

30 BOOKS TO READ IN Key Stage 3



Choosing a book can be difficult, but help is at hand!

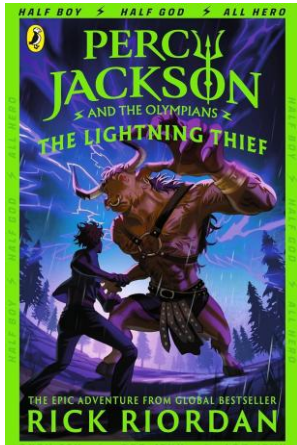
Why not choose one from our KS3 reading list?

All our fiction is in alphabetical order by author surname, but they all have genre stickers on to help you decide.

Hopefully there is something for everyone.

All the titles are normally available from the school library and should also be readily available from public libraries and good bookshops.

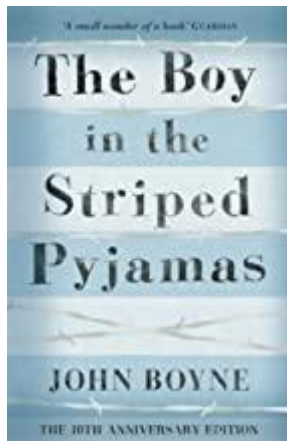
If you would like a more extensive reading list, please ask the Librarian.



Percy Jackson and the Lightning Thief by Rick Riordan

Percy Jackson is having a bad week. His life has gone from totally normal to monsters from Greek mythology randomly appearing in his life, Now Percy and his friends have just ten days to catch the true lightning thief and stop all-out war from erupting on Mount Olympus. . .

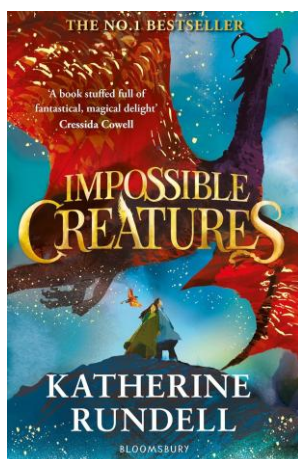
What could possibly go wrong?



The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas by John Boyne

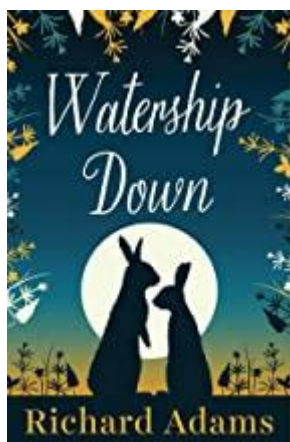
Nine-year-old Bruno knows nothing of the Final Solution and the Holocaust.

Shmuel lives in on the other side of a wire fence, where everyone wears a uniform of striped pyjamas. What would happen if they found themselves on the same side of the fence?



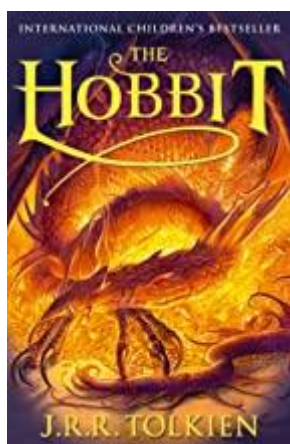
Impossible Creatures by Katherine Rundell

Christopher is stunned when he discovers a Way-Between from our world to the Archipelago: a cluster of magical islands where all the creatures of myth still live. There he meets Mal, who is being pursued by a killer. Together, they embark on an urgent quest to discover why so many creatures are dying, in a bid to save both the islands and the world from a rising evil - before it's too late.



Watership Down by Richard Adams

Tale of adventure, courage, and survival that follows a band of very special rabbits fleeing the destruction of their home by a developer. They leave the safety of their warren in search of a safe place and a mysterious promised land, facing danger at every turn.



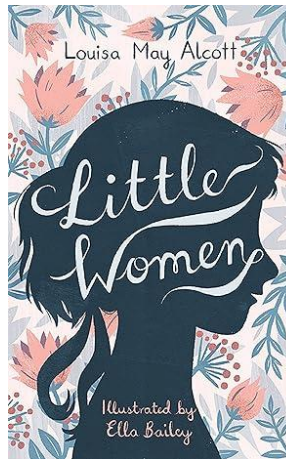
The Hobbit by J.R.R. Tolkien

Bilbo Baggins enjoys a quiet until one day the wizard, Gandalf, and a band of dwarves arrive and enlist his services on a dangerous mission to raid the treasure-hoard of the dragon, Smaug and Bilbo's life will never to be the same again.



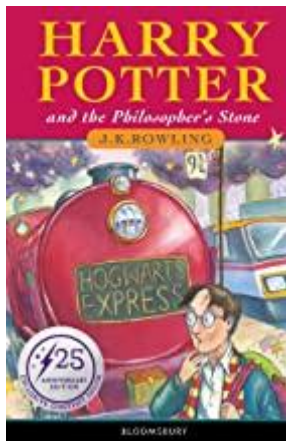
Goodnight Mister Tom by Michelle Magorian

When Willie Beech is evacuated to the country as Britain prepares for the Second World War he much better used to the life of inner-city life. Under the care of irritable Tom Oakley, he begins to flourish. His happiness is shattered when he receives a call from his mother to come back to London. When he doesn't return Tom goes to find him.



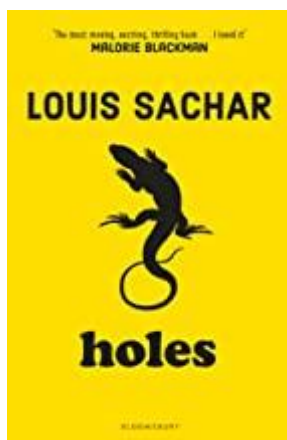
Little Women by Louisa May Alcott

Little Women follows the lives, loves and tribulations of four sisters growing up during the American Civil War and is one of the best loved books of all time, loosely based on the author's own experiences.



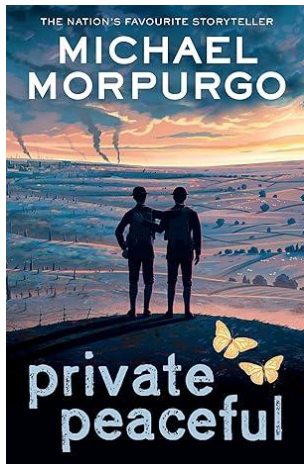
Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone by J.K. Rowling

Harry Potter lives in the cupboard under the stairs at his uncle and aunt's until the day when a mysterious letter arrives from Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry, and a giant on a flying motorcycle arrives to change his life with four simple words: 'Harry - yer a wizard.' Book one in the now very famous series.



Holes by Louis Sachar

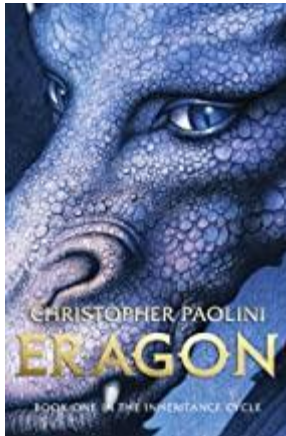
Stanley Yelnats' family has a history of bad luck, so when a miscarriage of justice sends him to Camp Green Lake Juvenile Detention Centre (which isn't green and doesn't have a lake) he is not surprised. Every day he and the other inmates are told to dig a hole, five foot wide by five foot deep, reporting anything they find. Why? The evil warden claims that it's character building, but this is a lie. It's up to Stanley to dig up the truth.



Private Peaceful by Michael Morpurgo

Thomas Peaceful looks back over his childhood from the battlefields of the First World War, his memories are full of family life deep in the countryside.

But the clock is ticking, and every moment Tommo spends remembering how things used to be, means another moment closer to something that will change his life for ever.



Eragon by Christopher Paolini

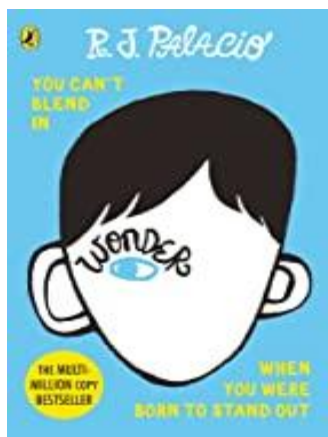
When Eragon finds a polished stone in the forest, he thinks it's a lucky discovery, but, when a baby dragon hatches out of the stone, Eragon realises he's stumbled upon a legacy nearly as old as the Empire itself. His simple life is shattered, and he's thrust into a perilous new world of destiny, magic and power

First book in the Inheritance Cycle



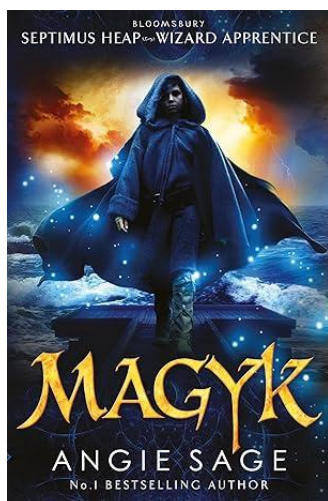
Coraline by Neil Gaiman

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 she may never come back.



Wonder by R J Palacio

Auggie wants to be an ordinary ten-year-old doing ordinary things, but ordinary kids don't make other ordinary kids run away screaming in playgrounds. Ordinary kids aren't stared at wherever they go. Born with a terrible facial abnormality, Auggie has been home-schooled his whole life. Now, for the first time, he's being sent to a real school - and he's dreading it.



Magyk by Angie Sage

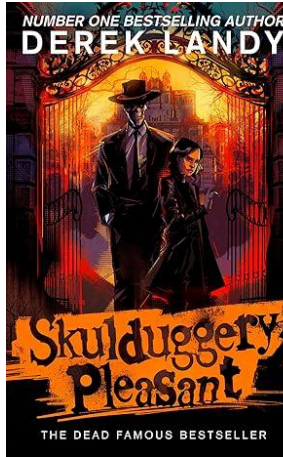
A powerful necromancer plans to seize control of all things Magykal. He has killed the Queen and locked up the Extraordinary Wizard. Now with Darke Magyk he will create a world filled with Darke creatures. But the Necromancer made one mistake. A vital detail he has overlooked means there is a boy who can stop him - the only problem is, the boy doesn't know it yet.



The Screaming Staircase by Jonathan Stroud

When the dead come back to haunt the living, Lockwood & Co. step in ...

Lucy Carlyle finds herself joining the smallest most ramshackle agency in the city, run by the charismatic Anthony Lockwood. When one of their cases goes horribly wrong, they end up spending the night in one of the most haunted houses in England and trying to escape alive.



Skulduggery Pleasant

Meet Skulduggery Pleasant: detective, sorcerer, warrior. Oh yes. And dead.

Stephanie learns that while her uncle may have written horror, it certainly wasn't fiction. Pursued by evil forces intent on recovering a mysterious key, Stephanie finds help from an unusual source – the wisecracking skeleton of a dead wizard. One thing's for sure: evil won't know what's hit it.



A Wrinkle in Time by Madeleine D'Engle

When the children learn that Mr. Murry has been captured by the Dark Thing, they time travel to Camazotz, where they must face the leader in the ultimate battle between good and evil. A journey that threatens their lives and our universe.



Inkheart by Cornelia Funke

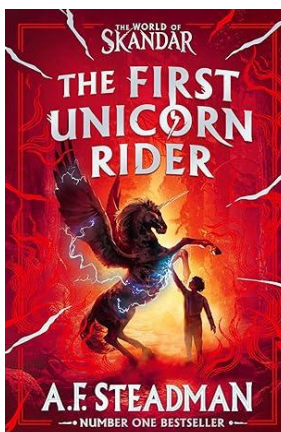
Meggie loves stories, but her father hasn't read to her since her mother disappeared. When a stranger knocks at their door, Mo is forced to reveal an extraordinary secret – when he reads aloud, words come alive, and dangerous characters step out of the pages. Suddenly Meggie is living the kind of adventure she has only read about in books, but this one will change her life for ever ...



Artemis Fowl by Eoin Colfer

No scheme is too dastardly, no plot too devious. And he's just discovered that fairies are real. Poor fairies.

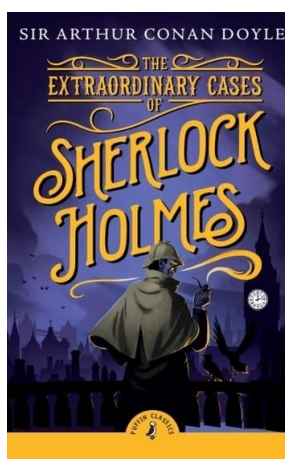
However, these are not the cuddly creatures of bedtime stories. They are armed. They are dangerous. And when Artemis captures Captain Holly Short for her fairy gold, he messes with the wrong elf.



Skandar by A.F. Steadman

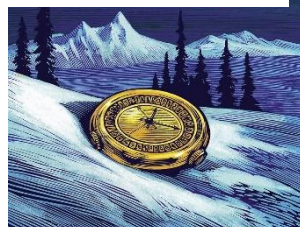
George Penhaligon has only ever wanted adventure. But when he finds himself shipwrecked and alone on a mysterious island, he makes an incredible discovery. Unicorns are real – and they're bloodthirsty.

Slowly, George gains one unicorn's trust and together they explore the island's magical secrets. But there is a dark presence lurking in his new home, more deadly than any unicorn.



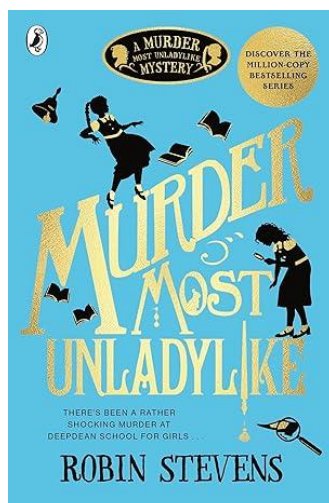
Sherlock Holmes by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle

Through the foggy streets of Victorian London to the deepest countryside, Sherlock Holmes uses his unique powers of deduction in eight thrilling investigations, including the mysteries of 'The Speckled Band' and 'The Reigate Puzzle'.



Northern Lights by Philip Pullman

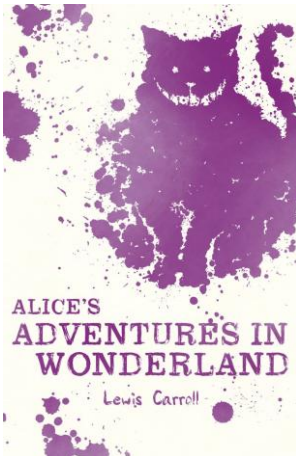
In the first of his Dark Materials, Lyra Belacqua lives a carefree among the scholars of Jordan College, with her daemon, Pantalaimon, always by her side. The arrival of her fearsome uncle, Lord Asriel, draws her to the heart of a terrible struggle – a struggle born of stolen children, witch clans and armoured bears.



Murder Most Unladylike

At Deepdean School for Girls, Daisy Wells and Hazel Wong have set up their own detective agency. But they are struggling to find any real crimes to investigate. (Unless you count the case of Lavinia's missing tie. Which they don't.)

Then Hazel discovers the Science Mistress, Miss Bell, lying dead in the Gym. To add to the mystery, when she and Daisy return five minutes later, the body has disappeared.



Alice in Wonderland by Lewis Carroll

Follow Alice down. . .

down. . .

down. . .

The rabbit hole and into Wonderland, a world that grows curiouiser and curiouiser by the minute. . . but don't be late!



Diary of a Young girl by Anne Frank

Anne Frank is a Jewish teenager who chronicled her family's two years (1942–44) in hiding in Amsterdam, during the German occupation of the Netherlands during World War II.

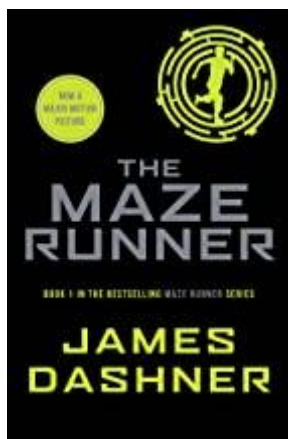


Hunger Games

Twelve boys and twelve girls are forced to appear in a live event called The Hunger Games.

There is only one rule: kill or be killed.

When sixteen-year-old Katniss Everdeen steps forward to take her younger sister's place in the games, she sees it as a death sentence.



Maze Runner by James Dashner

When the doors of the lift crank open, the only thing Thomas remembers is his first name. But he's not alone. He's surrounded by boys who welcome him to the Glade – a walled encampment at the centre of a bizarre and terrible stone maze. Like Thomas, the Gladers don't know why or how they came to be there – or what's happened to the world outside. First in the Maze Runner series



Mortal Engines by Philip Reeve (First of series Predator Cities)

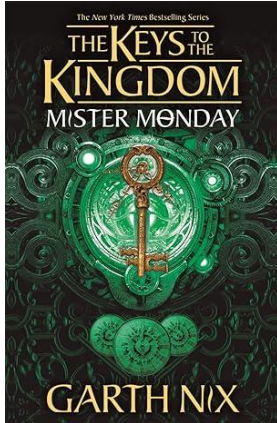
In a dangerous future, huge, motorized cities hunt, attack and fight each other for survival.

As London pursues a small town, young apprentice Tom is flung out into the wastelands, where a terrifying cyborg begins to hunt him down.



Treasure Island by Robert Louis Stevenson

One of the best-loved adventure stories ever written. Treasure Island is timeless tale of pirates, lost treasure maps, mutiny and swashbuckling derring-do that has appealed to generations of readers ever since it was written.



Mister Monday by Garth Nix

Arthur Penhaligon is a normal teenage boy, trying to fit in at school. But when he suffers a serious asthma attack, his life is unexpectedly saved by two strange characters who appear out of nowhere - and a key shaped like the minute hand of a clock.