

Reading list and recommended fiction for Years 7, 8 and 9

There follows a list, in no particular order, of books, which have received consistently good reviews in various publications, as well as winners of some prizes over the last few years. Reading regularly is one of the best ways to improve English skills. Although this is mainly a fiction list, it is recommended that pupils read a wide variety of texts, including factual books, poetry, magazines, comics and newspapers.

Eva Ibbotson	Journey to the River Sea
Anthony Horowitz	Stormbreaker – Pointblanc and others
Lemony Snickett	A Series of Unfortunate Events (series)
Geraldine McCaughrean	The Kite Rider, Stop the Train and others
William Nicholson	The Wind Singer, Slaves of the Mastery, Firesong
Eoin Colfer	Artemis Fowl
Jerry Spinelli	Stargirl
Pauline Fisk	Sabrina Fludde
Hilary McKay	Saffy’s Angel
J.K.Rowling	Harry Potter (series)
Philip Pullman	His Dark Materials (trilogy), and others
Tamora Pierce	various
Jamila Gavin	various
Michelle Magorian	Goodnight Mr Tom, and others
Stephen Potts	Compass Murphy
David Almond	Skellig, and others
Michael Morpurgo	various (many excellent reads)
Jacqueline Wilson	various
Philip Dickinson	Eva
Gillian Cross	Tightrope
Tim Bowler	Midget, and others
Bernard Ashley	Little Soldier
Beverly Naidoo	The Other Side of Truth
Benjamin Zephaniah	Face
Celia Rees	various
Anne Fine	various
Louis Sachar	various
Neil Arksey	various

Poetry

There’s a Poet Behind You	edited by Morag Styles and Helen Cook
Laughter is An Egg	John Agard
You Wait Till I’m Older Than You	Michael Rosen
The Puffin Book of Classic Verse	edited by Raymond Wilson
Comic Verse	edited by Roger McGough
The Rattlebag	edited by Ted Hughes & Seamus Heaney

Shakespeare

Any of the plays, in particular:
Macbeth
Romeo and Juliet
A Midsummer Night’s Dream

Also as a useful introduction:

Illustrated Tales from Shakespeare	Adapted by Charles and Mary Lamb
The World of Shakespeare	Anna Claybourne & Rebecca Treays

Prose

Modern Novels

Underrunners	Margaret Mahy
The Haunting	Margaret Mahy
The Kingdom by the Sea	Robert Westall
A Place for Me	Robert Westall
The Granny Project	Anne Fine
Madame Doubtfire	Anne Fine
The Pinballs	Betsy Byars
Back Home	Michelle Magorian
Carrie's War	Nina Bawden
My Family and other Natural Disasters	Josephine Feeney
Night Fires	Joan Lingard
Follow a Shadow	Robert Swindells

Older Novels

Great Expectations	Charles Dickens	<u>Also books by:</u>
Oliver Twist	Charles Dickens	Thomas Hardy
A Christmas Carol	Charles Dickens	Graham Greene
Huckleberry Finn	Mark Twain	George Orwell
Tom Sawyer	Mark Twain	Alice Walker
The War of the Worlds	H. G. Wells	Sarah Waters
Around the World in 80 days	Jules Verne	
Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde	Stevenson	

Plays

A Game of Soldiers	Jan Needle
The Monster Garden	Diane Samuels
The Silver Sword	Stuart Henson
A Proper Little Nooryeff	Leonard Gregory
The Cuckoo Sister	Vivien Alcock
Under Milk Wood	Dylan Thomas

Literary Non-fiction

The Diary of Anne Frank	Anne Frank
Zlata's Diary	Zlata Filipovic
The Groucho Letters	Groucho Marx
The Diaries of Samuel Pepys	Samuel Pepys
Catch Me a Colubus	Gerald Durrell
My Family and Other Animals	Gerald Durrell
The Kon Tiki Expedition	Thor Heyerdahl

There are many biographies and autobiographies about famous people (including pop stars, sports personalities, film and TV stars) that you can read, depending on your interests.

The most important thing to do when reading any book is to enjoy it! Pass it on to a friend and ask them for their recommendations ...

The English Department