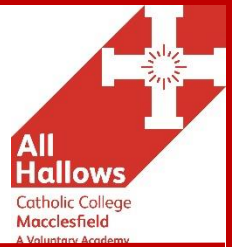


Year 7 Recommended Reading List:

Autumn Term



Check out this fantastic list of modern books! The books have been specially selected for Year 7 students and the English department are particularly excited about the diverse range of voices and stories that are collected here.

We think there's something for everyone...

For more suggestions visit: LoveReading4Schools on <https://www.lovereadingschools.co.uk>

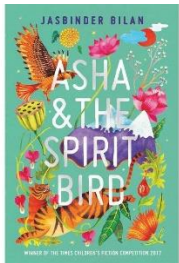
Fantasy and Ghost Stories

The House with Chicken Legs – S Anderson

All 12-year-old Marinka wants is a friend. A real friend. Not like her house with chicken legs. Sure, the house can play games like tag and hide-and-seek, but Marinka longs for a human companion. Someone she can talk to and share secrets with.



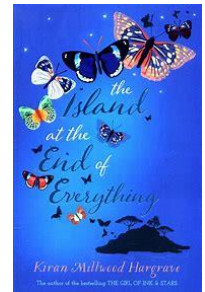
Asha & The Spirit Bird – Jasbinder Bilan



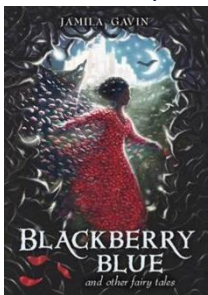
Asha lives on the family farm with her mother in rural India. Her father is away working in the city, and when the money he sends stops suddenly, a wicked aunt arrives. She's determined to seize the property – and the treasure rumoured to be hidden on the land. Guided by a majestic bird which Asha believes to be the spirit of her grandmother, she and her best friend Jeevan embark on a journey to the city, across the Himalayas, to find her father and save her home ...

The Island at the End of Everything – Kiran Millwood Hargrave

Ami lives with her mother on an island where the sea is as blue as the sky. It's all she knows and loves, but the arrival of malicious government official Mr Zamora changes her world forever: her island is to be made into a colony for lepers. Taken from her mother and banished across the sea, Ami faces an uncertain future in an orphanage. There she meets a honey-eyed girl named for butterflies, and together they discover a secret that will lead her on an adventure home.



Blackberry Blue – Jamila Gavin



These six new stories from Jamila Gavin are at once exotic and fresh, and traditionally heartening. The common tropes of fairy tales provide a solid structure Gavin can decorate with colourful details and rich images: sorcerers and their evil curses banish princesses and kings to dangerous forests and shape-shifting animals seek pure hearts in brave quests.

The title story offers a Cinderella-esque tale of a beautiful girl, protected by a thorny forest against a cruel Queen. The terrible mission in 'The Purple Lady' does not shy away from the dark capabilities of a fairy tale world – bones and bodies must be re-assembled to break the spell. 'The Golden Carp' has a beautiful eastern sensibility: precious jade is the undoing of a greedy man and his bitter son, while a magical maiden with long sleeves captivates our hero. Labyrinthine forests separate a righteous king from his people in 'Emeka the Pathfinder' and a magical violin drives a jealous musician into a

macabre dance in 'Oddboy'. The final story, 'The Night Princess' tells the story of the Moon and the angry Sun, who imprisons the Princess to a life time of darkness only for her to fall in love with an earth-bound farmer.

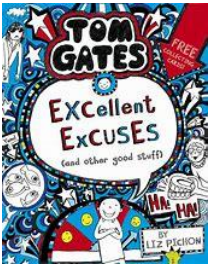
Comedy

The Last Kids on Earth – Max Brallier

It's been forty-two days since the monster apocalypse hit town. Average thirteen year old Jack Sullivan is holed up in his tree house, which he's armed to the teeth with catapults and a moat, not to mention video games and an endless supply of Oreos and Mountain Dew scavenged from abandoned stores. But Jack alone is no match for the hordes of Dozers and Winged Wretches and Zombies. Jack needs to build a team of whatever kids he can find, and whichever monsters will show him loyalty. With their help, Jack is going prove himself the ultimate post-apocalyptic action hero, and be average no longer!



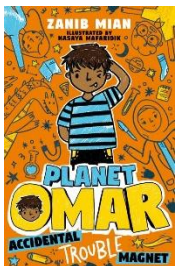
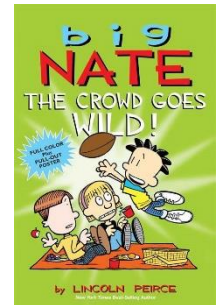
Tom Gates series – Liz Pichon



Tom Gates is a master of excuses, expert doodler, comic story writer extraordinaire – and the bane of his grumpy teacher Mr Fullerman's life. And in his wacky journal of scribbles and silliness, you'll find all sorts of comic craziness to make you groan with glee! Will Tom ever manage to get his homework in on time, avoid the rage of his teacher – AND impress Amy Porter, who sits next to him? Warning! Do not attempt to read this in public. You will snigger loudly!

Big Nate series– Lincoln Pierce

Nate knows he's meant for big things. REALLY big things. But life doesn't always go your way just because you're awesome. Trouble always seems to find him, but Nate keeps his cool no matter what. He knows he's great. A fortune cookie told him so. For fans of the hilarious Diary of a Wimpy Kid series: Here comes BIG NATE, accidental mischief maker and definitely NOT the teacher's pet.



Accidental Trouble: Planet Omar - Zanib Mian

Omar's parents decided it would be a good idea to move house AND move him to a new school at the same time. As if he didn't have a hard-enough time staying out of trouble at home, now he has also got to try and make new friends. What's worse, the class bully seems to think Omar the perfect target. At least Omar has Eid's around the corner to look forward to: which means a feast and presents. Well, as long as he can stay in his Mum and Dad's good books long enough...

Adventure and Action

The Boy Who Flew – Fleur Hitchcock

Athan Wilde dreams of flight. When his friend, Mr Chen, is murdered, Athan must rescue the flying machine they were building together and stop it falling into the wrong hands. But keeping the machine safe puts his family in terrible danger. What will Athan choose – flight or family?

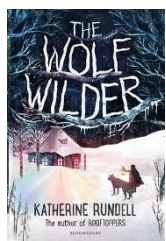


The Girl Who Stole an Elephant – Nizrana Farook

Chaya, a nobleman's rebellious, outspoken, no-nonsense daughter, just can't resist the shiny temptations the king's palace has to offer. But playing Robin Hood for her impoverished community doesn't come without risks, and when Chaya steals the queen's jewels from a bedside table—a messy getaway jeopardizes the life of a close friend. After an equally haphazard prison break, Chaya barely escapes on the king's prized elephant!

The Storm Keeper's Island – Catherine Doyle

When Fionn Boyle sets foot on Arranmore Island, it begins to stir beneath his feet ... Once in a generation, Arranmore Island chooses a new Storm Keeper to wield its power and keep its magic safe from enemies. The time has come for Fionn's grandfather, a secretive and eccentric old man, to step down. Soon, a new Keeper will rise!



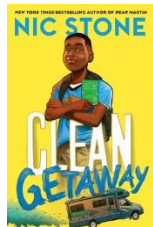
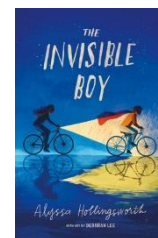
The Wolf Wilder – Katherine Rundell

Feodora and her mother live in the snowbound woods of Russia, in a house full of food and fireplaces. Ten minutes away, in a ruined chapel, lives a pack of wolves. Feodora's mother is a wolf wilder, and Feo is a wolf wilder in training. A wolf wilder is the opposite of an animal tamer: it is a person who teaches tamed animals to fend for themselves, and to fight and to run, and to be wary of humans. But with the Russian Army threatening their existence Feodora must make some difficult decisions.

Mystery/Detective

The Invisible Boy – Alyssa Hollingsworth

Nadia finds adventure in the pages of her Superman comic books, until a mysterious boy saves her dog from drowning during a storm and then disappears. Now she finds herself in the role of Lois Lane, hunting down the scoop of the Invisible Boy, and suddenly she's in a real-life adventure that's far more dangerous than anything in her comic books.

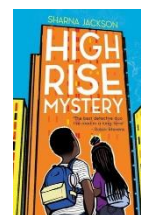


Clean Getaway – Nic Stone

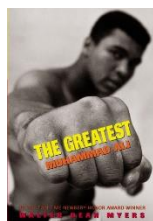
Set against the backdrop of the segregation history of the American South, take a trip with New York Times bestselling Nic Stone and an eleven-year-old boy who is about to discover the world hasn't always been a welcoming place for kids like him, and things aren't always what they seem--his G'ma included.

High-Rise Mystery – Sharna Jackson

Summer in London is hot, the hottest on record, and there's been a murder in THE TRI: the high-rise home to resident know-it-alls, Nik and Norva. Who better to solve the case? Armed with curiosity, home-turf knowledge and unlimited time - until the end of the summer holidays anyway.



Sport



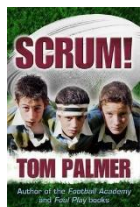
The Greatest: Muhammed Ali – Walter D Myers

Muhammad Ali may be known by more than one name, but his accomplishments, both inside and out of the boxing ring, have earned him a singular place in history as one of the most inspiring figures of the twentieth century

Kick – Mitch Johnson

Budi's plan is simple...

He's going to be a star, instead of sweating over each football boot he makes, each stitch he sews, each box he packages. He's going to play for the greatest team on earth, rather than in the square behind the factory where he works. But one unlucky kick brings Budi's world crashing down, because now he owes the Dragon, the most dangerous man in all Jakarta. Soon it isn't only Budi's dreams at stake, but his life.



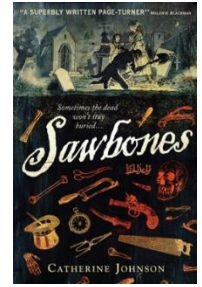
Scrum – Tom Palmer

When Steven's mother remarries and moves down south, Steven is torn between loyalty to his dad and a relationship with his mum's new husband. Maybe even worse, he might have to leave his beloved Rugby League behind for a new Rugby Union team.

History and Conflict

Sawbones – Catherine Johnson

Sixteen-year-old Ezra McAdam has much to be thankful for: trained up as an apprentice by a well-regarded London surgeon, Ezra's knowledge of human anatomy and skill at the dissection table will secure him a trade for life. However, his world is turned on its head when a failed break-in at his master's house sets off a strange and disturbing series of events that involves grave robbing, body switching ... and murder

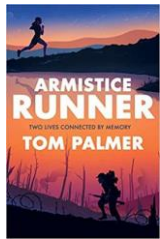


When the Sky Falls – Phil Earle

Inspired by a true story. It's 1940, and Joseph has been packed off to stay with Mrs F, a gruff woman with no great fondness for children. To Joseph's amazement, she owns the rundown city zoo where Joseph meets Adonis, a huge silverback gorilla. Adonis is ferociously strong and dangerous, but Joseph finds he has an affinity with the lonely beast. But when the bombs begin to fall, it is up to Joseph to guard Adonis's cage should it be damaged by a blast. Will Joseph be ready to pull the trigger if it comes to it?

Shadow – Michael Morpurgo

A stunning and moving new novel from Michael Morpurgo, the nation's favourite storyteller - featuring the bravest dog in all the world! He tackles a current war with the story of a sniffer dog named Shadow and an Afghan boy.



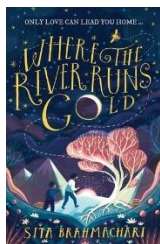
Armistice Runner – Tom Palmer*

Lily has lots of worries. She's struggling to compete in her fell-running races and, worse, she's losing her gran to Alzheimer's. But then she discovers her great-great-grandfather's diaries from the First World War. Could his incredible story of bravery help her reconnect with her gran and even give her the inspiration she needs to push through and win?

Dystopian/Sci-fi

The Infinite – Patience Agbabi

Leaplings, children born on the 29th of February, are very rare. Rarer still are Leaplings with The Gift – the ability to leap through time. Elle Bibi-Imbelé Ifiè has The Gift, but she's never used it. Until now. On her twelfth birthday, Elle and her best friend Big Ben travel to the Time Squad Centre in 2048. Elle has received a mysterious warning from the future. Other Leaplings are disappearing in time – and not everyone at the centre can be trusted.

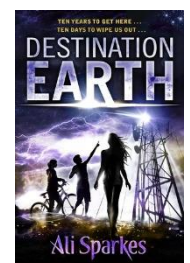


Where the River Runs Gold – Sita Brahmachari

Shifa and her brother, Themba, live in Kairos City with their father, Nabil. The few live in luxury, whilst the millions like them crowd together in compounds, surviving on meagre rations and governed by Freedom Fields - the organisation that looks after you, as long as you opt in.

Destination Earth – Ali Sparkes

Imagine you are the only survivor from another planet. You've spent ten years on a spaceship learning how to be human, and now the end of your journey is in sight ...All you have to do is land safely, convince the earthlings that you're a real teenager, and start your new life on Earth. No problem. Except that the killer alien responsible for wiping out your people has hitched a lift. And it's just a matter of time before it starts on the human race ...





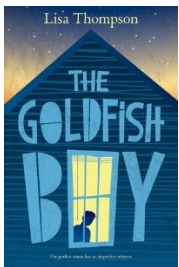
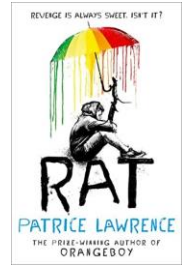
Relationships and Growing up

Black Brother, Black Brother – Jewell Parker Rhodes

Donte wishes he were invisible. As one of the few black boys at Middlefield Prep, he feels as if he is constantly swimming in whiteness. Most of the students don't look like him. They don't like him either. Dubbed the "Black Brother," Donte's teachers and classmates make it clear they wish he were more like his lighter skinned brother, Trey. Quiet, obedient.

Rat by Patrice Lawrence*

When his mum is sent back to prison, Al knows exactly who's to blame. Mr Brayker from downstairs has been making trouble for Al's mum ever since they moved in. Al is determined to get his revenge with a plan that involves the only two creatures he can rely on: his pet rats, Venom and Vulture. But things don't turn out exactly as he'd imagined ...



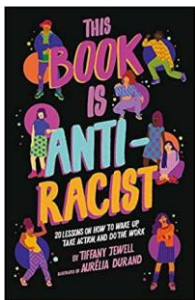
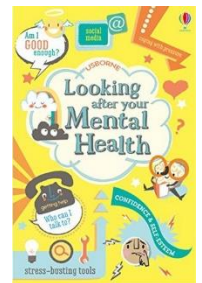
Goldfish Boy – Lisa Thompson

Matthew Corbin suffers from severe obsessive-compulsive disorder. He hasn't been to school in weeks. His hands are cracked and bleeding from cleaning. He refuses to leave his bedroom. To pass the time, he observes his neighbors from his bedroom window, making mundane notes about their habits as they bustle about the cul-de-sac. When a toddler staying next door goes missing, it becomes apparent that Matthew was the last person to see him alive. Suddenly, Matthew finds himself at the center of a high-stakes mystery, and every one of his neighbors is a suspect.

Non-Fiction

Looking After your Mental Health – Alice James, Louie Stowell

We talk about our physical health - but not so much about how we're feeling. With lots of practical advice, this lively, accessible guide explains why we have emotions, and what can influence them. Covering everything from friendships, social media and bullying to divorce, depression and eating disorders, this is an essential book for young people.

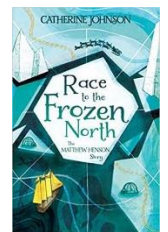


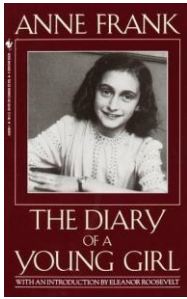
This Book is Anti-Racist – Tiffany Jewell

This book is written for the young person who doesn't know how to speak up to the racist adults in their life. For the 14 year old who sees injustice at school and isn't able to understand the role racism plays in separating them from their friends. For the kid who spends years trying to fit into the dominant culture and loses themselves for a little while. It's for all of the Black and Brown children who have been harmed (physically and emotionally) because no one stood up for them or they couldn't stand up for themselves; because the colour of their skin, the texture of their hair, their names made white folk feel scared and threatened.

Race to the Frozen North - Catherine Johnson*

Matthew Henson was simply an ordinary man. That was, until Commander Robert E. Peary entered his life, and offered him a chance at true adventure. Henson would become navigator, craftsman, translator, and right-hand man on a treacherous journey to the North Pole. Defying the odds and the many prejudices that faced him to become a true pioneer.





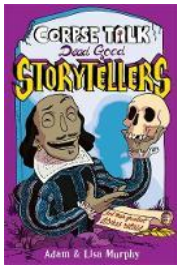
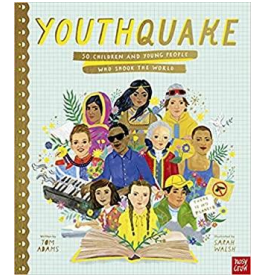
Autobiography/Biography

The Diary of Anne Frank – Anne Frank

Discovered in the attic in which she spent the last years of her life, Anne Frank's remarkable diary has become a world classic—a powerful reminder of the horrors of war and an eloquent testament to the human spirit.

Youthquake 50 Children and Young people Who Shook the World - Tom Adams

A collection of inspiring stories about incredible young people who have shaped the world we live in! No one is too small to start a YouthQuake! This is the story of fearless activists, brilliant inventors, champion athletes, gifted creators and inspiring leaders. It is the story of tremendous trailblazers who have influenced change with their passion, courage and determination, and whose inspirational actions and groundbreaking achievements have shaken the world...

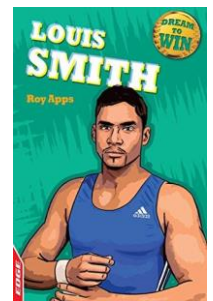


Dead Good Story Tellers – Adam and Lisa Murphy

Discover MARY SHELLEY and her electrifying FRANKENSTEIN! Look in on LEO TOLSTOY and read WAR AND PEACE in four pages! Keep up with CHARLES DICKENS and his GREAT EXPECTATIONS! Uncover all this and more in CORPSE TALK, the hilarious and mind-expanding chat show that brings the dead famous to life!

Louis Smith – Roy Apps

When Louis Smith was seven he was faced with a choice that would change the course of his whole life. He chose the path of an athlete, but he lacked concentration and was easily distracted. As a punishment his coach made him perform circles on the pommel horse...



*Dyslexia friendly and/or good for reluctant readers

+Young Adult texts – the content may reflect this