

KS3 Recommended Reading List

We have put together this reading list so that you are not stuck for choice to pursue your own reading for pleasure.

Before reading, look for a review or summary of the book to see if it sounds like it would interest you and be challenging enough. Here are some websites to get you started when doing this research:

- Lovereading4schools (which also has recommended reading lists)
- Bookstrust (which also has a Book finder and reading lists)
- Goodreads
- Amazon (look at the description and reviews of the book)
- Project Gutenberg - <http://www.gutenberg.org/> - A huge resource of free online ebooks.

We have made notes where books contain emotional or mature context.

Name of Book/Series	Name of Author	Fiction or Non-fiction	Notes
Dream Team	Alan Gibbons	Fiction	sport, football
The Beautiful Game	Alan Gibbons	Fiction	sport, football
The Greatest	Alan Gibbons	Fiction	sport, football
Home ground	Alan Gibbons	Fiction	sport, football
The Number 7 Shirt	Alan Gibbons	Fiction	sport, football
Football School: Star Players	Alex Bellos and Ben Lyttleton	Fiction	sport, non-fiction
Kerb-Stain Boys	Alex Wheatle	Fiction	coming-of-age, funny, friendship, relationships, crime
Crongton Knights	Alex Wheatle	Fiction	coming-of-age, mature content, gangs, drugs, bereavement, also suitable for Greens
Liclle Bit	Alex Wheatle	Fiction	coming-of-age, mature content, gangs, drugs, bereavement, also suitable for Greens
Brightly Burning	Alexa Donne	Fiction	12+, Jane Eyre science-fiction retelling, also suitable for Red & Green readers

Looking After Your Mental Health	Alice James and Louie Stowell	Non-Fiction	mental health
Young Sherlock series	Andrew Lane	Fiction	crime, mystery, thriller, adventure, around the world
The Hate U Give (THUG)	Angie Thomas	Fiction	police brutality, mature content, coming-of-age, also suitable for confident Red readers
On the Come Up	Angie Thomas	Fiction	bereavement, family, friendship, politics/human rights, coming-of-age, mature content, also suitable for confident Red readers
Horrible Geography Series	Anita Ganeri	Non-Fiction	also suitable for Red and Green readers
Game On	Bali Rai	Fiction	football
Stay a Little Longer	Bali Rai	Fiction	emotional content
Now or Never: A Dunkirk Story	Bali Rai	Fiction	emotional content, war(WW1)
The Gun	Bali Rai	Fiction	mature content, family, friendship
Shivers	Bali Rai	Fiction	mature content, family, bullying, crime, romance, sexuality
Fire City	Bali Rai	Fiction	mature content, horror, romance, science-fiction, friendship, dystopia
The Harder They Fall	Bali Rai	Fiction	bullying, school, emotional content
Face	Benjamin Zephaniah	Fiction	facial deformities, mature content, suitable for Red and Green readers too
Refugee Boy	Benjamin Zephaniah	Fiction	refugee, suitable for Red and Green readers too
The Tiger on his Back	Bernard Ashley	Fiction	Sofia Drake wants a tattoo - a tattoo all of her own, where her parents won't see it. And when she's introduced to Sol Marks, a genius young tattooist.
Journey to Jo'burg	Beverly Naidoo	Fiction	Africa, around the world, travel, family
No Ballet Shoes in Syria	Catherine Bruton	Fiction	refugee, bereavement, war (Syria), friendship, also suitable for confident Yellow readers
When Good Geeks Go Bad	Catherine Wilkins	Fiction	friendship, teenage, funny, also suitable for Red readers
The Chocolate Box series	Cathy Cassidy	Fiction	coming-of-age, family, fathers, mothers, school, relationships, also suitable for Blue readers

Tale of Two Cities	Charles Dickens	Fiction	+14 challenging read set in the French revolution
Young Bond series / The Enemy Series	Charlie Higson	Fiction	crime, mystery, thriller spy, mature content, relationship, school, recommended if you liked Alex Rider
The Spider King's Daughter	Chibundu Onuzo	Fiction	mature content, Africa
Things Fall Apart	Chinua Achebe	Fiction	religion, around the world, Africa
Young Samurai series	Chris Bradford	Fiction	historical, around the world, friendship, school, also suitable for Red readers
War Dog	Chris Ryan	Fiction	war (Afghanistan), veteran, animal, pet, emotional content
Agent 21 series	Chris Ryan	Fiction	crime, spy, bereavement, mature content
The Colour of the Sun	David Almond	Fiction	crime, ghost tale
Skellig	David Almond	Fiction	fantasy, adventure, coming-of-age, classics, fear, family, friendships, relationships
My Name is Mina	David Almond	Fiction	12+, coming-of-age, romance, family, friendship, relationships, feelings
The Parent Agency	David Baddiel	Fiction	funny, fantasy, family
The Person Controller	David Baddiel	Fiction	funny, science-fiction, school
Head Kid	David Baddiel	Fiction	funny
Birthday Boy	David Baddiel	Fiction	funny
AniMalcom	David Baddiel	Fiction	funny
Suffragette The Battle for Equality	David Roberts	Non-Fiction	equality, history
Doctor Who	David Solomons	Fiction	science-fiction, mystery
My Brother is a Superhero	David Solomons	Fiction	funny
My Gym Teacher is an Alien Overlord	David Solomons	Fiction	funny, sequel to My Brother is a Superhero
Skulduggery Series	Derek Landy	Fiction	funny, crime, elements of ghost tale and fantasy, also appropriate for confident Blue readers
I Capture the Castle	Dodie Smith	Fiction	war (ww2), also suitable for confident Red readers
Dorling Kindersley	Dorling Kindersley	Non-Fiction	suitable for all reading levels, history, personal experience

A Little History of the World	E. H. Gombrich	Non-fiction	history
The Railway Children	E. Nesbit	Fiction	classics, family, fathers, mothers, siblings
The Poet X	Elizabeth Acevedo	Fiction	verse novel, music, religion, romance, mature content, poetry, coming-of-age
Wuthering Heights	Emily Bronte	Fiction	11+ readers, classic novel romantic tragic story
Artemis Fowl series	Eoin Colfer	Fiction	Medium challenge, fantasy, also appropriate for confident Blue readers
Journey to the River Sea	Eva Ibbotson	Fiction	Adventure, prize-winning fiction, classics, around the world, environment, family, friendship, moving home, nature
The Secret of Platform 13	Eva Ibbotson	Fiction	fantasy, horror, classics, mothers
In The Sea There Are Crocodiles	Fabio Geda	Fiction	refugee, war(Afghanistan), travel, journey, coming-of-age, family, friendship, immigration, human rights
The Lie Tree	Frances Hardinge	Fiction	13+, mystery, fantasy, religion, science, historical, thriller
The Secret Garden	Frances Hodgson Burnett		adventure, classics, disability, family
Frankie's Magic Football series	Frank Lampard	Fiction	sport, football
War of the Worlds	H G Wells	Fiction	dystopia, classic, 19th century novel, science-fiction
Girls FC series	Helen Pietichaty	Fiction	sport, football
A Good Girl's Guide to Murder	Holly Jackson	Fiction	12+, funny, thriller, crime
Geek Girl series	Holly Smale	Fiction	teen fashion, fashion, bullying, coming-of-age, funny, family, friendship, grandparents, feelings
Pride and Prejudice	Jane Austen	Fiction	13+ classic novel with film adaptations
Lord of the Rings series & The Hobbit	J. R. R. Tolkein	Fiction	fantasy, film adaptations, journey, friendship
Harry Potter series	J.K.Rowling	Fiction	fantasy, magic, friendship, some emotional content and fight scenes
White Fang	Jack London	Fiction	12+, 20th century, animals, fantasy, mature content
The Maze Runner series	James Dashner	Fiction	dystopia, film adaptation, also suitable for Green readers
When the Guns Fall Silent	James Riordan	Fiction	football, WW1

Asha and the Spirit Bird	Jasbinder Bilan	Fiction	India, around the world, magic, animals, adventure, family, religion/spirituality, politics/human rights
Track series (Ghost, Patina, Sunny, Lu)	Jason Reynolds	Fiction	sport, coming-of-age, family, fear, friendship, school, feelings, also suitable for confident Blue readers
Ghost Boys	Jewell Parker Rhodes	Fiction	bereavement, bullying, fear, politics/human rights, feelings, ghosts
I Swapped my Brother on the Internet	Jo Simmons	Fiction	funny, also suitable for confident Yellow readers
The Wolves of Willoughby Chase	Joan Aiken	Fiction	adventure, fantasy, history, classics, also suitable for Green readers
Going batty	John Agard	Fiction	environment, funny, school, nature
Shona, word detective	John Agard	Fiction	language, detective
Of Mice and Men	John Steinbeck	Fiction	Emotional story about 2 men during the Great Depression
Travels with Charlie	John Steinbeck	Non-Fiction	Travel writing about trip around America with Steinbeck's dog
Lockwood & Co. series	Jonathan Stroud	Fiction	adventure, ghosts, horror, adventure, mystery, fear
Bartimaeus Trilogy	Jonathan Stroud	Fiction	adventure, fantasy, magic, religion, also suitable for Green and confident Blue readers
When Hitler Stole Pink Rabbit	Judith Kerr	Fiction	historical, classics, war (WW2)
Speechless	Kate Derbishire	Fiction	disability, family
Rooftoppers	Katherine Rundell	Fiction	adventure, around the world, family, friendship, also suitable for Green and confident Blue readers
The Explorer	Katherine Rundell	Fiction	adventure, around the world, environment, friendship, nature, also suitable for Green and confident Blue readers
Wing Jones	Katherine Webber	Fiction	coming-of-age, illness, sport, family, romance, school, relationships, also suitable for Green readers
What Would She Do?	Kay Woodward	Non-Fiction	equality, science, politics, also suitable for confident Blue readers
The Kite Runner	Khaled Hosseini	Fiction	13+ Story of Amir and his life in Afghanistan 60's - 00's

The Crossover	Kwame Alexander	Fiction	verse novel, sport, basketball, coming-of-age, bereavement, family, friendship, also available as a graphic novel
Booked	Kwame Alexander	Fiction	verse novel, sport, football, coming-of-age, bereavement, family, friendship,
Bridge to Terabithia	Latherine Paterson	Fiction	bereavement, family, also suitable for Green readers
Ruby Redfort series	Lauren Child	Fiction	adventure, funny, thriller, crime, family, fear
A Series of Unfortunate Events	Lemony Snicket	Fiction	funny, adventures, award-winner, bereavement, family, also suitable for Red and Green readers
Can You See Me?	Libby Scott and Rebecca Westcott	Fiction	Autistic spectrum, bullying, friendship, school, feelings, diaries and journals
Tom Gates series	Liz Pinchon	Fiction	funny, family, friendship, school, also suitable for confident Yellow readers
Little Women	Louisa May Alcott	Fiction	family, relationships, romance, coming-of-age, classics, film adaption
Girl Hearts Girl	Lucy Sutcliffe	Fiction	12+, LGBT+, family, romance, coming-of-age, relationships
A Wrinkle in Time	Madeleine L'engle	Fiction	adventure, science-fiction, classics
I am Malala	Malala Yousafai	Non-Fiction	equality, war(Afghanistan), activism, politics and human rights, mature content
The Noughts and Crosses Series	Malorie Blackman	Fiction	12+, dystopia, racism, some mature content, romance, friendship, politics, classics, also suitable for Green and confident Blue readers
Boys Don't Cry	Malorie Blackman	Fiction	12+, coming of age, romance, bullying, family, pregnancy, sexuality, relationships, feelings, also suitable for Green and confident Blue readers
A Dangerous Game	Malorie Blackman	Fiction	adventure, bullying, friendship, illness, nature, feelings
Contact	Malorie Blackman	Fiction	science-fiction, friendship, sport, dystopia
Grandpa Bert and the Ghost Snatchers	Malorie Blackman	Fiction	adventure, ghosts, funny, mystery, crime, family, grandparents
Jon for Short	Malorie Blackman	Fiction	12+, horror, mystery mature content
Peace Maker	Malorie Blackman	Fiction	adventure, science-fiction, personal/social issues

Robot Girl	Malorie Blackman	Fiction	science-fiction, family
The Book Thief	Marcus Zusak	Fiction	12+ young orphan in Nazi Germany
The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time	Mark Haddon	Fiction	12+, mature content, Autistic spectrum, feelings, diaries and journals, coming-of-age, thriller, family, science, maths, Asperger's Syndrome, crime, detective, also recommended for Green readers
Marley Dias Gets It Done and So Can You!	Marley Davis with Siobhan McGowan	Non-Fiction	equality, politics and human rights, activism, race, also suitable for confident Blue readers
A Change is Gonna Come	Mary Bello, Isha Bushby (Various authors)	Fiction	short stories, poetry, diversity
Once series	Maurice Gleitzman	Fiction	some emotional content, war (WW2), historical, around the world, politics/human rights, friendship persecution of Jews, also suitable for confident Yellow readers
I Know why the Caged Bird Sings	Maya Angelou	Non-Fiction	Auto-biography, mature content.
How I Live Now	Meg Rosoff	Fiction	12+, classics, family, relationships, romance, dystopia romance, 15 rated film adaptation
Gone series	Michael Grant	Fiction	12+, mature content, science-fiction, thriller, bullying, friendship
Private Peaceful	Michael Mopurgo	Fiction	war (WW1), historical, award-winning, classics, relationships, bereavement
Cool	Michael Mopurgo	Fiction	football, also suitable for confident Yellow readers
Coraline	Neil Gaiman	Fiction	12+, fairy tale, fantasy, classics, family, magic, spooky
Horrible Science	Nick Arnold	Non-Fiction	science, also suitable for light reading for Red/Green readers and confident Yellow readers
The Boy at the Back of the Class	Onjali Q. Raúf	Fiction	refugee, adventure, bereavement, friendship, politics/human rights, also suitable for red and confident yellow readers
Diver's Daughter: A Tudor Story	Patrice Lawrence	Fiction	history, Tudors
Orangeboy	Patrice Lawrence	Fiction	12+, mature content, crime, gangs

A Monster Calls	Patrick Ness	Fiction	bereavement, emotional content, bullying, classics, coming-of-age, school, mothers, feelings, fear, film adaptation
Chaos of Walking series (Book 1- The Knife of Never Letting Go)	Patrick Ness	Fiction	dystopia, science-fiction, war, film adaptation being released in 2021
The Alchemist	Paulo Coelho	Fiction	fantasy, around the world, romance, myths and legends,
The Silk Roads A New History of the World	Peter Frankopan	Non-fiction	history, also suitable for Green readers and confident Blue readers
His Dark Materials Series	Philip Pullman	Fiction	fantasy, BBC TV adaptation
Book of Dust Series	Philip Pullman	Fiction	Challenging, fantasy, some mature content, includes a prequel to the His Dark Materials Series
Sally Lockhart Mysteries	Philip Pullman	Fiction	mystery, crime, bereavement, fathers, mature content
Wonder	R.J. Palacio	Fiction	disability, facial deformity, family, school, friendship, also suitable for Red, Green and confident Yellow readers
Watership Down	Richard Adams	Fiction	animals, mature content, film adaptation
Heroes of Olympus series	Rick Riordan	Fiction	adventure, fantasy, myths and legends, friendship
Percy Jackson series	Rick Riordan	Fiction	fantasy, adventure, film adaptation, myths and legends, disability, friendship, magic, relationships, monsters, also suitable for confident readers and Red/Green readers
The Trials of Apollo series	Rick Riordan	Fiction	fantasy, adventure, myths and legends
Magnus Chase series	Rick Riordan	Fiction	fantasy, myths and legends
Kane Chronicles	Rick Riordan	Fiction	fantasy, historical, myths and legends, Egypt
The Sign of Four	Robert Louis Stevenson	Fiction	mystery, 19th century, detective, crime, romance
Cherub series	Robert Muchamore	Fiction	adventure, thriller, classics, crime, suitable for confident Blue readers
Abomination	Robert Swindells	Fiction	religion, abandonment, family, friendship, some emotional content
Stone Cold	Robert Swindells	Fiction	12+, homelessness, mature content, family, classics

Murder Most Unladylike series	Robin Stevens	Fiction	crime, mystery, friendship, historical, school, also suitable for confident Blue readers
The 1,000-Year-Old Boy	Ross Welford	Fiction	adventure, coming-of-age, bereavement, bullying, family, foster care, friendship, mothers
The Love and Lies of Rukhsana Ali	Sabina Khan	Fiction	LGBT+, family, politics and human rights
That Asian Kid	Savita Kalhan	Fiction	12+, mature content, funny, coming-of-age, racism, friendship, relationships, family
High-Rise Mystery	Sharna Jackson	Fiction	mystery, crime, adventure, fathers, family, siblings, relationships
Artichoke Hearts	Sita Bramachari	Fiction	bereavement, illness, romance, grandparents, feelings, diaries and journals, also suitable for confident Blue and Green readers
Jasmine Skies	Sita Bramachari	Fiction	sequel to <i>Artichoke Hearts</i> , family, friendship, romance, also suitable for Green and confident Blue readers
Tender Earth	Sita Bramachari	Fiction	from the perspective of Mina (from <i>Artichoke Heart</i>)'s sister, identity, friendship, school, politics and human rights, disability, coming-of-age
Kite Spirit	Sita Bramachari	Fiction	bereavement, family, friendship, emotional content, nature, coming-of-age
Red Leaves	Sita Bramachari	Fiction	ghost, war, adoption, family
Car Wash Wish	Sita Bramachari	Fiction	Autistic spectrum, Asperger's Syndrome, family, grandparents, illness, feelings
Worry Angels	Sita Bramachari	Fiction	family break up, school, anxiety, friendship, environment, moving home, refugees/asylum, school, mental health
Zebra Crossing Soul Son	Sita Bramachari	Fiction	bereavement, friendship
Where the River Runs Gold	Sita Bramachari	Fiction	climate change, family, dystopia
Girl, Missing	Sophie Mackenzie	Fiction	thriller, family, emotional content
Sister, Missing	Sophie Mackenzie	Fiction	sequel to <i>Girl Missing</i> , family, emotional content
Woman in Black	Susan Hill	Fiction	mystery, ghost, thriller

Hunger Games series	Suzanne Collins	Fiction	mature content, violence, dystopia, romance, film adaptation, also suitable for green and confident blue readers
The Dark Matter Trilogy	Terri Terry	Fiction	Very challenging, science-fiction, mature content
Horrible History Series	Terry Deary	Non-Fiction	Accessible-medium, non-fiction
Prisoners of Geography	Tim Marshall	Non-fiction	history, geography, war, around the world
Over the Line	Tom Palmer	Fiction	football, WW1
Ultimate Football Heroes	Various authors	Fiction	non-fiction, child-friendly biographies of famous footballers, sport, also suitable for confident Yellow readers and Red readers
Ultimate Superstars series	Various authors	Fiction	non-fiction, celebrities, also suitable for confident Yellow readers and Red readers
Divergent series	Veronica Roth	Fiction	Medium challenge, dystopia, romance, film adaptation, also suitable for Green and confident Blue readers
Lord of the Flies	William Golding	Fiction	13+, mature content, violence, dystopia, horror
Life of Pi	Yann Martel	Fiction	12+, mature content, adventure, classics, around the world, animals, family, fear, nature
The Bone Sparrow	Zana Fraillon	Fiction	refugee, family, friendships, emotional content, also suitable for Green and confident Blue readers