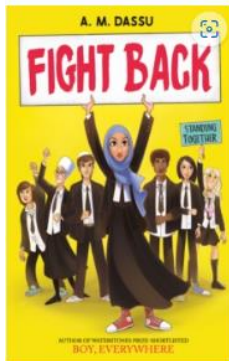




Notley High School  
& Braintree Sixth Form

## ***Year 7 Recommended Reading List for children aged 11 – 12***

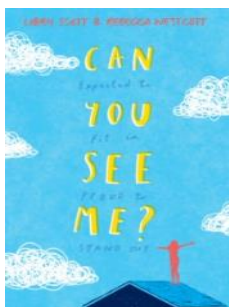
The following Year 7 reading list contains books suitable for children aged 11-12 in secondary school KS3 classes. These titles consist of a range of fiction and non-fiction for all abilities including the more able. This list of books contains stories by A.M. Dassu, Mitch Johnson, Neil Gaiman, Lisa Thompson, Gillian Cross, Malorie Blackman, R.J. Palacio, Philip Pullman, Catherine Johnson, Michael Morpurgo, Anthony Horowitz and more.



### **Fight Back by A.M. Dassu**

13 year-old Aaliyah faces discrimination and bullying after a terrorist attack at a nearby concert changes how people see her. Choosing not to hide, she wears a hijab with pride and challenges stereotypes and misconceptions where she sees them. But when her resolve is tested she has a decision to make – to lay low or “Fight Back.”

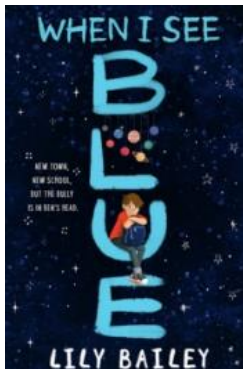
(Racism/Family)



### **Can you See Me? by Libby Scott & Rebecca Westcott**

Follow 11 year old Tally’s journey as she navigates the challenges of school, friendship, and self-discovery, providing readers with a unique and empathetic perspective on autism.

(Autobiography/Autism)



### **When I see Blue by Lily Bailey**

12 year old Ben is struggling with a new school, a complicated home life and OCD. With a brain that bullies him with intrusive thoughts, he finds himself counting to four and performing rituals to stop things from going wrong. But when he makes friends with April he begins to see the world in new ways.

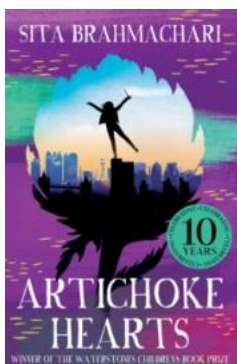
(Empathy)



### **Freedom (1783) by Catherine Johnson**

Nathaniel doesn't want to go on a ship and leave his family behind in Jamaica. But this is 1783 and he doesn't have a choice. He is a slave, and his master has decided for him. But there is a sliver of hope that Nathaniel clings to – a chance of freedom once he reaches England.

(Historical fiction/Slavery)



### **Artichoke Hearts by Sita Brahmachari**

A spectacular coming-of age story where different cultures collide and combine. Through evocative and lyrical prose, the reader will see Mira's unlikely friendship with Jide, learn of tightly guarded secrets and empathise with Mira's awakening despite a difficult home life. An excellent book to create discussion.

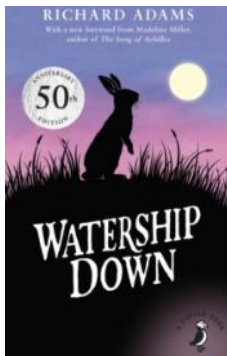
(Diverse/Coming of age)



### **Kick by Mitch Johnson**

Set in Jakarta, when Budi's dream of escaping poverty through football stardom abruptly ends his life, he spirals as he finds himself owing money to a dangerous man. Through sheer force of will and determination, he resolves to put everything right.

(Sport/Thriller)



### **Watership Down by Richard Adams**

Possibly the best and most well-known animal adventure. Fiver has a sixth sense for danger and he persuades Hazel to lead a group of rabbits to escape an impending disaster and search for a new home.

(Animal story/Classic)



### **The Goldfish Boy by Lisa Thompson**

Matthew finds it almost impossible to leave his room and venture into the outside world due to his OCD and constant worries. But when a small child in the neighbourhood vanishes, he finds his heightened attention to detail an ideal tool when he turns detective.

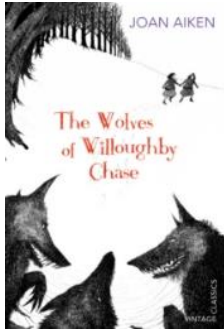
(Inclusive/Mystery)



### **The Island at the End of Everything by Kiran Millwood Hargrave**

A thought-provoking and atmospheric story about Amihan, who lives on an island affected by a leprosy outbreak. Forced to leave, she finds some unlikely allies in her quest to return home.

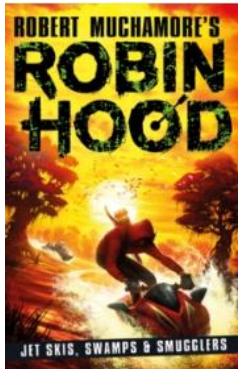
(Adventure)



### **The Wolves of Willoughby Chase by Joan Aiken**

In an alternative reality, King James III rules in 1832 and the country is plagued by wolves from the Channel Tunnel. But for Sylvia and Bonnie, it isn't clear whether it's the wolves or their governess Miss Slighcarp they should be more afraid of.

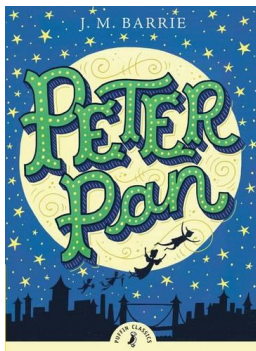
(Classic/Adventure)



### **Robin Hood: Jet Skis, Swamps & Smugglers by Robert Muchamore**

The third book in Robert Muchamore's hit series for young teens sees a crack team of special forces hitmen sent to deal with Robin. Will our hero survive in the swamplands, or will the hi-tech surveillance and search teams prove to be his downfall? Another cracking page-turner for pupils in KS3.

(Adventure)



### **Peter Pan by J.M. Barrie**

The timeless classic story of the boy who never grew up, Wendy and her brothers, and Neverland, where the Lost Boys are in constant danger from Captain Hook.

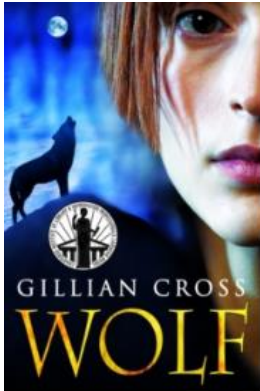
(Classic/Adventure)



### **The Dark is Rising by Susan Cooper**

Just prior to his 11th birthday, Will discovers he's the last person left with the power of the Old Ones, and his mission is to guard the Light and drive out the Dark. A gripping and imaginative story. This is the first of a captivating series of titles for year 7 readers interested in fantasy and mystery.

(Fantasy)



### **Wolf By Gillian Cross**

A haunting story of terrorism, impending doom, confusion and not really knowing your closest family members as well as you thought you did. Cassy finds some questions are best left unasked.

(Mystery/Family)



### **Some Places More than Others by Renee Watson**

Almost 12-year-old Amara desperately wants to visit family in New York and find out more about her father's roots. But when she finally gets there, the family relationships and situations are far from her idealised expectations.

(Family)



### **The Seeing Stone by Kevin Crossley-Holland**

The stories of a young King Arthur are told in 100 short chapters. Ideal for reluctant readers in Year 7.

(Legend/Fantasy)



### **Boy and Going Solo by Roald Dahl**

Roald Dahl's hilarious autobiographies – Boy, charting his childhood and school days, and Going Solo chronicling his early adult life.

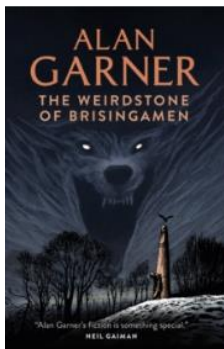
(Autobiography)



### **The Diary of a Young Girl by Anne Frank**

Anne Frank's diary was written when she was 13-15 and living in hiding above an Amsterdam warehouse during World War 2. 'One of the greatest books of the century' – *Guardian*.

(Autobiography/Classic)



### **The Weirdstone of Brisingamen by Alan Garner**

Colin and Susan are saved from mysterious creatures by a wizard who has been searching for a lost magic stone for over 100 years. Can the two children defeat the dark forces at work?

(Fantasy)



### **A Wrinkle in Time by Madeleine L'Engle**

Charles Wallace Murry's father has disappeared and Charles sets out to find a wrinkle in time – a gateway to a parallel universe – to try and save him.

(Science fiction)



### **Across the Barricades by Joan Lingard**

Kevin and Sade live in Belfast, and the two of them being seen together isn't an option. A gritty story of religious divide and distrust.

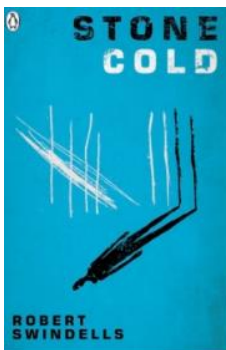
(Romance)



### **War Horse by Michael Morpurgo**

A gripping description of the horrors of war, told from the perspective of Joey, a horse, who sees the senselessness of war and the importance of friendships more clearly than the soldiers around him.

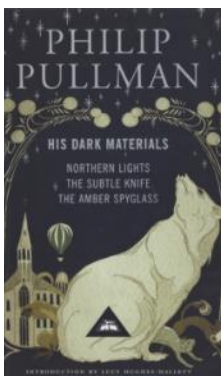
(Animal story/War)



### **Stone Cold by Robert Swindells**

There's a serial killer targeting the young and homeless and Deb, an intrepid undercover journalist is determined to catch the killer – using herself as bait. A thrilling book for year 7 pupils to read.

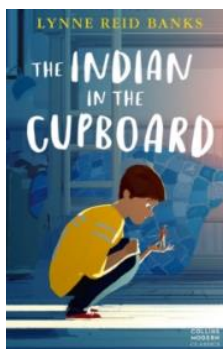
(Crime/Thriller)



### **His Dark Materials series by Philip Pullman**

Lyra finds out there's an expedition to find other worlds very different to her own and a chain of events catapults her into several perilous journeys and a search for the truth. Will has killed a man and is on the run in a parallel world. Will and Lyra have become separated but must find each other to prevent dark forces from taking over their worlds.

(Magical realism)



### **The Indian in the Cupboard by Lynne Reid Banks**

Omri is disappointed with his birthday present – a little red plastic Indian figure – until it comes alive and becomes a real person. An easier read for students in Year 7.

(Classic)



### **The Eagle of the Ninth by Rosemary Sutcliff**

Thousands of Roman Soldiers marched into the mist and were never seen again. Young Marcus Aquilla sets out to find out what happened to them. An engaging historical saga.

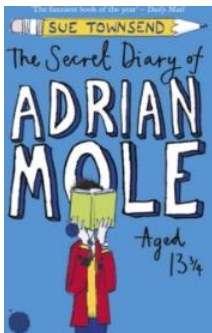
(Historical fiction)



### **The Cay by Theodore Taylor**

When World War II breaks out, 12-year-old Phillip and his mother embark on the S.S. Hato for a long voyage. But the ship is torpedoed, and Phillip is blinded by a blow on the head and left stranded on an island with a man named Timothy.

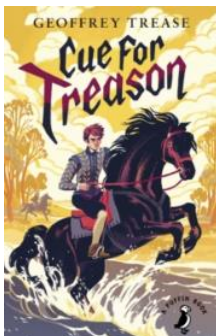
(Historical fiction/Classic)



### **The Secret Diary of Adrian Mole Aged 13 <sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> by Sue Townsend**

A fictional diary charting the teenage angst and dreams of Adrian Mole. Very funny.

(Diary)

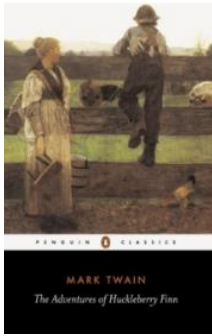


### **Cue for Treason by Geoffrey Trease**

Two young runaways become actors in London, where they meet William Shakespeare. They then help foil a plot to kill the Queen. An ideal book for year 7 pupils interested in history.

(Adventure/Historical fiction)





### **The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn by Mark Twain**

Huck Finn and Tom Sawyer have made lots of money, but all Huck wants is to escape from his guardian, Miss Sawyer. A great American novel and a more challenging read for pupils in Year 7.

(Classic)



### **The Sword in the Stone by T.H. White**

An entertaining fantasy adventure set in medieval England following the life of King Arthur. A great book for pupils interested in history.

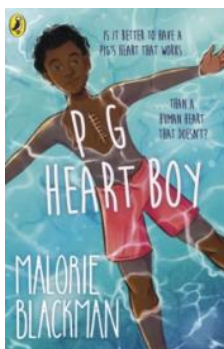
(Classic/Adventure)



### **The Hunger Games by Suzanne Collins**

One person from each district in the country is selected to fight to the death in a reality TV lottery. Katniss vows to win. A more mature series of novels for year 7 pupils to get hooked on.

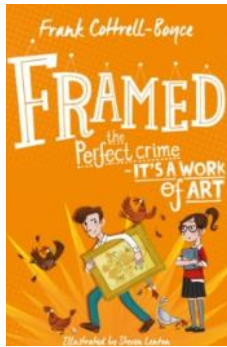
(Dystopia/Adventure)



### **Pig Heart Boy by Malorie Blackman**

13-year-old Cameron is dying and his only hope is a heart transplant. When there are no human hearts available his father finds a doctor willing to use a pig's heart. This is a great book to promote debate and consider ethics in Year 7.

(Friendship/STEM)



### **Framed by Frank Cottrell Boyce**

Framed tells the story of how paintings moved from the National Gallery in London to a cave in North Wales alter the lives of the village folk, especially Dylan.

(Adventure/Art)



### **The Garbage King by Elizabeth Laird**

Mamo is from a very poor family where everyone has died except for him and his sister, Tiggist. Then a slave trader, who claims to be his uncle, kidnaps Mamo.

(Friendship/Adventure)



### **The Book Thief by Markus Zusak**

Narrated by Death, this book tells the story of a young girl in Nazi Germany hiding for safety in World War 2.

(Historical fiction/Adventure)



### **Percy Jackson and the Lightning Thief by Rick Riordan**

Percy is a twelve-year-old boy who has been expelled from every school he has ever attended. When his class takes a field trip to the art gallery his Maths teacher Mrs Dodds attacks him.

(Myth/Adventure)



### **The Box of Delights by John Masefield**

In this classic fantasy novel, Kay Harker receives a box from an old man called Cole which has magic powers, letting him shrink, fly and travel back in time. But Cole is followed. A more challenging novel for children in Year 7.

(Classic/Fantasy)



### **The Call of the Wild by Jack London**

Buck is stolen from his Californian home and shipped north to the Klondike to become a sled dog. Can he survive the cold, the work and the lead dog Spitz? A more challenging book for pupils to study in year 7.

(Animal story/Classic)



### **Twelve Minutes to Midnight by Christopher Edge**

Penelope Tredwell, aged 13, is the heiress to the bestselling magazine, The Penny Dreadful. But no one knows that she is the real author of the deadly stories.

(Historical fiction)

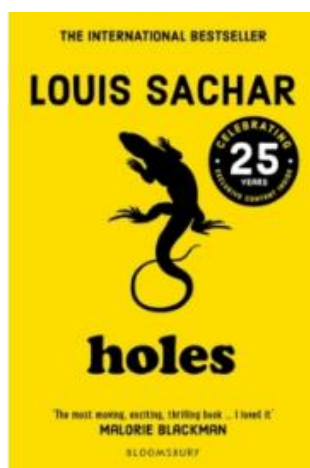
## ***Notley High School – English lesson books***



### **Coraline by Neil Gaiman**

It's not the mist, or the cat that always seems to be watching her, nor the signs of danger that Miss Spink and Miss Forcible, her new neighbours, read in the tea leaves. It's the other house – the one behind the old door in the drawing room. Another mother and father with black-button eyes and papery skin are waiting for Coraline to join them there. And they want her to stay with them. For ever. This gripping novel is guaranteed to delight.

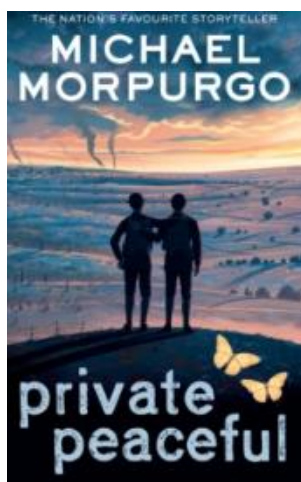
(Fantasy)



### **Holes by Louis Sachar**

Stanley Yelnats IV's family has been cursed since his great-great-grandfather's time and Stanley has been wrongly accused of stealing the shoes of Clyde "Sweet Feet" Livingston, a star basketball player.

(Friendship/Mystery)



### **Private Peaceful by Michael Morpurgo**

The emotive story of Thomas "Tommo" Peaceful, who is looking back on his life in the trenches of World War I in Belgium. Each chapter brings the reader closer to the present.

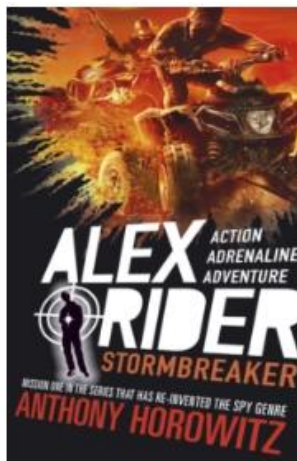
(War/Historical fiction)



### **Skellig by David Almond**

When a move to a new house coincides with his baby sister's illness, Michael's world seems suddenly lonely and uncertain. Then, one Sunday afternoon, he stumbles into the old, ramshackle garage of his new home, and finds something magical.

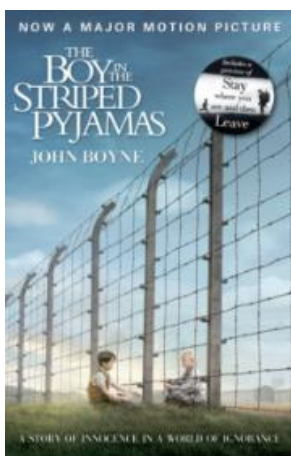
(Historical fiction)



### **Stormbreaker by Anthony Horowitz**

The first book in the number one bestselling Alex Rider series. Fourteen-year-old Alex is forcibly recruited into MI6. Armed with secret gadgets, he is sent to investigate Herod Sayle, a man who is offering state-of-the-art Stormbreaker computers to every school in the country.

(Adventure/Thriller)



### **The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas by John Boyne**

Nine-year-old Bruno knows nothing of the Final Solution and the Holocaust. All he knows is that he has been moved from a comfortable home in Berlin to a house in a desolate area where there is nothing to do and no one to play with. Until he meets Shmuel, a boy who lives a strange parallel existence on the other side of the adjoining wire fence and who, like the other people there, wears a uniform of striped pyjamas

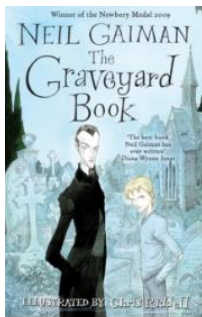
(Historical fiction/Adventure)



### **The Boy Who Lost His Face by Louis Sachar**

David was only trying to be cool when he helped some other boys steal an old lady's cane. But when the plan backfires, he is the one whom she 'curses'. Now David can't seem to do anything right. The cool kids taunt him and his only friends are weirdos. But is this the curse at work or is David turning into a total loser?

(Young adult)



### **The Graveyard Book by Neil Gaiman**

Nobody Owens, known to his friends as Bod, is a normal boy. He would be completely normal if he didn't live in a graveyard, raised and educated by ghosts. There, living among the dead, Bod discovers that he possesses remarkable magical powers: he can avoid people's notice, scare them, and even invade their dreams.

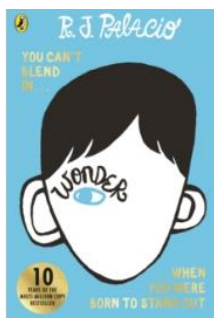
(Ghost stories)



### **The Wild Robot by Peter Brown**

When robot Roz opens her eyes for the first time, she discovers that she is alone on a remote, wild island. She has no idea how she got there or what her purpose is - but she knows she needs to survive

(Science/Animals)



### **Wonder by R.J. Palacio**

Augie wants to be like every other ten-year-old. But whenever anyone looks at him they treat him differently because of a terrible facial abnormality. Can he convince everyone that he's just like them inside?

(Inclusive)