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Year 7- Year 11 Reading List

Year 7-8 (ages 11-13)

- *Percy Jackson and the Lightning Thief* – Rick Riordan (fantasy/adventure) – A boy discovers he's the son of a Greek god and must recover Zeus's stolen lightning bolt.
- *Skulduggery Pleasant* – Derek Landy (fantasy/comedy) – A girl teams up with a skeleton detective to fight dark magic.
- *Holes* – Louis Sachar (mystery/adventure) – A boy sent to a harsh desert camp digs holes that hide a decades-old secret.
- *Wonder* – R.J. Palacio (contemporary/issues) – A boy with a facial difference starts mainstream school for the first time.
- *Murder Most Unladylike* – Robin Stevens (mystery) – Two schoolgirls turn detective after finding a teacher's body.
- *The Girl of Ink & Stars* – Kiran Millwood Hargrave (fantasy) – A girl uses her father's forbidden maps to search a mythical island for her missing friend.
- *War Horse* – Michael Morpurgo (historical) – A farm horse is sold into the First World War and separated from the boy who loves him.
- *A Wrinkle in Time* – Madeleine L'Engle (sci-fi/fantasy) – Siblings travel through space and time to rescue their missing scientist father.
- *New Kid* – Jerry Craft (graphic novel, contemporary) – A Black seventh-grader navigates identity and belonging at a mostly white private school.
- *Boy 87* – Ele Fountain (contemporary/refugee story) – A boy flees his home country and undertakes a dangerous journey to safety.
- *Artemis Fowl* – Eoin Colfer (fantasy/heist) – A criminal mastermind schoolboy tries to steal fairy gold and gets more than he bargained for.
- *The Explorer* – Katherine Rundell (adventure) – Four children survive a plane crash in the Amazon and must learn to fend for themselves.
- *Malamander* – Thomas Taylor (mystery/fantasy) – A boy investigates a legendary sea monster in a strange seaside town.



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- *Framed* – Frank Cottrell-Boyce (crime/comedy) – A Welsh village garage becomes an unlikely hideout for national art treasures.
- *The Boy at the Back of the Class* – Onjali Q. Raúf (contemporary/refugee story) – A group of children try to help a new refugee classmate find his family.
- *The Nest* – Kenneth Oppel (horror-lite/fantasy) – A boy's dreams of wasps offering to "fix" his sick baby brother turn sinister.
- *Which Way to Anywhere* – Cressida Cowell (fantasy/adventure) – A boy's magical maps turn out to lead to real worlds, sparking a rescue mission.
- *The Girl Who Drank the Moon* – Kelly Barnhill (fantasy) – A witch accidentally raises an abandoned baby on moonlight, giving her extraordinary powers.
- *Cogheart* – Peter Bunzl (steampunk/adventure) – A girl and her mechanical fox uncover a conspiracy after her father goes missing.
- *City of Ghosts* – Victoria Schwab (fantasy/ghost story) – A girl who can see ghosts explores Edinburgh's haunted history.
- *Diary of a Wimpy Kid* – Jeff Kinney (comedy, illustrated) – A boy's comic diary of surviving middle school mishaps.
- *Pax* – Sara Pennypacker (contemporary/animal story) – A boy sets off to find the pet fox he was forced to release into the wild.
- *When You Reach Me* – Rebecca Stead (mystery/sci-fi) – A girl in 1970s New York receives mysterious notes predicting the future.

Encouraging reluctant readers – Year 7-8

- *The 13-Storey Treehouse* – Andy Griffiths (comedy, illustrated) – Two friends' ever-growing treehouse leads to increasingly silly adventures.
- *Alex Rider: Stormbreaker* – Anthony Horowitz (spy/action) – A teenager is recruited by MI6 after his uncle's mysterious death.
- *Football Academy* series – Tom Palmer (sport) – Young players compete for places at an elite football academy.
- *Beast Quest* series – Adam Blade (fantasy/adventure, short chapters) – A boy battles magical beasts to save his kingdom, in bite-sized instalments.
- *Cherub: The Recruit* – Robert Muchamore (spy/action) – Orphaned children are trained as undercover agents for a secret intelligence unit.



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- *Wolf Brother* – Michelle Paver (prehistoric adventure) – A boy bonds with a wolf cub while hunting the creature that killed his father.
- *Diary of a Killer Cat* – Anne Fine (comedy) – A mischievous cat narrates his own bad behaviour with total lack of remorse.
- *Dead Man's Cove* – Lauren St John (mystery/adventure) – A girl in a new foster home investigates strange goings-on in a Cornish village.

Year 9-11 (ages 13-16)

- *The Hunger Games* trilogy – Suzanne Collins (dystopian) – A girl volunteers for a televised fight to the death to save her sister.
- *Divergent* – Veronica Roth (dystopian) – A girl who doesn't fit any of society's rigid factions must hide her dangerous difference.
- *Ready Player One* – Ernest Cline (sci-fi) – A teenager races to solve puzzles inside a virtual reality universe for a life-changing prize.
- *The Maze Runner* – James Dashner (dystopian/sci-fi) – Boys trapped in a shifting maze try to piece together why they're there.
- *Six of Crows* – Leigh Bardugo (fantasy) – A crew of criminal teenagers attempt an impossible heist.
- *Legend* – Marie Lu (dystopian) – A prodigy soldier and a wanted criminal from opposite sides of society cross paths.
- *Noughts & Crosses* – Malorie Blackman (dystopian/social issues) – A forbidden romance unfolds in a world where racial power is reversed.
- *The Hate U Give* – Angie Thomas (contemporary/social issues) – A teenage girl witnesses a police shooting of her friend and finds her voice.
- *We Were Liars* – E. Lockhart (thriller) – A girl pieces together what really happened during a summer she can't fully remember.
- *Eleanor & Park* – Rainbow Rowell (contemporary romance) – Two misfit teenagers fall in love over comics and mixtapes.
- *A Good Girl's Guide to Murder* – Holly Jackson (mystery/thriller) – A student reopens a closed murder case for a school project.
- *Loveless* – Alice Oseman (contemporary/LGBTQ+) – A university fresher navigates friendship, identity and asexuality.



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- *Heartstopper* – Alice Oseman (graphic novel, LGBTQ+ romance) – Two schoolboys fall for each other after being seated together in class.
- *The Fault in Our Stars* – John Green (contemporary romance/illness) – Two teenagers with cancer fall in love and confront mortality together.
- *Paper Towns* – John Green (contemporary/mystery) – A boy follows clues left by a girl who has mysteriously vanished.
- *Every Day* – David Levithan (contemporary/speculative) – A person who wakes up in a different body every day falls in love.
- *Will Grayson, Will Grayson* – John Green & David Levithan (contemporary/LGBTQ+) – Two teenagers with the same name have their lives collide by chance.
- *The Perks of Being a Wallflower* – Stephen Chbosky (contemporary/coming-of-age) – A shy teenager navigates friendship, trauma and first love through letters.
- *Looking for Alaska* – John Green (contemporary/coming-of-age) – A boy falls for an enigmatic classmate at boarding school, with life-changing consequences.
- *The Cruel Prince* – Holly Black (fantasy/romance) – A human girl raised in the faerie world schemes for power and survival.
- *City of Bones* (The Mortal Instruments) – Cassandra Clare (fantasy/urban fantasy) – A girl discovers she's descended from demon-hunters in a hidden supernatural New York.
- *Children of Blood and Bone* – Tomi Adeyemi (fantasy) – A girl fights to restore magic to a kingdom that violently suppressed it.
- *Foundation* series – Isaac Asimov (sci-fi) – A mathematician predicts the fall of a galactic empire and founds a colony to preserve civilisation through the dark age that follows.

Encouraging reluctant readers – Year 9-11

- *Illuminae* – Amie Kaufman & Jay Kristoff (sci-fi/thriller) – Survivors of a space battle piece together a cover-up through documents, chat logs and files.
- *Boy 21* – Matthew Quick (contemporary/sport, basketball) – A basketball star helps a traumatised new teammate cope with loss.



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- *The Running Man* – Stephen King writing as Richard Bachman (action/dystopian) – A man competes in a deadly televised game show to earn money for his family.
- *Kick* – Mitch Johnson (contemporary/football) – A boy in Indonesia dreams of football stardom while working in a shoe factory.
- *Ghost Boys* – Jewell Parker Rhodes (contemporary/social issues) – A boy shot by police watches the aftermath from beyond death.
- *Long Way Down* – Jason Reynolds (verse novel) – A boy rides an elevator down, confronting ghosts from his past, as he decides whether to seek revenge.
- *Warcross* – Marie Lu (sci-fi/gaming) – A bounty hunter infiltrates a virtual reality championship to uncover its creator's secrets.
- *Steelheart* – Brandon Sanderson (superhero-adjacent action) – A boy plots to take down a corrupt superpowered tyrant who killed his father.
- *The Martian* – Andy Weir (sci-fi/survival) – An astronaut stranded alone on Mars must engineer his own survival.
- *Ender's Game* – Orson Scott Card (sci-fi) – A gifted child is trained through military games to lead humanity's defence against an alien threat.