

YEAR 7 & 8 RECOMMENDED READING LIST

Action & Adventure

Hacker	Malorie Blackman	One of Blackman's most popular books. Two computer whizz kids try to prove their father is innocent of bank theft. A gripping read.
Noughts and Crosses		In an alternative world the issues of racism are tackled in a society which has only two types of people: "noughts" and "crosses". This novel is about friendship that goes beyond these barriers. The sequel set a generation later is also an absolute knock out.
Basilisk	NM Browne	A wonderful blend of myths, history and archaeology in this great novel set in the caves of a dark world.
Innocent	Anne Cassidy	Great junior novel from Cassidy, as Charlie tries to prove the innocence of her older brother Brad.
Silverfin	Charlie Higson	The first in a popular new series about James (Young Bond Series) Bond when he was still at school.
Outsiders	SE Hinton	Stunning study of hate, violence, loyalty and friendship set in the violent gang-lands of New York. One of the very best teenage novels ever written.
Wind on Fire Trilogy	William Nicholson	Breathtaking trilogy about a society governed by exams. But what happens when you rebel? Read to find out. A truly excellent trilogy.
Hatchet	Gary Paulsen	Thrilling adventure about the survival of a 12 year old boy after a plane crash. Also has great sequels.
Survival	Chris Ryan,	The ultra tough and realistic novels of Chris Ryan are a must for youngsters seeking excitement and thrills. This "Alpha Force" novel is the start of a gripping new series.
Flash Flood:		London is in chaos and anarchy after the collapse of the Thames Barrier! A great page turner
Holes	Louis Sachar	Very popular novel about a miscarriage of justice that sends Stanley into a juvenile prison and an assignment to dig "holes". Compulsive reading.
Bootleg	Alex Shearer	Great novel about chocolate being made illegal and the underground resistance movement that forms. Highly original.
The Crush:		An obsession with a Boy Band drives Ally to do almost anything to meet the love of her life.....

Storm Thief	Chris Wooding	One of the best action fantasies I read this year. Fast paced, exciting and in a fantasy world so well crafted this has to be the first book in a fabulous series!
Relationships & Conflicts		
Mates, Dates	Cathy Hopkins, series	Long running series of Lucy and her friends and their funny experiences of growing up. These are very popular books.
Carwash	Lesley Howarth	Enjoyable story, set in Cornwall, told over a long, hot and sticky teenage summer.
Journey to the River Sea	Eva Ibbotson	An orphaned school girl's journey to South America with her tough-as-old-boots nanny. Already very popular and destined to become a modern classic.
How I Live Now	Meg Rosoff	Odd and dreamy novel set in the backdrop of a undisclosed war with an American teenage girl getting to know her family in England. Now regarded as a modern classic.
Stargirl	Jerry Spinelli	Brilliant and brave novel about a teenager daring to be different in an American high school. Highly recommended.
Double Act	Jacqueline Wilson	Twin girls have trouble with their new stepmum. Another great book by Jacqueline Wilson.
Face	Benjamin Zephaniah	Realistic story of how a boy is disfigured in a car accident and has to start living a new life with his disfigurement.
Classics		
I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings	Maya Angelou	Classic autobiography of a young black girl struggling against the brutal American race discrimination in the 1930s.
Jonathan Livingston Seagull	Richard Bach	Uplifting story of a young seagull's bid to live its life as free as possible. A beautifully crafted short read.
Jane Eyre	Charlotte Bronte	Jane falls in love with her rich employer, only to find out he has a dark secret....Classic stuff that has thrilled generations.
A Christmas Carol	Charles Dickens	Read about Scrooge yourself; much better than any film you may have seen of it.
Adventures of Sherlock Holmes	Conan Doyle	This is a great introduction to detective stories. Many of the best Holmes stories are in this collection.
Charlotte Sometimes	Penelope Farmer	Dream-like novel where Charlotte, whilst sleeping, somehow slips back in time to 1919 and becomes Clare...
King Solomon's Mines	H Rider Haggard	An exciting yarn about an explorer who was the inspiration for the Indiana Jones films.

Animal Farm	George Orwell	Stunning political parody, set in a farm yard with the animals playing the parts of people.
I Capture the Castle	Dodie Smith	Great novel of first love, with an eccentric family of sisters living in a dilapidated castle.
Treasure Island	R.L. Stevenson	Sea adventure and the search for lost treasure. The wonderful characters make this yarn as fun as ever.
Adventures of Tom Sawyer & Adventures of Huckleberry Finn	Mark Twain	Adventure, freedom and excitement are in abundance in these two novels set in the American deep south during the great depression. Highly recommended
Walkabout	J. Vance Marshall	In the Australian desert, two children, survivors of an air crash, make their journey across the harsh landscape, aided by an Aboriginal boy on "walkabout".
The Time Machine	HG Wells	SF novel about time travel and the possible consequences.
War of the Worlds		The Martians invade Earth. A groundbreaking science fiction novel.
Fantasy		
Looking Glass Wars	Frank Beddor	Challenging novel which develops the characters from "Alice in Wonderland" creating a whole new fantasy adventure.
The Wish List	Eoin Colfer	Funny novel in which Lowrie has to complete 4 idiotic tasks to get into heaven. By the writer of the Artemis Fowl series.
Sea of Trolls	Nancy Farmer	A sweeping Viking novel with 2 young children being held captive by the evil half-troll king Ivar the Boneless.
Narnia series	CS Lewis	Perhaps the ultimate battle between Good and Evil? Classic tale of children trying to awaken an animal world from eternal winter. 7 books in series.
Shadow of the Minotaur	Alan Gibbons	Computer game virtual reality becomes reality in this compulsive read. Highly recommended.
Eragon & Eldest	Chris Paolini	Wonderful quest first-novel by a 16 year old author whose main character begins his destiny is to be a Dragon Rider.
His Dark Materials	Philip Pullman	One of the most brilliant children's trilogies of the last 20 years. Has more surprises, scares and twists that you can cope with!
Mortal Engines	Philip Reeves	Superb fantasy novel where moving cities trawl the globe. Tom and Hester are thrown from their beloved "London" and try to get back on board. A highly original read.

Amulet of Samarkend	Jonathan Stroud	An unforgettable mix of history, fantasy and intrigue in one, the shortest 480 pages you'll ever read! Start of a new trilogy.
Ghosts & Horror		
Dead Gorgeous	Malorie Blackman	After moving to the countryside, Nova befriends a dead boy with too many problems of his own. The only problem for Nova is that the ghost is also very, very cute!
Coraline	Neil Gaiman	Stunning novel about a warped alternative universe hidden behind a door. Very weird and altogether creepy.
Dusk	Susan Gates	Fast paced SF horror novel about the dangers of genetic engineering and mutations.
Red Velvet	Carol Hedges	Nasty things begin to happen to Elly when she finds the skeleton of a dead girl wearing a red dress in an old house.
Breathe: A ghost Story	Cliff McNish	A true ghost story. The kind that says its cold fingers on you grips tight and doesn't let you go under the last pages have been turned. Wonderfully spine chilling.
Witch Child Sorcoress	Celia Rees	Interesting read about the daughter of a woman accused of being a witch in 18th century England. Beautifully written and asks many intelligent questions and now followed by a great sequel.
My Swordhand is Singing	Marcus Sedgwick	Chilling vampire tale set in 17th Century Europe, inspired by the original Transylvanian Vampire folk tales. Scary stuff!
The Mirror Image Ghost	Catherine Storr	Now classic suspense horror novel. Wonderfully written with a timeless appeal.
Haunting of Alazabel Cray:	Chris Wooding	Great atmospheric crossover fantasy novel about two young witch-hunters seeking for a beast that lurks in the sewers of old London. Very exciting and an exceptional read.
Humour		
The Bish Bash Bosh	M E Allen	A group of teenage boys discover a lotion which makes them irresistible to girls. Hilarious chaos follows!
Bindi Babes Bollywood Babes	Narinder Dhani	Hilarious novel about 3 Anglo-Asian sisters who have great fun bossing their dad around until their tough, traditional aunty from India comes to stay. Great sequel also out now.
Dial A Ghost	Eva Ibbotson	Funny story of hiring ghosts to scare people you don't like!
Faking It	Pete Johnson	Funny novel about a 15 year old who cons everyone into thinking he has a girlfriend

		and as a result his popularity soars. Written in an amusing diary format.
Johnny Maxwell	Terry Pratchett	(Trilogy): A brilliant trilogy. Johnny has special powers which help him see the world in a slightly different way from other boys.
There's a Boy in the Girls' Bathroom	Louis Sacher	Another highly entertaining (and funny) tale from the writer of Holes. Has much to identify with.
The Magic of Pants	K Poskitt	Offbeat and quirky light read about the colourful history of underwear.
When Mum Threw Out the Telly!	E F Smith	Telly-addict Jeff's life is turned upside down when his mum throws out the TV. But his new life is only just beginning.
Thank you for your Application:	John Kirkbridge	Quite exceptional novel about a would-be writer who works as a typist. Has truly hilarious consequences. Comedy of the highest order and really, really funny.
Georgina Parks	Louise Rennison	(series): The teenage Bridget Jones! Often hilarious diaries of a confused teenager. This popular series is now into its 5th book.
Tin Grin	Catherine Robinson	Mattie's mum remarries and she has to deal with the nightmare of getting along with her new, computer geek and step-brother.
Dogs Don't Tell Jokes		Funny novel about a boy who thinks he will be more popular if he enters the school talent show.
Secret Diary of Adrian Mole	Sue Townsend	Classic series of diaries featuring 13 year old Adrian and his obsession with the lovely Pandora.

Mystery & Thrillers

Dream Travellers	Sherry Ashworth	Children are stalked in their dreams by a mysterious stranger who arrives in their sleepy town.
Angel Factory	Terrance Blacker	Dark and delicious tale of what happens when a curious boy hacks into his father's computer. A really powerful read.
Half Moon Investigations	Eion Colfer	After completing a dodgy online course 10 year old Fletch reckons he's a fully-fledged detective! Chaos follows in this great thriller.
Millions	F. Cottrell-Boyce	Imagine the scenario: Britain is about to join the Euro, you find 250K and have 10 days to spend it before it becomes obsolete.
Horace	Chris D'Lacey,	Funny thriller in which a teenage finds a valuable teddy-bear in a skip. Suddenly, when rich, life becomes much more complicated.

Dark Henge	Catherine Fisher	Mystery. Myth and Magic! This intriguing novel combines sibling rivalry and Celtic mythology. Highly entertaining.
Roman Mysteries	Caroline Lawrence	Multi book series about four amateur child detectives in Ancient Rome. Engaging and historically accurate.
Girl in the Attic	Valerie Mendes	Accessible, spine-chilling ghost/mystery novel set in Cornwall after a family move from the big city.
FleshMarket	Nicola Morgan	Startling thriller set in the dark streets of 19th Century Edinburgh where the body-snatchers Burke and Hare Stalk the homeless street urchins.
Butterfly Tattoo	Philip Pullman	The agony of first love inspires this book, but tragedy and violence are soon to follow. For the mature reader.
Ruby in the Smoke		Exceptional mystery yarn, about a girl trying to find out why her father was murdered. Has two sequels with the same characters, which are also excellent.
The Stolen	Alex Shearer	A nail-biting and supernatural tale of old people taking over the bodies of young people. A gripping mystery.
The Lost		Tremendous thriller about the search for a boy who disappeared 2 years previously whilst cycling. As the book develops great clues are thrown in. But beware the many red-herrings!
Tersias	G P Taylor	Bewitching and exciting yarn of the hunt for a boy who has the power to see into the future in 19th Century England.

School Stories

Chicken	Alan Gibbons	Tough school story, focusing on bullying.
The Chocolate War	Robert Cormier	Stunning and shocking novel about the power of gangs in school and how one small act of defiance starts a chain reaction in the school. Highly recommended for strong readers.
Cuckoos	Roger Green	Powerful novel about the power and cruelty of school bullying that starts with the "whisper". Highly recommended.
Demon Headmaster	Gillian Cross	Something is wrong at Dinah's new school. All the pupils act in exactly the same way. Wonderful blend of horror and suspense. Has excellent sequels.
Runaway Teacher	Pete Johnson	What happens when your teacher becomes a friend and not a teacher? Read this short novel to find out.
Turbulent Term of Tyke Tyler	Gene Kemp	Follow the adventures of Tyke Tyler at school and the chaos he causes at home!
The Boy who Lost his Face	Louis Sachar	Very weird novel about a bully seemingly cursed who then begins to see things from

		the point of view of the bullied. An interesting and challenging read.
Small Steps		Funny loose sequel to Holes with a couple of the minor characters taking centre stage in an amusing get rich scheme that goes wrong.
Wringer	Jerry Spinelli,	: Tough coming of age novel about a nasty initiation ritual 10 year olds have to go through in a rural American community
Science Fiction & Unexplained		
Pig Heart Boy	Malorie Blackman	Your heart transplant is with a pig! Find out what difference it makes in this gripping read.
Dangerous Dare		Yet another stunning novel from Blackman. Suspense, thrills and scares abound in this entertaining read.
Tripods	John Christopher	(series): Classic series in which giant robots takeover the Earth.
Hex Trilogy	Rhiannon Lassiter	Totally believable SF set in the far future about mutant genes that can be passed through computers into people.
The Aldous Lexicon	Michael Lawrence	Imaginative SF yarn with complex alternative realities which cross over into our own world.
Sleepwalking	Nicola Morgan	Hypnotic and challenging novel about a people dominated by a huge psychic presence which controls their minds.
Floodland	Marcus Sedgwick	Gripping story of global warming and the pockets of survivors who live in the "High Lands" near Norwich.
Time Snatch	Robert Swindells	Superb time travel novel by Swindells. Very exciting.
Sport		
Playing on the Edge	Neil Arksey	Great futuristic thriller where football has achieved global domination. A wonderful idea!
MacB		The captain of the football team has an accident. Or is it? Entertainingly dark sporting mystery with a hint of Macbeth!
Scullcrack	Ben Bo	High energy novel about skateboarding.
Divided City	Theresa Breslin	Tough Scottish novel which tackles the religious divide in Glasgow through a look at football.
And Smith Must Score!	Peter Hayden	A humorous tale of football obsession, dating dilemmas, family separation and petty crime.
Fergus MacPhail: the Boy, the Legend	David McRoberts	Wildly entertaining football story of a teenage tear-away and his life at school, and with the girls! Funny stuff.
Shooting Star	Martin Waddell	Interesting novel written by the man who talent spotted a future soccer star.

War

The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas	John Boyne	One of the saddest books I've ever read. Set around the time of the Holocaust. Saying anything else will give it away. Read it!
The Diary of Anne Frank	Anne Frank	Stunning story of bravery during the Second World War. Essential reading.
War Horse	Michael Morpurgo	Thought provoking novel of the life of a horse and his thoughts during his numerous battles under different masters.
Boy Soldier	Andy McNab	McNab draws on his own vast SAS experience to write this exciting, part-biographical, account of his younger days in the SAS.
Tamar	Matt Peet,	Winner of the 2006 Carnegie Medal. Complex mix of timetravel, World War 2 and love across time

You Are

Against the Day Through the Night	Michael Cronin	Uncannily believable accounts of what might have happened if Germany had successfully invaded the UK during World War 2. Highly recommended.
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YEAR 9 RECOMMENDED READING LIST

Books that bite: Cult Novels

Road of the Dead	Kevin Brooks	Nasty & edgy thriller about two teenage boys out to avenge the death of their murdered sister. A grim & challenging read.
The Hate List	Jennifer Brown	Valerie is implicated in the aftermath of a school shooting, as she helped her dead boyfriend compile the "Hate List" of murders.
Junk	Melvin Burgess	Powerful novel about two teenagers whose lives begin to spin out of control when they discover drugs. An all-time great.
A Clockwork Orange	Anthony Burgess	Burgess's still infamous nightmare vision of youth culture in revolt, set in a dark vicious future. A definitive cult classic.
The Perks of Being a Wallflower	Stephen Chbosky	Beautiful look at American youth life through the eyes of a very quirky teenager. Musical, touching & lovely to read & savour.
The Chocolate War	Robert Cormier	Stunning & shocking novel about the power of gangs in school & how one small act of defiance starts a chain reaction of revolt.
Beyond the Chocolate War		
The Outsiders	SE Hinton	Timeless portrayal of teenage gangs in 1960s New York.

The Long Walk	Stephen King	Grim futuristic tale of a killer race, in which the US Government selects 100 boys to compete. The penalty of stopping is death.
The Long Shot	Katie Kitamura	Brilliant look at a revenge rematch, four years in the making, in the violent world of mixed martial arts between the champ & challenger.
I Am Legend	Richard Matheson	The last man on earth finds he is not alone in this acclaimed novel about vampires, survival and the end of mankind.
The Knife That Killed Me	Anthony McGowan	Stark thriller set in a school rife with bullying, & a boy who is sucked into a gang against his will. A savage & brilliant read.
A Child Called It	David Pelzer	Gruesome account of child abuse in the 1970s and how, Davy, turned his life around, becoming a successful motivational speaker.
God's Own Country	Ross Raisin	A teenage recluse becomes obsessed with the new girl living on the neighbouring farm. Dark, sinister & riveting look at teenage alienation.
The Catcher in the Rye	J D Salinger	Ground breaking rebellion novel featuring two days in the life of a cynical teenager just expelled from school. An all-time cult classic.
The Rookie	Scott Sigler	Inter-Galactic, planet hopping, American football, set 5000 (GFL Series) years in the future, with aliens playing in the same teams as humans.
Earthcore	Scott Sigler	Platinum miners dig deep into the earth and get much more than they bargained for in this vicious, violent, bonkers, horror thriller.
I Am not A Serial Killer	Dan Wells	Shockingly nasty thriller about a trainee mortician. Now a trilogy.
Modern Classics		
I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings	Maya Angelou	Classic autobiography of a young black girl struggling against the brutal American race discrimination in the 1930s.
Fahrenheit 451	Ray Bradbury	Books are banned in this legendary novel, whilst "firemen" scour the frightened, suppressed, cities for those who hide books.
Looking For JJ	Anne Cassidy	JJ is released from prison, 10 years after killing a friend, & tries to live with her new identity. Truly amazing teenage thriller.
Wolf	Gillian Cross	Brilliant multi-layered family drama about hidden secrets and Cassy's father – who nobody ever speaks about.
Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time	Mark Haddon	A genuine cult classic. A boy with autism investigates the "murder" of his neighbour's dog. Funny, original and moving.

Girl Interrupted	Suzanne Kaysen	Autobiographical novel about a young woman in a psychiatric hospital in the late 1960s.
Walkabout	J. Vance Marshall	Two abandoned British children try to survive the harsh landscape, of Australia aided by an Aboriginal boy on "walkabout".
Tomorrow: When the War Began Series	John Marsden	Australia is invaded by an unknown enemy in this stunning, violent, thriller series recently made into a film.
Life of Pi	Yann Martel	Very accessible Booker Prize winner concerning oceanic, fantasy like, wanderings of a boy stranded at sea on a raft with some animals.
I Capture the Castle	Dodie Smith	Great novel of first love, with an eccentric family of sisters living in a dilapidated castle in pre-war Ireland.
The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie	Muriel Spark	Beautifully crafted short novel about the teacher of a clique of talented girls in the 1930s, in a posh Edinburgh school.
Secret Diary of Adrian Mole	Sue Townsend	Classic series of diaries featuring 13 year old Adrian and his obsession with the lovely Pandora. Very funny start to a lengthy series.
The Book Thief	Marcus Zusak	One of my favourite ever books. Death takes an interest in an orphaned little girl. This Nazi Germany set novel is seeped deep in humanity and compassion. One of my favourite ever books.

Classics

Tarzan of the Apes	Edgar Rice Burroughs	It's time for a Tarzan revival! A baby boy is left stranded in the African jungle after his parents die and is raised by apes.
Brave New World	Aldous Huxley	Huxley's nightmare vision of the future. A challenging read.
Casino Royale	Ian Fleming	Discover Bond in the first of the classic thriller/spy novels.
Animal Farm	George Orwell	The animals of Manor Farm find the pigs as nasty as the humans. One of the 20th centuries leading political satires.
Frankenstein	Mary Shelley	The fable of the scientist who creates a man-monster, only to see it inflict murder on the human race.
Dracula	Bram Stoker	Classic tale of the Count. Nothing like most of the films made in its name; and far more frightening, creepy and gothic.
War of the Worlds	HG Wells	The Martians invade in this classic invasion story.
Day of the Triffids	John Wyndam	Gripping novel about paranoia and the Earth being invaded by seemingly invincible plants. A great introduction to 1950s SF.

Off the Rails: Teens in Trouble

Wintergirls	Laurie H Anderson	Gripping & realistic look at teenage anorexia in two girls.
13 Reasons Why	Jay Asher	Clay receives a box containing 13 cassettes - all different reasons why his ex-girlfriend killed herself. This is deep & emotional stuff.
Boys Don't Cry	Malorie Blackman	Dante discovers he is a father the same day he gets his A- Level results, the baby is dumped on him by the mother, his ex.
Pretty Twisted	Gina Blaxill	Neat thriller about two teens who meet on a social networking site.
iBoy	Kevin Brooks	Vicious novel about a boy with a shattered iphone stuck in his brain resulting in special powers... Warning, this is no fairy-tale.
Inside my Head	Jim Carrington	Riveting tale of school bullying told from three points of view; the bully's friend, the victim and girl in the middle.
The Dead House	Anne Cassidy	Lauren returns to her childhood home in London only to find dark family secrets are slowly revealed in this scary thriller.
Entangled	Cat Clarke	In this great thriller 17-year-old Grace wakes up in a white room, with table, pens and paper - and no clue how she got there.
You Against Me	Jenny Downham	Unflinching and brave novel about guilt, revenge and solving a serious sexual crime. Gripping look at guilt, blame & trust.
Paper Towns	John Green	Dark American comedy as a popular school girl goes of the rails and is helped by a friend from her days in nursery school.
The Chosen One	Carol Lynch Williams	13 year old Kyra's family live with an isolated cult, life turns for the worse when she is told she has to marry her 61 year old uncle.
Love, Aubrey	Suzanna LaFleur	Heartbreaking story girl who, having survived the car accident that killed her father and her little sister, is abandoned by her mother.
If I Grow Up	Todd Strasser	Tough look at urban gang life in modern America. Vicious & realistic.
Bad Influence	William Sutcliffe	Ollie is influenced by his best friend Carl. So what if he's cruel, dangerous a bully? A top notch thriller about peer pressure.
Double Life of Cassiel Roadnight	Jenny Valentine	Two boys. One identity. He can change his life if he says yes... Brilliant thriller about mistaken identity & the choices you make.

Dealing with Life (and Death)

Before I Die	Jenny Downham	Engrossing look at teenage terminal illness. However, this ultimately uplifting book is a celebration of life, not death.
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Bog Child	Siobhan Dowd	Extraordinary, multiple prize winning novel, about an 18 year old boy caught up in the chaos and conflict of Ireland in the 1980s.
Soul Beach Series	Kate Harrison	Strangely hypnotic thriller about a virtual cyber world full of the souls of the dead. Soon Alice begins to look for her dead sister...
Before I Fall	Lauren Oliver	Sam is killed in a car crash on Friday. The next morning she wakes up only to relive the same day over and over again.
My Sister Lives on the Mantelpiece	Annabel Pitcher	Amazing study of loss as a family fails to recover from their loss of a daughter in a suicide bomb & relocate to the North of England.
Coming of Age Novels		
Empire of the Sun	J G Ballard	Ballard's famous autobiographical novel about his teenage years in Shanghai during World War 2 after losing his parents.
What I Saw and How I Lied	Judy Blundell	Set in 1940s USA, written in movie-noir style, this original coming of age tale, about falling for the wrong guy is a treat on every level.
Candy	Kevin Brooks	Making random friends with attractive girls at Kings Cross can be dangerous, especially when they're prostitutes.
Stolen: A Letter to My Captor	Lucy Christopher	Gripping story of a girl snatched at an airport and taken to a new life in an unknown desert country.
15 Days Without A Head	Dave Cousins	Story of a 15 year old boy struggling to keep his family together, through tragedy & events that are mixed with new love and kinship.
Just Like Tomorrow	Faiza Guena	Stunning French novel, in the style of the Bridget Jones Diaries, set in the multi-cultural, melting-pot, high-rises of working class Paris.
An Abundance of Katherines	John Green	Colin has had 19 girlfriends, all named "Katherine", whilst on a road-trip he decides to try & change his messed up life for the better.
13 Little Blue Envelopes	Maureen Johnson	Ginny is left a series of instructions in follow, in 13 steps, from a dead aunty to claim an inheritance. Quirky, amusing & life affirming.
Everybody Jam	Ali Lewis	Wonderful coming-of-age story set in the Australian Outback.
Amy & Roger's Epic Detour	Morgan Matson	Two teens go on a road-trip across America. Funny, moving, cute & most of all a book that'll give you a really warm feeling!
To Kill a Mockingbird	Harper Lee	Classic look at childhood and growing up in the deep South of America in the 50s, with racism & segregation the back-drop.

How I Live Now	Meg Rosoff	Odd & dreamy novel set in the back-drop of a undisclosed war with an American girl stranded with her English in-laws.
The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian	Alexie Sherman	Really funny tale of a half-native-American-Indian boy trying to integrate into an American high school. I loved it. Moving & dark.
Chameleon	Charles R Smith	Great coming of age novel in modern day LA: girls, gangs, basketball, all help shape Shaun's future in this entertaining & fresh read.