

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.

Warrior Boy by Virginia Clay. From London to Kenya: Will Ben fit in with his Maasai family?

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?

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.

Beetle Boy by MG Leonard. A mystery adventure with a boy and beetle in search of a missing dad.

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

Spylark by Danny Rurlander. Tom discovers a terrorist plot with his drone. Can he stop it?

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

The Girl Who Drank the Moon by K Barnhill. A witch & a poetic swamp monster. Newbery winner.

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.

Skellig or ***Kit's Wilderness*** by David Almond. Beautifully written books. A Carnegie winner.

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

Sky Song by Abi Elphinstone. A magical tale about a snowy kingdom controlled by an evil Ice Queen.

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

Ranger's Apprentice: Ruins of Gorlan by J Flanagan. Will must protect the kingdom from evil magic.

Inkheart (& sequels) by C. Funke. A fantasy adventure about the power of words and stories.

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.

Eragon (& sequels) by Christopher Paolini. Dragons, elves, monsters and magic; great for able readers.

Mortal Engines (& sequels) by Phillip Reeve.

Predator cities on wheels feed on smaller towns.

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

Malamander by Thomas Taylor. Mystery, mermonkeys, monsters & magic in Eerie-on-Sea!

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

Fun

Little Badman and the Invasion of the Killer

Aunties by H Arshad. Killer bees, microwaved pants, embarrassing relatives & an 11-year-old rapper!

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!)

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

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—but also funny! Celebrates football & friendship.
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.
Cloud Busting or ***Pig-Heart Boy*** by Malorie Blackman. Inspiring and heart-warming books.
Running on the Roof of the World - J Butterworth. A dangerous journey across the mountains of Tibet.
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 trying to keep his family together by doing what he does best – running.
The Many Worlds of Albie Bright by C Edge. Can Albie bring his mum back using quantum physics?
The Bubble Boy by Stewart Foster. Because of his health, 11-year-old Joe is stuck in hospital. And yet...
The Bone Sparrow by Z Fraillion. Subhi is a refugee camp child – a story of friendship and resilience.
Tall Story by Candy Gourlay. Andi loves basketball, but she is short--unlike her just arrived Filipino half-brother Bernardo, who is 8 feet tall. Funny & sad!
Boy in the Tower by Polly Ho-Yen. Ade is trapped in a tower block with bizarre attacking plants.
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?
A Story Like the Wind by Gill Lewis. Refugees in a boat sharing a story, hoping for freedom.

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 Boy at the Back of the Class by Onjali Rauf. A refugee boy & his classmates fight against the odds.
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: Ben's is in words from 1977, and Rose's is in pictures from 1927. Extraordinary mix of image and language.
The Great Blue Yonder by Alex Shearer. This is the story about Harry's afterlife. Poignant yet funny.
Clean Getaway by Nic Stone. 11 year-old Scoob goes on a road trip with Grandma in the South. Disturbing but heartwarming, with lots of history!
The Goldfish Boy by Lisa Thompson. Matthew has OCD and stays in his room—but his help is needed.
How I Became a Ghost (& sequels) by Tim Tingle. A Choctaw Trail of Tears story – stunning.

War & History

Soldier Dog by Sam Angus. Stanley is a dog-handler in WWI. Will his dog save countless lives?
The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas by John Boyne. A shocking story of friendship during the Holocaust.
Letters from the Lighthouse by Emma Carroll. It's WWII & Olive has been evacuated to a lighthouse.
Under a War-Torn Sky by L.M. Elliott. Pilot Henry is shot down over Nazi-occupied Europe...
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.
Diver's Daughter: A Tudor Story by P Lawrence. A 'voices' adventure with African divers in England.
Number the Stars by Lois Lowry. Why did most Jews in Nazi Denmark survive? Newbery winner.
Armistice Runner by Tom Palmer. Lily's gran has Alzheimer's – but will the WWI diaries of her brave great-great-granddad reconnect them?