

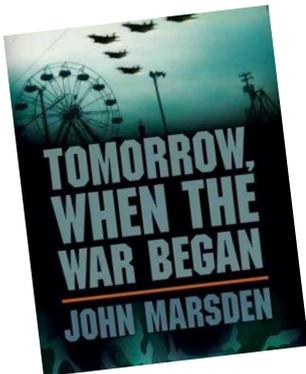
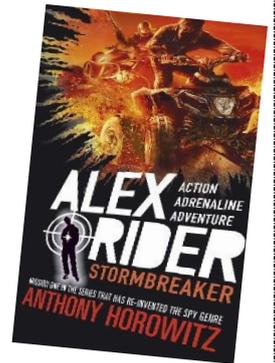
Year 7: Recommended Reading List



If you want to go on an adventure...

One day it will be a classic! In Louis Sachar's *Holes*, as further evidence of his family's bad fortune, which they attribute to a curse on a distant relative, Stanley is sent to a hellish correctional camp in the Texas desert. How will he fare on this adventure? **(Book Level: 4.6)**

Delve into the first in a series with Anthony Horowitz's *Stormbreaker*. 14 year-old Alex Rider finds his life turned upside down on discovering that his late uncle wasn't a mild-mannered banker, but instead a field agent for MI6. Alex is then dragged into the world of espionage and intrigue himself. **(Book Level: 5.1)**



First published in 1993, *Tomorrow When The War Began* is a young adult invasion novel, detailing a high-intensity invasion and occupation by a foreign power. Ellie and her friends must try and rescue their families. First in a series about lives changed forever in a world at war. **(Book Level: 6.3)**

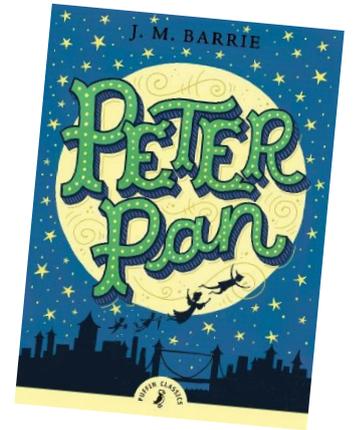
If you'd feel confident with a classic ...

In Nina Bawden's novel, *Carrie's War*, as bombs were falling on London, Carrie and Nick were wartime evacuees billeted in Wales on old Mr Evans. They were happy to visit their friend Albert at Druid's Bottom until Carrie did the worst thing she ever did in her life – what was it? **(Book Level: 5.3)**

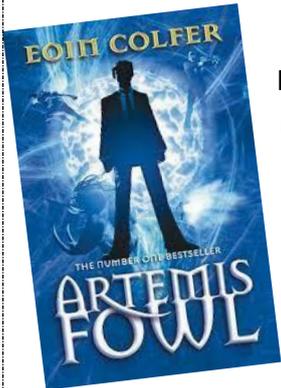


In Edith Nesbitt's 1906 book *The Railway Children*, Roberta, Phyllis, and Peter are growing up in comfort until their happy life ends overnight. Their mother is in distress, and their father is gone. After you've read the book, you could even watch the 1970 film! **(Book Level: 5.5)**

You might have seen productions of James Barrie's *Peter Pan* at the Christmas Pantomime, but have you read the 1911 novel? Wendy, John, and Michael Darling share the endless adventures of Peter Pan in Neverland, a world where children never have to grow up and meet storybook creatures, the pirates, Captain Hook and The Lost Boys. (**Book Level: 7.7**)

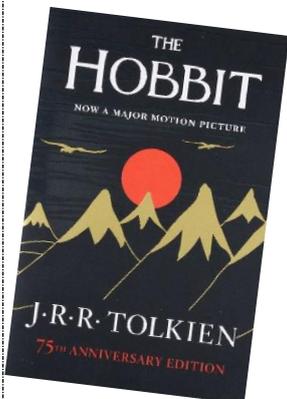
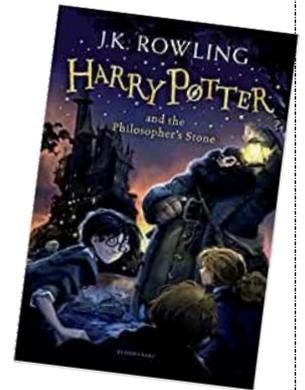


If you want to fly into fantasy ...



In Eoin Colfer's novel, twelve-year-old *Artemis Fowl* is a brilliant criminal mastermind. But even he doesn't know what he's taken on when he kidnaps a fairy - Captain Holly Short of the LEPrecon Unit. These fairies are armed and they are dangerous. (**Book Level: 5.0**)

In the first of this world-renowned series by J. K. Rowling, Harry Potter thinks he is an ordinary boy until he finds out he is a wizard. Where will his journey take him, and who will become his friends? (**Book Level: 6.0**)

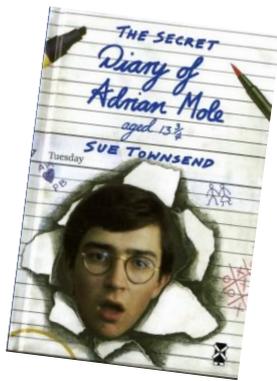


What a classical fantasy novel to begin with – J. R. R. Tolkien's *The Hobbit*. This stirring adventure is a fantasy that introduces the far-wandering hobbit, Bilbo Baggins. (**Book Level: 6.6**)

Needing a laugh?

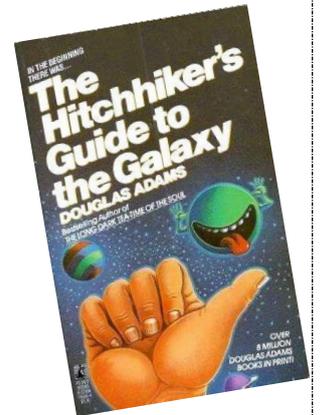
You might know the film, *Mrs Doubtfire*, but do you know the 1987 original novel, *Madame Doubtfire*, by Anne Fine, which inspired the film? Lydia, Christopher and Natalie are used to domestic turmoil and have been torn between their warring parents ever since the divorce. All that changes when Madame Doubtfire becomes the cleaning lady. (**Book Level: 4.9**)





Sue Townsend's *The Secret Diary of Adrian Mole, Aged 13 $\frac{3}{4}$* is almost immortalised as a classic at King's since so many of our students have read and enjoyed this amusing read. Adrian is now 13 $\frac{3}{4}$ years old and coping with first love, his parents splitting up and the messy business of growing up. On top of all that, the BBC are unwilling to accept his poetry! (**Book Level: 5.1**)

Douglas Adams's *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy* is an insanely funny, satiric bestseller about the end of the world and the days that follow it. Arthur Dent must find a new home after the world is destroyed, to make way for the new hyperspatial express route. The first book in a series. (**Book Level: 6.6**)

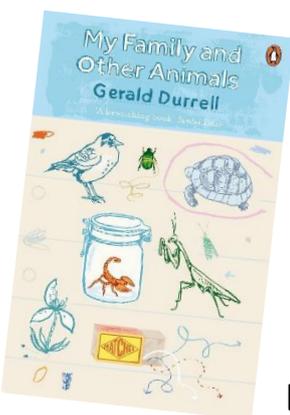
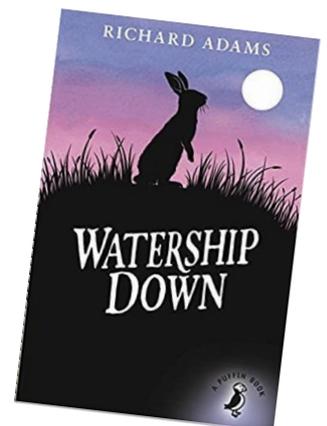


Four legged friends ... and other animal books!



Sara Pennypacker's novel, *Pax*, has been popular in the recent Year 7 Reading Challenge. After being forced to give up his pet fox, Pax, a young boy named Peter decides to leave home and get his best friend back. (**Book Level: 5.3**)

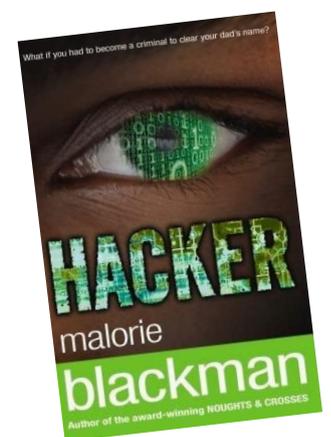
A group of hardy Berkshire rabbits share many adventures together in Richard Adams' 1972 novel, *Watership Down*. They must search for a safe place to establish a new warren after the destruction of their community. (**Book Level: 6.2**)



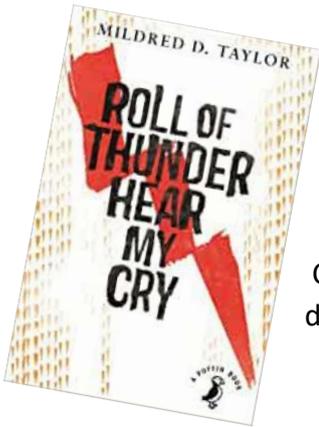
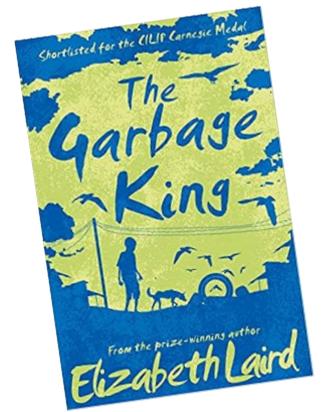
Fancy autobiography mixed with animals? Read *My Family and Other Animals* (1956) – an autobiographical work by British naturalist Gerald Durrell. It tells in an exaggerated and sometimes fictionalised way of the years that he lived as a child with his siblings and widowed mother on the Greek island of Corfu between 1935 and 1939. (**Book Level: 7.8**)

Dip into Diversity!

When Vicky's father is arrested, accused of stealing over a million pounds from the bank where he works, she is determined to prove his innocence. But how, when all the evidence is hidden in computer files? Take out Malorie Blackman's novel, *Hacker*, to find out! (**Book Level: 4.4**)



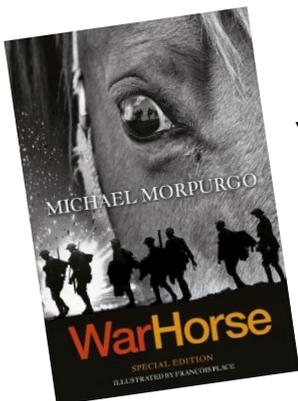
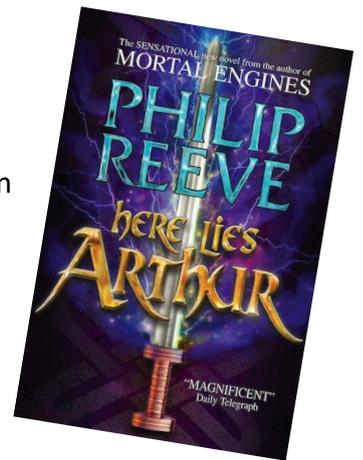
Elizabeth Laird's *The Garbage King* contains the stories of how two Ethiopian boys wound up living rough on the streets of Addis Ababa and what they have to do to survive. (**Book Level: 4.9**)



Mildred D. Taylor's powerful novel, *Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry* conveys warmth, humour and hard times prevail as a black family struggles to maintain dignity and independence in Depression-era Mississippi. Nine-year old Cassie Logan is a powerful protagonist who exposes the damaging racism during the interwar period in America. (**Book Level: 5.7**)

Hungry for History?

Philip Reeve's novel, *Here Lies Arthur*, will catapult you back in time. When her village is attacked and burned, Gwyna seeks protection from the bard Myrddin, who uses Gwyna in his plan to transform young Arthur into the heroic King Arthur. (**Book Level: 5.6**)



You might have heard about the memorable production of *War Horse*, but have you read Michael Morpurgo's novel? Based on World War 1, in England, Albert is growing up on a Devon farm with his young horse, Joey. However Albert, Joey and many other people will all be drawn into the nightmare of war as they all struggle to survive in the blasted wilderness of the Western Front. (**Book Level: 5.9**)

Further information:

All Year 7 and 8 students are enrolled on the Accelerated Reader Programme, which is co-ordinated by the English Department and the Learning Resource Centre (LRC). The Programme helps to encourage reading for pleasure and further develop students' reading comprehension skills.

As well as occasional English lessons delivered in the LRC, students are also able to borrow, return and change their books before school, at lunchtime and in English lessons (with permission from their English Teacher).

This list provides a starting list to inspire students to explore books outside their comfort zone, but is by no means an exhaustive list. Students are also able to check if a book is on the Accelerated Reader Programme using the following website: <https://www.arbookfind.co.uk/>

Please email Mr Kearney (Assistant Head of English, i/c KS3 English) to suggest additional books for inclusion on our Year 7 recommended reading list: james.kearney@kings.lincs.sch.uk