



KS3 BOOK RECOMENDATIONS

Classics & Modern Classics

To Kill a Mockingbird – Harper Lee

Themes: justice, racism, coming of age, 12+

The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time – Mark Haddon

Themes: neurodiversity, mystery, identity, 13+

The Hitchhiker’s Guide to the Galaxy – Douglas Adams

Themes: sci-fi comedy, absurdity, adventure, 13+

The Hobbit – J.R.R Tolkien

Themes: personal growth, greed, heroism

The Lord of the Rings – J.R.R Tolkien

Themes: good vs. evil, friendship, loyalty

Contemporary & Engaging Fiction

The Book Thief– Markus Zusak

Themes: war, resilience, power of words, 12+

Wonder – R.J. Palacio

Themes: kindness, acceptance, difference, 8+

The Boy at the Back of the Class – Onjali Q. Raúf

Themes: refugees, friendship, empathy, 8+

Fantasy & Adventure

Northern Lights – Philip Pullman

Themes: destiny, freedom, science vs. religion, 11+

Eragon – Christopher Paolini

Themes: heroism, adventure, dragons, 12+



KS3 BOOK RECOMENDATIONS

Artemis Fowl – Eoin Colfer

Themes: intelligence, morality, fantasy, 9+

Good Omens – Terry Pratchett & Neil Gaiman

Themes: fate, good vs. evil, humour 12+

Nevermoor: The Trials of Morrigan Crow – Jessica Townsend

Themes: magical school, witty protagonist, 9+

Howl's Moving Castle – Diana Wynne Jones

Themes: witty, charming, magic, adventure, 9+)

The School for Good and Evil – Soman Chainani

Themes: fairy tales flipped, humour, girl power, 10+

Amari and the Night Brothers – B.B. Alston

Themes: fantasy, secret societies, Black girl protagonist, 10+

The Girl Who Drank the Moon – Kelly Barnhill

Themes: witches, destiny, lyrical writing, 10+

The Marvellers – Dhonielle Clayton

Themes: magic school, multicultural fantasy, mystery, 10+

Akata Witch – Nnedi Okorafor

Themes: West African fantasy, adventure, disability rep, 12+

Historical Fiction

Private Peaceful – Michael Morpurgo

Themes: war, family, loss, 9+

When the Sky Falls – Phil Earle

Themes: WW2, resilience, animals, 9+

A Single Shard – Philip Pullman

Themes: perseverance, friendship, bravery, 9+



KS3 BOOK RECOMENDATIONS

Dystopian & Science Fiction

The Giver – Lois Lowry

Themes: control, utopia/dystopia, memory, 10+

Ready Player One – Ernest Cline

Themes: gaming, virtual reality, dystopia, 13+

Mortal Engines – Philip Reeve

Themes: adventure, survival, technology, 10+

The School for Good and Evil – Soman Chainani

Themes: fairy tales flipped, humour, girl power, 10+

The Inheritance Games – Jennifer Lynn Barnes

Themes: riddles, riches, thrilling puzzles, 12+

Binti – Nnedi Okorafor

Themes: Afrofuturism, space travel, cultural identity, 10+

Diverse & Contemporary Fiction

The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian – Sherman Alexie

Themes: self-discovery, Native American identity, 12+

The Crossover – Kwame Alexander

Themes: verse, basketball, family, rap-style poetry, 11+

One Crazy Summer – Rita Williams-Garcia

Themes: family – sisters, summer adventure, Civil Rights, 8+

The Boy at the Back of the Class – Onjali Q. Raúf

Themes: refugees, kindness, humour, 8+

The Secret Diary of Adrian Mole, Aged 13¾ – Sue Townsend

Themes: sarcastic humour, teenage struggles, 13+



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Frankie's World – Aoife Dooley

Themes: graphic novel, neurodiversity, humour, 9+

Me, My Dad and the End of the Rainbow – Benjamin Dean

Themes: LGBTQ+, family, adventure, 9+

El Deafo – Cece Bell

Themes: graphic novel, deaf experience, friendship, 8+

Front Desk – Kelly Yang

Themes: immigration, humour, resilience, 9+

Laugh-Out-Loud Books

The 1000-Year-Old Boy – Ross Welford

Themes: immortality, adventure, wit, 10+

The Many Worlds of Albie Bright – Christopher Edge

Themes: science meets adventure, 8+

My Brother is a Superhero – David Solomons

Themes: action-packed, superhero fun, 9+

Non-Fiction & Autobiographies

I Am Malala – Malala Yousafzai

Themes: education, activism, courage, 11+

Black and British: A Short, Essential History” – David Olusoga

Themes: history, race, identity, 12+

The Boy at the Back of the Class – Onjali Q. Raúf

Themes: Refugees, kindness, humour, 8+

You Are Awesome – Matthew Syed

Themes: mindset, self-improvement, success, 9+



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"You Are Awesome" – Matthew Syed

Themes: mindset, self-improvement, success, 9+

Hidden Figures (Young Readers' Edition)– Margot Lee Shetterly

Themes: science, racism, perseverance, 8+

This Book is Anti-Racist – Tiffany Jewell

Themes: interactive, thought-provoking, 11+

Choose Your Own Adventure: House of Danger – R.A. Montgomery

Themes: thrilling, endless possibilities, 9+