



Lower School Recommended Reads

Stretch & Challenge

About the recommended reads in this booklet

The recommended reads in this booklet have been chosen on the basis of their potential to stretch and challenge your reading ability and your range of reading interests.

By stretching and challenging yourself, you'll help yourself become a more able reader who can read and enjoy a greater range of books, and therefore get more benefit from them.

You could use the list of recommended reads in this booklet to set yourself your own, personal reading challenge. For example, you could challenge yourself to read at least one book from every single featured in the booklet. Or set your own challenge - it's up to you!

Last but not least, if you find a book you really enjoy, make sure you spread the good news by telling your friends about it, so that they get the chance to enjoy it too.

You can get a copy of any book you want from the school library.

- To reserve a book that's already in the library, [go to Oliver](#), find the book you want, click on the book cover, then select the 'reserve' button.
- If the library doesn't have the book you want, ask Dr Gardner to order a copy for you.

Happy reading!

Dr Gardner

List of genres

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Biography / autobiography

*Someone telling their own
real-life story or someone
else's real-life story*

Suggested books

I am Malala by Malala Yousafzai (Young Readers edition)

Going solo by Roald Dahl

My family and other animals by Gerald Durrell

The diary of a young girl by Anne Frank

A Chinese Cinderella by Adeline Yen Mah

Swim, Bike, Run: our triathlon story by Alistair Brownlee and Jonathan Brownlee

Marley and me: Life & love with the World's worst dog

Refugee Boy by Benjamin Zephaniah

Red scarf girl by Ji Li Jiang

All creatures great and small by James Herriot

Lion: A Long Way Home (Young Readers edition) by Saroo Brierley

Permanent record (Young Readers edition) by Edward Snowden

Shoe dog (Young Readers edition) by Phil Knight

Mao's Last Dancer (Young Readers' Edition) by Li Cunxin

Award winners

Any book which has won an award, such as The Carnegie Medal, The Blue Peter Award, The Costa Children's Book Award)

Suggested books

Rooftoppers by Katherine Rundell

Liar and Spy by Rebecca Stead

Here lies Arthur by Philip Reeve

The other side of truth by Beverley Naidoo

The Amazing Maurice and his Educated Rodents by Terry Pratchett

The scarecrows by Robert Westall

The vandal by Ann Schlee

Liar & spy by Rebecca Stead

Northern lights by Philip Pullman

The kingdom by the sea by Robert Westall

Goodnight Mr Tom by Michelle Magorian

The explorer by Katherine Rundell

Skellig by David Almond

War stories

Including fighting but also the war as just the background; made-up or factual

Suggested books

Going solo by Roald Dahl

The diary of a young girl by Anne Frank

Private peaceful by Michael Morpurgo

The machine gunners by Robert Westall

Fathom five by Robert Westall

Goodnight Mister Tom by Michelle Magorian

Soldier dog by Sam Angus

Hitler's canary by Sandi Toksvig

Now or never: a Dunkirk story by Bali Raid

My friend the enemy by Dan Smith

Auslander by Paul Doveswell

The Eagle Trail by Robert Rigby

Animal / nature stories

This includes fantasy with animals, such as the Five Realms series, as well as realistic fiction

Suggested books

Silverwing by Kenneth Oppel

The last wild by Piers Torday

My family and other animals by Gerald Durrell

The animals of Farthing Wood by Colin Dann

Uki and the outcasts by Kieran Larwood

Half brother by Kenneth Oppel

Soldier dog by Sam Angus

Blitz cat by Robert Westall

Watership Down by Richard Adams

The Amazing Maurice and his Educated Rodents by Terry Pratchett

White Fang by Jack London

My life as a cat by Carlie Sorosiak

All creatures great and small by James Herriot

The wolf road by Richard Lambert

The night speakers by Ali Sparkes

Comedy / humour

Anything intended to make you laugh

Suggested books

Ribblestrop by Andy Mulligan

I Am a Genius of Unspeakable Evil and I Want to Be Your Class President by Josh Lieb

The Diamond Brothers in The Falcon's Malteser by Anthony Horowitz

Groosham Grange by Anthony Horowitz

Geekhood: close encounters of the girl kind by Andy Robb

Who let the gods out? by Maz Evans

The secret diary of Adrian Mole by Sue Townsend

The Amazing Maurice and his Educated Rodents by Terry Pratchett

Dark lord: the teenage years by Jamie Thompson

How to fool your parents by Pete Johnson

Socks are not enough by Mark Lowery

Little badman and the killer aunties by Humza Arshad and Henry White

Life of Riley: beginner's luck by Simon James Green

Science Fiction / Dystopia

*Science fiction is set in the future; in dystopian books, it's the future and the world's gone weird in a bad way, such as in *The Enemy* or *The Hunger Games**

Suggested books

The time travel diaries by Caroline Lawrence

The homeward bounders by Diana Wynne Jones

Finding the fox by Ali Sparkes

Time Travelling with a Hamster by Ross Welford

The Unexplainable Disappearance of Mars Patel by Sheela Chari

The night speakers by Ali Sparkes

The house of the scorpion by Nancy Farmer

The hunger games by Suzanne Collins

Maze runner by James Dashner

Divergent by Veronica Roth

The territory by Sarah Govett

The extinction trials by SM Wilson

Orion lost by Alastair Chisholm

Flood world by Tom Huddlestone

The city of Ember by Jeanne DuPrau

The Outlaws Scarlett and Browne by Jonathan Stroud

Horror / supernatural

This includes ghosts and monsters but also realistic horror, such as a killer dog

Suggested books

Soul hunters by Chris Bradford

The Spook's apprentice by Joseph Delaney

Magyk by Angie Sage

Groosham Grange by Anthony Horowitz

The graveyard book by Neil Gaiman

Horowitz horror by Anthony Horowitz

Skulduggery Pleasant by Derek Landy

The scarecrows by Robert Westall

Raven's Gate by Anthony Horowitz

The screaming staircase by Jonathan Stroud

Knights of the borrowed dark by James Rudden

Bloom: the overthrow by Kenneth Opiel

The enemy by Charlie Higson

The Outlaws Scarlett and Browne by Jonathan Stroud

Action / thriller / suspense

For example, spying, anti-terrorism, survival, a conspiracy...

Suggested books

Big Game by Dan Smith

Car-jacked by Ali Sparkes

Trash by Andy Mulligan

The other side of truth by Beverley Naidoo

Stone cold by Robert Swindells

The Unexplainable Disappearance of Mars Patel by Sheela Chari

Hatchet by Gary Paulsen

Gladiator: fight for freedom by Simon Scarrow

Finding the fox by Ali Sparkes

Girl, boy, sea by Chris Vick

Robin Hood: hacking, heists & flaming arrows by Robert Muchamore

The haven by Simon Lelic

Alone by DJ Brazier

The Outlaws Scarlett and Browne by Jonathan Stroud

Crime / mystery

It can be a detective or an ordinary person solving it

The London Eye mystery by Siobahn Dowd

And then there were none by Agatha Christie

The Goldfish Boy by Lisa Thompson

The Unexplainable Disappearance of Mars Patel by Sheela Chari

The ruby in the smoke by Philip Pullman

The last chance hotel by Nicki Thornton

Murder most unladylike by Robin Stevens

Knightley & son by Rohan Gavin

The Diamond Brothers in The Falcon's Malteser by Anthony Horowitz

Theodore Boone by John Grisham

Beetle boy by MG Leonard

The Valley of Lost Secrets by Lesley Parr

The Extraordinary Cases of Sherlock Holmes by Arthur Conan Doyle

Smith by Leon Garfield

Fantasy

*The story is set either in a completely different world, as with *The Hobbit*, or in our world with fantastical elements (such as dragons, talking animals, flaming swords...)*

Soul hunters by Chris Bradford

Magyk by Angie Sage

Dragon's green by Scarlett Thomas

Northern Lights by Philip Pullman

The dark is rising by Susan Cooper

Knights of the borrowed dark by James Rudden

The Hobbit by JRR Tolkien

Uki and the outcasts by Kieran Larwood

A darkness of dragons by SA Patrick

In the shadow of heroes by Nicholas Bowling

Wolf brother by Michelle Paver

Truckers by Terry Pratchett

Orphans of the tide by Struan Murray

'Classics'

These are books which are widely regarded as important; very often such books were published a long time ago, but can be more recent

The wolves of Willoughby Chase by Joan Aiken

Moonfleet by JM Faulkner

My family and other animals by Gerald Durrell

Going solo by Roald Dahl

The machine gunners by Robert Westall

Goodnight Mister Tom by Michelle Magorian

Watership Down by Richard Adams

Northern Lights by Philip Pullman

Treasure Island by Robert Louis Stevenson

The Eagle of the Ninth by Rosemary Sutcliffe

Across the barricades by Joan Lingard

Roll of thunder, hear my cry by Mildred Taylor

The Hobbit by JRR Tolkien

White fang by Jack London

All creatures great and small by James Herriot

The phantom tollbooth by Norman Juster

Different cultures

These books feature main characters from a group which is a minority in the UK

Boy, everywhere by AM Dassu

I am Malala by Malala Yousafzai (Young Readers edition)

A Chinese Cinderella by Adeline Yen Mah

The boy who captured the wind (Young Readers edition)

Refugee Boy by Benjamin Zephaniah

Trash by Andy Mulligan

The other side of truth by Beverley Naidoo

The Bone Sparrow by Zana Fraillon

Across the barricades by Joan Lingard

Roll of thunder, hear my cry by Mildred Taylor

Ghost hawk by Susan Cooper

Girl, boy, sea by Chris Vick

Now or never: a Dunkirk story by Bali Rai

Black and British: an essential history by David Olusoga

Mao's Last Dancer (Young Readers' Edition) by Li Cunxin

Burning sunlight by Anthea Simmons

History / historical fiction

This includes factual books about the past and fiction books set more than 20 years ago

Gladiator: fight for freedom by Simon Scarrow

The diary of a young girl by Anne Frank

The wolves of Willoughby Chase by Joan Aiken

Treasure Island by Robert Louis Stevenson

Strange star by Emma Carroll

Here lies Arthur by Philip Reeve

The Eagle of the Ninth by Rosemary Sutcliffe

Across the barricades by Joan Lingard

Roll of thunder, hear my cry by Mildred Taylor

Red scarf girl by Ji Li Jiang

In the shadow of heroes by Nicholas Bowling

The ruby in the smoke by Philip Pullman

The time travel diaries by Caroline Lawrence

Mao's Last Dancer (Young Readers' Edition) by Li Cunxin

Smith by Leon Garfield

Graphic novels / comics

This can include Marvel and DC but also anything else told in a graphic format, such as the graphic novel version of Anne Frank's Diary

Anne Frank's diary by Anne Frank

Northern Lights by Philip Pullman

To kill a mockingbird by Harper Lee

Sapiens by Yuval Noah Harari

The graveyard book by Neil Gaiman

The giver by Lois Lowry

The hobbit by JRR Tolkien

1602 by Neil Gaiman

The art of war by Sun Tzu

The amulet of Samarkand by Jonathan Stroud

Line of fire: diary of an unknown soldier by Barroux

The last kids on earth by Max Brallier

Factual

This is anything which is not made up; it can be about any subject

The boy who captured the wind by William Kamkwamba (Young Readers edition)

Black and British: an essential history by David Olusoga (Young Readers edition)

I am Malala by Malala Yousafzai (Young Readers edition)

A Chinese Cinderella by Adeline Yen Mah

What if? By Randall Munroe

The Magic of Reality: How we know what's really true? by Richard Dawkins

The disappearing spoon (Young Readers edition) by Sam Kean

Lion: A Long Way Home (Young Readers edition) by Saroo Brierley

Our dogs, ourselves by Alexandra Horowitz

The impossible first (Young Readers edition) by Colin O'Brady

Permanent record (Young Readers edition) by Edward Snowden

Shoe dog (Young Readers edition) by Phil Knight

Mao's Last Dancer (Young Readers' Edition) by Li Cunxin