

Year 8 Reading Recommendations

Author		Title	Genre	Description/Additional Comments
Douglas	Adams	The Hitch-hiker's guide to the galaxy	Science Fiction	Earth is being demolished to make way for a galactic super highway and Arthur Dent is whisked off to safety by his alien neighbour. This funny sci-fi book will have you giggling from the very beginning.
David	Almond	Kit's Wilderness	Issues/illness	Kit has to face death and ultimately life in this haunting tale of family, new friends and dangerous scenarios.
David	Almond	Heaven Eyes	Issues/Orphans	Erin, January and Mouse dream of escaping the children's home in which they live. One day they do but will they ever come back? Award winning author.
Frank	Beddor	The Looking Glass Wars Trilogy: The Looking Glass Wars, Seeing Redd and Arch Enemy	Fantasy	This reworking of the classic tale is full of action, drama, adventure and thrills. The battle for wonderland is raging but can Queen Alyss maintain her stronghold? Read this amazing fantasy trilogy and be prepared to be amazed!
Julia	Bell	Massive	Issues/image	In a diet obsessive household and in a bid to be perfect, Carmen faces her own weight issues and begins to ask how different would her life be if she was really thin?
Malorie	Blackman	Pig Heart Boy	Issues/illness	Cameron needs a new heart and the closest match is from a pig! This highly charged story takes you on an emotional rollercoaster ride with Cameron, a cracking read!

Year 8 Reading Recommendations

Malorie	Blackman	Noughts and crosses Series	Issues/Racism	In a world dominated by prejudice and distrust, Sephy and Callum strike up a relationship that will lead them into extreme danger. This exciting series tackles racism and terrorism head on with its fast paced plots full of twists and turns, a must read. Malorie Blackman was awarded an OBE for her contribution to children's literature.
John	Boyne	The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas	War (Holocaust)	Friendship knows no barriers but in this tragic tale Bruno and Shmuel unwittingly become entangled in an adventure that goes too far.
Kevin	Brooks	Lucas	Thriller	Lucas appears out of nowhere... where does he live? Who is he? Caitlin is obsessed with him and discovering his story.
Alyssa	Brugman	Walking Naked	Issues/friendship	Megan and Perdita are thrown together in detention, neither would normally be friends with the other. Will Megan choose Perdita over her 'pack'?
Eoin	Colfer	The Wish List	Fantasy	A story about good and evil. After her death Meg Finn must redeem herself by helping an old man complete three tasks. A funny, thought provoking and moving book.
Arthur	Conan Doyle	The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes	Classic/Mystery	Super sleuth Sherlock is on the case with his side-kick Dr Watson, this collection of stories will thrill, shock and scare.
Roald	Dahl	Going Solo	Autobiography	Tales of adventure as Roald Dahl becomes an adult and travels to Africa. The non-fiction sequel to Boy: Tales of childhood.

Year 8 Reading Recommendations

Charles	Dickens	A Christmas Carol	Classic/ghost	A great classic ghost story of Scrooge who hates Christmas but is made to see it in a different light by the three ghosts of Christmas.
Paul	Dowswell	Auslander	War	Petr is Volksdeutscher; of German Blood. Petr doesn't want to be a Nazi so he is about to take the most dangerous risk anyone could take in Berlin 1942. An excellent read.
Anne	Fine	The Road of Bones	Historical	This story of survival, set in post war times, is a tale of struggle and despair but is also a story of growing up and being strong.
Catherine	Fisher	Darkhenge	Modern Myth	Caught between a world of myths and reality, this mysterious tale will capture your imagination from the very beginning.
Catherine	Fisher	The Ghost Box	Ghost/Dyslexia Friendly	Sarah has to make a life threatening decision that could involve others, what should she do? This is a great mystery, thriller featuring a boy ghost, a horrible step brother and an oak tree.
Catherine	Forde	Let's Do It	Comedy/Dyslexia Friendly	Three friends get up to some crazy stunts and film them for YouTube. This crazy comedy will have you in stitches.
Neil	Gaiman	The Graveyard Book	Horror	Spooks, spectres and a murderer is on the loose in this Carnegie Medal and Hugo award winning graveyard tale. Highly entertaining with a few surprises thrown in.
Neil	Gaiman	Coraline	Thriller	This spine-chilling masterpiece will have your hair standing on end with its creepily fascinating plot. When Coraline moves house, something seems strangely familiar but all is not what it seems.

Year 8 Reading Recommendations

Sally	Gardner	I, Coriander	Historical	Kidnapping, murder and romance make this a great tale for anyone who likes a bit of magic and mayhem!
Linzi	Glass	Ruby Red	Cultural	Divided by Apartheid, Ruby falls in love with someone with opposing views. Find out how she copes with the disapproval of everyone around her.
H Rider	Haggard	King Solomon's Mines	Classic/Adventure	The search for a lost friend takes three men on a perilous journey into deepest Africa but danger awaits anyone who ventures near King Solomon's diamond mines.
S E	Hinton	The Outsiders	Issues/crime	The Greasers and The Socs go head to head in this original teenage rebel thriller. Do the gangs go too far?
Mary	Hooper	Newes from the dead	Historical	Falsely accused of killing her baby in 1605, Anne was hanged and her body sent off to be dissected when a strange noise came from her throat, was she dead?
Pete	Johnson	Diary of an (Un)teenager	Comedy/Dyslexia Friendly	Spencer's about to turn 13 and doesn't want to change his image but when his best friend gets himself a new one, will Spencer follow the trend?
Pete	Johnson	Runaway Teacher	Issues/school/Dyslexia Friendly	Scott loves his new teacher who has very different ideas about lessons and rules. Boundaries are crossed and trouble knocks on the door!
Ally	Kennan	Beast	Issues	Stephen is a troubled soul with many secrets, there is a monster lurking that only he knows about and feeds. Will he be ready to deal with it when it gets too big?

Year 8 Reading Recommendations

Laurie	Lee	Cider with Rosie	Autobiography	Laurie Lee's childhood memories of growing up in a Cotswold village. Adventure and fun in a time gone by.
Saci	Lloyd	The Carbon Diaries 2015	Issues/Environment	Follow Laura and her family as they struggle to cope in 2015 with carbon rationing and the threat of unstoppable global warming. Written in diary form.
Maria	Lu	Legend Series	Futuristic adventure	Calling all fans of The Hunger Games! Set in the future Republic, June escapes and becomes the most wanted traitor who turns to a vigilante group for help.
Gemma	Malley	The Declaration Trilogy: The declaration, The Resistance, The Legacy	Futuristic adventure	When the drug 'Longevity' becomes available, life never ends... for some people that is but for children like Anna and Peter who are surplus to requirements, life is a struggle. Can they bring down Pincent Pharma and shake the foundations of society? Read it to find out.
Anthony	Masters	Bicycle Blues	Action/Adventure/Dyslexia Friendly	When James has his bike stolen, he's gutted. He has to start looking for it and the adventure begins.
Simon	Mayo	Itch	Adventure	A must for all lovers of everything scientific; action packed and totally thrilling, this was shortlisted for the National Book Tokens Award 2012.
Sophie	McKenzie	Girl Missing Series	Thriller	Red House award winner. Sophie Mackenzie is a fantastic, contemporary author, totally in tune with teenagers. Girl, Missing is a fantastic tale of kidnapping, drama and far reaching consequences; definitely one not to be missed!

Year 8 Reading Recommendations

Andy	McNab	Boy Soldier Series	Action/War	Ex SAS soldier Andy McNab certainly knows how to write a great tale of espionage, action and thrills. A series for anyone who loves CHERUB.
Jonathan	Meres	Diary of a trainee rock god	Music/Dyslexia Friendly	A blend of fiction and facts. Danny wants to learn to play electric guitar but his dad won't make it easy for him.
L M	Montgomery	Anne of Green Gables	Classic/Adventure	Orphan Anne dreams of life with a real family, when she is sent to live with the Cuthberts they're horrified, they wanted a boy to help on the farm!
Robert	Muchamore	Henderson's Boys Series	Action	Travelling back to World War Two to before 'CHERUB' existed, this series follows the lives of four orphans destined to become secret agents. High Octane adventure, not to be missed!
Beverley	Naidoo	The Other Side of Truth	Issues/Racism	When Sade and Femi flee to Britain from Nigeria, they are abandoned by the woman who brought them and are left in frightening and unfamiliar surroundings. Follow their plight to find freedom and acceptance.
Beverley	Naidoo	Call of the Deep	Myths/Legends/Dyslexia Friendly	Two haunting tales from the ocean with an intriguing blend of good and evil.
Patrick	Ness	A Monster Calls	Issues/illness	Carnegie, Kate Greenaway, Costa Award Winner 2012. Conor struggles to come to terms with his mother's illness, struggles at school and struggles with his emotions. A heart rending tale for those who are brave!

Year 8 Reading Recommendations

William	Nicholson	Wind On Fire Trilogy	Fantasy	In a society where you are valued for intelligence only, Kestrel rebels and discovers that the city of Aramanth was once very different.
Garth	Nix	Shade's Children	Science Fiction	In this fantastic sci-fi adventure where no child lives beyond their 14th birthday, Shade recruits those who are lucky enough to escape the killing machines. Can they overcome the terrible overlords?
George	Orwell	Animal Farm	Classic	The animals take over Manor Farm when they get rid of their master. Is their life full of plenty and enjoyment or is it back to the old ways as the clever ones take over?
A D	Palacio	Wonder	Issues/self esteem	A funny, inspirational tale of wanting to fit in and be 'ordinary'.
Christopher	Paolini	The Inheritance Cycle: Eragon, Eldest, Brisingr, Inheritance	Fantasy	A fantastic epic journey for a young lad who discovers a beautiful blue stone. Follow Eragon as he becomes a fearsome dragon rider in this stunning quartet.
James	Patterson	Maximum Ride series	Fantasy	This action, fantasy series will have you gripped from the beginning. From Death Valley to New York this thrilling adventure is sure to give you a buzz!
K M	Peyton	Flambards	Classic	Christina is sent to live with her fierce uncle and two cousins and whilst there discovers her love for horses. All is not as it seems and she has to face cruelty and deep emotions.
Helen	Phillips	Upside Down in the Jungle	Adventure	Dad's lost in the jungle so Roo and Mad head off to Costa Rica and battle to rescue him.

Year 8 Reading Recommendations

Annabel	Pitcher	My sister lives on the mantelpiece	Issues/terrorism	Jamie is in emotional turmoil when his sister is killed in a terrorist attack. This heart-breaking but funny tale will make you laugh and cry and is a great first novel from this author. Branford Boase Award winner 2012.
Terry	Pratchett	Nation	Adventure	A devastating tsunami wrecks the world of Mau and Daphne. Thrown together by this disaster it is up to them to rebuild a new world. Fun, entertaining, adventurous and just brilliant!
Philip	Pullman	His Dark Materials Trilogy: Northern Lights, The Subtle Knife and The Amber Spyglass	Fantasy/Adventure	Enjoyed by adults and children alike, His Dark Materials is set in two parallel worlds where Lyra sets off on an adventure to the north to save children from a terrible fate. Award winning author.
Celia	Rees	Witch Child: Sorceress	Historical	Mary is shipped off to the New World when her grandmother is hung for being a witch. Will it be different for her or do old superstitions die hard?
Philip	Reeve	Here Lies Arthur	Myths/Legends	This retelling of the legend of King Arthur is an outstanding story full of mystical, magical adventure. Carnegie Medal Winner.
Meg	Rosoff	Just In Case	Issues/adventure	Carnegie and Costa Award winning novel. When David Case saves his brother's life, suddenly his own life changes... he has to get away from it all and that's when the adventure begins!

Year 8 Reading Recommendations

Meg	Rosoff	How I live now	Romance	Guardian and Branford Boase Award winning book. Daisy and Edmund are torn apart when World War Two breaks out. Follow their struggles in this heart-warming teen romance novel.
Louis	Sacher	There's A Boy In the Girls Bathroom	Comedy	Bradley Chalker doesn't fit in nor does he do himself any favours by trying, but things change when Carla arrives. This heart-warming story is a great read it's also good for reluctant readers with its quick humour.
Marcus	Sedgwick	The Foreshadowing	Supernatural	Sasha can see the future, the only trouble is that when her brothers go off to war, she can see what lies ahead. Marcus Sedgwick is a brilliantly unique author with some fascinating concepts.
Marcus	Sedgwick	Blood Red, Snow White	Historical	Russian revolution intrigue, mystery and romance; this novel is based on historical fact and is a brilliant read.
Ruta	Septys	Between Shades Of Gray	War	When Lina is deported to Siberia, she doesn't know if she will ever see her family again. Lina's courage and determination to overcome hardships give her hope but will hope be enough?
Alex	Shearer	The Stolen	Thriller	A girl with no future and someone else's past, Meredith isn't Meredith at all. Carly makes a discovery that changes everything she believes in. This fast paced thriller will have you on the edge of your seat.
Holly	Smale	Geek Girl	Issues/self esteem	Harriet knows everything but isn't part of the 'in crowd' so applies to a top model agency with the hope of being popular.

Year 8 Reading Recommendations

Maria V	Snyder	Inside Out: Outside In (2 Books)	Fantasy	Rebellion is on the cards for Trella, a scrub from the lower levels, keeping the upper levels clean. Can she lead a revolution to stop the inequality? Read it and find out, it's excellent.
Robert	Swindells	Smash	Issues/Racism	Racist organisations are at the forefront in this story of friendship and betrayal. Two friends find themselves drawn in to a cycle of hatred and peer pressure.
Robert	Swindells	Stone Cold	Issues/Homelessness	Young homeless people are disappearing from the streets of London. Link is determined to find out what's going on with the help of his friend Deb but danger lurks... Carnegie Medal Winner.
Robert	Swindells	Dan's War	War/Dyslexia Friendly	Dan makes a chilling discovery whilst working at General Winton's home, involving some secret negotiations with the Germans. A brilliant World War Two thriller not to be missed.
J R R	Tolkien	The Hobbit	Fantasy	A 'must read' quest tale for all would-be adventurers. Bilbo leaves his village to seek his share of the treasure guarded by a fierce dragon. Not to be missed!
Sue	Townsend	The secret Diary of Adrian Mole aged 13¾	Comedy	This hilarious modern classic will have you rolling with laughter. Typical teenager Adrian has lots of problems from spots to embarrassing parents, with the love of his life Pandora thrown in. Dare to laugh out loud!
Mark	Twain	The adventures of Tom Sawyer and Huckleberry Finn	Classic/Adventure	Tom's always in trouble, follow him on a boyish adventure of pranks, danger and typical schoolboy trouble!

Year 8 Reading Recommendations

Scott	Westerfield	Uglies Quartet: Uglies, Pretties, Specials, Extras	Science Fiction	Sixteen is the magic number that makes you pretty. In this genetically altered world, Tally isn't sure if she wants to turn pretty but what will life be like on the outside?
Jacqueline	Wilson	The Illustrated Mum	Issues/Family life	Dolphin and her sister Star live in a very dysfunctional household with a mum who suffers from depression. This story is thought provoking, original and moving. Whitbread Children's Fiction Award Winner.
Adeline	Yan Mah	Chinese Cinderella	Autobiography	When her mother died giving birth to her, Adeline was considered to be bad luck and as a result suffered from physical and mental abuse at the hands of her family. Despite this, her fortunes changed when she was given permission to study in England. A sad but very uplifting book, well worth a read.
Benjamin	Zepheniah	Face	Issues/image	Martin's life completely changes when joyriding has devastating consequences. A brilliantly written novel well worth reading.