

Year 8 Recommended Reading



Adventure

The Girl of Ink and Stars	Kiran Millwood Hargrave	Isabella dreams of the faraway lands her cartographer father once mapped. When her friend disappears, she volunteers to guide the search.
Into that Forest	Louis Nowra	Two girls, lost in the wild, are rescued and adopted by Tasmanian tigers.
<i>Swallows and Amazon</i> series	Arthur Ransome	The Walker children set sail on the <i>Swallow</i> and head for Wild Cat Island.
<i>Rooftoppers</i>	Katherine Rundell	Sophie has been told her mother is dead but she refuses to believe it and travels to Paris looking for her.
<i>The Time Riders</i> series	Alex Scarrow	Read about three teens who are recruited by an agency known as 'The Agency' moments before their deaths.

Comedy

<i>The Name of this Book is Secret</i>	Pseudonymous Bosch	Read about a missing magicians diary, a symphony of smells and a deadly secret.
<i>Cosmic</i> and others	Frank Cottrell Boyce	Liam has always had trouble keeping his feet on the ground. Being 239,000 miles from earth doesn't make it any easier.

<i>Angus, thongs and full-frontal snogging : you'll laugh your knickers off! + others *</i>	Louise Rennison	Read the crazy confessions of Georgia Nicolson!
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Drama and Romance

<i>Piglettes</i>	Clémentine Beauvais	Mireille, Astrid and Hakima are officially the three ugliest girls in their school, but does that mean they're going to sit around crying about it?
<i>Artichoke Hearts</i>	Sita Brahmachari	12-year-old Mira comes from a chaotic, artistic and outspoken family. Mira is also keeping secrets.
<i>Love, Lies and Lemon Pies + others</i>	Katy Cannon	Sixteen-year-old Lottie is on a mission to protect her biggest secret!
<i>Apple and Rain + others</i>	Sarah Crossan	Apple's mother returns after eleven years of absence and Apple hopes that she will have an answer to why she left.
<i>The State of Grace</i>	Rachael Lucas	Grace is autistic and has her own way of looking at the world. She has everything she needs, but when everything goes wrong it's up to Grace to fix things on her own.
<i>How to Hang a Witch</i>	Adriana Mather	The trials of high school start to feel like a modern-day witch hunt for Samantha who has all the wrong connections to Salem's past.

<i>Wonder</i>	R J Palacio	Wonder is the moving story of Auggie Pullman. Born with a facial abnormality, he has been home-schooled by his parents until now.
<i>My Sister Lives on the Mantelpiece + others</i>	Annabel Pitcher	Narrated by ten-year-old Jamie, this is a novel about the tragedy that tears apart his family after a terrorist attack.
<i>Geek Girl series</i>	Holly Smale	Harriet Manners jumps at the chance to reinvent herself.
<i>Beyond the bright sea</i>	Lauren Wolk	Crow has lived her whole life on a tiny island. Her only companions are Osh, the man who rescued her from a washed-up skiff as a baby, and Miss Maggie, their neighbour. She needs to find her lost identity and learn what it means to be a family.

Fantasy

<i>Watership Down</i>	Richard Adams	After a band of rabbits lose their home, they head towards a mysterious promised land.
<i>The Knife series</i>	R.J. Anderson	Knife is a classic fairy story, with a feisty heroine and a dark side.
<i>His Dark Materials series</i>	Philip Pullman	Follow Lyra Belacqua and Will Parry as they wander through a series of parallel universes.
<i>My Sword Hand is Singing</i>	Marcus Sedgwick	An adventure with vampires set in the seventeenth century.
<i>The Hobbit</i>	J R R Tolkein	Follow the story of Bilbo, a peace-loving hobbit, who

		embarks on a strange and magical adventure.
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Historical

<i>My Story.. Collection including My Story - Titanic and My Story - Blitz</i>	Various	Read stories from different periods of history.
<i>The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas</i>	John Boyne	This is a tale of two young boys caught up in events beyond their control.
<i>Remembrance</i>	Theresa Breslin	Follow two families as their lives are taken over by the Great War.
<i>Diary of Anne Frank</i>	Anne Frank	In July 1942, thirteen-year-old Anne Frank and her family went into hiding in an Amsterdam warehouse.
<i>Coram Boy</i>	Jamila Gavin	A tale of two boys – Toby, saved from an African slave ship, and Aaron, the illegitimate son of the heir to a great estate.
<i>Where the World Ends</i>	Geraldine McCaughrean	In the summer of 1723, a group of boys and men are marooned on a rocky stack in the middle of the sea at the edge of the Outer Hebrides.
<i>Flambards</i>	K M Peyton	When Christina is sent to live in the grand country house, Flambards, she doesn't know what to expect.

<i>Ballet Shoes</i>	Noel Streatfield	Adopted as babies by Great Uncle Matthew, Pauline, Petrova and Posy Fossil lead a quiet life until they begin at the Children's Academy of Dancing and Stage Training.
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Mystery / Crime

<i>Model Undercover</i>	Carina Alexsson	Introducing Axelle Anderson - secret sleuth and part-time model.
<i>The Deadly Dare Mysteries</i>	Malorie Blackman	There's a new craze at Theo and Ricky's school. The rules are simple: write a dare, put it in the bag and take turns to pick one out.
<i>SweetFreak</i>	Sophie McKenzie	Carey and Amelia have been best friends forever until Amelia starts being trolled by the mysterious SweetFreak. Who has really been sending the messages?
<i>A Monster Calls</i>	Patrick Ness	The monster showed up just after midnight - something ancient and wild.

Science Fiction and Dystopian

<i>The Enemy + others in series</i>	Charlie Higson	When the sickness came, every adult, fell ill. The lucky ones died. Only children under 14 remain, and they're fighting to survive.
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<i>The Divergent Series*</i>	Veronica Roth	Society is divided into five factions, each dedicated to a particular virtue. On her Choosing Day, Beatrice Prior rejects her family's group, and chooses another faction.
<i>Uglies series</i>	Scott Westerfeld	Tally is looking forward to an operation which erases your flaws, transforming you from an 'Ugly' into a 'Pretty'. However, when she meets Shay, she sees things from a different point of view.

* *May include more advanced themes.*

Classics

Try a book from the Classics Challenge including ***Tales from 1001 Nights*** translated by Malcolm C. Lyons or ***Treasure Island*** by Robert Louis Stevenson.