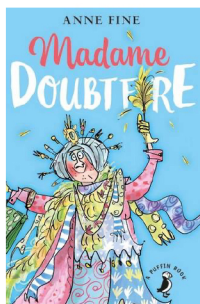


BOOKS FOR YEAR 8 – OUR RECOMMENDATIONS

Books for Year 8 – looking for a great book for the classroom, the school library or your child’s collection? The following book list contains titles to appeal to children aged 12-13 in secondary school. The books consist of a range of titles to cover all ability ranges including the more able. Updated termly, this list of books includes authors such as Adeline Yen Mah, Louis Sachar, Jamila Gavin, Anne Fine, Mark Haddon, Susan Hill, Lois Lowry, and John Wyndham.

Madame Doubtfire by Anne Fine

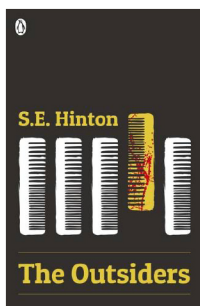
Lydia, Christopher and Natalie’s parents have divorced. When their mum looks to hire a nanny, their Dad, Daniel gets the job – using a cunning disguise. An easier read for Year 8 pupils.



10+

The Outsiders by S.E. Hinton

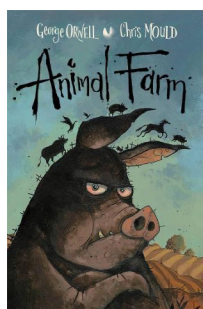
A story of struggle, growing up, gangs and peer pressure. A classic of modern teenage fiction.



13+

Animal Farm by George Orwell and Chris Mould

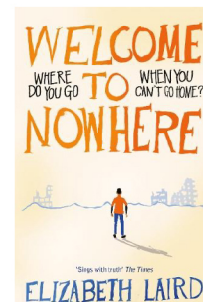
George Orwell’s unabridged text is set to new and vibrant cartoon-style illustrations by award-winning illustrator Chris Mould. The images help to lift a classic novel that is too often presented with typesetting from another era that 21st-century teens can find off-putting. Adding fun and pertinent satire, the narrative pictures add a layer of accessibility to a text often studied for 13+ entrance exams or GCSE. These modern touches will prove useful in helping reluctant and less able readers in KS3 and KS4. It’s well worth considering a set of these books if you find yourself teaching Animal Farm to teenagers on a Friday afternoon.



13+

Welcome to Nowhere by Elizabeth Laird

Omar dreams of being a successful businessman and ruling the world. But living in Syria, this 12-year-old’s dreams are set in a time and place where things can change rapidly – especially when his older brother finds himself in a dangerous situation and the whole family has to flee to safety.



9+

Be Resilient by Nicola Morgan

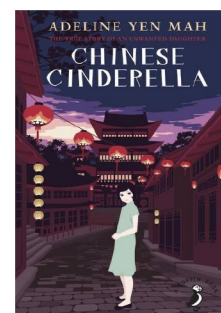
Ideal for teens in KS3 and KS4, this book provides clear and practical advice on how to develop strategies, mental toughness and life-long skills to deal with what school and life throws at them. Situations such as COVID 19, who to trust, and keeping healthy are explored, and practical activities such as breathing techniques, visualising success and rationalising worries are detailed. Highly recommended for secondary school libraries.



12+

Chinese Cinderella by Adeline Yen Mah

Ideal for teens in KS3 and KS4, this book provides clear and practical advice on how to develop strategies, mental toughness and life-long skills to deal with what school and life throws at them. Situations such as COVID 19, who to trust, and keeping healthy are explored, and practical activities such as breathing techniques, visualising success and rationalising worries are detailed. Highly recommended for secondary school libraries.

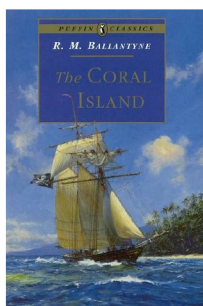


12+

BOOKS FOR YEAR 8 – OUR RECOMMENDATIONS

The Coral Island by R.M. Ballantyne

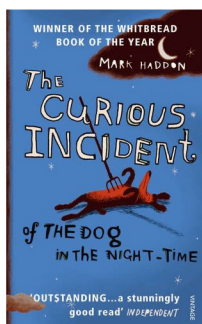
A boy's own story of Ralph, Jack and Peterkin who are shipwrecked on a coral island. As they work together and discover how to live and survive on the island their world is suddenly threatened by pirates. A good counterpoint to read with Lord of the Flies.



12-14

The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time by Mark Haddon

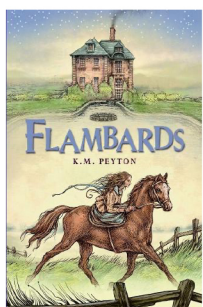
Christopher isn't like other teenagers. He finds it difficult to talk to other people, hates being touched and reacts badly to certain colours. When the neighbour's dog is murdered he causes chaos trying to find out who did it.



11+/13

Flambards by K.M. Peyton

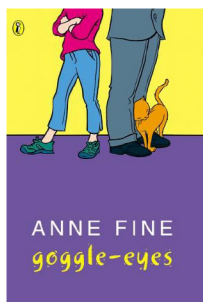
Christina is sent away to live with her nasty uncle in his dilapidated house. While there she discovers a passion for horses and begins to understand the peculiar world around her.



9+

Goggle Eyes by Anne Fine

Katy Killin is a world expert on her mother's disastrous boyfriends, and how to try and stop them from developing into unwanted stepfathers.

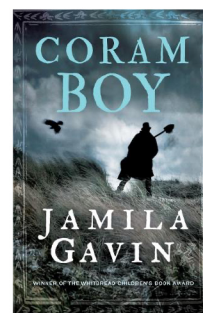


9-11

Coram Boy by Jamila Gavin

A stunning period drama of deception, child stealing, mistaken identity and searching for long lost families. An amazing piece of historical fiction.

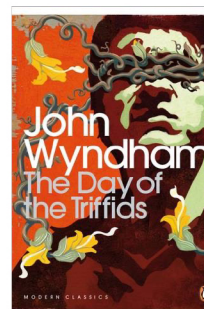
12+



The Day of the Triffids by John Wyndham

Bill wakes up to find he's the only person left on Earth who can see. Everyone else has been blinded by a mysterious meteor event. Can he save the world from extraterrestrial carnivorous plants?

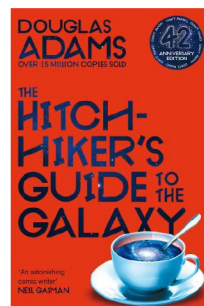
13+



The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy by Douglas Adams

Arthur's Friday doesn't start well when his house is demolished. The Earth is obliterated soon after, to make way for a bypass, and then he finds out his best friend is an alien. Can things get any worse?

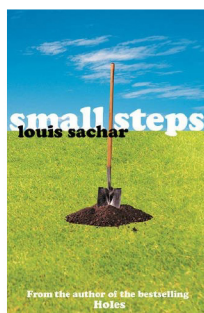
13+



BOOKS FOR YEAR 8 – OUR RECOMMENDATIONS

Small Steps by Louis Sachar

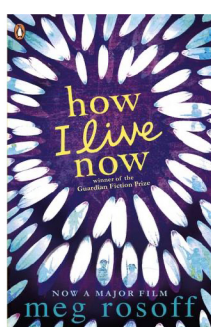
The sequel to 'Holes'. Armpit is now a gardener living in Texas and trying to stay out of trouble by making the right choices. But things never seem to go his way. Ideal for discussion in Year 8 book clubs or English lessons.



12+

How I Live Now by Meg Rosoff

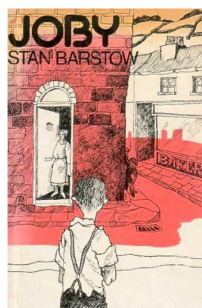
Daisy, a streetwise American 15 year old and Edmond, her cousin from England are evacuated to the countryside. After briefly falling in love, her world is shattered by an unimaginable event. How will she live now?



11+/13+

Joby by Stan Barstow

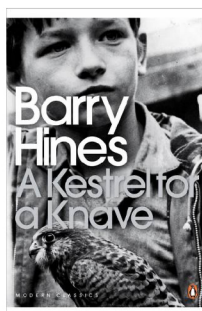
11-year-old Joby finds the world he lives in strange and disturbing and struggles to understand the division in society, his friends and family. A thought-provoking social comment.



14+

A Kestrel for a Knave by Barry Hines

A modern classic and very popular with reluctant boy readers. Billy Casper is a troubled teen growing up in Barnsley. He finds an escape in Kes, a Kestrel, which transforms his life.

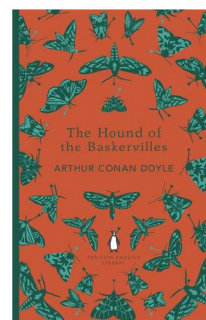


13+

The Hound of the Baskervilles by Arthur Conan Doyle

The Baskerville family is cursed by a ravenous supernatural dog intent on savaging them. Can Sherlock Holmes and Watson solve the mystery and save the family?

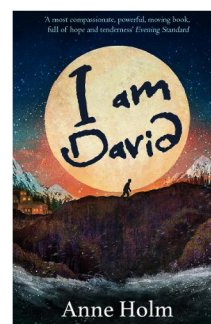
11+



I am David by Anne Holm

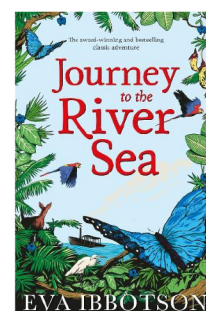
The story of 15-year-old David's quest – escaping from the concentration camp where he has lived his life and travelling across a Europe unknown to him to try and find his home.

12-15



Journey to the River Sea by Eva Ibbotson

An orphaned young girl and her governess travel thousands of miles from boarding school to South America with distant relatives. An exotic and wonderfully described adventure. An easier book to read for Year 8 children.

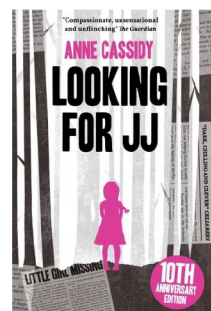


10+

Looking for JJ by Anne Cassidy

A child killer is living a new life under a new identity after being released. How long can she keep her former life secret, and is she as evil as people believe?

13+

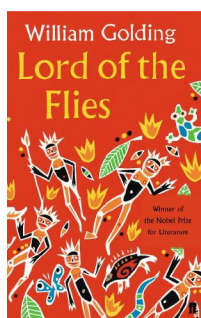


BOOKS FOR YEAR 8 – OUR RECOMMENDATIONS

Lord of the Flies by William Golding

When a plane evacuating a group of schoolboys crashes on a remote island, the boys are left to fend for themselves with no adult supervision. A modern classic.

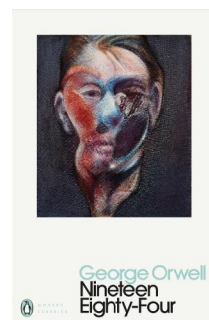
13+



Nineteen Eighty-Four by George Orwell

The dystopian novel in which the terms 'big brother' and 'room 101' first appeared. Winston Smith works for the Ministry of Truth where his job is to rewrite history. He rebels and longs for freedom. A more challenging novel for students in Year 8.

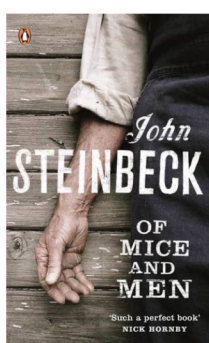
13+



Of Mice and Men by John Steinbeck

George and Lennie follow the American Dream and head to California. However, Lennie gets into trouble with his boss's daughter in law – trouble which George might not be able to help him with.

11+/13+



The Tulip Touch by Anne Fine

No one wants anything to do with Tulip, who is avoided by children and teachers alike. But Natalie is drawn to her and finds her dangerous and interesting. When things go too far, Natalie isn't able to stop events spinning out of control, leading to a stunning and unexpected ending.

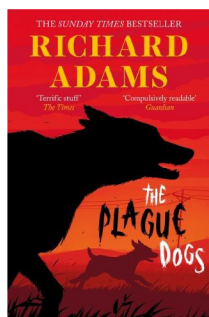
11-14



The Plague Dogs by Richard Adams

Two dogs, Snitter and Rowf, escape from the horrors of an animal research centre and try to survive in the outside world.

8-12



The Dam Busters by Paul Brickhill

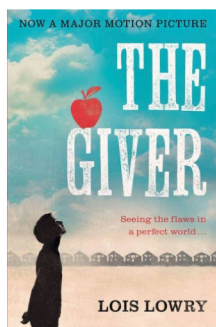
The true story of the 617 squadron's historic bombing raid on the Ruhr dam using 'bouncing bombs' devised by Barnes Wallace.

12-13



The Giver by Lois Lowry

12 year old Jonas lives in a world with no poverty, no crime, and where everyone is the same. But when he takes the role of "receiver of memory" he becomes one of the only people to understand how the world he lives in came about. A poignant read for Year 8 children – ideal for book clubs.

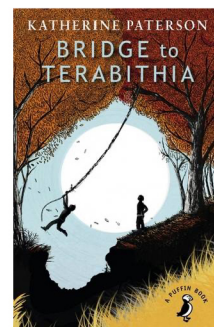


13/14+

Bridge to Terabithia by Katherine Paterson

Jess creates the world of Terabithia to escape from his annoying family. Reached only by a rope swing, he and his friend Leslie live out their adventures, until an earth-shattering tragedy strikes.

10+

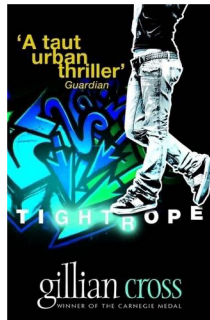


BOOKS FOR YEAR 8 – OUR RECOMMENDATIONS

Tightrope by Gillian Cross

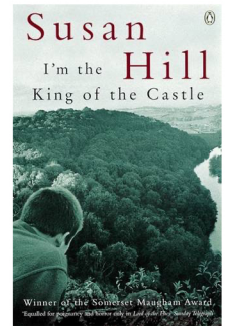
Ashley has no idea that her late-night graffiti will change her life. First, she feels uncomfortable, then she receives notes and finally she realises there's a stalker.

12+



I'm the King of the Castle by Susan Hill

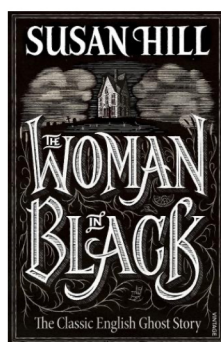
Edmund doesn't want a new brother, and immediately dislikes his stepbrother Charles, who he sees as an intruder in his own home. At home, Edmund terrorises Charles, but in Hang Wood the roles there's a role reversal. A good book for Year 8 pupils to compare to Lord of the Flies. 13+



The Woman in Black by Susan Hill

A chilling mystery about a woman in black who the villagers only talk about in terrifying true ghost stories.

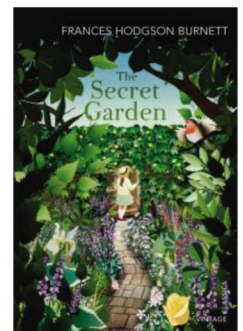
11+



The Secret Garden by Frances Hodgson Burnett

A spellbinding story about Misselthwaite Manor and an unwanted lonely child who discovers a hidden and magical garden.

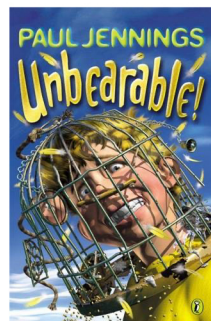
9+



Unbearable by Paul Jennings

A collection of eight weird, wonderful, strange and occasionally revolting short stories including 'Licked' and 'Smelly Feet'. A funny book for year 8 reluctant readers.

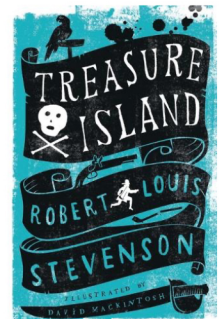
3+



Treasure Island by R.L. Stevenson

The classic tale of Jim Hawkins and his adventure on the ship Hispaniola sailing to find hidden treasure. Intrigue, treachery, mutiny, castaways, crime and the menacing Long John Silver dominate this roller coaster of cliffhangers and surprises.

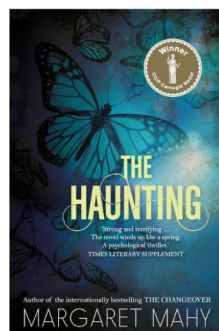
4-8



The Haunting by Margaret Mahy

A story of haunting, and a boy with a very special gift. A compelling and scary novel.

8-12



Z for Zachariah by Robert O'Brien

Ann Burden has survived a nuclear war by living in a valley free of radiation. But when the only other person she knows becomes threatening, she decides to leave the valley to see if anyone else has survived. A more challenging book to read for Year 8 pupils.

11+

