

## **KEY STAGE 3 RECOMMENDED READING LIST**

### **ACTION AND ADVENTURE**

Chris Bradford **Bodyguard Series:**

In a world of billionaire kidnappings, Connor is a 14 year old bodyguard expertly trained to protect the super-rich kids.

Eoin Colfer **Airman:**

Swash-buckling adventure set in a future Ireland about a boy who has to escape from prison to clear his name.

Gillian Cross **After Tomorrow:**

After a food shortage Britain is in ruins. Money is worthless. Your friends are gone and robbers roam the streets. No one is safe.

Michael Grant **BZRK Series:**

Futuristic nano technology is used as a weapon in this superb thriller from the author of *Gone* series.

Sue Graves **The Cliff AR:**

One side of the coin says danger the other dare. What happens when two boys toss the coin?

Melanie Joyce **Spirit Tribe:**

A great jungle adventure.

Andy McNab **DropZone Series:**

Fast moving thriller about a teenage skydiver recruited to a secret government anti-terrorist organisation.

Simon Mayo **Itch Series:**

Itch is an accident prone 14 year old who discovers a new chemical element. Suddenly, he's in danger and develops new superpowers.

William Osborne **Hitler's Angels:**

Two German speaking British children are recruited in an attempt to expose a dark secret; Hitler will go to any lengths to keep secrets.

Mark Walden **HIVE Series:**

In this story bright kids are sent to the Higher Institute of Villainous Education. Very good fun and born to be bad!

Allen Zadoff **Boy Nobody Series:**

Fast-paced thriller following the adventures of a brainwashed teen assassin. An entertaining twist on the teen spy novel.

### **MODERN TEEN READS**

Ally Kennan **Beast:**

Stephen is a boy with many secrets, and the beast is his biggest. Vicious look at teenage exclusion and isolation in modern Britain.

Annabel Pitcher **My Sister Lives on the Mantelpiece:**

Amazing study of loss as a family fails to recover from their loss of a daughter in a suicide bomb and relocate to the North of England.

R J Palacio **Wonder:**

Dark, funny and touching story of a boy born with an unspecified facial deformity. Destined for classic status, it's that good.

## **GIRL TALK**

Cathy Hopkins **Mates, Dates... (Series):**

Multi-book series of Lucy and her friends and their funny experiences of growing up. A great series of books to grow old with.

Hilary McKay **Binny for Short:**

Financial problems force Binny's family to give away their pets and move house. But is a miracle just around the corner?

Jillian Powell **Rock Chick:**

Lexie takes up rock climbing to get the attention of a boy. Trouble is Lexie is afraid of heights!

Jillian Powell **Handbag Wars:**

Stacey and her best friend love to show off to each other with their new bags. Stacy learns that some bags have secrets.

Louise Rennison **Georgina Nicholson Series:**

Hilarious diary series about the accident prone Georgina, her quest for a boyfriend, school life and friendships. Very funny!

Judy Blume **Just As Long As we're Together:**

Stephanie's relationship with her best friend Rachel changes during her first year in Junior High, as she tries to conceal a family problem and meets a new girl from California.

Edyth Bulbring **A Month with April-May:**

One-eyebrow-raised account of a teenager's trials and tribulations as she navigates a new school, a new family situation and a whole new way of life.

Karen McCrombie **The Year of Big Dreams:**

Flo Brown is watching a fairytale unfolding in front of her eyes. Her mum is in the finals of the 'Big Dreams' talent show. At home, millions of TV viewers are tuned in, waiting for the nation's favourite to give another spine-tingling performance. Their lives will change forever. Just not in the way Flo and Queenie expect.

Anne Cassidy **Looking for JJ:**

A gripping and emotionally searing novel by accomplished British author Anne Cassidy. *Looking for JJ* infuses a terrifying subject with humanity and hope.

Kate Cann **Fiesta:**

A great summer holiday read from queen of teen Kate Cann about drinking, clubbing, guys and all the dilemmas that naturally come with them.

Cathy Cassidy **Indigo Blue:**

When Indigo's mum announces that they're moving - just Indie, Mum and baby Misti - Indie doesn't understand. Why the hurry? Where are they going? Will her best friend, Jo, still be there for her?

## **CLASSICS**

### Richard Adams **Watership Down**:

Vivid account of a warren of rabbits forced to abandon their home. Forty years on this book still packs a punch.

### Louisa M Alcott **Little Women**:

First in the series of classic novels of 4 sisters growing up in 1860's America, written from the point of view of Jo, who would dearly like to become a writer.

### Charles Dickens **A Christmas Carol**:

Read about Scrooge yourself; much better than any film you may have seen!

## **MULTI VOLUME FANTASY SEQUENCES**

### Derek Landy **Skulduggery Pleasant**:

Fantastic fantasy horror novels, wild and full of imagination and excitement. Now seven books old and still going strong.

### C.S. Lewis **Narnia Series**:

Perhaps the ultimate battle between good and evil? Classic tale of children trying to awaken an animal world from eternal winter.

### William Nicholson **Wind on Fire Trilogy**:

Breath taking trilogy about a society governed by exams. But what happens when you rebel? Top quality trilogy.

### James Patterson **Maximum Ride Series**:

Stunning multi-book sequence about a group of teenagers genetically engineered to be 1% bird as part of a secret experiment.

### Michelle Paver **Wolf Brother series**:

An exciting series charting the lives and adventures of early man - their lives, fears, adventures, superstitions and battles. Great stuff!

### Philip Pullman **His Dark Materials trilogy**:

Staggering dark fantasy trilogy in which Lyra fights for survival in a godless world. A brilliant series worthy of its exalted status.

### Philip Reeve **Mortal Engines**:

Blinding fantasy sequence where moving cities trawl the globe. Tom and Hester are thrown from "London" and battle to get back on board. Also has a mini series of prequels.

### Philip Reeve **Goblins Series**:

Fast paced and funny fantasy adventure, set in a goblin world, where old magic is slowly beginning to awaken. But the goblins don't notice.....

### Rick Riordan **Percy Jackson Series**:

Entertaining fantasy series in which a teenage boy living in modern day America finds out he is the son of an ancient God.

### Rick Riordan **The Red Pyramid Kane Chronicles Trilogy**:

One curse, two heroes and an evil that won't stay buried. Great fantasy romp from the creator of Percy Jackson.

### Rick Riordan **The Lost Hero Heroes of Olympus Trilogy**:

Great new series which begins in a summer camp for children of Greek Gods who are sent on quests.

Pat Walsh **The Crowfield Curse and The Crowfield Demon:**

Historical fantasy with a magical twist, in which a girl finds a grave with a body of an angel. Combines fantasy and mystery.

Moira Young **Blood Red Road Trilogy:**

Savage post-apocalyptic thriller about a girl searching for her stolen brother in a vicious, dark and violent future landscape.

Michael Dahl **Dragon-blood series:**

Magical fantasy series about people and dragon shaped birthmarks.

## **SINGLE VOLUME FANTASY NOVELS**

Alan Garner **Elidor:**

Four children are magically transported to the land of Elidor where they are tasked with guarding the dying lands treasures.

Terry Pratchett **Nation:**

Wild comedy fantasy about the survivors of a tidal wave creating a new world for themselves. Startlingly original comedy from Terry Pratchett.

Michael Dahl **The Smashing Scroll:**

An ancient curse is released across the countryside crushing everything in its path. Can anybody stop the smashing scroll?

## **MONSTERS, DEMONS AND VAMPIRES**

David Gatward **Doom Rider:**

Seth has lived a 1000 lives. In each of these, he has been killed before reaching 13. But things are about to change.....

Charlie Higson **The Enemy Series:**

The "sickness" turns all adults into zombie flesh-eating monsters. A group of children try to escape London in this amazing series.

Chris Priestley **Mr Creecher:**

Reworking of the Frankenstein story, seen from the point of view of the creature who befriends a young boy.

Marcus Sedgwick **My Swordhand is Singing Series:**

Chilling vampire tale set in 17th century Europe, inspired by the original Transylvanian vampire folk tales. Soaked in atmosphere.

Darren Shan **Cirque du Freak Series:**

Brilliant twelve book vampire series as 'Darren Shan' gets bitten by a vampire spider and battles the undead.

## **GHOSTLY AND CREEPY TALES THAT GO BUMP IN THE NIGHT**

Malorie Blackman **Stuff of Nightmares:**

Frightening and scary novel which canters on the small, irrational fears which affect us all when we have had bad dreams.

Anne Fine **The Devil Walks:**

Very creepy tale of Daniel, sent to live with a distant uncle, whose house is a giant replica of his own dolls' house. Sinister and brilliant.

Neil Gaiman **Coraline**:

Stunning novel about a warped alternative universe hidden behind a door. Very weird, warped, sinister and totally creepy.

Neil Gaiman **The Graveyard Book**:

Horror/fantasy take on the jungle book – a toddler whose family is murdered is raised in the graveyard by the dead.

Jon Mayhew **Mortlock**:

Really creepy, Victorian set, horror novel. It has ghouls, zombies and a really twisted original story.

Cathy Macphail **Out of the Depths**:

Tyler has an unfortunate gift: the ability to see dead people. This causes problems when he sees dead teachers and new classmates!

Cliff McNish **Breathe – A Ghost Story**:

Ghosts of dead children lurk in an empty house waiting for new normal children to play with.....creepy, stuff!

Darren Shan **The Demonata Series**:

Brilliant ten book horror series from the undisputed King of Fear.

## **HAVING A LAUGH: FUNNY BOOKS**

F. Cotrell-Boyce **Millions**:

Britain is about to join the Euro. Two boys find £250K and have ten days to spend it before it becomes obsolete. Brilliant comedy thriller.

F. Cotrell-Boyce **Cosmic**:

Funny read about a 12 year old who is really big for his age.

Curtis Jobling **Haunt Dead Scared**:

Will is killed in a hit and run accident, but he can still see his best friend Doug and has to follow him around. Fun mix of horror and comedy.

Louis Sacher **Holes**:

Very popular novel about the miscarriage of justice that sends Stanley into a juvenile prison and an assignment to dig holes to find supposedly lost treasure.

Louis Sacher **Small Steps**:

A loose sequel to Holes. This novel is the story of Theodore Johnson, an African-American teenager struggling to rebuild his life after a brief spell in a youth correctional facility.

Louis Sacher **Marvin Redpost**:

Part of the Redpost series. Marvin has been caught up in another dilemma. He's been told that if he kisses his elbow he'll turn into a girl.

Louis Sacher **There's a Boy in the Girls' Bathroom**:

Really funny story of an unpopular boy at school who gets invited to his first ever birthday party. One of many very funny Sacher novels.

Jamie Thomson **Dark Lord Series**:

An 'evil fantasy warlord' trapped in the body of a 13 year old schoolboy. Really funny and the start of a great new series.

Michael Morpugro **Cool as a Cucumber:**

At first, Peter isn't too keen on his teacher's plan to dig a vegetable garden to celebrate the garden's jubilee, but then he begins to find things and some of them turn out to be more exciting.

Pete Johnson **Diary of an (UN) Teenager:**

"Dear Diary, I am going to stay exactly as I am now. And that's a promise..." When Spencer's friends begin to grow up into teenagers, he vows to stay the way he's always been. But will he?

## **THRILLERS**

Martyn Bedford **Flip:**

Tom wakes up one morning and discovers he is in the body of someone called Philip. Great psychological and twisty thriller.

Ally Carter **Gallagher Girls series:**

Entertaining spy/thriller, aimed at young girls. Set in a school aimed at turning teen girls into undercover agents. Very good fun.

Malorie Blackman **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". An extremely popular and addictive series.

Joseph Craig **Jimmy Coates Series:**

11 year old Jimmy realises he has super powers, which his parents have hidden from him. This leads to an exciting mystery of intrigue and suspense.

Cathy MacPhail **Roxy's Baby:**

When Roxy finds herself pregnant she runs away from home and finds sanctuary in a hostel, but things aren't what they seem....

Sophie McKenzie **Girl Missing Trilogy:**

Tremendous thriller about a girl who thinks she may have been snatched as a baby. The sequels pick up the story a few years later.

Gemma Malley **The Declaration Trilogy:**

Drugs allow people to live for hundreds of years and having children is banned. Dark and original science fiction fable.

Andy Mulligan **Trash:**

Three boys take on the world in this fast paced, intensely moving story in a dark future, where the poor live in rubbish dumps.

Patrick Ness **A Monster Calls:**

Conor has nightmares that seem to be real when a monster appears at his bedroom window. Includes vividly drawn pictures.

Paula Rawsthorne **The Truth about Celia Frost:**

All her life, Celia has suffered from a rare blood disease, however she begins to suspect her mother is hiding something from her.

Marcus Sedgwick **Revolver:**

Gripping thriller set in the Arctic in 1910 and the vicious search for stolen gold. Dark, scary and deeply atmospheric

## **SCIENCE FICTION AND THE UNEXPLAINED**

James Dashner **Maze Runner Series:**

Great futuristic thriller about a group of boys trapped in a stone maze that hides the horrors which lurk outside.

Michael Grant **Gone Series:**

In these super-fast paced and exhilarating novels, all adults disappear into thin air and the children have to battle to survive on their own.

## **LIVING IN A WAR ZONE**

John Boyne **The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas:**

One of the saddest books I've ever read. Set around the time of the holocaust. Saying anything else will give it away.

Anne Frank **The Diary of Anne Frank:**

Stunning story of bravery during the Second World War as Anne's family hide in an annex of a friend's house. Essential reading.

Maurice Gleitzman **Once Series:**

Captivating and moving story of two child friends, growing up in Nazi occupied Poland and trying to escape the war.

Michael Morpurgo **War Horse:**

Thought provoking novel of the life of a horse during his numerous battles under different masters in World War I.

Michael Morpurgo **Private Peaceful:**

Brilliant World War I trench novel about conscientious objectors.

Frances Zusak **The Book Thief:**

Death takes an interest in a little orphaned girl in Nazi Germany. Mesmerizing and compassionate.

## **SPORT STORIES**

Dan Freedman **Kick Off Series:**

Funny look at a school football team, with Jamie desperate to be the star. By book 3, he's a prodigy!

Owen Slot **Running for Gold:**

Everyone knows Danny Powell was born to run. But no one knows Danny dreams of beating the fastest man on the planet.

Theo Walcott **T.J and the Cup Run:**

TJ and his friends get a terrible shock when their old teacher, Mr Potter, returns from illness to take over from Mr Wood.

Robert Rigby **Parallel Lines:**

Can Sam hold fast to his Olympic odyssey in a school where rugby is a religion?

## **HISTORICAL FICTION**

Chris Bradford **Young Samurai Series:**

Fascinating novel about an English boy marooned in Japan in 1611 and is taught the ways of the samurai.

Laurie H Anderson **Chains and Forge:**

Compelling story of a slave girl during the American Civil war.

Zizou Corder **Halo:**

Exciting fantasy set in ancient Sparta about an orphan adopted by a family of Centaurs.

Caroline Lawrence **Roman Mysteries Series:**

Multi-book series about four amateur child detectives in ancient Rome. Engaging and historically accurate.

Simon Scarrow **Gladiator Series:**

Set in 16AD, the slave Marcus finds himself at Gladiator School and before long, fighting for his life in a brutal fight for survival.