

The



Guide To Reading and Books

In this guide you will find:

- Advice on good reading practices
- Advice on how to get reluctant readers reading
- Book recommendations for each age group

“Reading is a complex cognitive process of decoding symbols in order to construct or derive meaning. It is a means of language acquisition, of communication, and of sharing information and ideas.”

except be average in comparison to her saintly self. This is nothing new.

“I wouldn’t be so selfish, June wouldn’t be so cold. June wouldn’t abandon her daughter’s duties. Except that she did, permanently, leaving me to take the reins of a role I cannot possibly fill. But no one wants to think about that.”

My sister is dead and I’m still being teased up against her ghost. I’m not even supposed to.

So why does it still hurt?

The hurt winds its way through me and curls my fists at my sides. My blood buzzes in my head so loud I can’t hear. I’m pretty sure if she says another word I’m going to do something, possibly bad. So instead of doing something I know I’ll regret, I storm out of the kitchen and don’t stop until I’m up the stairs and in my room. I take the disc out of my DVD player and throw it at the wall. The disc can’t even make a sound, just bounces off and rolls onto the floor, sitting there in one piece, mocking me. After some pacing back and forth, I put the disc back in the player and turn the volume up as loud as it will go.

For one second the night is dark, only to smack on my door and apologize, only to say, “I’m sorry, my dad will coax me down for dinner. It’s so stupid, because all I wanted is space, and now that I have it, there’s too much of me that is just so damn ugly, only I can’t die.”

The idea of committing suicide is so stupid. It’s not even a

**“A BOOK
IS PROOF
THAT HUMANS
ARE CAPABLE
OF WORKING
MAGIC”**

Supporting and encouraging your child's reading at home

- Children should be “involved with books” outside of school for *at least* 20 minutes a day. This may sound prescriptive, but frequent exposure to quality books is the best way to engender a love of reading and to build up the skills necessary to tackle a text themselves. I write “involved with books” rather than “reading”, because for some children, 20 minutes of them struggling through a text each day is tantamount to torture and may well have an adverse effect.
- “Involved with books” means using a variety of approaches. Here are some suggestions:
 1. Read to your child from a very young age. Sit next to them. Use funny voices. Point to the words. Talk about the pictures. Ask questions like, “What do you think this story is going to be about?”, “What do you think will happen next?”, “Where will he go now?”, “Who do you think that is?” etc.
 2. Once your child is familiar with a story, ask them to “read” it to you. Young children will often be able to recite a story that they’ve heard many times, or can be encouraged to create the story by looking at the pictures.
 3. Once your child is able to recognise some letters or sounds, ask them to point to the ones that they know. Or point to the words as you read them. Or say them together.
 4. As your child begins to read independently, continue to read with them but read a line/paragraph/page each—whatever they can manage without losing interest.
- Reading can be fitted into all sorts of times of day. Ask your child to read to you while you are driving. Read to them in the bath or at bedtime. Encourage them to read while they’re having their breakfast. Ask them to read to/with a younger sibling. Instead of playing on a phone, read books on public transport. Turn the TV/playstation/computer OFF. Distractions ruin good reading opportunities.
- It is important for children to see their parents and carers reading. Model good reading behaviours— be enthusiastic about your own reading. Read out snippets from newspapers or magazines that you think they might find interesting. Tell them that you can’t wait to read the next bit of your book because it’s so exciting.
- If your child is a reluctant reader, find some audio books for them to listen to alongside reading the book. Listen to them together on car journeys. If everyone in the car has listened to the story, there is opportunity for some great family discussions or games based around the story.. Consider subscribing to a children’s newspaper or magazine. Read an exciting book to your child, but always stop on a cliff-hanger; they’ll want to read on. Encourage them to choose and buy a book themselves— Emmaus at Landbeach has a great selection of children’s books from 50p. Online book shop The Book People: www.thebookpeople.co.uk has an excellent selection of reasonably priced books and audio books suitable for all age groups.
- Use the Learning Resource Centre at CPS—all children may borrow one book at a time.
- Come into the classroom at the end of the day with your child and help them to choose an appropriate book. If they really want to choose one that is above their reading level take it anyway and read it to them or read it together.
- Join the village library.
- Kindles are fine for older children, but if you want your child to *read*, buy them one that they won’t be able to surf the internet on.

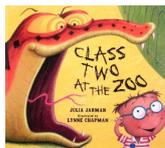
Books for children in Foundation Stage and moving into Key Stage One

Class Two At The Zoo

~ Humour

Join Class Two as they wander round the zoo. They see all sorts of animal antics, but they don't notice the anaconda slipping up behind, determined to make a meal of them. But don't worry, Class Two are a resourceful bunch.... Fabulous rhymes, alliteration and illustrations.

By Julia Jarman



The Mousehole Cat

~ Drama

A stunningly illustrated story of a Cornish village, where Mowzer the cat lives happily with old fisherman, Tom. One terrible winter, the Great Storm -Cat comes snarling at the harbour walls, so that no fishing boat can go out. Only Mowzer and Tom set sail to brave the fury of the waves together, to save the village from starvation.

By Antonia Barber

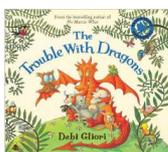


The Trouble With Dragons

~ Environmental

The world is populated by some beastly dragons who care nothing for how much they pollute the oceans, chop down the trees, gobble up all the food and use everything up without stopping to think. Those dragons need to wake up to what they are doing to their world before it is too late... This great book addresses environmental issues in the most child-centric way possible.

By Debbie Gliori

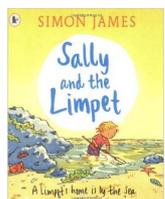


Sally And The Limpet

~ Conservation

When Sally pulls a limpet off a rock at the beach, it sticks to her finger – and nothing she, her family or her friends do can unstick it. Sally's teacher says that limpets live on the same rock for twenty years. So will Sally ever get the limpet off her finger? A heart-warming conservation tale.

By Simon James

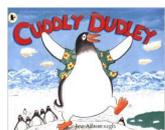


Cuddly Dudley

~ Humour, friendship

Dudley is so lovely and cuddly that his brothers and sisters just can't leave him alone – even when he wants some time to himself. So Dudley sets off alone across the tundra, until he discovers that maybe being with friends – and being incredibly cuddly – isn't so bad after all...

By Jez Alborough

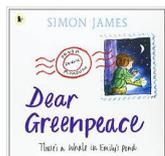


Dear Greenpeace

~ Conservation

Worried that the whale living in her pond is unhappy, Emily writes to Greenpeace, who, though offering the best of advice, insist that it is impossible for a whale to live in a pond. Undeterred, Emily continues to seek the best course of action for her beloved whale. A beautiful, touching story.

By Simon James

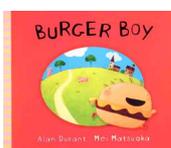


Burger Boy

~ Cautionary

Burgers were the only food that Benny would eat. "You'll turn into a burger one day," his mum warned. And one day, Benny did. The hapless Benny is pursued across the countryside by a mob of hungry dogs, boys and angry cows.

By Alan Durant



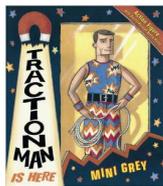
Books for children in Foundation Stage and moving into Key Stage One

Traction Man Is Here

~ Humour

Traction Man has an action outfit for every occasion. Whether he is saving toys (space suit, helmet and Rocket Boots); searching the sink for the lost wreck of the sieve (sub-aqua suit, flippers and infra-red mask) or rescuing damsels in distress (jungle pants, camo vest and bandanna), Traction Man is always stylishly dressed and accessorised. Until, that is, the day that he is presented with an all-in-one knitted green romper suit and matching bonnet by his owner's granny.

By Mini Grey

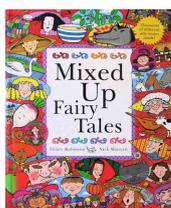


Mixed Up Fairy Tales

~ Fairy tale humour

Splits in each page allow you to put the correct version of a number of fairy-tales together, or if you're feeling subversive you can make Cinderella marry a bowl of porridge. This is great fun and at the same time it provide loads of reading practice in manageable chunks.

By Nick Sharratt



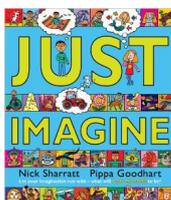
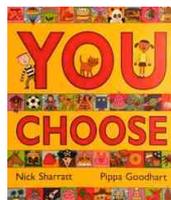
You Choose

~ Limited text, but fantastic for conversation and discussion from a very young age

Imagine you could go anywhere, with anyone and do anything. Where would you live? Where would you sleep? Who would be your friends? What games would you play? Go on . . . *you* choose!

Just Imagine

By Pippa Goodhart & Nick Sharratt



Just imagine what it would be like to be as small as a mouse; or as big as a house. Imagine exploring the depths of the ocean, travelling into the past or the future - or something even stranger...

Oi Frog!

~ Rhymes to encourage prediction, humour

Cats sit on mats, hares sit on chairs, mules sit on stools and gofers sit on sofas, but Frog does not want to sit on a log! Jam-packed with animals and silliness, hilarious illustrations and fun rhymes.

By Kes Gray



Hairy Maclary from Donaldson's Dairy (Part one of a series)

~ Fantastic rhymes and rhythm

Hairy Maclary goes off for a walk in town, followed by doggy friends of all shapes and sizes. One by one they join him until they meet SCARFACE CLAW; the toughest Tom cat in town, and causes all the others to run for home. The audio books, narrated by David Tennant, are excellent.

By Lynley Dodd

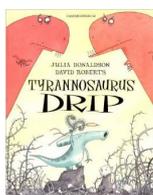


Tyrannosaurus Drip

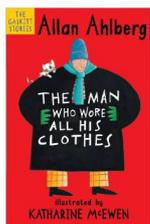
~ Fantastic rhymes and rhythm—great to read aloud

Everyone knows that tyrannosaurus are big and scary, so when a placid duckbill dinosaur's egg ends up in the wrong nest, confusion is sure to ensue! When the baby dinosaur hatches out, he's so out of place that his grisly big sisters call him Tyrannosaurus Drip. Poor little Drip: all he wants is a quiet life munching on water weed . . .

By Julia Donaldson



Books for children in Key Stage One



The Man Who Wore All His Clothes ~ Humour
(Part one of a series)

By Allan Ahlberg

One morning Mr Gaskitt puts on all his clothes, Mrs Gaskitt picks up a robber in her taxi, Gus and Gloria have trouble with a teacher, Horace the cat goes to a friend's house to watch TV and the car radio gets things wrong. What follows is an action-packed romp as different plots interweave and end in a thrilling car chase!

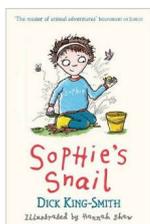


Something Else

By Kathryn Cave

~ Challenges
discrimination

This is the moving story of "Something Else"; a creature that doesn't really fit in anywhere, or with anyone... until "Something" shows up at his door... could it be that there are other outcasts? And could it be that he has finally found a friend after all?



Sophie's Snail
(Part one of a series)

By Dick King-Smith

~ First
chapter book

Sophie wants to be a lady farmer. She's been practising by rearing snails. A series of heart-warming tales about a very determined little girl. The audio books are narrated beautifully by Bernard Cribbins.

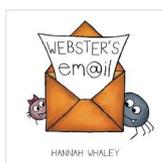


Chicken Clicking

By Jeanne Willis

~ Humour with
an e-safety
message

One night Chick hops onto the farmer's house and has a browse on his computer - CLICK - soon she's shopping online for the whole farm! But when she arranges to meet up with a friend she's made online, she discovers all is not as it seems...

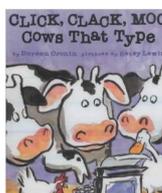


Webster's em@il

By Hannah Whaley

~ Counting,
rhyming, with
an e-safety
message

This witty rhyming story gathers pace as the little spider begins to regret emailing a funny picture of his sister. Count with Webster as his email reaches more and more people. The book gently introduces young readers to the vocabulary and etiquette of email technology.

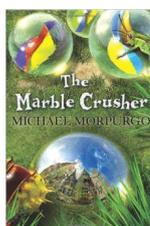


Click Clack Moo: Cows That Type

By Doreen Cronin

~ Animal Farm
for infants!

Farmer Brown has a problem. His cows like to type. All day long he hears click, clack, moo. Click-ety, clack, moo. The problems really begin when the cows start leaving Farmer Brown notes. First it was electric blankets...where will it end? And when the animals don't get what they want, they go on strike, of course! Will appeal to adults as much as children!



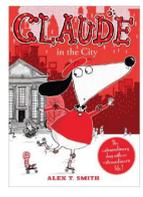
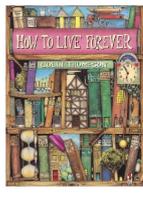
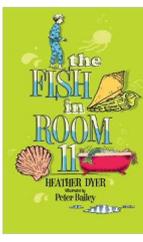
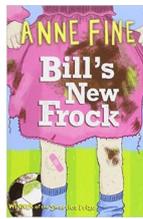
The Marble Crusher

By Michael Morpurgo

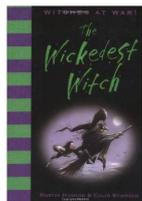
~ 3 short
stories, perfect
for newly
independent
readers

Three stories; one about the headmasters marble crusher, another about grandad's old barn and the barn owls, and the last about the conker king of jubilee park and old station. Introduces young children to Michael Morpurgo's beautiful books.

Books for children moving into Key Stage Two

	<p>You're A Bad Man Mr Gum ~ Humour (Part one of a series)</p> <p>By Andy Stanton</p>	<p>Mr Gum is a truly nasty old man. He's absolutely grimsters. This book's also about a little girl called Polly, an absolute winner called Friday O'Leary, an evil butcher, heroes and sweets, and a furry wobbler of a dog called Jake WHO MUST BE SAVED FROM TERRIBLE, TERRIBLE EVIL. Oh yes, it's all happening in this book.</p>
	<p>Claude In The City ~ First chapter book (Part one of a series)</p> <p>By Alex T Smith</p>	<p>When Mr Nad and Mrs Shinyshoes set off for work, Claude and his friend Sir Bobbysock, have an adventure in the city. All is well until he foils a robbery! Great illustrations.</p>
	<p>How To Live Forever ~ Mystery (Part one of a trilogy)</p> <p>By Colin Thompson</p>	<p>This is a magical story about a library that comes to life at night, and a young boy's quest to find a book that has been missing for 200 years. Intricately illustrated.</p>
	<p>The Legend Of Captain Crow's Teeth ~ Humour</p> <p>By Eoin Colfer</p>	<p>Will's brother Marty is always playing practical jokes. But when he tells him the bloodcurdling story of the cutthroat pirate Captain Crow, Will is <i>terrified</i>. Is it another one of Marty's tricks, or could Captain Crow's ghost really be out to get him?</p>
	<p>Cool! ~ Drama</p> <p>By Michael Morpurgo</p>	<p>Robbie is hit by a car. Unconscious, Robbie lies in hospital, unable to speak, move or eat. But he can hear; he is aware. Inside his head, we hear Robbie's thoughts. His friends and family try desperately to reach him – even Zola, his favourite Chelsea footballer, comes to see him. And still Robbie can't 'wake up'. Until one day, against hospital rules, Dad brings Lucky , the dog into the hospital. Can Lucky bring Robbie back to life?</p>
	<p>The Fish In Room 11 ~ Friendship</p> <p>By Heather Dyer</p>	<p>Toby lives a lonely life at the seaside hotel where he was abandoned as a baby - until the day he's sent down to the beach to look for lost laundry. Instead, he finds a pale, thin girl, lying at the water's edge with a long green tail swaying gently. Eliza Flot is a stranded mermaid and needs his help.</p>
	<p>Bill's New Frock ~ Good for discussion about gender equality</p> <p>By Anne Fine</p>	<p>Bill Simpson wakes up to find he's a girl, and worse, his mother makes him wear a frilly pink dress to school. How on earth is he going to survive a whole day like this? Everything just seems to be different for girls . . .</p>

Books for children in lower Key Stage Two

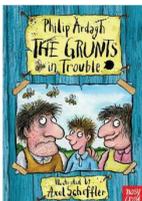


The Wickedest Witch
(Part one in the Witches At War trilogy)

By Martin Howard

~ Humour

Follow the quest of Esmelia Sniff and her new assistant, Sam, to find the Black-Wand-Of-Oh-Please-Don't-Turn-Me-Into-A-AarrgghhRibbett, and become the Grand High Witch.

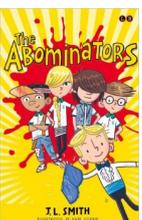


The Grunts In Trouble

By Philip Ardagh

~ Humour

Mr and Mrs Grunt live with their adopted, in fact, abducted son, Sunny, somewhere or other at some time that is a bit like now but not exactly now. Together the unusual family find themselves in frankly improbable but very funny adventures involving bendy railings, full-fat yoghurt and, always, a beard of bees.

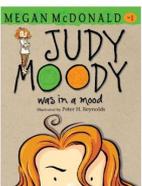


The Abominators

By J.L. Smith

~ Humour

The Abominators are the naughtiest children in Year 5 at Grimely East Primary School. Will they accept the very posh 'panty wanty woo' wearing Cecil Trumpington-Potts into their gang. Will appeal to fans of Horrid Henry.

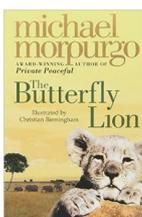


Judy Moody Was In A Bad Mood
(Part one of a series)

By Megan McDonald

~ Humour

Judy wakes up in a bad mood for the first day of 3rd Grade. Her first school project is to make a "Me Collage". As the story progresses, Judy learns about herself, and about the preconceived ideas she has about others. She makes a new friend and learns how to turn a bad thing into a new opportunity. Oh, and she collects scabs....

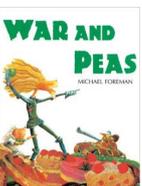


The Butterfly Lion

By Michael Morpurgo

~ Drama

The moving tale of a young boy growing up in Africa, and his lifelong friendship with a white lion. Bertie rescues an orphaned white lion cub from the African veld. They are inseparable until Bertie is sent to boarding school far away in England and the lion is sold to a circus.

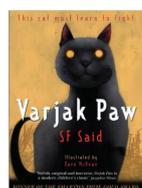


War and Peas

By Michael Foreman

~ Drama with a strong message about helping others

It has not rained in King Lion's country for a long time, and now not only will nothing grow, but also the land is too hard to dig. He decides to ask his rich, fat neighbour for help. But he is mistaken for a beggar and a robber, and is pursued home by Fat King and his army . . . and his supply trucks.



Varjak Paw
(Part one of a series)

By SF Said

~ Adventure

Varjak Paw, a Mesopotamian Blue kitten lives high up in an old house. He's never left home but all at once finds himself on a dangerous quest in the big city, full of dangerous dogs, cat gangs and - the mysterious Vanishings!

Books for children in upper Key Stage Two

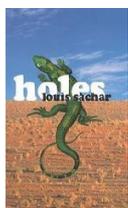


Kensuke's Kingdom

~ Adventure

A young boy is marooned on an island—a beautiful story of survival and the development of an unlikely relationship.

By Michael Morpurgo

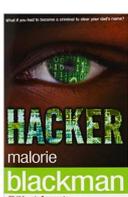


Holes

~ Drama

A clever and quirky tale of Stanley Yelnats who ends up in a juvenile detention centre, where he must dig dig dig to reveal the truth.

By Louis Sachar

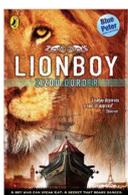


Hacker

~ Drama

When Vicky's father is accused of stealing over a million pounds from the bank where he works, she is determined to prove his innocence. But how? There's only one way - to attempt to break into the bank's computer files. But will she find the real thief before they find her?

By Malorie Blackman



Lionboy

~ Adventure

Charlie speaks 'cat'. His parents are missing. His search to find them takes him on a circus ship where he bonds with some homesick lions. But Charlie is in danger. The people who kidnapped his parents are close behind—they want him too.

By Zizou Corder

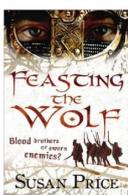


Shapeshifter - Finding the Fox ~ Adventure

(Part one of a series)

Dax discovers that he can shape shift into a fox. A government agent tells him that he is one of a few children with special powers, and encourages him to enrol at a secret school where he can develop his talent. But then the plot thickens...

By Ali Sparkes



Feasting the Wolf

~ Historical
adventure

Young Ketil and his friend join the great Viking war band expecting excitement, glory and to come back heroes. So will their friendship survive when they find themselves digging ditches, being bullied and given all the worst jobs? Both seek respect and acceptance in a world where it is only gained by earning honour in battle or death.

By Susan Price



Airman

~ Adventure

This is a swashbuckling adventure—Conor Broekhart is captured by an evil villain and held prisoner in a sea-swept dungeon, the only escape from which is by air. But flight hasn't been invented yet...

By Eoin Colfer



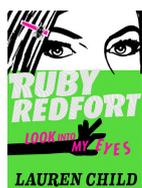
Shark Island

~ Drama

Hanna, Ned and their parents are on a holiday of a lifetime on the island of Kaitan. But the idyll is shattered when pirates come in the night, burning their house and kidnapping their parents. The children are stranded. In this action-packed adventure there is no one to help. Survival and escape are up to Hanna and Ned alone.

By David Miller

Books for children in upper Key Stage Two



Ruby Redfort: Look Into My Eyes ~ Mystery
(Part one of a series)

By Lauren Child

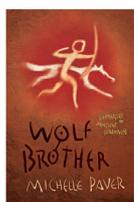
The first in a series of books for older readers, it takes us on an exhilarating adventure bringing together witty humour, dastardly villains and a fabulous new teenage heroine.



The Dragonfly Pool ~ Adventure

By Eva Ibbotson

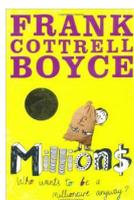
At her unique boarding school, Tally discovers a travelogue about a European country called Bergania, which is trying to stand against Hitler. She and her friends enter a dance festival just to get into the country so that they can show solidarity. Be prepared for skulduggery, scrapes and adventure.



Wolf Brother ~ Historical adventure
(Part one of a series)

By Michelle Paver

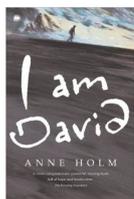
Torak and his adopted wolf cub are captured by the Raven Clan, in this prehistoric adventure. The story is cleverly constructed, with different parts being voiced by different characters.



Millions ~ Drama

By Frank Cottrell-Boyce

Damian's world is turned upside down when a sports bag stuffed with money comes crashing through the roof of his playhouse. After the initial excitement, the burden of wealth weighs heavily. Oh, and there's the small matter of the bank robbers who want their cash back.



I Am David ~ Historical adventure

By Ann Holm

A young boy escapes from a concentration camp and flees across Europe in an attempt to evade capture. Beautifully written insight into the character of David, a damaged, yet resourceful and resilient boy.



Hatchet ~ Adventure
(Part one of a series)

By Gary Paulson

Twelve year old Brian crash lands in the Canadian wilderness. All he has is a hatchet and the will to survive. A series of books that provide alternative scenarios.



Dragon Rider ~ Adventure

By Cornelia Funke

Firedrake, a brave young dragon, his loyal friend Sorrel and a boy called Ben, embark on a quest to find the legendary place where dragons can live in peace. Along the way, they discover a courage they never knew they had. Just as well, for the enemy is never far behind them - a heartless monster from the past who's been waiting a very long time to destroy the last dragons on earth.



The Name of This Book is Secret ~ Adventure & mystery
(Part one of a series)

By Pseudonymous Bosch

The name of this book is secret, the narrator is secret, the location of this story is secret, the character's names are secret, chapter one is so secret we're not even allowed to read it but we can know the story begins on a Wednesday...

Some notes about the recommended books

- The book recommendations listed on the previous pages are by no means exhaustive. The suggested age ranges are just that—suggestions. Be guided by your child, your child’s teacher and by your own instincts to gauge what your child is ready for. Instilling a love of books from an early age will make learning to read a less onerous task as the child gets older.
- Confident readers in Years 5 and 6 will begin to want to explore Young Adult fiction. While they may be perfectly capable of reading these books, parents should be aware that they often deal with subject matter that you may not consider appropriate for the age group. I would recommend reading any such books yourself first so that parents are able to make an informed decision. Also use websites like Amazon UK—look at the reviews for guidance. Another guidance site is: <https://sites.google.com/site/parentalbookreviews/home> although as a US site, the UK book content is limited.
- Here is a list of some popular (amongst the children in Year 6) Young Adult books that you may want to consider reading before your child does:

The Hunger Games trilogy	Suzanne Collins	Stories about a dystopian future where youngsters are selected for a TV show in which they have to fight to the death
The CHERUB series	Robert Muchamore	A series about child spies—Alex Rider for older readers
Henderson’s Boys series	Robert Muchamore	A series about child spies set in World War II—Alex Rider for older readers
The Enemy series	Charlie Higson	A series of gripping, but terrifying zombie-esque survival stories in a world where adults are the enemy
The Boy In The Striped Pyjamas	John Boyne	Holocaust theme
The Divergent trilogy	Veronica Roth	Another dystopian future; this time with lots of kissing!
The Book Thief	Markus Zusak	Wartime drama
Twilight series	Stephenie Meyer	Vampire series
The Fault In Our Stars	John Green	Terminal illness



More recommendations:

No recommended reading book-list would be complete without mention of these classics, so here goes:

The Harry Potter series	JK Rowling	The Wolves Of Willoughby Chase	Joan Aitken
Anything by....	Roald Dahl	Anything by....	Michael Morpurgo
Alex Rider series Diamond Brothers series	Anthony Horowitz	Little House On The Prairie series	Laura Ingalls-Wilder
Young Bond series	Charlie Higson	Swallows and Amazons series	Arthur Ransome
Winnie the Pooh	AA Milne	His Dark Materials trilogy	Philip Pullman
What Katy Did series	Susan Coolidge	The Secret Garden A Little Princess	Frances Hodgson-Burnett
The Mystery series	Helen Moss	Where The Wild Things Are	Maurice Sendak
The House At Green Knowe	Lucy Boston	The Hobbit	JRR Tolkien
Anne of Green Gables	LM Montgomery	White Fang The Call Of The Wild	Jack London
The Diary of Anne Frank	Anne Frank	Charlotte's Web	EB White
The Peppermint Pig	Nina Bawden	Five Children And It The Railway Children	E Nesbit
Mrs Frisby And The Rats Of Nimh	Robert O'Brien	The Silver Sword	Ian Serrailier
The Lost World	Arthur Conan Doyle	Emil And The Detectives	Erich Kastner
Pippi Longstocking	Astrid Lindgren	The Mrs Pepperpot series	Alf Proysen
The Narnia series	CS Lewis	Anything by....	Dr Seuss
A Wizard Of Earthsea	Ursula Le Guin	Are You There God, It's Me Margaret?	Judy Blume
Alice In Wonderland	Lewis Carroll	Heidi	Johanna Spyri