



Bexhill Academy

KS3 Reading List

While in Years 7 and 8 you should try to read a wide variety of types of books. Don't just stick to one author, or one genre. Experiment with something new. That is one reason why this list is arranged in genre-based sections.

As well as reading books, don't forget that **newspapers and good magazines** are also excellent reading material and will get you used to a range of reading experiences that will set you up well for GCSE and beyond, as well as broadening your knowledge and understanding of the world in which you live.

The following **websites** are recommended and feature news and views about all types of books written for young people. So, as well as using this reading list, why not check the websites out too and see what other people are recommending? They will also give information about brand new books.

<http://www.readingmatters.co.uk/>

<http://www.booktrustchildrensbooks.org.uk/Teenage-Books>

<http://www.cool-reads.co.uk/>

<http://www.lovereadng4kids.co.uk/>

<http://www.ukchildrensbooks.co.uk/>

RECOMMENDED READING

Non-fiction

Bill Bryson, **Notes from a Big Country (and other travel books)** - An American's very funny perspective on Britain and British culture.

Terry Deary, **Horrible Histories** - The gory aspects of history.

Gerald Durrell, **My Family and Other Animals** - A young boy, fascinated by wildlife, and his crazy, funny family move to Crete.

Anne Frank, **The Diary of a Young Girl** - Anne, a Jewish Dutch girl, has to hide from the Germans in a tiny secret room with her family and another family for two years.

Bear Grylls, **Mud, Sweat and Tears** - The autobiography of the famous adventurer/risktaker.

Laurie Lee, **Cider with Rosie** - The funny and moving autobiography of a young boy growing up in Gloucestershire just after the 1st World War.

Adeline Yen Mah, **Chinese Cinderella** - Adeline grows up in China during the Second World War in a family which does not seem to love her. A moving story of individual survival.

Action and Adventure

Malorie Blackman, **Noughts and Crosses** - Set in a society with two types of people: 'Noughts' and 'Crosses'. Can friendship overcome the divisions between the two?

NM Browne, **Basilisk** - Myth, history and archaeology, set against the background of the caves of a dark world.

William Golding, **Lord of the Flies** - Boys stranded on a desert island turn to savagery.

SE Hinton, **Outsiders** - Hate, violence, loyalty and friendship in the gang-lands of New York.

Michael Morpurgo, **Private Peaceful** - A moving story about a soldier's experiences set in the 1st World War.

Robert Muchamore, **CHERUB-series** - Big adventures and excitement as the teenage recruits at CHERUB battle the underworlds.

William Nicholson, **Wind on Fire Trilogy** - What happens if you rebel against a society governed by exams?

George Orwell, **Animal Farm** - Animals on the farm rise up against their powerful owners.

Louis Sachar, **Holes** - A miscarriage of justice sends Stanley to a juvenile prison to dig "holes".

Alex Shearer, **Bootleg** - Chocolate is made illegal. A resistance movement forms.

Nevil Shute, **A Town like Alice** - The heroics of a young English woman during World War 2.

R.L. Stevenson, **Treasure Island** - Sea adventure and the search for lost treasure.

J. Vance Marshall, **Walkabout**- Two children, survivors of a plane crash, journey across the Australian desert helped by an Aboriginal boy.

Jules Verne, **Journey to the Centre of the Earth** - Explorers climb down an extinct volcano and into the centre of the earth.

Family and Relationships

Louisa M Alcott, **Little Women** - Four sisters grow up in the 1860s. Narrated by Jo, who desperately wants to be a writer.

Terence Blacker, **Boy2Girl** - A cross dressing dare starts as a joke but goes further.

Charlotte Bronte, **Jane Eyre** - Jane falls in love with her rich employer, only to find out he has a dark secret.

Alyssa Brugman, **Walking Naked** - Girls in a secondary school clash with the new girl with startling consequences.

Meg Cabot, **All American Girl** - Teen rom-com about a girl who accidentally saves the life of the President and life is never the same again!

Jenny Davis, **If Only I'd Known** - Sensitive novel about teenage pregnancy.

Charles Dickens, **Oliver Twist** - Classic Dickens tale of the young orphan's dramatic move through life.

Jamila Gavin, **Coram Boy** - Two boys, from very different backgrounds, end up in a home for parentless children. A challenging story set in the 18th century.

Mark Haddon, **The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time** - A boy with Asperger's Syndrome tries to find out the truth about his family.

Lesley Howarth, **Carwash** - Set in Cornwall, told over a long, hot teenage summer.

Elizabeth Laird, **The Garbage King** - A moving story set in the slums and streets of Ethiopia.

Michelle Magorian, **Goodnight Mister Tom** - An evacuee with terrible family experiences is housed with a grumpy old man - will they manage to get on?

Beverley Naidoo, **The Other Side of Truth** - Two children have to leave Nigeria when their mother is killed. They end up in London, abandoned to their fate.

Louise Rennison, **Georgina Parks** (series) - The teenage Bridget Jones! Often hilarious diaries of a confused teenager.

Alex Shearer, **The Crush** - How far would an obsession with a boy band take you in the drive to meet the love of your life?

Dodie Smith, **I Capture the Castle** - Novel about first love featuring with an eccentric family of sisters living in a dilapidated castle.

Jerry Spinelli, **Stargirl** - A teenager at an American high school dares to be different.

Mildred Taylor, **Roll of Thunder, Hear my Cry** - Tale of family loyalty set against the racist background of 1930s America.

Fantasy

Richard Adams, **Watership Down** - Rabbits are threatened with losing their homes and have to find ways of surviving.

Frank Beddor, **Looking Glass Wars** - Challenging novel which develops the characters from "Alice in Wonderland" creating a whole new fantasy adventure.

Trudi Canavan, **Black Magician Trilogy** - This is a magical tale of conspiracy and magic which is lost and found.

Katherine Langrish, **Troll Fell** - Dark and hypnotic fantasy novel as an orphan is enslaved by savage and evil trolls.

C S Lewis, **The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe** - Four children find themselves in another land by stepping through a wardrobe.

Cliff McNish, **Doomspell** (trilogy) - Powerful fantasy series about children snatched from our world to satisfy the evil desires of a witch from a different dimension.

Garth Nix, **Sabriel, Lirael, Abhorsen** - Powerful and complex fantasy trilogy. Sabriel sets out on a quest to avenge the death of her father in the land of dark, dark magic.

Chris Paolini, **Eragon & Eldest** - By a 16 year old author whose main character begins his quest to be a Dragon Rider.

Michael Paver, **Wolf Brother & Spirit Walker** - Charts the lives and adventures of early man's fears, adventures and superstitions.

Philip Pullman, **His Dark Materials trilogy** - Follows the coming-of-age of two children as they wander through a series of parallel universes.

Philip Reeve, **Mortal Engines** (series) - Moving cities trawl the globe. Tom and Hester are thrown from their beloved "London" and try to get back on board.

J K Rowling, **Harry Potter series** - Set in Hogwarts, a school with a difference, a young boy and his friends battle against evil forces.

Chris Wooding, **Poison** - Poison must rescue her kidnapped sister from the land of the "phaeries".

J R Tolkein, **The Hobbit/Lord of the Rings** - Start with the adventures of Bilbo Baggins, the reluctant adventurer, then move further into Middle Earth.

Ghosts and Horror

Kate Cann, **Leaving Poppy** - When Poppy moves into a house to help look after her sister, there's something about her which the house doesn't like.

Ann Halam, **Don't Open Your Eyes** - Spine chilling horror novel about a boy killed in a joyriding accident.

Carol Hedges, **Red Velvet** - Nasty things begin to happen to Elly when she finds the skeleton of a dead girl wearing a red dress in an old house.

Susan Hill, **The Woman in Black** - A young man becomes the victim of a ghostly campaign of terror and tragedy while in a deserted house. Go and see the play too and be scared out of your wits!

Edgar Allan Poe, **Tales of Horror** - Stories from the man seen as the first true horror writer.

Celia Rees, **Witch Child** - A girl's mother is accused of being a witch in 18th century England.

Celia Rees, **Soul Taker** - Jardine is so obsessed with the lovely Lisa that he sells his soul for a chance to be with her.

Marcus Sedgwick, **My Swordhand is Singing** - Chilling vampire tale set in 17th Century Europe.

Darren Shan, **Demonata series** - Can the three main characters, all living in different times, fight against the demonic forces who are attempting to destroy the world?

Chris Wooding, **Haunting of Alaizabel Cray** - Two 'wychhunters' search for a beast lurking in the sewers of old London.

Mystery, Crime and Thrillers

Terence Blacker, **Angel Factory** - A curious boy hacks into his father's computer.

Tim Bowler, **Apocalypse** - A young family is shipwrecked on an island.

Kevin Brooks, **Martyn Pig** - Martyn's life is turned on its head when he accidentally kills someone very close to him.

Kevin Brooks, **Road of the Dead** - Two teenage boys want to avenge the death of their murdered sister.

Anne Cassidy, **Missing Judy** - A six year old vanishes, and her 16 year old sister feels responsible.

Agatha Christie, **The Body in the Library** - Just one of Christie's famous crime novels -there are plenty more!

Arthur Conan Doyle, **Sherlock Holmes stories** - Choose any of Conan Doyle's fascinating tales about a 19th century detective with extraordinary abilities.

F. Cottrell-Boyce, **Millions** - You find £250,000 and have 10 days to spend it before Britain joins the euro. What would you do?

Jennifer Donnelly, **A Gathering Light** - Based on a real-life murder, a girl finds that the story of a drowned girl impacts on her own life.

Valerie Mendes, **Girl in the Attic** - Accessible, spine-chilling ghost/mystery novel set in Cornwall after a family move from the big city.

Nicola Morgan, **Flesh Market** - Set in the dark streets of 19th Century Edinburgh where the body-snatchers Burke and Hare stalk the homeless street urchins.

Philip Pullman, **The Ruby in the Smoke** - A girl tries to find out why her father was murdered.

Alex Shearer, **Tins** - Fergal collects metal tins, until life changes completes when he finds a finger in one tin and the word "help" scrawled in another.

Alex Shearer, **Speed of the Dark** - A scientist disappears into thin air but leaves an intriguing manuscript behind.

Nancy Werlin, **Killer's Cousin** - A 17 year old is acquitted of murder and forced to move to live with distant relatives.

Tim Wynne-Jones, **Boy in the Burning House** - Two friends try to solve a mystery from a previous generation.

School Stories

Robert Cormier, **The Chocolate War** - One small act of defiance starts a chain reaction - a shocking novel about the power of gangs.

Catherine Forde, **Fat Boy Swim** - A misfit will do anything to fit in at school.

Graham Gardner, **Inventing Elliot** - A gang of school thugs called 'The Guardians' rule and bully at Holminster High.

Roger Green, **Cuckoos** - School bullying begins with a 'whisper'.

Louis Sachar, **The Boy who Lost his Face** - A bully seems cursed and begins to see things from the point of view of the bullied.

Science fiction

Douglas Adams, **The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy** - Arthur Dent is upset because the council has demolished his house to make way for a bypass. Unfortunately the earth is to be demolished to make way for a hyperspace bypass.

Patrick Ness, **The Knife of Never Letting Go** - Todd Hewitt is the last boy in Prentisstown, a place where everyone can hear other people's thoughts in a constant Noise. Todd finds a gap in the Noise.

Philip Reeve, **Larklight trilogy** - Set in an alternative Victorian-era universe. The nations struggle over who gets access to space technology to travel the solar system.

Neil Shusterman, **Unwind** - Parents fed up with the children can sign them up to be 'unwound' and their parts donated to others. When Connor finds this out, he plots his escape.

Justin Somper, **Vampirates Series** - Twins who live in a lighthouse go on a boat trip in a storm. One gets rescued by a pirate ship, one by a vampire-run ship.

HG Wells, **War of the Worlds** - The Martians invade Earth.

Terry Pratchett, **The Discworld Series (starting with 'The Colour of Magic')** - Comic fantasy novels set in a flat world balanced on the back of four elephants who are standing on a giant turtle.

Scott Westerfield, **Uglies** - In the future plastic surgery is taken to the extreme. Those who reject the process are known as "Uglies".

KS3 CHALLENGING READING SUGGESTIONS

Steve Cole *Young Bond: Shoot to Kill*

Young James Bond is back in an explosive adventure.

Expelled from Eton and determined never to trust again, James Bond's plans for a solitary summer are dashed by the discovery of a gruesome film reel - for which someone is prepared to kill. His friends are put in danger, his life is on the line, James must find his way out of a sinister blackmail plot, or die trying.

Eoin Colfer *Airman*

One dark night on the island of Great Saltee, fourteen-year-old Conor is framed for a terrible crime he didn't commit. Thrown into prison by the dastardly Hugo Bonvilain, Conor is trapped in a sea-swept dungeon and branded a traitor. He must escape and clear his name; he wants his old life back - his family, his friends . . . and his princess. Conor knows there is only one way out. It's an impossible task, which has never been done before. But Conor is determined to do it. He'll have to fly.

Jo Cotterill *Looking at the Stars*

This is the tale of an extraordinary child, whose wild imagination gives the people around her a reason to survive. This is the tale of Amina, separated from her family and forced to flee the war ravaging her country, who finds hope in the power of stories to never give up on the people she loves. An emotional tale of love and war, family and friendship.

Sally Gardner *Tinder*

Wounded in battle, Otto Hundebiss defies Death and finds himself on a journey to a realm of dark magic and mystery.... He meets Safire, brave of heart and pure of spirit, and learns the powers of the tinderbox and the secrets of the wolves.

This incredible tale will appeal especially to fantasy enthusiasts. The book is further enhanced by the brilliant illustrations of David Roberts.

Linzi Glass *Ruby Red*

Her opulent Johannesburg neighbourhood with its manicured lawns is a far cry from the streets of Soweto where anger and hatred simmer under the surface.

Ruby can't resist the blue-eyed Afrikaans boy who brings her the exciting rush of first love, but whose presence brings hushed whispers and disapproving glances. She might not see race, colour or creed-but it seems everybody else does.

For Ruby, making some choices means letting others go, and as the darkness begins to descend, she must find a way to follow a brighter path...

John Green *The Fault in our Stars*

Despite the tumour-shrinking medical miracle that has bought her a few years, Hazel has never been anything other than terminal with her cancer diagnosis. When a gorgeous plot twist named Augustus Waters suddenly appears at Cancer kid Support Group, Hazel's story is about to be completely rewritten.

Elizabeth Laird *The Fastest Boy in the World*

Eleven-year-old Solomon loves to run and dreams of being a gold-medal-winning athlete, in spite of his ragged shorts and bare feet. When Grandfather announces that he's taking Solomon to Addis Ababa, Ethiopia's capital city, Solomon cannot believe his luck. However, when Grandfather collapses following the long journey, Solomon knows that he's the only person who can run for help.

Geraldine McCaughrean *The Middle of Nowhere*

When her mother dies from a snake bite, Comity's life in the Australian outback changes for ever.

With her father lost in grief, Comity makes friends with Fred, the Aboriginal yard boy. Then the evil Quartz Hogg arrives, who delights in playing cruel games. When he sets his murderous sights on Fred, it's up to Comity to stop him.

Andy Mulligan *Trash*

Raphael Lives on a dumpsite. Every day is spent wading through mountains of stinking trash. He even sleeps next to it. Then one unlucky day, Raphael's world is changed forever. He finds a small leather bag - a bag of clues. It's also a bag of hope. It's a bag that will change his life. Raphael and his friends Gardo and Rat are hunted mercilessly. Wanted by the police, it takes all their survival skills to stay ahead. The boys are chased from filthy gutters to wealthy avenues and as the net tightens, they uncover a dead man's mission to put right a terrible wrong.

Patrick Ness *A Monster Calls*

The monster showed up after midnight. As they do.

But it isn't the monster Conor's been expecting; the one from his nightmare, the one he's had nearly every night since his mother started her treatments, the one with the darkness and the wind and the screaming...

This monster is something different, though. Something ancient, something wild. And it wants the most dangerous thing of all from Conor. It wants the truth.

Marcus Sedgwick *Revolver*

1910. A cabin north of the Arctic Circle. Fifteen-year-old Sig Andersson is alone. Alone, except for the corpse of his father, who died earlier that day after falling through a weak spot on the ice-covered lake. His sister, Anna, and step-mother, Nadya, have gone to the local town for help. Then comes a knock at the door. It's a man, the flash of a

revolver's butt at his hip, and a mean glare in his eyes. Sig has never seen him before but Wolff claims to have unfinished business with his father. As Sig gradually learns the awful truth about Wolff's connection to his father, his thoughts are drawn to a certain box hidden on a shelf in the storeroom, in which lies his father's prized possession - a revolver. When Anna returns alone, and Wolff begins to close in, Sig's choice is pulled into sharp focus. Should he use the gun, or not?

Nikki Sheehan *Who Framed Karis Cliff*

People used to call them friends and said how they were good for your brain, and then a day came when all that changed...When they became the enemy. Now anyone found harbouring a rogue imaginary person is in for the cosh-an operation that fries your imagination and zaps whatever is in there, out of existence. That's why I wish Klaris Cliff had never shown up!

Jerry Spinelli *Milkweed*

This is the true story of Jews and Gypsies in Warsaw during the Nazi occupation. But it is also the story of a street orphan who survives on quick thinking schemes to find food: who believes in bread, mothers and angels. A tragic, honest but beautiful account through the eyes of an innocent.

Jason Wallace *Out of Shadows*

If I stood you in front of a man, pressed a gun into your palm and told you to squeeze the trigger, would you do it?'

Zimbabwe, 1980s. The war is over, independence has been won and Robert Mugabe has come to power offering hope, land and freedom to black Africans. It is the end of the Old Way and the start of a promising new era. For Robert Jacklin, it's all new: new continent, new country, new school. And very quickly he learns that for some of his classmates, the sound of guns is still loud, and their battles rage on . . . white boys who want their old country back, not this new black African government. Boys like Ivan. Clever, cunning Ivan. For him, there is still one last battle to fight, and he's taking it right to the very top.

Rachel Ward *Numbers*

Since her mother's death, fifteen-year-old Jem has kept a secret. When her eyes meet someone else's, a number pops into her head the date on which they will die. Knowing that nothing lasts forever, Jem avoids relationships, but when she meets a boy called Spider, and they plan a day out together, her life takes a new twist and turn. Waiting for the London Eye, she sees everyone in the queue has the same number - something terrible is going to happen.

Markus Zusack *The Book Thief*

Nine-year-old Liesel lives with her foster family on Himmel Street during the dark days of the Third Reich. Her Communist parents have been transported to a concentration

camp, and during the funeral for her brother, she manages to steal a macabre book: it is, in fact, a gravediggers' instruction manual. This is the first of many books which will pass through her hands as the carnage of the Second World War begins to hungrily claim lives. Both Liesel and her fellow inhabitants of Himmel Street will find themselves changed by both words on the printed page and the horrendous events happening around them.

Books set in other cultures or worlds for readers who enjoy strong original ideas

Trash - Andy Mulligan (film out now!), **Firebrand** (Rebel Angels series)- Gillian Phillip
Looking at the Stars - Jo Cotterill , **My Name Is Parvana** - Deborah Ellis
Who Framed Klaris Cliff? - Nikki Sheehan □ **Noughts and Crosses** (series) - Malorie Blackman
Lockwood & Co (series) - Jonathan Stroud □ **Angel** (trilogy) - LA Weatherly (a must for Twilight fans)

Books for readers who are put off by long novels (consider those published by Barrington Stoke)

Brock - Anthony McGowan
Love Bites - Jo Cotterill
Pirates of Pangaea - Daniel Hartwell & Neill Cameron
Vampire Academy graphic novels - Richelle Mead and Emma Vieceli

Books suitable for younger teens

Sweet Hearts series - Jo Cotterill (romance)
Close Your Pretty Eyes - Sally Nicholls (contemporary issue/ghost story)
A Year Without Autumn - Liz Kessler (timeslip family story)
Destination Earth - Ali Sparkes (alien comes to Earth)