



Year 8 Recommended Reading List

A selection of books available in the Anglo European Library aimed at Year 8.

General

The Giver (Science Fiction)

Lois Lowry

It is a perfect world - conformity and happiness are a way of life. But for Jonas, things are different. While his friends are selected to be doctors or teachers, Jonas is sent to an old, tired, man - The Giver - where he begins to discover the dark secrets that lie beneath the surface of his world

Dystopia/Sci-Fi



Chinese Cinderella (True Stories)

Adeline Yen Mah

The true story of a young Chinese girl's struggle to find acceptance within her own family and her survival amongst siblings and parents who think she represents bad luck.

Diverse/Family

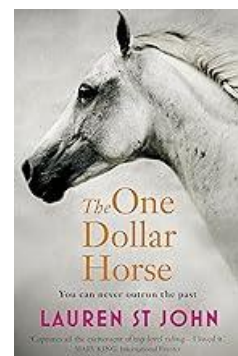


The One-Dollar Horse (Animals)

Lauren St. John

Fifteen-year-old Casey Blue lives in East London's grimmest tower block but her dream is to win the Badminton Horse Trials. When she rescues a starving, half-wild horse, she's convinced that the impossible can be made possible. But she has reckoned without the consequences of her father's criminal record, or the distraction of a boy with whom she refuses to fall in love. Casey learns the hard way that no matter how high you jump, or how fast you gallop, you can never outrun the past.

Animal/Contemporary

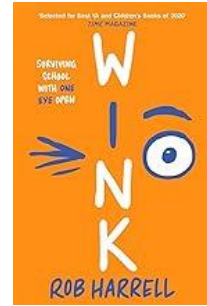


Wink (Real Life)

Rob Harrell

Based on the author's own experience, the reader follows the life of Ross, a boy dealing with a devastating diagnosis of eye cancer. While he strives to maintain normality and his dignity, Ross finds imaginative and inspirational ways to get through life at school and at home. Heartrending and funny.

Real Life/School/Empathy

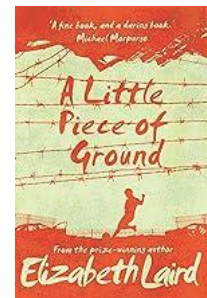


A Little Piece of Ground (History)

Elizabeth Laird

Twelve-year-old Karim Aboudi and his family are trapped in their Ramallah home by a strict curfew. In response to a Palestinian suicide bombing, the Israeli military subjects the West Bank town to a virtual siege. When the curfew ends, he and his friend discover a patch of ground that's the perfect site for a football pitch and an old car hidden intact under bulldozed building makes a brilliant den. But in this city, there's constant danger, and when Israeli soldiers find Karim outside during the next curfew, it seems impossible that he will survive.

History/Conflict/Middle East



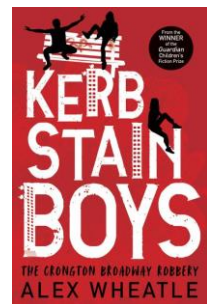
Kerb-Stain Boys (Crime)

Alex Wheatle

Life on the Crongton estate can be rough for Briggy. Dad's lost his job, Mum's working so hard to make ends meet, and big brother Kingsley just wants out. With all the shouting and arguing it's difficult not to get lost in the mix. When his best mate Terror and coolest chick in the year Caldonia, cook up a plan to make a quick buck, Briggy hopes this time it might be his chance to shine. Robbing the Post Office ... what could go wrong?

A brilliantly real and funny novella of life on one of London's toughest (fictional) estates.

Crime



Coram Boy (History)

Jamila Gavin

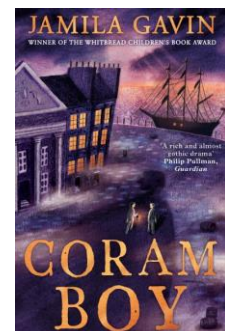
A tale of two cities: Gloucester and London

A tale of two boys: Toby, saved from an African slave ship; Aaron, the illegitimate son of the heir to a great estate.

A tale of fathers and sons: Otis, dealing in the vilest trade of all, and his son Meshak, not quite of this world; Sir William Ashbrook, landowner, and Alexander, the son he disinherits.

An epic journey fraught with every danger and excitement, until love triumphs over hatred and corruption.

Fiction/History



Small Steps (Humour)

Louis Sachar

Upon returning to Austin, Armpit set five goals for himself. Five small steps.

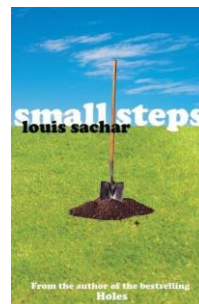
1. Graduate High School.
2. Get a job.
3. Save his money.
4. Avoid situations that might turn violent.

And...

5. Lose the name Armpit.

In this wonderful, funny, and deeply satisfying novel, Armpit finds all his small steps becoming much bigger than he has anticipated. When he gets mixed up with his old friend X-Ray in a ticket scam, things look set to unravel. But this is only the beginning of Armpit's troubles in this brilliant, fast-paced adventure story.

Contemporary/Humour



The Hound of the Baskervilles (Classic)

Arthur Conan Doyle

This Oxford Children's Classic features the complete unabridged text, an introduction by Nancy Springer, and other bonus material including insights for readers, facts, activities, and more . . . Master detective Sherlock Holmes and his trusty sidekick Dr Watson are called upon to investigate the untimely death of Sir Charles Baskerville. Many are quick to blame a family curse and a ghostly black hound, but is there a more logical explanation?

Mystery/Classic



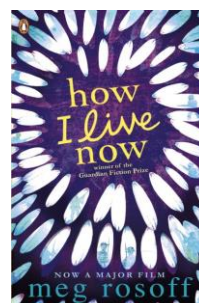
How I Live Now (Real life)

Meg Rosoff

Fifteen-year-old New Yorker Daisy thinks she knows all about love. Her mother died giving birth to her, and now her dad has sent her away for the summer, to live in the English countryside with cousins she's never even met. There she will discover what real love is: something violent, mysterious, and wonderful. There her world will be turned upside down and a perfect summer will explode into a million bewildering pieces.

How will Daisy live then?

Romance/Friendship



The Shadowmancer (Fantasy)

G. P. Taylor

Obadiah Demurrall is a sorcerer who is seeking to control the highest power in the universe. He will stop at nothing. The only people in his way are Raphael, Kate, Thomas - and the mysterious Jacob Crane. Their tortured struggles lead them to a dramatic climax in the gothic church of St Mary's.

Fantasy



Challenging Books for Year 8

The blue book of Nebo (Real Life)

Manon Ros

Dylan was six when The End came, back in 2018; when the electricity went off for good, and the 'normal' 21st-century world he knew disappeared. Now he's 14 and he and his mam have survived in their isolated hilltop house above the village of Nebo in north-west Wales, learning new skills, and returning to old ways of living.

Dystopia/Sci-Fi



Twilight (Fantasy)

Stephenie Meyer

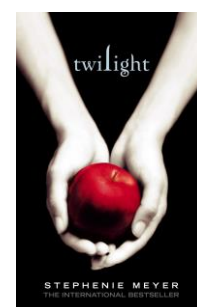
About three things I was positive.

First, Edward was a vampire.

Second, there was a part of him - and I didn't know how dominant that part might be - that thirsted for my blood.

And third, I was unconditionally and irrevocably in love with him.

(Saga/Fantasy/Romance)



Brave New World (SF/HUX)

Aldous Huxley

In the future, all society is overseen by the World Controllers. Everything is ordered and efficient. But Bernard has other ideas and wants to do more than ask questions.

Classic



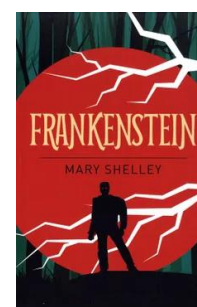
Frankenstein (Horror)

Mary Shelley

Mary Shelley's seminal novel of the scientist whose creation becomes a monster.

This edition is the original 1818 text, which preserves the hard-hitting and politically charged aspects of Shelley's original writing, as well as her unflinching wit and strong female voice.

Horror/Gothic



For further suggestions, please pop into the Library and speak to the Librarian, alternatively search for your favourite author or genre on Oliver.