of a lifetime - to travel the world finding rare and elusive animals for London Zoo's collection, and to film the expeditions for the BBC. This is the story of how it all started.
3	Chinese Cinderella: The True Story	<i>Adeline Yen Mah</i>	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 dismissive. Only her aunt and grandfather offer her any love and kindness.
4	Coram Boy	<i>Gavin Jamila</i>	The Coram man takes babies and money from desperate mothers, promising to deliver them safely to a Foundling Hospital in London. Instead, he murders them and buries them by the roadside, to the helpless horror of his mentally ill son, Mish.
5	Counting Stars	<i>David Almond</i>	A stunning collection of stories from the author of the modern children's classic Skellig. In Counting Stars David Almond tackles the themes common to his work - joy, darkness, love, death and identity - with exquisite sensitivity and tenderness
6	Dracula	<i>Bram Stoker</i>	Dr. Van Helsing and his accomplices begin the chase to track down the infamous vampire Count Dracula before he completes his quest of moving into England and further spreading the undead disease.
7	Eve of Man	<i>Giovanna and Tom Fletcher</i>	Against all odds, she survived. The first girl born in 50 years. They called her Eve.... An unconventional love story set in a dystopian future, Eve of Man is the tale of what happens when you turn 16 and realise, you're the most important person in the world. Do you embrace your fate - or do you run from it?
8	Fahrenheit 451	<i>Ray Bradbury</i>	The hauntingly prophetic classic novel set in a not-too-distant future where books are burned by a special task force of firemen. Guy Montag is a fireman. His job is to burn books, which are forbidden, being the source of all discord and unhappiness. Even so, Montag is unhappy; there is discord in his marriage. Are books hidden in his house?
9	How I live now	<i>Meg Rosoff</i>	The powerful and engaging story of Daisy, the precocious New Yorker, and her English cousin Edmond, torn apart as war breaks out in London, from the multi award-winning Meg Rosoff. How I Live Now has been adapted for the big screen by Kevin Macdonald, starring Saoirse Ronan as Daisy and releases in 2011
10	I Am David	<i>Anne Holm</i>	David escapes from the concentration camp where he has spent his entire life and flees across Europe. He is utterly alone – who can he trust? What will await him? And all the while, how can he be sure that they won't catch up with him . . .
11	Kerb-Stain boys	<i>Alex Weatle</i>	Life on the Crongton estate can be rough for Briggy. Dad's lost his job, Mum's working so hard to make ends meet, and big brother Kingsley just wants out. So when his best mate Terror and coolest chick in the year, Caldonia, cook up a plan to make a quick buck, Briggy hopes this time it might be his chance to shine. Robbing the Post Office ... what could go wrong?
12	Life of Pi	<i>Yann Martel</i>	After the tragic sinking of a cargo ship, a solitary lifeboat remains bobbing on the wild, blue Pacific. The only survivors from the wreck are a sixteen-year-old boy named Pi, a hyena, a zebra (with a broken leg), a female orang-utan - and a 450-pound Royal Bengal tiger. The scene is set for one of the most extraordinary and best-loved works of fiction in recent years.

13	Looking for JJ	<i>Anne Cassidy</i>	Three children walked away from the edge of town one day - but only two of them came back . . . Six years later, JJ has now been released, and has a new identity. But is there any way that she can lead a "normal" life?
14	Maggot Moon	<i>Sally Gardner</i>	When his best friend Hector is suddenly taken away, Standish Treadwell realises that it is up to him, his grandfather and a small band of rebels to confront and defeat the ever-present oppressive forces of the Motherland.
15	Mud, Sweat & Tears	<i>Bear Grylls</i>	Bear Grylls is a man who has always sought the ultimate in adventure. He became one of the youngest ever climbers to scale Everest, aged only twenty-three. But this was just the beginning of his many extraordinary adventures . . .
16	Noughts and Crosses	<i>Malorie Blackman</i>	Sephy is a Cross: she lives a life of privilege and power. But she's lonely, and burns with injustice at the world she sees around her. Callum is a nought: he's considered to be less than nothing - a blanker, there to serve Crosses - but he dreams of a better life. Noughts and Crosses are fated to be bitter enemies - love is out of the question.
17	One	<i>Sarah Crossan</i>	Grace and Tippi don't like being stared and sneered at, but they're used to it. They're conjoined twins - united in blood and bone. What they want is to be looked at in turn, like they truly are two people. But a heart-wrenching decision lies ahead for Tippi and Grace. One that could change their lives more than they ever asked for...
18	Raspberries on the Yangtze	<i>Karen Wallace</i>	Naturally inquisitive, Nancy is always getting into trouble, along with her dreamer, pain-in-the-butt older brother Andrew, best friends Clare and Amy who live in the back of an old car, and weird sisters Sandra and Tracy, with their magazines full of boys. The children have known each other and their families for ever, but everything they thought they knew, is about to change.
19	The Day of the Triffids	<i>John Wyndham</i>	When a freak cosmic event renders most of the Earth's population blind, Bill Masen is one of the lucky few to keep his sight. But another menace stalks blind and sighted alike. With nobody to stop them the Triffids - walking carnivorous plants with lethal stingers - rise up as humanity stumbles and falls...
20	The Flame Trees of Thinka	<i>Elspeth Huxley</i>	When Elspeth Huxley's pioneer father buys a remote plot of land in Kenya, the family sets off to discover their new home: five hundred acres of Kenyan scrubland. Huxley's unforgettable childhood memoir is a sensitive account of settler life at the turn of the twentieth century and a love song to the harshness and beauty of East Africa.
21	The Giver	<i>Lois Lowry</i>	It is the future. There is no war, no hunger, no pain. At twelve years old, each member of the community has their profession carefully chosen for them by the Committee of Elders. Jonas has never thought there was anything wrong with his world. But from the moment he is selected as the Receiver of Memory, Jonas discovers that their community is not as perfect as it seems.
22	The Hitch-Hiker's Guide to the Galaxy	<i>Douglas Adams</i>	It's an ordinary Thursday lunchtime for Arthur Dent until his house gets demolished. The Earth follows shortly afterwards to make way for a new hyperspace express route, and Arthur's best friend has just announced that he's an alien. At this moment, they're hurtling through space with nothing, but a book inscribed in large, friendly letters: DON'T PANIC.
23	The Outsiders	<i>S.E. Hinton</i>	Teenagers in a small Oklahoma town have split into two gangs, divided by money, tastes and attitude. The Socs' idea of having a good time is beating up Greasers like Ponyboy Curtis. Ponyboy knows what to expect - until the night someone takes things too far, and life is changed forever.
24	Welcome to Nowhere	<i>Elizabeth Laird</i>	Twelve-year-old Omar and his brothers and sisters were born and raised in the beautiful and bustling city of Bosra, Syria. Omar doesn't care about politics - all he wants is to grow up to become a successful businessman who will take the world by storm. But when his clever older brother, Musa, gets mixed up with some young political activists, everything changes . . .
25	Wink	<i>Rob Harrell</i>	Ross Molloy just wants to be normal. He doesn't want to lose his hair, or wear a weird hat, or deal with the disappearing friends who don't know what to say to 'the cancer kid'. But with his recent diagnosis of a rare eye cancer, simply blending in is no longer an option.