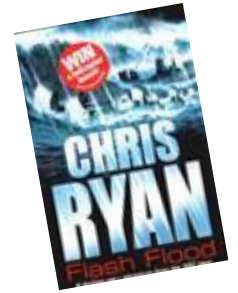


Year 8: Recommended Reading List

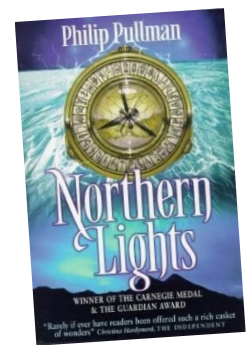
**If you want to go on an adventure...**

Pick up Chris Ryan's *Flash Flood*! Ben is in London for the day, but his visit turns into a struggle for survival as the Thames barrier is overwhelmed by a torrent of water. Book 1 in a series. **(Book Level: 5.4)**



Only published in 2020, Frances Hardinge's *Deeplight* promises to be a riveting read. When 15-year-old Hark finds the still-beating heart of a terrifying deity, he risks everything to keep it out of the hands of smugglers, military scientists, and a secret fanatical cult so that he can use it to save the life of his best friend, Jelt. **(Book Level: 5.9)**

Head to Jordan College, Oxford – the starting location of Philip Pullman's *Northern Lights*. 11 year-old Lyra's friend Roger disappears, and she is determined to find him. What will happen? **(Book Level: 6.2)**

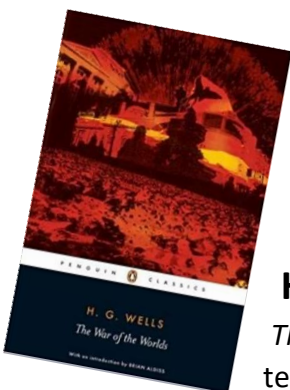
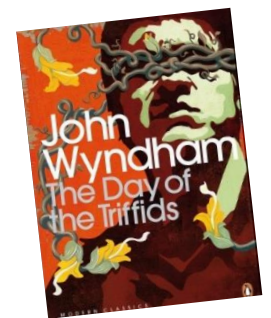


**If you'd feel confident with a classic ...**



First published in 1956, Ian Serraillier's *The Silver Sword* has emerged as a modern classic based on the facts of World War 2. It was only a paper knife, but it became the symbol of hope and courage for four starving and deserted children during the Nazi occupation, and on the exhausting and dangerous journey from Poland to Switzerland. **(Book Level: 5.5)**

In John Wyndham's *The Day of the Triffids*, after recovering from eye injuries, Bill Masen faces a deathly silence. He finds civilisation has come to an end. His greatest threat comes from plants genetically engineered who feed on human flesh. They quietly escape and seize their day. **(Book Level: 6.9)**



For a real challenge, why not delve into H. G. Wells' frightening *War of the Worlds*? The twentieth-century classic is a daring portrayal of aliens landing on English soil. Who can ensure the survival of mankind in the face of scientific powers spinning out of control? **(Book Level: 9.1)**

**Horror books ... remember to close your window!**

*The Enemy*. The title of Charlie Higson's novel says it all! A group of teens barricade themselves inside buildings all over London to escape zombie-like creatures that have taken over the city. What will happen to them? **(Book Level: 4.1)**





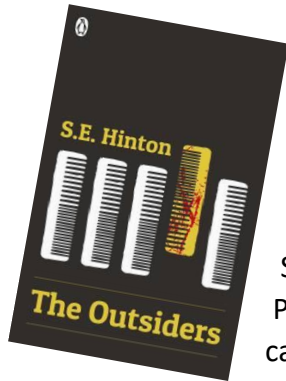
*Lament* was Maggie Stiefvater's debut novel. On the day of an important music competition, talented but painfully introverted and nervous Deirdre is helped to perform by the compelling and enigmatic Luke and finds herself inexorably drawn into the mysteries and dangers of the faerie world. **(Book Level: 5.0)**

*The Ghost of Thomas Kempe* by Penelope Lively delves into the world of the supernatural. When the Harrisons move to an old cottage in Oxfordshire and small domestic disasters begin happening, James is blamed. How can he tell his family that he is being plagued by the ghost of a 17th-century sorcerer bent on making James his apprentice? **(Book Level: 5.6)**



### Read me ... then watch the film!

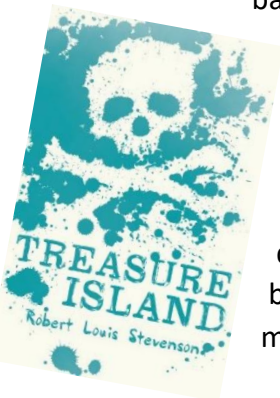
*The Outsiders* is an outstanding story of teenage rebellion, written when the author – S. E. Hinton – was only 17 years old. Youngsters in a small Oklahoma town have split into two gangs, divided by money, tastes and attitude. The Socs' idea of having a good time is beating up Greasers like Ponyboy Curtis. Ponyboy knows what to expect and knows he can count on his brothers and friends - until the night someone takes things too far. **(Book Level: 4.7)**



Let's start with a classic! *The Jungle Books*, by Rudyard Kipling is a classic. A baby boy is abandoned deep in the jungle and is taken in by a she-wolf to be raised as one of her own. **(Book Level: 7.4)**



In *Treasure Island* by Robert Louis Stevenson, young Jim Hawkins meets Billy Bones and quickly becomes intrigued by the mysterious former pirate. But little does Jim know that their meeting will soon send him on a path of swash-buckling adventure across the ocean in the attempt to track down the treasure marked on a pirate's map... **(Book Level: 8.3)**

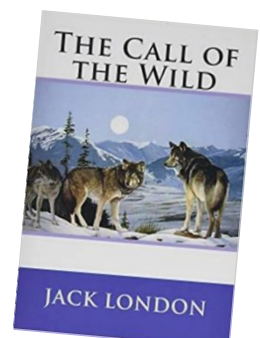


### Four legged friends ... and other animal books!

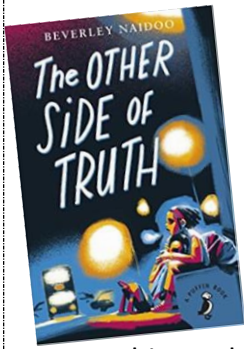
In Barry Hines' *A Kestrel for a Knave*, Billy Casper is a boy with nowhere to go and nothing to say; part of the limbo generation of school leavers too old for lessons and too young to know anything about the outside world. He hates and is hated. His family and friends are mean and tough and they're sure he's going to end up in big trouble. Will Kes, his Kestrel, solve the key to all the problems? **(Book Level: 5.4)**



Although it is now over 100 years ago, Jack London's *The Call of the Wild* is as powerful today as it always has been. This is a rugged outdoor story of the sled dog, Buck, who was mistreated by his master and broke free to roam the Alaskan wilderness. **(Book Level: 8.0)**

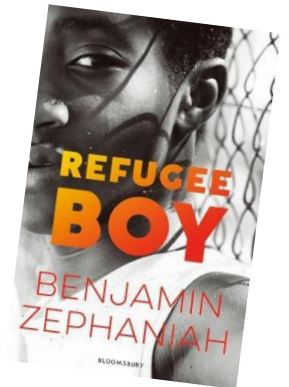


## Dip into Diversity!



Beverley Naidoo's novel, *The Other Side of Truth*, won the Carnegie Medal in 2000. After a tragedy and a terrible loss, Sade and her younger brother, children of an outspoken Nigerian journalist, must flee their country at once and alone. Everything must be done in haste and in secret, but will they be safe when they reach England? **(Book Level: 5.3)**

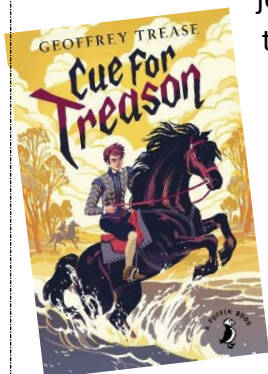
Benjamin Zephaniah's novel, *Refugee Boy*, is a powerful and thought-provoking book. Life is not safe for Alem. His father is Ethiopian, and his mother Eritrean, and with both countries at war he is welcome in neither place. So his father does something which at first seems callous, but is in fact the ultimate gift of love. **(Book Level: 5.6)**



Jamila Gavin's *Coram Boy* is A saga of growing up, struggle, tradition and corruption in eighteenth-century London and Gloucester. Coram Boy spans the lives of several fortunate and less fortunate young people of the day. **(Book Level: 6.3)**

## Hungry for History?

Reading Hans Peter Richter's *Friedrich* is a challenging but worthwhile journey. This is the tragic story of a Jewish boy in Germany during the thirties, as seen through the eyes of a friend. **(Book Level: 4.7)**



In Geoffrey Trease's *Cue for Treason*, fleeing from Sir Philip Morton, Peter Brownrigg finds himself on the wrong side of the law and meets another runaway. There they find jobs as apprentices to William Shakespeare, but a chance discovery endangers their lives once more. **(Book Level: 5.9)**

### Further information:

All Year 7 and 8 students are enrolled on the Accelerated Reader Programme, which is co-ordinated by the English Department and the Learning Resource Centre (LRC). The Programme helps to encourage reading for pleasure and further develop students' reading comprehension skills.

As well as occasional English lessons delivered in the LRC, students are also able to borrow, return and change their books before school, at lunchtime and in English lessons (with permission from their English Teacher).

This list provides a starting guide to inspire Year 8 students to explore books outside their comfort zone, but is by no means an exhaustive list. Students are also able to check if a book is on the Accelerated Reader Programme using the following website: <https://www.arbookfind.co.uk/>

Please email Mr Kearney (Assistant Head of English, i/c KS3 English) to suggest additional books for inclusion on our Year 8 recommended reading list: [james.kearney@kings.lincs.sch.uk](mailto:james.kearney@kings.lincs.sch.uk)