

Recommended Reads for Year 5/6/7

Action, Adventure & Mystery

The Middler by Kristy Applebaum. A thriller set in a dark future – middle children especially will love it!

Airman by Eoin Colfer. A fast-paced action book, perfect for anyone fascinated by adventure/flight.

The Lightning Girl (& sequels) by Alesha Dixon. Aurora discovers she is a superhero. What next?

The Girl Who Stole An Elephant by Nizrana Farouk. Will Chaya be captured in the Sri Lankan jungle?

Darwin's Dragons by Lindsay Galvin. Historical adventure: A shipwreck & the Galapagos islands

How to Survive Without Grownups by Larry Hayes. Mom&Dad left on a 1-way journey to Mars. Funny!

How I Saved the World in a Week by Polly Ho-Yen. Survival story with a zombie-inducing virus.

High Rise Mystery & Mic Drop by Sharna Jackson. A tech-savvy detective duo fight crime in London.

From the Mixed Up Files of Mrs Basil E Frankweiler by EL Konigsburg. Classic unforgettable adventure.

Highland Falcon Thief by MG Leonard. Brilliant choice for train-lovers and mystery fans!

Twitch by MG Leonard. Mystery exploring friendship & bullying, with lots of info about birds!
A Street Dog Named Pup

Kensuke's Kingdom by Michael Morpurgo. Michael is stranded on an island – but is he alone?

The Super-Miraculous Journey of Freddie Yates by J Pearson. Laugh aloud adventure: heart-warming!

The Explorer by Katherine Rundell. Stranded in the Amazon jungle, will Fred survive?

Slick by M.M. Vaughan. A science fiction mystery about advertising, androids & humans + friendship.

H.I.V.E. by Mark Walden. A Hogwarts of sorts but for villains. Filled with action and humour.

The 1000-Year-Old Boy by Ross Welford. You'll laugh and cry with this 1000-year-old teenager.

Fantasy or Magic Realism

Amari and the Night Brothers by B.B. Alston. A supernatural world and a missing brother. Diverse.

Cogheart by Peter Bunzl. Murder, mayhem – and a mechanical fox – in a Victorian-style world.

Artemis Fowl (and sequels) by Eoin Colfer. A 12 yo criminal mastermind attacks high-tech fairies.

King of Shadows by Susan Cooper. Time-travel back to Shakespeare's Globe. Superb writing.

Who Let the Gods Out (& sequel) by Maz Evans. A zodiac goddess, a death daemon & Greek gods!

Rumaysa: A Fairytale by Radiya Hafiza. Rapunzel with a hijab. Hilarious retelling of 3 fairy tales.

Girl of Ink and Stars by KM Hargrave. A map-maker's daughter, a missing friend & a fire demon!

The Whispers by Greg Howard. A powerful family drama with creatures who can grant wishes.

The Legend of Podkin One-Ear by K Larwood. Destruction, magic, evil, adventure – and rabbits!

Wolf Brother (& series) by Michelle Paver. Only Torak - and a wolf cub - can save the world.

Edge Chronicles series by P Stewart & C Riddell. An extraordinary meld between text and illustration.

Wings of Fire (& sequels) by Tui Sutherland. A war is raging between dragon tribes. Great adventures!

The Lost Magician by Piers Torday. Step through the Narnia-esque library door for an adventure.

Fun

Little Badman... by H Arshad. Bees, microwaved pants, embarrassing relatives & an 11yo rapper!

Something I Said by BB Smith. Carmichael is the class clown in a talent show. What could go wrong?

Runaway Robot by FC Boyce. A fun, moving story of a boy with a prosthetic hand & a one-legged robot.

Fenway and Hattie by Victoria Cole. Written from the point-of-view of Fenway, the dog. Hysterical!

Flora and Ulysses by Kate DiCamillo. A squirrel with superpowers, a self-described 'cynic' and comics.

Enginerds by Jarret Lerner. Super-smart boys vs farting robots – a funny, action-packed novel.

The Accidental Billionaire by Tom McLaughlan. Jasper creates the world's first talking cat.

Planet Omar series by Zaniab Mian. Omar will keep you laughing and reading (better than Wimpy Kid!)

The Boy Who Made Everyone Laugh by Helen Rutter. Billy aspires to be a comedian but stutters.

My Brother is a Superhero (& sequels)- D Solomon. It's unfair that Luke's brother gets superpowers!

The Day the Screens Went Blank by Danny Wallace. Stella (age 10) wakes up to a world with no tech.

Ghosts and Horror

The Savage by David Almond. What if your writing became reality – and you have created a savage?

Doll Bones by Holly Black. Eleanor Black died in 1895 – and now she wants to play.

The Graveyard Book by Neil Gaiman. Possibly the best opening to a story ever! Carnegie & Newbery.

Crater Lake by Jennifer Killick. A Year 6 school trip from hell: Lance and his friend must NOT fall asleep.

Uncle Montague's Tales of Terror by C. Priestley. A collection of intertwined, spine-tingling stories.

Relationships & Tough Situations

Cyborg Cat: Rise of the Parsons Road Gang (& sequels)- A. Adepitan. Explores racism & disability.

The One and Only Ivan by K Applegate. Story 'told' by an exploited gorilla. Newbery winner.

Boy Under Water by Adam Baron. A funny and poignant book sensitively exploring depression.

The Shark Caller by Zillah Bethell. Grief, adventure, a beautiful island setting & language + sharks

Cloud Busting or ***Pig-Heart Boy*** by Malorie Blackman. Inspiring and heart-warming books.

Efren Divided by Ernesto Cisneros. Undocumented mom of sweet & loving family gets deported.

The Dog Who Lost His Bark by Eoin Colfer. An extraordinary story of loneliness, pain & friendship.

Walk Two Moons by Sharon Creech. A moving Newbery medal winner about grief and love.

Apple and Rain by Sarah Crossan. Apple's mother has returned after 11 years away...

Because of Winn Dixie by Kate DiCamillo. Opal's mother is gone – will a stray dog help?

Running on Empty by SE Durrant. AJ's grandfather has died and he is running to hold things together.

The Many Worlds of Albie Bright by C Edge. Can Albie bring his mum back using quantum physics?

Check Mates by Stewart Foster. Felix has ADHD is often in trouble. Grandad wants him to learn chess.

The Bone Sparrow by Z Fraillion. Subhi is a refugee camp child – a story of friendship and resilience.

When Life Gives You Mangoes by Kereen Getten. Grief, friendship, mystery in Jamaican setting.

Tall Story by Candy Gourlay. Basketball when you are short & have an 8-foot Filipino half- brother.

The Eleventh Trade by A Hollingsworth. Sami, a refugee, is determined to get his Baba's rebab back.

Hello, Universe by EE Kelly. A story of unusual friendships from 4 points of view. Newbery winner.

Red Sky in the Morning by Elizabeth Laird. Anna's brother Ben is severely disabled. Will she cope?

Scarlet Ibis by Gill Lewis. Whatever it takes, Scarlet will get her autistic brother back. Will make you cry.

A Kind of Spark by Elle McNicholl. Autistic 11-year-old Addie campaigns for a witch trial memorial.

A Monster Calls by Patrick Ness. A harrowing and beautiful book about family, fear and illness.

Wonder by R.J. Palacio. A heart-warming story of a boy with a severe facial deformity.

Pax by Sara Pennypacker. A beautifully written story of a boy and his fox, who struggle to reunite.

The Night Bus Hero by Onjali Rauf. Biggest bully in school learns empathy and solves a mystery.

As Brave As You by Jason Reynolds. What does it mean to be brave? Disability, diversity and truth.

Also try the ***Track*** series and ***Look Both Ways Ghost*** by JP Rhodes. Jerome is 12—and dead, killed by a policeman. A poignant story told by his ghost.

Wonderstruck by Brian Selznick. Two stories and an extraordinary mix of image and language.

Clean Getaway by Nic Stone. 11 year-old Scoob goes on a road trip with Grandma in the South.

The Goldfish Boy by Lisa Thompson. Matthew has OCD and stays in his room—but there's a mystery.

How I Became a Ghost (& sequels) by Tim Tingle. A Choctaw Trail of Tears story – stunning.

Windrush Child by B Zephaniah. Living as a Jamaican immigrant in the UK. Shocking.

War & History

Soldier Dog by Sam Angus. Stanley is a dog-handler in WWI. Will his dog save countless lives?

Letters from the Lighthouse by Emma Carroll. It's WWII & Olive has been evacuated to a lighthouse.

Once (&sequels) by Morris Gleitzman. A Jewish boy trying to find his parents in Nazi-occupied Poland.

Race to the Frozen North by Catherine Johnson. Based on M. Henson's life, a story of a pioneer.

Number the Stars by Lois Lowry. Why did most Jews in Nazi Denmark survive? Newbery winner.

The Skylarks' War by Hilary McKay. Family loves and losses in Cornwall during World War I.

After the War: From Auschwitz to Ambleside by T Palmer. Child survivors arrive in the Lake District.