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Booklist: Best books for Y3 (7 and 8 year olds)

50 Recommended Reads for...

Year 3

(ages 7-8)



We've selected a range of **recommended books for children aged 7-8**. Find the best books to top up your Y3 reading collections with our carefully selected list of storytime chapter books, independent reads, funny stories, picturebooks, poetry collections, non-fiction texts and more. There's something for all tastes, but keep an eye out for ninja cats, adventuring polar bears, intrepid explorers and the odd exploding dragon poo here and there, too...

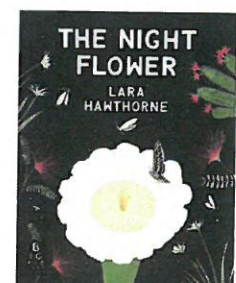
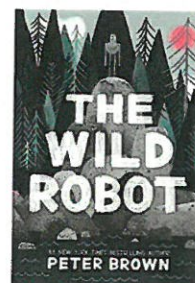
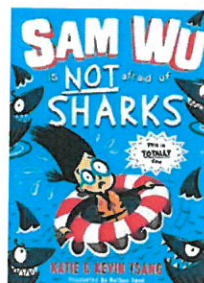
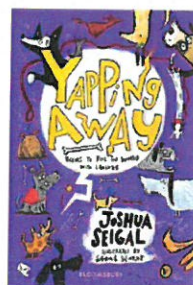
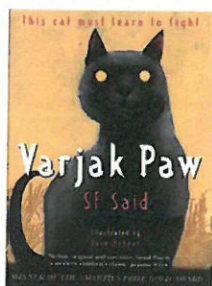
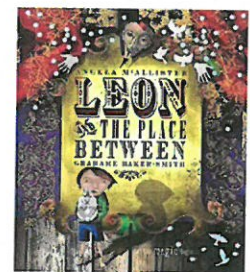
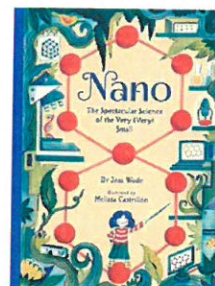
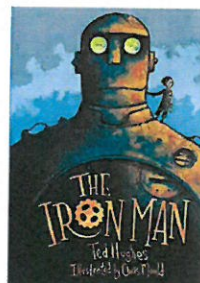
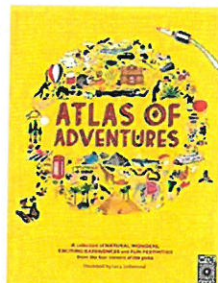
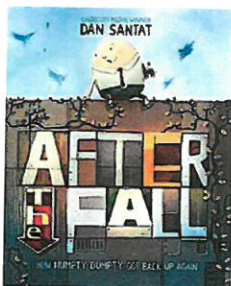
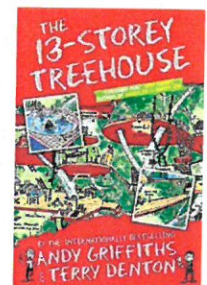
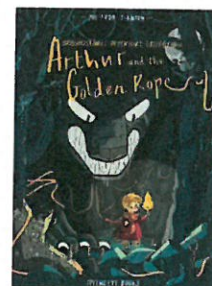
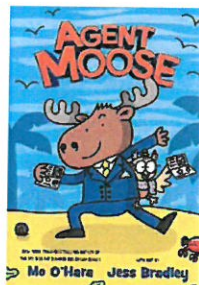
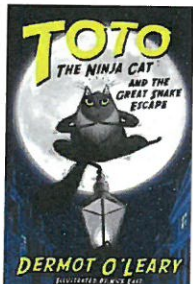
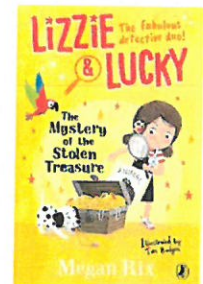
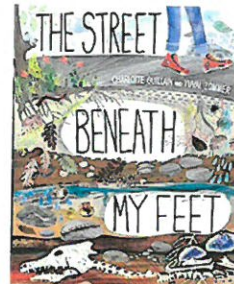
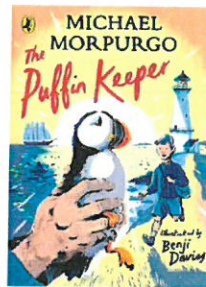
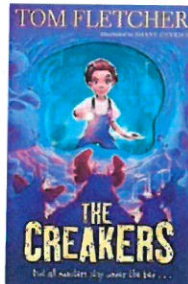
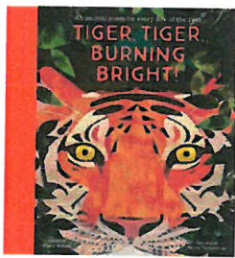
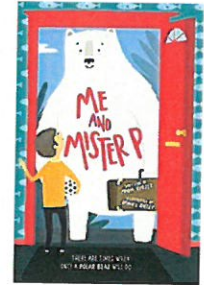
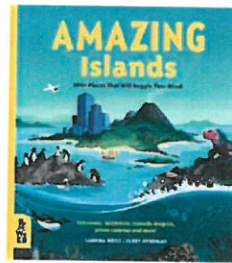
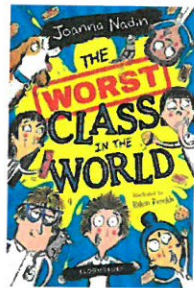
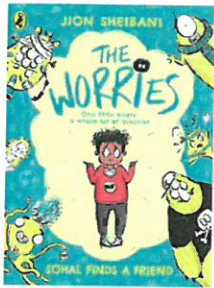
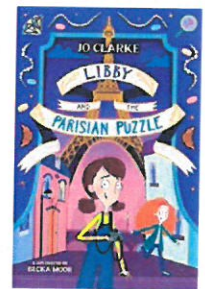
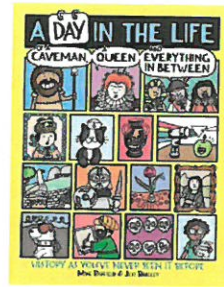
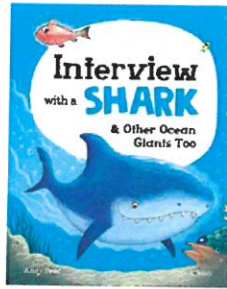
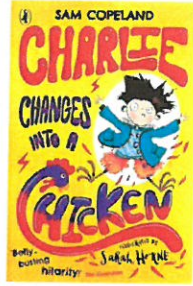
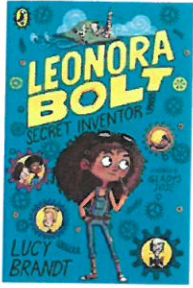
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Storytime Favourites for Ages 7-9

Books for Reluctant Readers Aged 7-9

Diverse and Inclusive Books: Lower KS2

Guidance: About the Year 3 Booklist

Reading for pleasure in Year 3 can provide **entertainment and delight** as well as **opening up a host of new worlds to children**. Books provide children of this age group with opportunities to stretch the imagination as well as to consider what life might be like in a myriad of different settings and situations. Stories about the lives of others can help children to **develop empathy and understand emotions**, while at the same time increasing children's **language skills and vocabulary**. Furthermore, research shows that reading for pleasure in childhood is a **more powerful indicator of future educational attainment than parental socioeconomic status**. In order to facilitate the enjoyment of reading, getting the right book into the right child's hands at the right time is the key. At the age of 7-8, many children have learned to read short books by themselves and begin to exercise a **greater freedom of choice** over their independent reads at school and home. **Funny books** are very popular with this age group, as are **short chapter books with illustrated elements and visually appealing non-fiction texts**. In addition to independent reading, **story time with adults** remains important and treasured in Year 3, too - both at home and in the classroom.

With these factors in mind, our team has carefully selected a range of books especially picked for encouraging reading for pleasure in Year 3, both as independent book choices and for texts to be read aloud by an adult. Some of the stories in the collection will be especially appealing to children looking for an **illustrated chapterbook series**, such as the *Nothing to See Here Hotel* series, the giggle-worthy *SAM WU* series and the very popular *13-Storey Treehouse* books, which all have **memorable characters and frequent visual elements** to break up the text. A number of stories in the collection are brilliant choices for making children **laugh out loud**, like the storytime favourite *Charlie Changes into a Chicken*.

Other stories chosen for our Year 3 booklist are more **tender-hearted and thought-provoking**. We love Andy Shepherd's story *The Boy Who Grew Dragons*, all about a young boy who finds a baby dragon hatching from a 'dragon-fruit' tree in the garden, or Peter Brown's popular storytime choice *The Wild Robot*, which explores themes of technology and nature. Animal lovers will be drawn towards the feline world of *Varjak Paw* or to Michael Morpurgo's poignant story of life changing animal-to-human friendship in *The Puffin Keeper*. Not all of the stories on the list are longer reads - for **excellent picturebook choices** suitable for Year 3, we recommend the completely magical *Leon and the Place Between* or the stunningly-illustrated *Oceans Meets Sky*.

If you are looking for **classic stories**, you'll find on our list some real favourites suitable for children aged 7-8, like Ted Hughes' thrilling and mysterious story of *The Iron Man* or the poignant farmyard tale of friendship, courage and loss in *Charlotte's Web*. Other stories in the collection are **brand new for 2022**, such as the eco-mystery in which we find STEM-loving *Leonora Bolt*, or Jo Clarke's macaron-filled mystery *Libby and the Parisian Puzzle*.

You'll find a variety of genres and formats included on our recommended Year 3 reading list, from **poetry collections** like Joshua Seigal's giggle-worthy *Yapping Away* to the impressive nature poetry anthology *Tiger, Tiger, Burning Bright, and the Golden Rope* and *Agent Moose*. If you are looking for a **short chapter book for an ideal first step into independent reading**, try Holly Webb's sausage-dog seaside story *The Beach Puppy* or Jion Sheibani's *The Worries* or for more ideas, be sure to check out our separate booklist listing recommended **First Chapter Books**.

We have also selected a handful of **illustrated non-fiction texts** that are particularly well-suited to readers aged 7 and 8, from the comic-style fact book *Caveman, a Queen and Everything In Between* (which was voted Lower KS2 winner in our **Books of the Year Award**), to DK's inspiring *Encyclopedia of Very Important Sport*, to Yuval Zommer's beautifully illustrated *The Street Beneath My Feet*, which provides a real wow-factor to shared reading experiences with its 2.5 metre fold-out spread. If you are looking for books themed around a particular topic, head over to our **KS2 topic booklists**.

You can find out more about the [process of collating our Recommended Reads booklists](#) here.

Where to purchase:

- Click on the individual book covers to purchase via Amazon.
- Purchase individual titles from this booklist via the [BooksForTopics page on BookShop.Org](#).
- To buy the full book pack, contact our [schools' book supplier](#).

Printable Posters & Checklists



< Go to Year 2 (age 6-7) List

Go to Year 4 (age 8-9) List >

All Year Groups

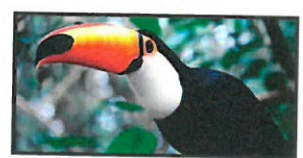
Looking for something in particular? Try these booklists....

<p>Storytime Read-Alouds Lower KS2/Ages 7-9</p>	<p>Reluctant Readers Lower KS2/Ages 7-9</p>	<p>Diverse & Inclusive Books Lower KS2/Ages 7-9</p>
<p>Picturebooks Lower KS2/Ages 7-9</p>	<p>Top-Notch Non-Fiction</p>	<p>Recommended Poetry Books</p>
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Booklist: Best books for Y4 (8 and 9 year olds)

50 Recommended Reads for... Year 4 (ages 8-9)

A grid of 50 small book covers, each with a unique color and design, representing the recommended reads for Year 4.

Our experts have selected a range of recommended books for children aged 8-9. Find the best books to top up your Y4 book collection with our hand-picked list of storyline favourites, thought-provoking tales, funny books, picturebooks, comic-style reads, poetry collections, non-fiction texts and more. We hope that there will be something for everyone, but do keep your eyes open for magical cats, crime-busting pigeons, wish-granting fifty-pence pieces and the odd day of the week that mysteriously vanishes from memory...

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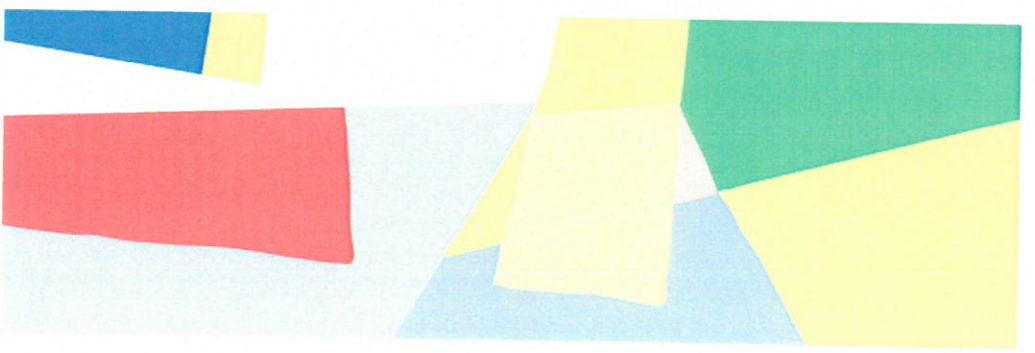
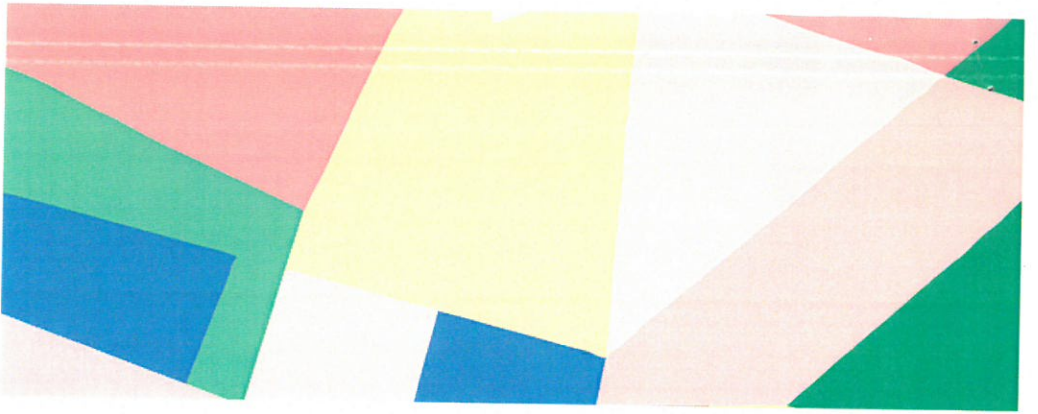
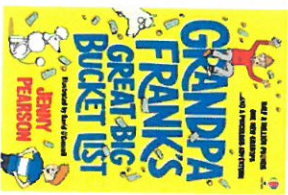
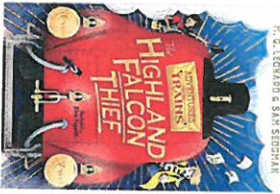


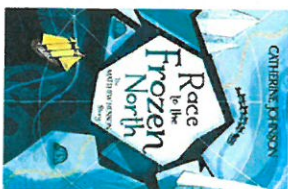
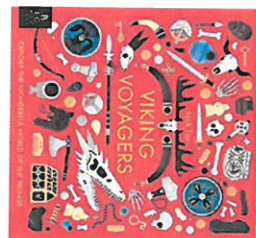
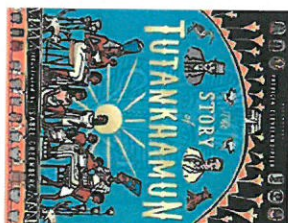
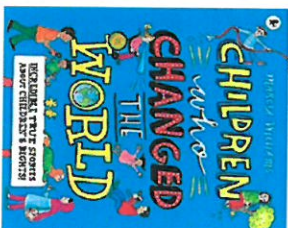
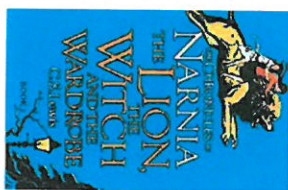
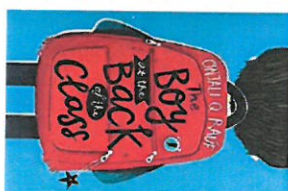
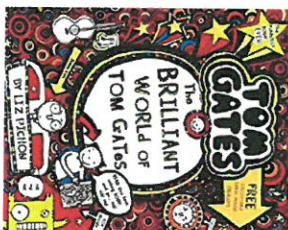
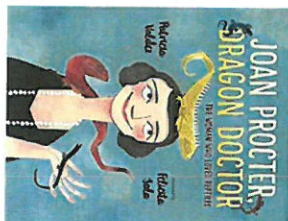
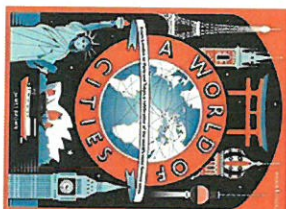
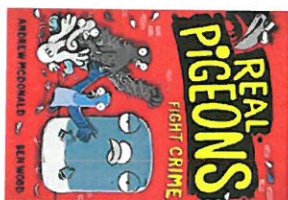
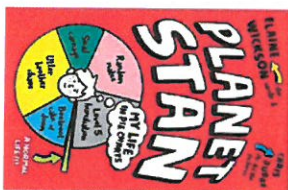
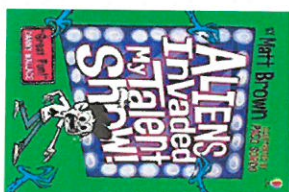
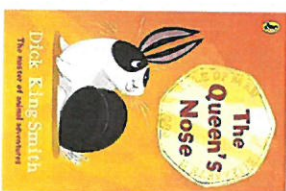
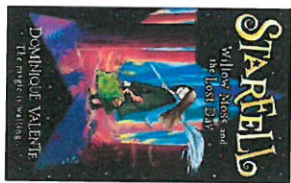
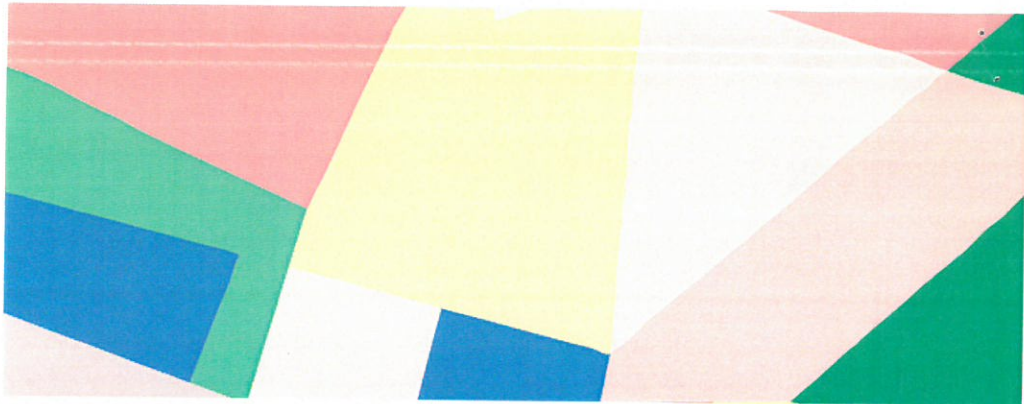


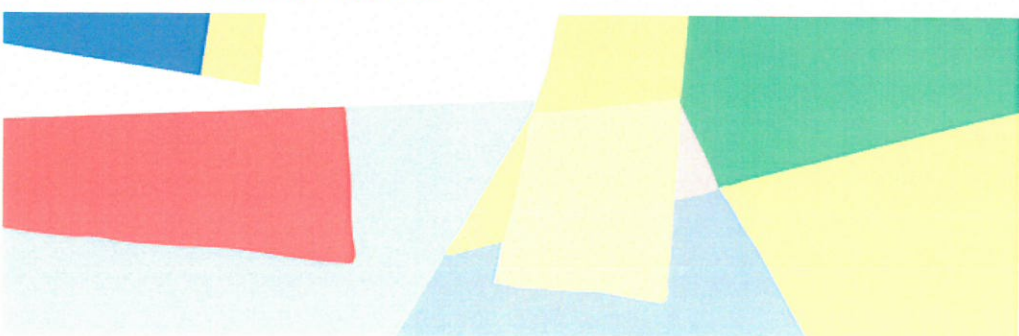
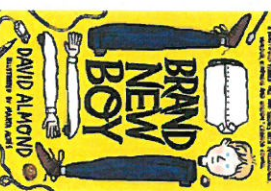
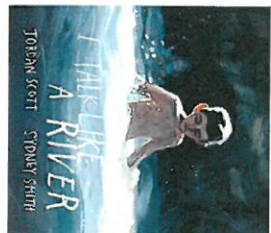
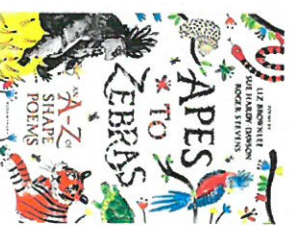
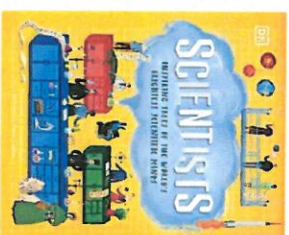
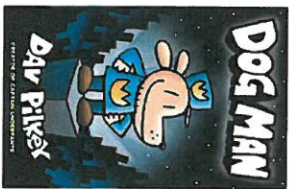
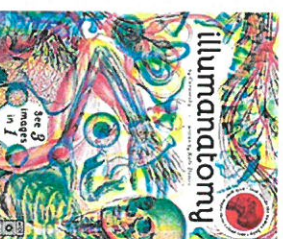
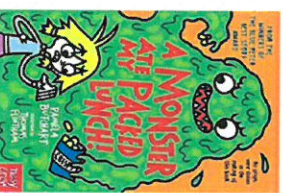
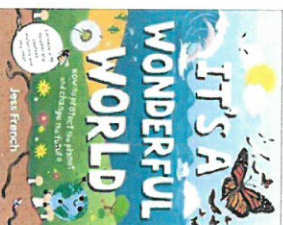
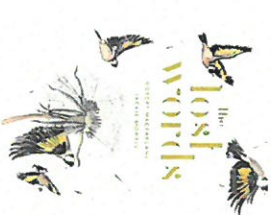
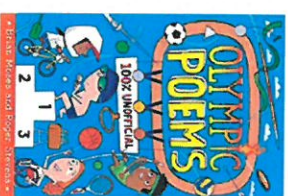
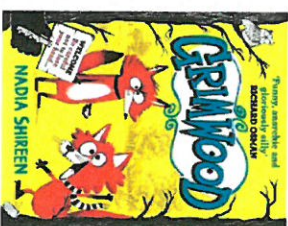
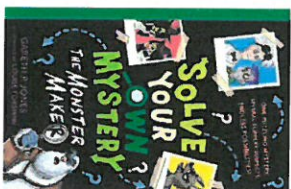
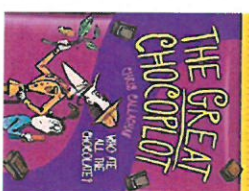
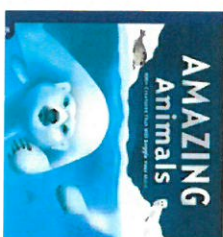
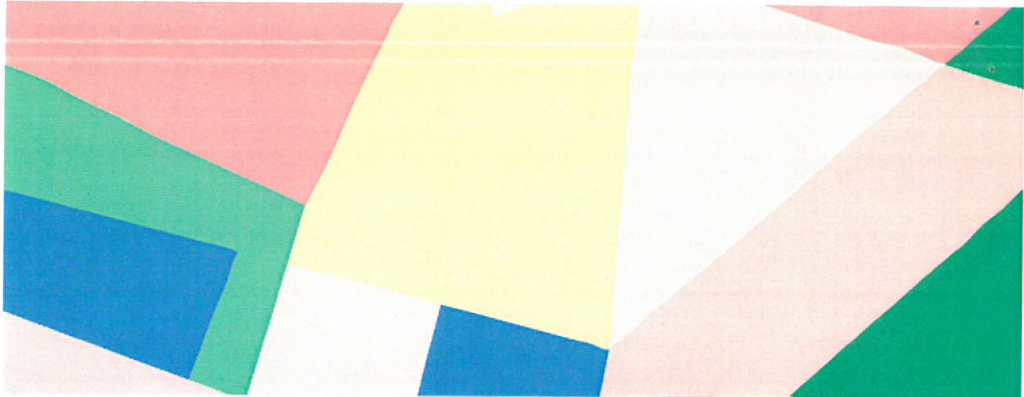
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Reluctant Readers Booklist: Ages 7-9

Diverse & Inclusive Books: Ages 7-9

Storytime Read-Alouds: Lower KS2

Guidance: About the Year 4 Booklist

The growing range of excellent books for this age group makes the task of encouraging reading for pleasure in Year 4 as delightful as it is essential. It is indeed an essential task - as children's laureate Cressida Cowell puts it, '*Decades of research show a reader for pleasure is more likely to be happier, healthier, to do better at school, and to vote - all irrespective of background*'. When children choose to read, they gain access to a host of exciting ideas and worlds and this helps to flex the muscles of the imagination, develop empathy and better understand the lives of others, as well as boosting language skills, vocabulary and comprehension.

In order to facilitate the enjoyment of reading, the provision of books that are age-appropriate, high quality and appealing is key. At the ages of 8 and 9, many children have learned to read short chapter books by themselves and have gained enough experience of books to articulate preferences about styles, themes and formats. Animal tales, fantasy adventures, funny stories, comic-style books and illustrated chapter books are popular at this age, as are non-fiction texts covering topics of interest like science or history. In addition to a wide choice of independent reads, stories being read aloud by adults continue to be an important - and much-enjoyed - aspect of the reading for pleasure journey at this age.

With these factors in mind, our team has carefully selected a range of recommended books for reading for pleasure in Year 4. Many of the books in the collection are well-known for getting children hooked on reading due to their humorous style and highly illustrated elements, like the comic-style [Dog Man](#) books, the pie-chart filled [Planet Stan](#) and Liz Pichon's fabulously relatable [Tom Gates](#) series. Other stories featured in the Y4 collection have been chosen especially for making children laugh out loud, like the gag-filled [Alien Invaded My Talent Show](#) or Nadia Shireen's [Grimwood](#)

Many children at this age have developed the ability to make connections within a story and spot finer details in the text, and this enables them to enjoy a good mystery story. For a cracking mystery adventure, we recommend the [Highland Falcon Thief](#), the [Anisha: Accidental Detective](#) series or, for an interactive, head-scratching mystery that puts the reader in control, try [Solve Your Own Mystery: The Monster Maker](#). Animal rescue stories also remain popular with

Year 4, with Jess Butterworth's exciting Himalayan adventure *When the Mountains Roared* or Elizabeth Laird's poignant story telling of the dangers of ocean pollution in *Song of the Dolphin Boy* being excellent choices. Dragons feature heavily in the Y4 collection too, and readers looking for fantasy adventures will be happy to let their imaginations feed on *The Land of Roar*, the spellbinding *Starfall* series or Cressida Cowell's hugely popular *How to Train Your Dragon* books.

Not all of the stories on the list are longer reads. For readers looking for shorter texts, try Jennifer Gray's short chapter book *Magical* (specially formatted for reluctant and dyslexic readers), Catherine Johnson's thought-provoking *Race to the Frozen North* or dip into the graphic novel style information book *Children Who Changed the World*. For picture books suitable for Year 4, we recommend *I Talk Like a River*, Colin Thompson's playful *How to Live Forever* or the thought-provoking *The Barnabus Project*, which is stunningly illustrated by the Fan Brothers.

If you are looking for classic stories suitable for 8-9 year olds, you'll find among the collection some favourites that have been entertaining children for generations, like *The Lion*, *The Witch and the Wardrobe* or Dick King Smith's *The Queen's Nose*. Poetry books that are proven hits with Year 4 are well represented in the collection too, and in particular we love the alphabet of shape poems in *Apes to Zebras*, Josh Seigal's humorous collection *Welcome to my Crazy Life* and the beautifully illustrated nature poems in *The Lost Words*.

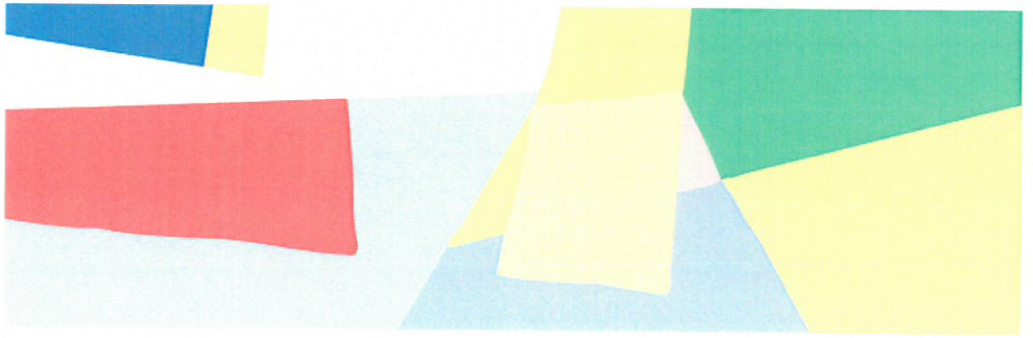
We've also included a handful of favourite non-fiction books for Year 4, from printmaker James Brown's visually appealing global tour in *A World of Cities*, to William Grill's fascinating illustrated retelling of *Shackleton's Journey*, to the wonderfully interactive *illum anatomy*, which comes with a magic lens to help readers delve deeper into the different systems that make up the human body. If you are looking for books themed around a particular topic, head over to our [KS2 topic booklists](#).

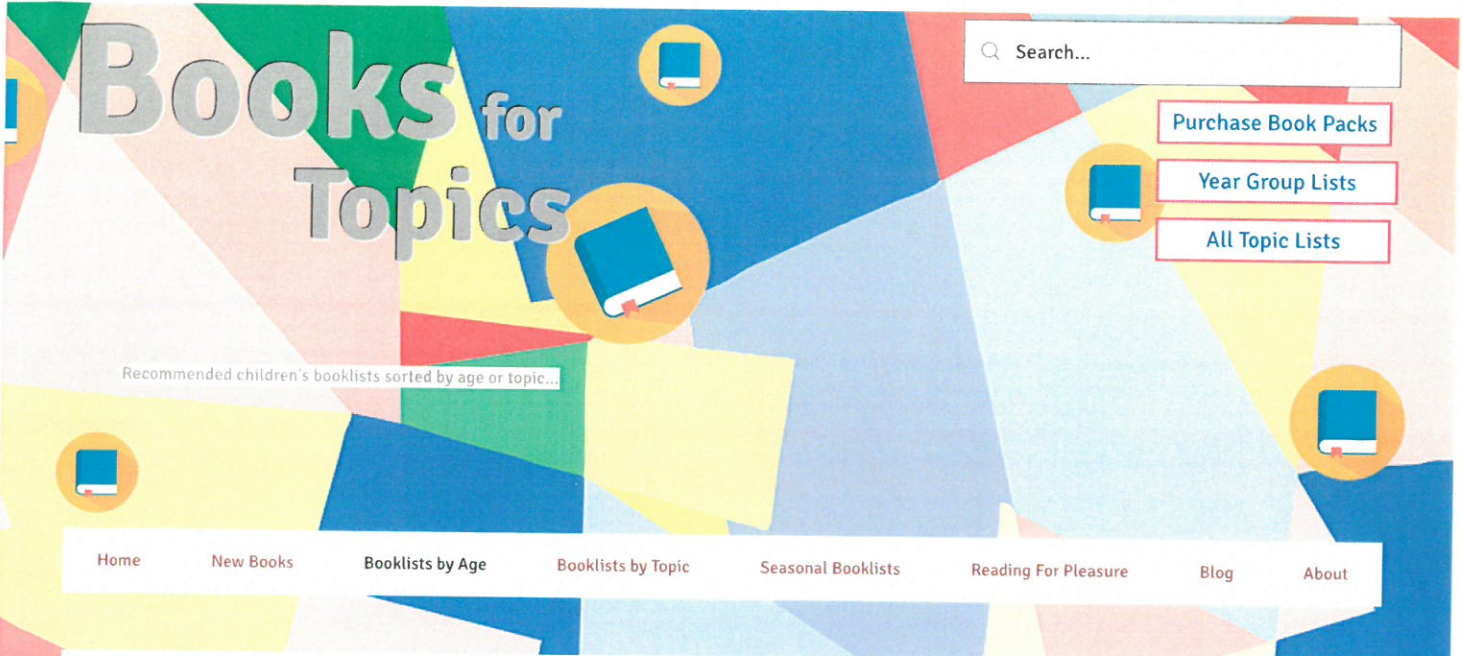
You can find out more about the process of collating our Recommended Reads booklists [here](#).

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Booklist: Best books for Y5 (9 and 10 year olds)

50 Recommended Reads for...

Year 5

(ages 9-10)

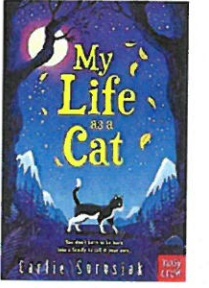
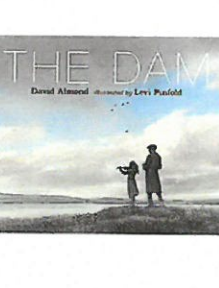
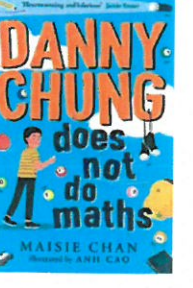
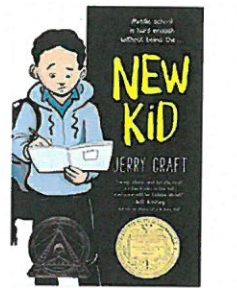
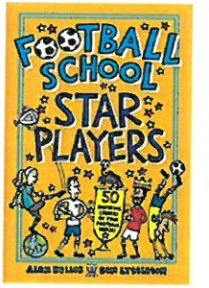
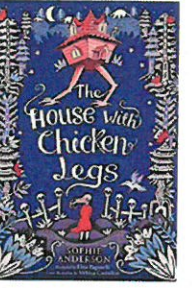
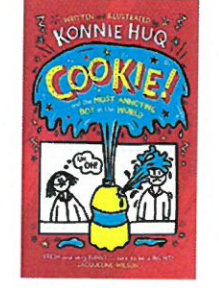
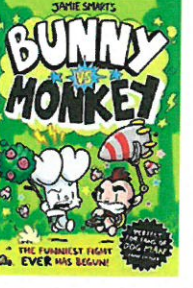
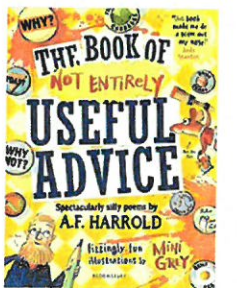
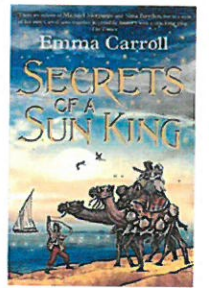
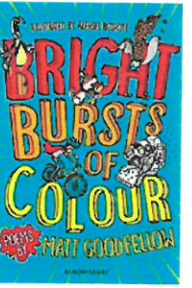
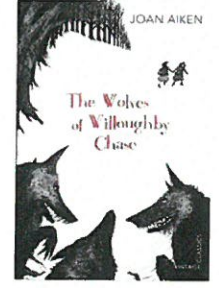
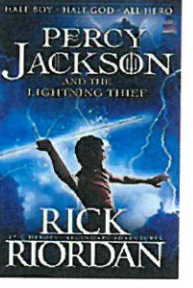
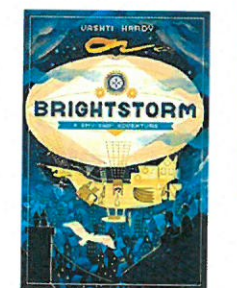
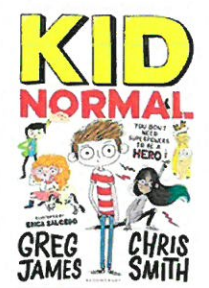
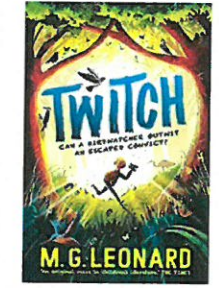
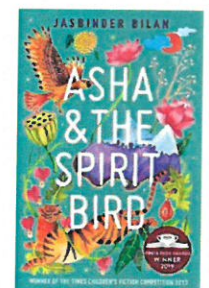
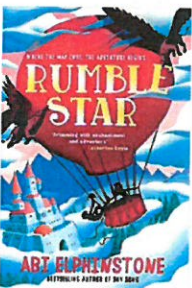
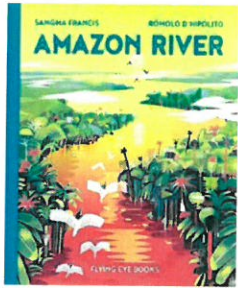
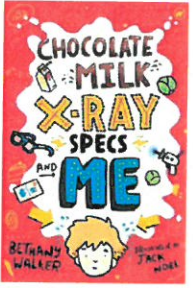
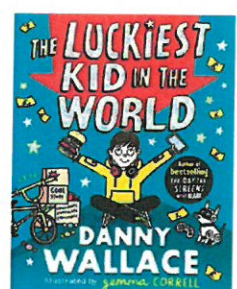
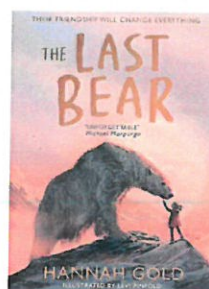
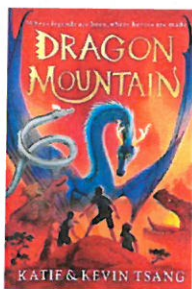
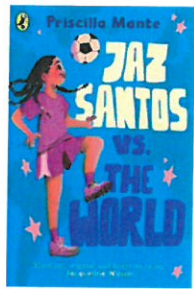
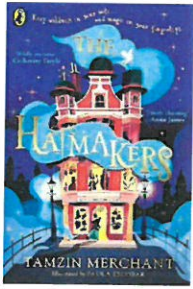


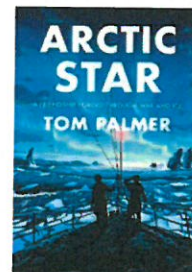
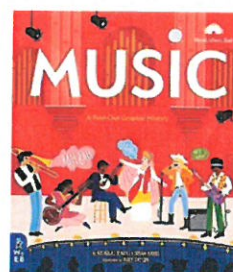
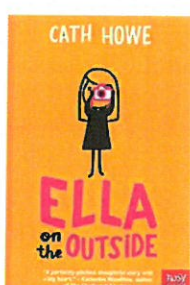
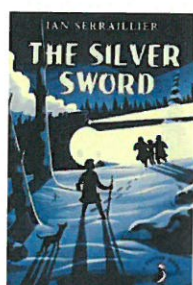
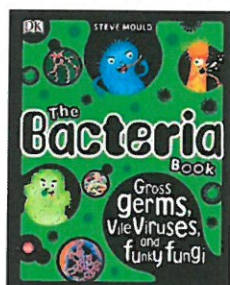
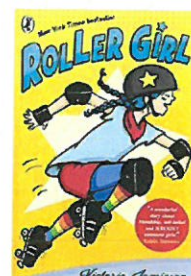
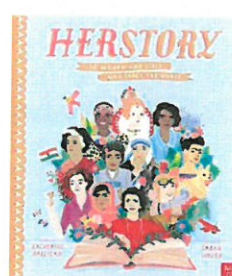
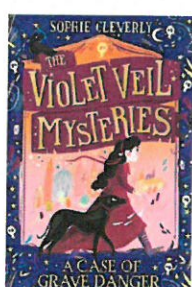
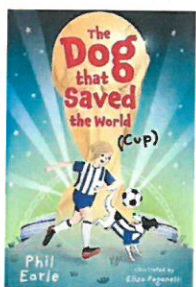
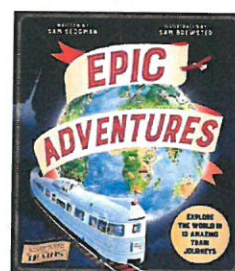
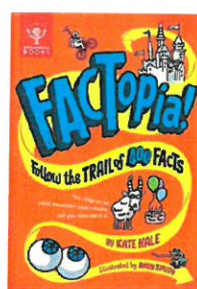
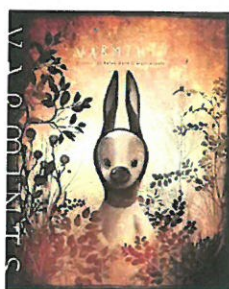
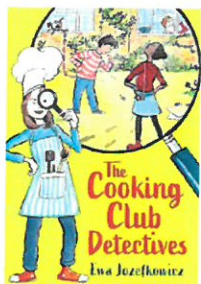
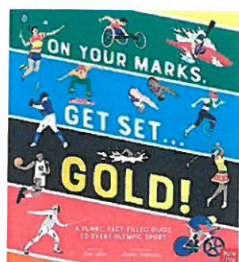
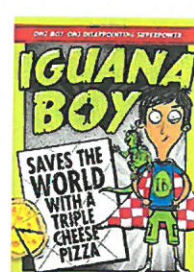
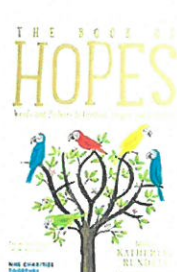
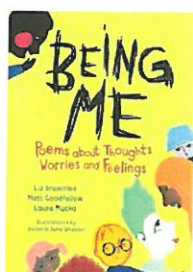
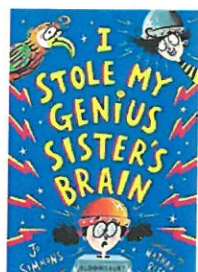
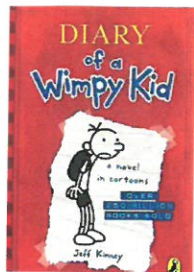
Our primary school reading experts have selected a list of **50 recommended books for children aged 9-10**. Find the best books for children in Year 5 with our hand-picked selection of storytime read-alouds, gripping page-turners, thought-provoking stories from around the world, laugh-out-loud books, picturebooks, graphic novels, poetry collections and non-fiction choices. There are so many books to love on this list, but do keep an eye out for houses that walk, alien cats, buried Roman treasure hoards and a good old polar bear rescue...

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See also..

[Reluctant Readers Booklist: Ages 9-11](#)

[Graphic Novels Booklist](#)

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Guidance: About the Year 5 Booklist

Helping children in Year 5 discover a love of reading is most successfully achieved when a wide range of appealing and age-appropriate books are available. Research on reading for pleasure shows that children who choose to read for enjoyment are more likely to achieve higher academic outcomes, to have improved mental health and to gain economic success later in life. What's more, when children choose to open a book to read, they are able to discover new worlds beyond their own experiences, to learn about different people and to develop critical thinking and crucial empathy skills, as well as advancing their language and vocabulary.

Getting the right book into the right child's hands at the right time is absolutely key to sparking a love of reading. At the ages of 9 and 10, most children are able to read longer chapter books and handle stories with an increasing complexity of themes. Popular with this age group are thought-provoking books about relevant social issues, as well as laugh-out-loud funny books, graphic novels and non-fiction that covers topics of interest. As well as having a wide range of styles and formats to choose from for independent reading, an essential ingredient in developing a lifelong love of books at this age is when adults protect shared reading experiences and continue to read aloud at storytime well beyond the age that children can read for themselves.

With this in mind, we have carefully selected a range of books to help to encourage reading for pleasure in Year 5. Some of the books in the collection are picked especially for making children laugh out loud, like the hilarious [I Stole My Genius Sister's Brain](#) or Danny Wallace's [The Luckiest Kid in the World](#). Other stories have been picked especially for readers who appreciate a high image-to-text ratio, like Konnie Huq's [Cookie](#) series or the action-packed [Iguana Boy](#) stories, which features lively, comic-style illustrations. Graphic novels are also popular with many children in Year 5, and we recommend trying [Bunny Vs Monkey](#) or [Roller Girl](#).

Many children at this age start to enjoy stories that encourage thinking and discussion around social issues. Hannah Gold's [The Last Bear](#) is a beautiful story that highlights the plight of polar bears affected by global warming, and Onjali Q Rauf's [The Great \(Food\) Bank Heist](#) explores the topic of food poverty. Historical fiction also becomes popular around this age, with children able to draw on their increasing knowledge of history from their curriculum learning in Key Stage 2. We recommend A.M. Howell's post-war adventure in the fens [The Secret of the Treasure Keepers](#), or Emma Carroll's [Secrets of a Sun King](#), which is set at the time of Howard Carter's discovery of the tomb of Tutankhamun.

Many children at this age enjoy fantasy stories to spark the imagination. Fantasy adventures like [Rumblestar](#) and [Dragon Mountain](#) are popular choices, as are stories of perilous expeditions like [Asha & the Spirit Bird](#). Some stories in the collection explore the themes of technology and innovation, like Vashti Hardy's wonderful sky ship adventure [Brightstorm](#) or while others accentuate the benefits of sport, like the celebration of girls' football in [Jaz Santos vs the World](#).

If you are looking for classic stories suitable for 9-10 year olds, try [The Wolves of Willoughby Chase](#) or [The Silver Sword](#). Popular poetry books to browse for pleasure are included in our Year 5 selection too, like Matt Goodfellow's [Bright Bursts of Colour](#) or A.F. Harrold's imaginative and slightly bonkers [The Book of Not Entirely Useful Advice](#), which is delightfully illustrated in colour by Mini Grey.

Longer reads are not for everyone, and we've included a number of shorter texts in the selection too. For children looking for shorter chapter books, try Tom Palmers's [Arctic Star](#) or David Long's [Tragedy at Sea](#), both of which are specially formatted to be accessible to dyslexic readers. For recommended picture books suitable for Year 5, we recommend Helen Ward's [Varmints](#) or David Almond and Levi Penfold's [The Dam](#), which is a lyrical captivating ode to creativity.

We've also included a super selection of non-fiction to appeal to children in Year 5, from the intriguing exploration of the world of plants in [Green Planet](#) to the inspiring real-life stories in [Old Enough to Save the Planet](#), to the incredible visual history of [Music](#), which folds out into an impressive 8-foot-long timeline. If you are looking for books themed around a particular topic, head over to our [KS2 topic booklists](#).

You can find out more about the [process of collating our Recommended Reads booklists here](#).

Where to purchase:

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Printable Display Poster: Year 5



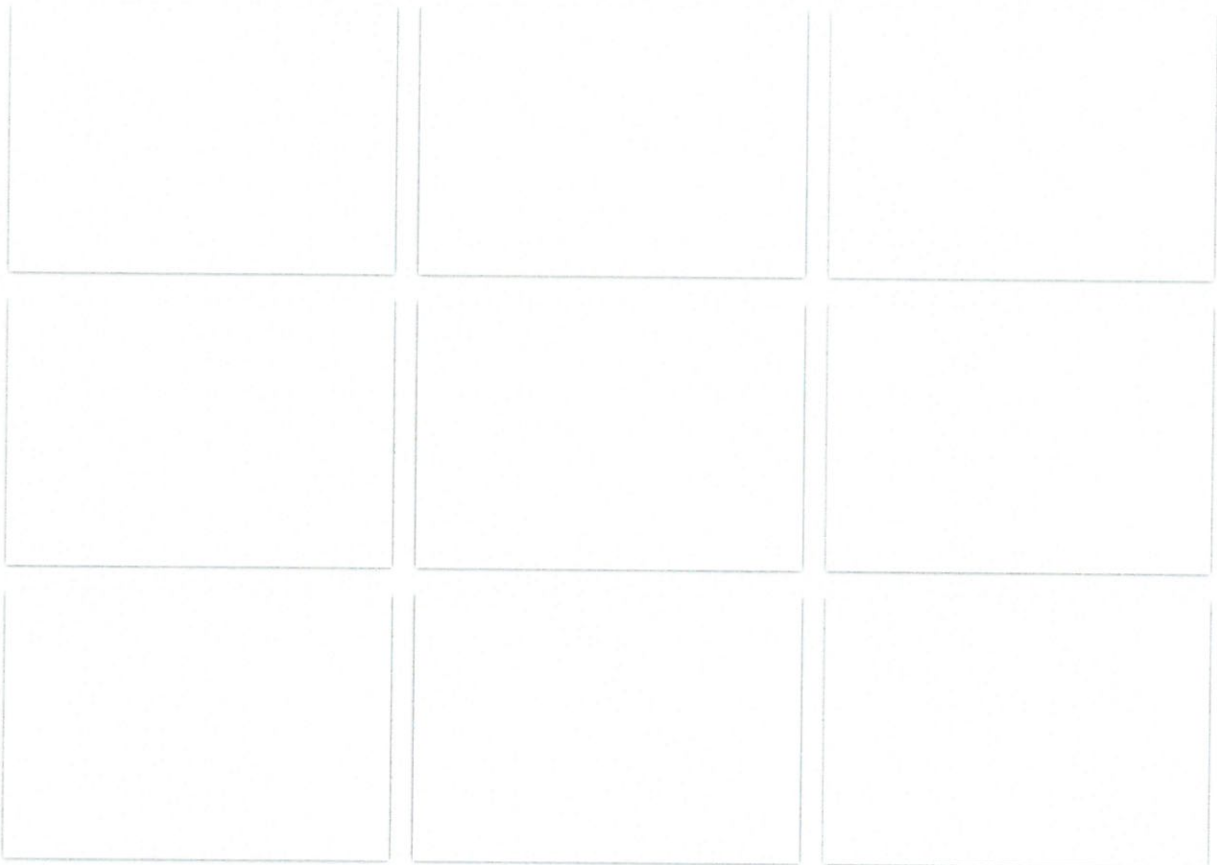
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[< Go to Year 4 \(age 8-9\) List](#)

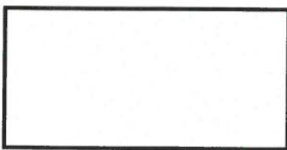
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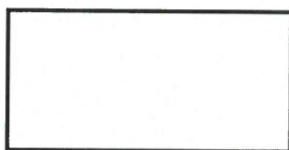
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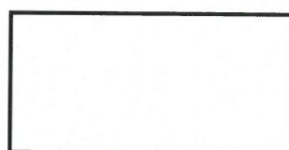
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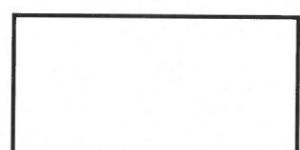
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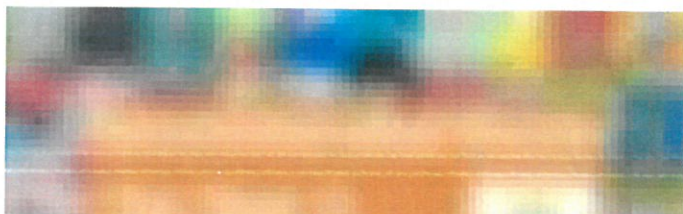
Earth & Space



Ancient Maya



WW2



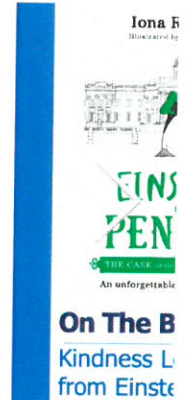
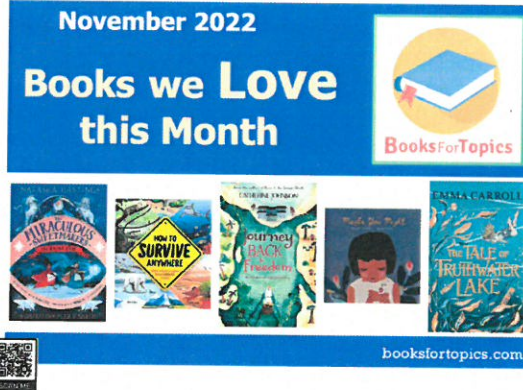
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Booklist: Best books for Y6 (10 and 11 year olds)

50 Recommended Reads for...

Year 6

(ages 10-11)



We have selected a list of **50 recommended books for children aged 10-11**. Find the best books for children in Year 6, including storytime read-alouds, edge-of-your-seat thrillers, issue-based stories, laugh-out-loud books, picturebooks, graphic novels, poetry and non-fiction. We've tried to include something for all tastes - but look out for legendary sea monsters, Wondrous societies, clocks that strike thirteen and the scariest school detention ever...

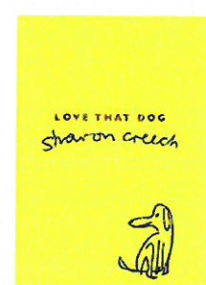
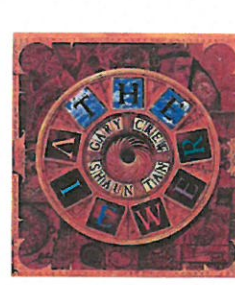
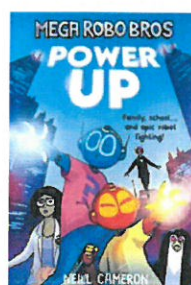
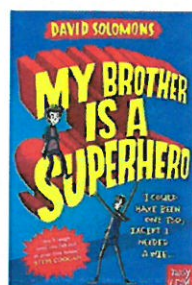
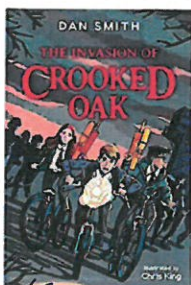
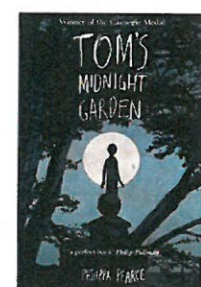
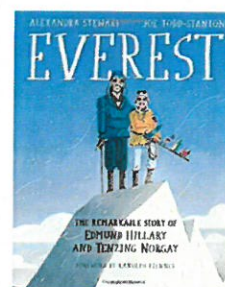
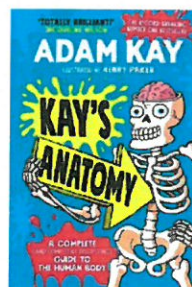
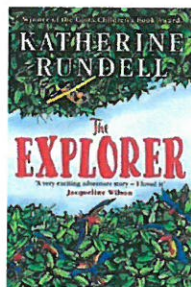
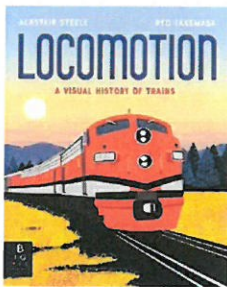
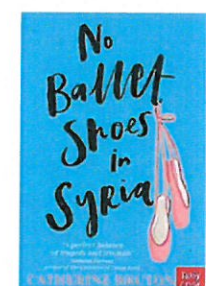
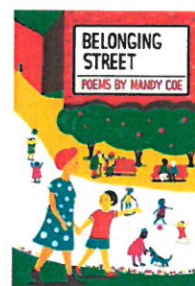
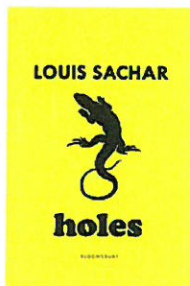
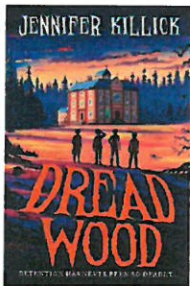
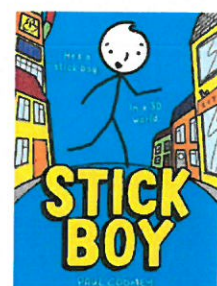
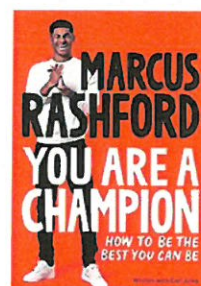
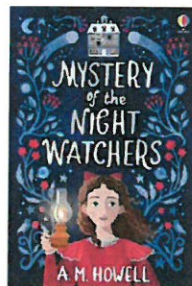
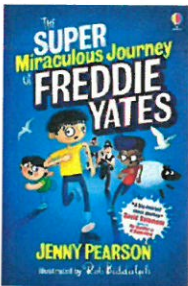
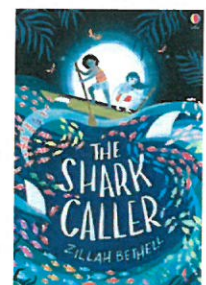
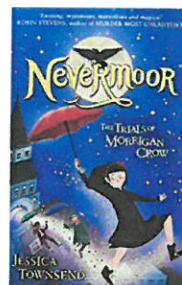
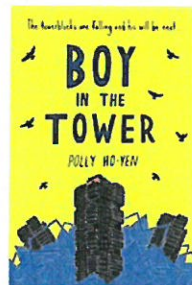
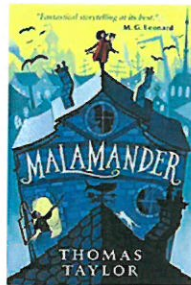
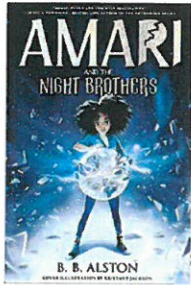
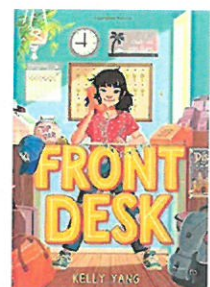
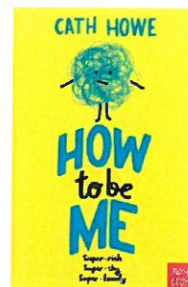
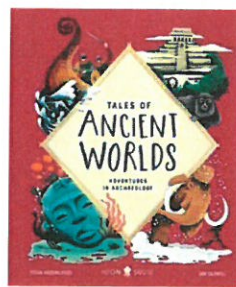
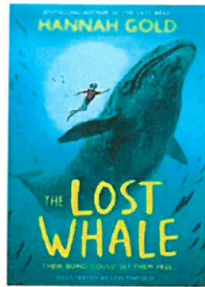
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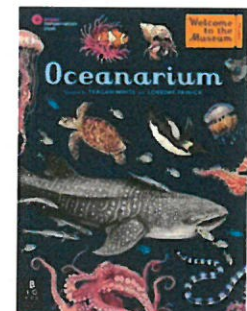
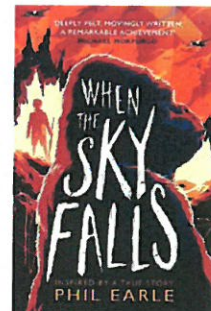
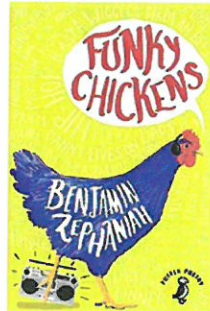
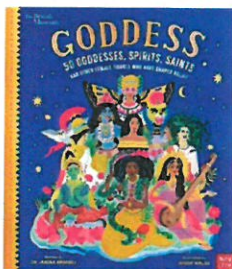
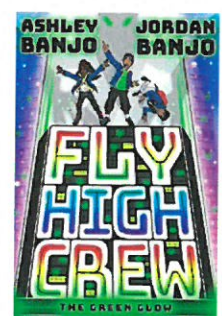
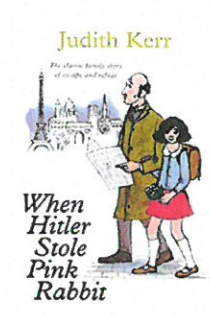
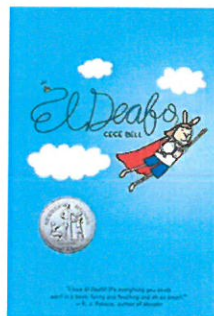
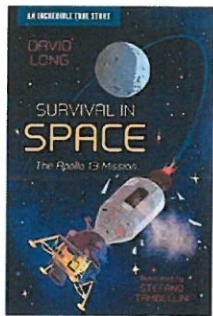
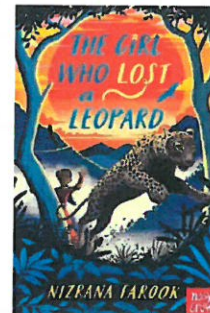
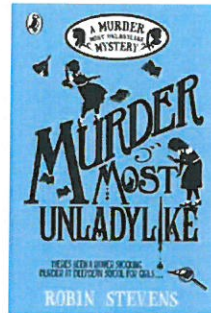
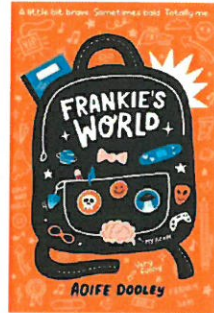
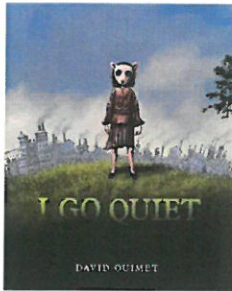
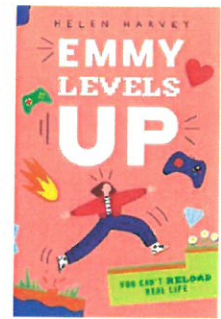
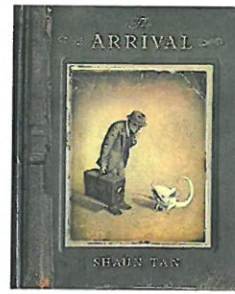
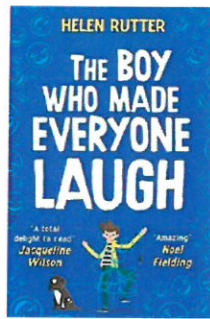
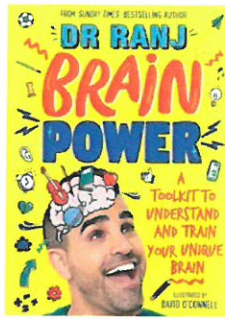
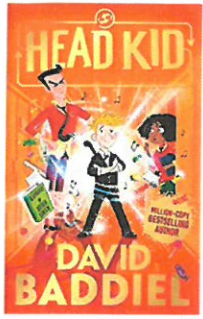


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Guidance: About the Year 6 Booklist

At the very centre of inspiring reading for pleasure in Year 6 is the element of choice. Readers who are motivated to choose to read are often the ones who are best able to exercise agency over where, when, what and how, knowing that they can read at their own pace in their own way. Key to this is providing a wide range of appealing and age-appropriate texts for readers to explore. Being exposed to different styles, formats and genres helps children to define themselves as readers, to have a range of alternatives to choose next if something they read is not for them and to make choices about the books that will give them the reading buzz. This process is crucial for children to develop the intrinsic motivation to read and to lay the foundations of a lifelong love of reading.

At the ages of 10 and 11, most children are able to read chapter books and to think critically about what they read. They begin to enjoy multi-layered stories that present different characters' viewpoints about key issues, and to think deeply about books that explore relevant social issues. Also popular with this age group are graphic novels, funny books and illustrated non-fiction that delves deeply into a particular topic of interest. Storytime with adults continues to be important and enjoyed at this age - despite the high level of independence at the ages of 10 and 11, nothing can replicate the magic of a shared reading experience.

With these factors in mind, our team has carefully selected a list of books designed to encourage reading for pleasure in Year 6. Some of the books cater well for children who love to laugh, like Jenny Pearson's *The Super Miraculous Journey of Freddie Yates* or David Solomon's action-packed *My Brother is a Superhero* series. Other stories on the list are designed to leave readers on the edge of their seats, from Jennifer Killick's super-spooky *Dread Wood* to dystopian thrillers like *Orphans of the Tide*. Graphic novels are also very popular with many children in Year 6, and we recommend trying the fun and whacky *Lookshin* series or Cece Bell's *El Deafo*.

Many children at this age are ready to engage with stories that explore social issues or offer insights into a diversity of ways of seeing the world. Catherine Bruton's award-winning *No Ballet Shoes in Syria* charts the experience of a young refugee finding her feet in a new country and *Boy in the Tower* hauntingly explores the experience of isolation when it does not feel safe to go outside, as well as the topics of parental mental health and the coming together of community in the face of a crisis. Other stories in our collection give insight into what life is like for those who feel like they don't quite fit in, from a would-be comedian with a stutter in *The Boy Who Made Everyone Laugh*, to the gruelling tale of bullying and OCD in *All the Things that Could Go Wrong*, to Elle McNicoll's neurodivergent main duo in the superbly gripping *Show Us Who You Are*.

If you are looking for classic stories suitable for 10-11 year olds, we recommend *Tom's Midnight Garden* or Judith Kerr's *When Hitler Stole Pink Rabbit*. Poetry collections offer a wealth of enjoyment for reading for pleasure at this age too, from Mandy Coe's upbeat *Belonging Street* or Benjamin Zephaniah's *Funky Chickens*, which is always a hit with Year 6.

For those without the time or reading stamina to pick up a longer read, try one of the shorter chapter books included in our Y6 reading list, like Dan Smith's *The Invasion of Crooked Oak* or David Long's *Survival in Space*, both of which are specially formatted to be accessible to dyslexic readers. For excellent picture books suitable for Year 6, we recommend the super-intriguing *The Viewer* by Gary Crew and Shaun Tan, or the beautifully illustrated exploration of being introverted in *I Go Quiet*.

High-quality non-fiction is a brilliant option for reading for pleasure in Year 6. We recommend the inspirational mountain-set recount of peril and resilience in *Everest*, the intricately presented *Oceanarium* and Dr Ranj's super-helpful guidebook to all things brain-related in *Brain Power*. If you are looking for books themed around a particular topic, head over to our [KS2 topic booklists](#).

You can find out more about the [process of collating our Recommended Reads booklists here](#).

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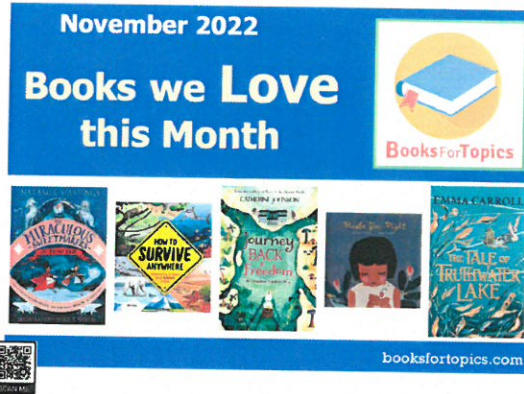
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