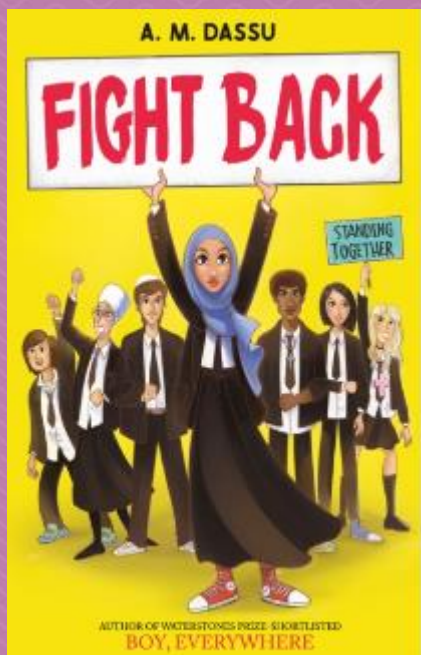




YEAR 7 RECOMMENDED READS

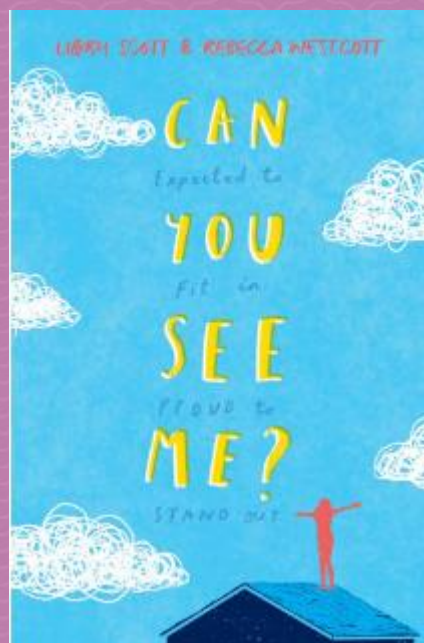
The following Year 7 reading list contains books suitable for children aged 11-12 in secondary school KS3 classes. These titles consist of a range of fiction and nonfiction for all ability ranges including the more able. This list of books is updated every year and contains stories by Lisa Thompson, Gillian Cross, Malorie Blackman, Renée Watson, R.J Palacio, Philip Pullman and Michael Morpurgo.



Fight Back by A. M. Dassu

13-year-old Aaliyah faces discrimination and bullying after a terrorist attack at a nearby concert changes how people see her. Choosing not to hide, she wears a hijab with pride and challenges stereotypes and misconceptions where she sees them. But when her resolve is tested she has a decision to make – to lay low or ‘Fight Back’. This gripping young adult novel explores themes of identity, resilience, and unity in the face of Islamophobia. A powerful call to positive action, it’s ideal to discuss in book clubs.

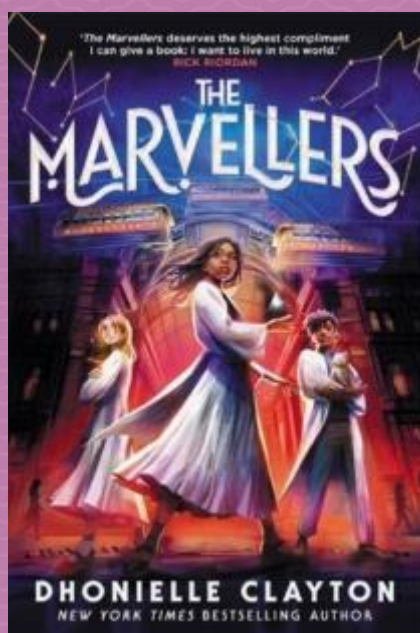
Racism | Family



Can You See Me? by Libby Scott & Rebecca Westcott

Follow 11-year-old Tally’s journey as she navigates the challenges of school, friendship, and self-discovery, providing readers with a unique and empathetic perspective on autism. Can You See Me is an empowering read and an excellent book choice for book clubs in lower KS3.

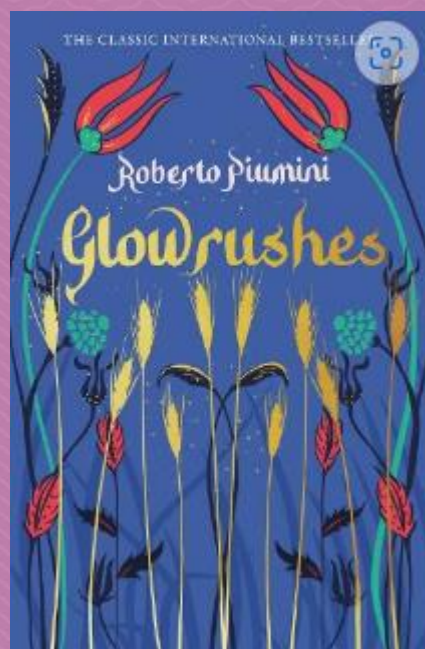
Autobiography | Autism



The Marvellers by Dhonielle Clayton

Magic school pupil Ella finds herself the prime suspect for a crime she didn’t do in this immersive and original dystopian magical fantasy. Uniquely thrilling and suspenseful, readers will be gripped by the richly imagined world in The Marvellers. This fast-paced first-in-a-series novel is perfect for students in Year 7. Highly recommended for fantasy lovers.

Fantasy



Glowrushes by Roberto Piumini

When young noble Madurer is struck down by a strange illness that leaves him unable to go outside, his father commissions an amazing artist to paint the world his son cannot experience. An incredible friendship develops. Translated from the Italian classic, *Glowrushes* is unforgettable and unputdownable and ideal for less confident readers who enjoy shorter texts.

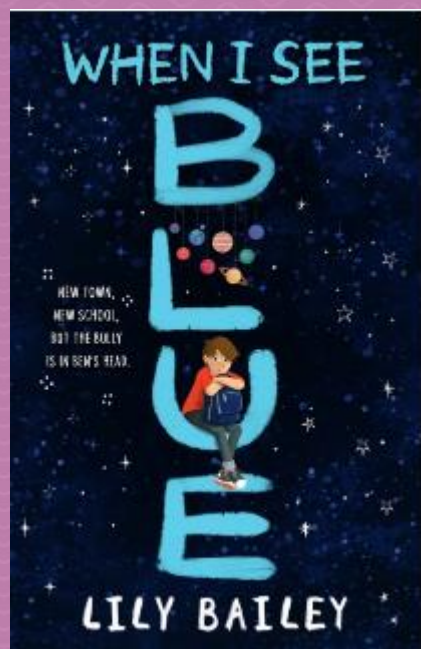
Classic



Peregrine Quinn and the Cosmic Realm by Ash Bond

Follow twelve-year-old Peregrine on a thrilling adventure as she discovers her godfather's immortal tales are true. When portals between realms close, Daedalus disappears, prompting Peregrine and her new ally Rowan to search mystical places for him. The fast-paced middle-grade novel features relatable characters and offers valuable lessons on honesty and secrecy, making it useful for PSHE discussions. An accessible and page-turning book, it will appeal to readers in Year 7 who enjoy fantasy, mystery and adventure. Highly recommended. [Read our full review.](#)

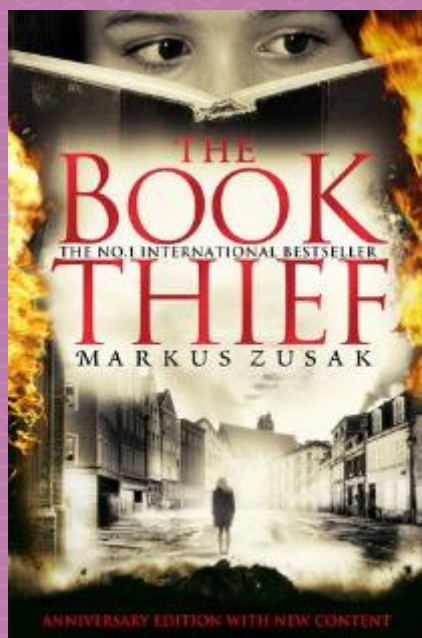
Fantasy | Adventure



When I See Blue by Lily Bailey

12-year-old Ben is struggling with a new school, a complicated home life and OCD. With a brain that bullies him with intrusive thoughts, he finds himself counting to four and performing rituals to stop things from going wrong. But when he makes friends with April, he begins to see the world in new ways. This #ownvoices story offers an authentic portrayal of OCD and explores themes of family, friendship, and mental health. A moving read for middle-grade audiences, it encourages readers to empathise with the challenges of living with OCD.

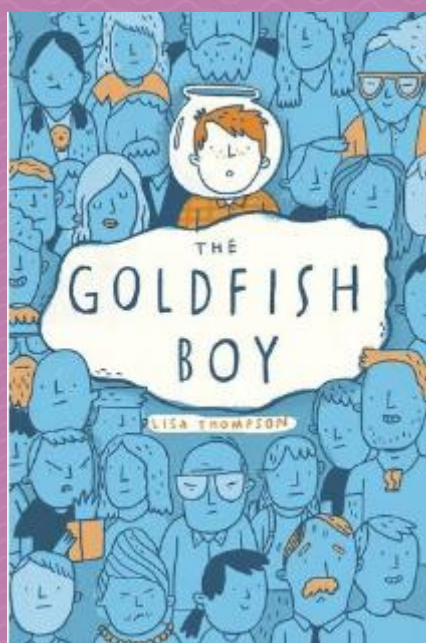
Empathy



The Book Thief by Markus Zusak

Narrated by Death, this book tells the story of a young girl in Nazi Germany hiding for safety in World War 2.

Historical fiction | Adventure



The Goldfish Boy by Lisa Thompson

Matthew finds it almost impossible to leave his room and venture into the outside world due to his OCD and constant worries. But when a small child in the neighbourhood vanishes, he finds his heightened attention to detail an ideal tool when he turns detective to try and solve the mystery. Brilliantly written. A great book to promote discussion, this book would be ideal for year 7 reading groups.

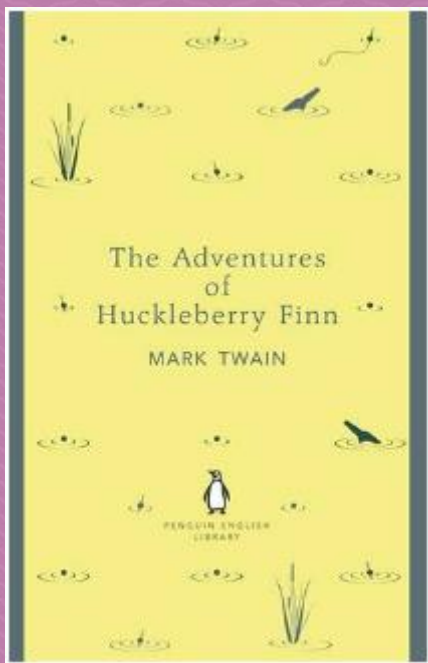
Inclusive | Mystery



Freedom (1783) by Catherine Johnson

Nathaniel doesn't want to go on a ship and leave his family behind in Jamaica. But this is 1783 and he doesn't have a choice. He is a slave, and his master has decided for him. But there's a sliver of hope that Nathaniel clings to – a chance of freedom once he reaches England. An emotive and passionate story about slavery and one child's real experience, this novel is highly recommended for year 7 book clubs.

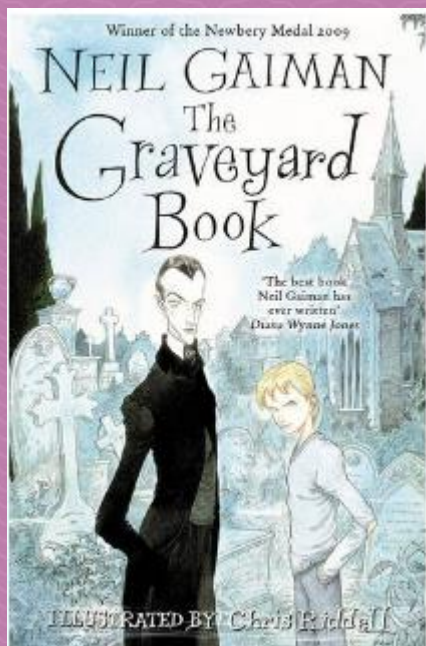
Historical fiction | Slavery



The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn by Mark Twain

Huck Finn and Tom Sawyer have made lots of money, but all Huck wants is to escape from his guardian, Miss Sawyer. A great American novel and a more challenging read for pupils in Year 7.

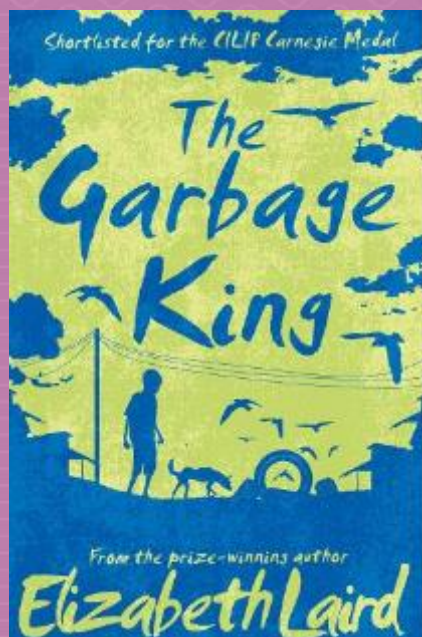
Classic



The Graveyard Book by Neil Gaiman

Jack murders every member of a family except a child upstairs. When the child crawls to a graveyard nearby, Mr and Mrs Owens, both ghosts, decide to bring him up.

Ghost story



The Garbage King by Elizabeth Laird

Mamo is from a very poor family where everyone has died except for him and his sister, Tiggist. Then a slave trader, who claims to be his uncle, kidnaps Mamo...

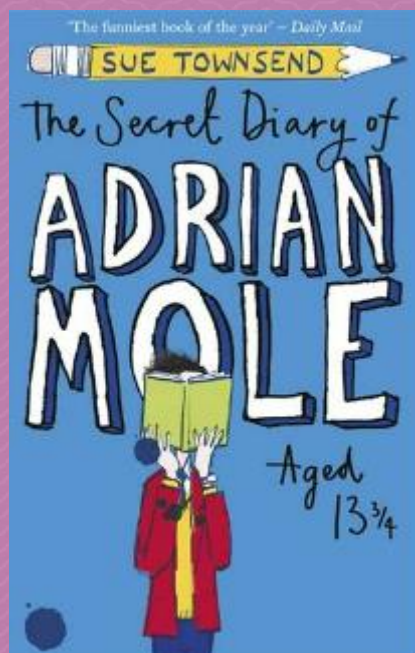
Friendship | Adventure



The Indian in the Cupboard Trilogy by Lynne Reid Banks

Omri is disappointed with his birthday present – a little red plastic Indian figure – until it comes alive and becomes a real person. An easier read for students in Year 7.

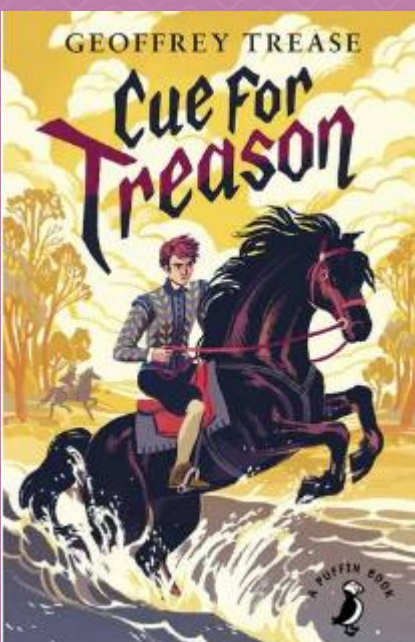
Classic



The Secret Diary of Adrian Mole Aged 13 3/4 by Sue Townsend

A fictional diary charting the teenage angst and dreams of Adrian Mole. Very funny.

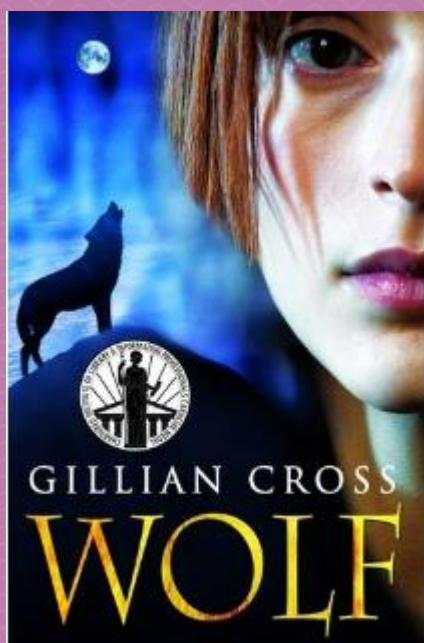
Diary



Cue for Treason by Geoffrey Trease

Two young runaways become actors in London, where they meet William Shakespeare. They then help foil a plot to kill the Queen. An ideal book for year seven pupils interested in history.

Adventure | Historical fiction



Wolf by Gillian Cross

A haunting story of terrorism, impending doom, confusion and not really knowing your closest family members as well as you thought you did. Cassy finds some questions are best left unasked.

Mystery | Family



Some Places More Than Others by Renée Watson

Almost 12-year-old Amara desperately wants to visit family in New York and find out more about her father's roots. But when she finally gets there, the family relationships and situations are far from her idealised expectations. A great book to discuss in book clubs and study in classes for characterisation and dialogue.

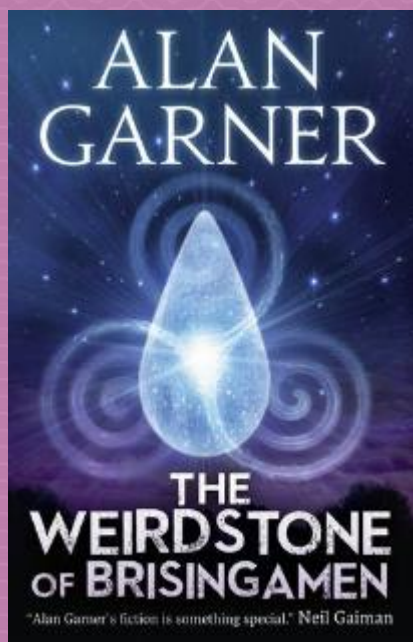
Family



The Seeing Stone by Kevin Crossley-Holland

The stories of a young King Arthur are told in 100 short chapters. Ideal for reluctant readers in Year 7.

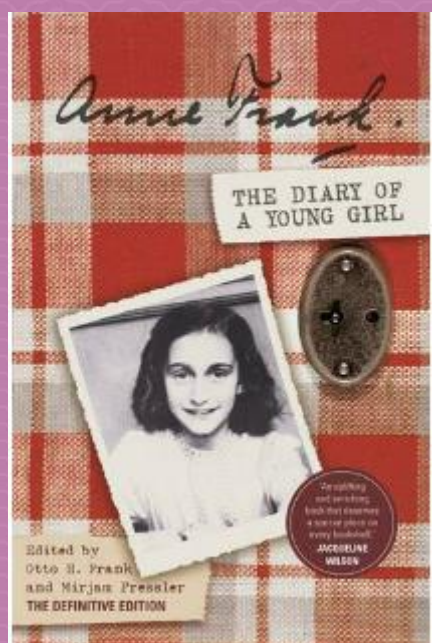
Legend | Fantasy



The Weirdstone of Brisingamen by Alan Garner

Colin and Susan are saved from mysterious creatures by a wizard who has been searching for a lost magic stone for over 100 years. Can the two children defeat the dark forces at work?

Fantasy



The Diary of a Young Girl by Anne Frank

Anne Frank's diary was written when she was 13-15 and living in hiding above an Amsterdam warehouse during World War 2. 'One of the greatest books of the century' – *Guardian*.

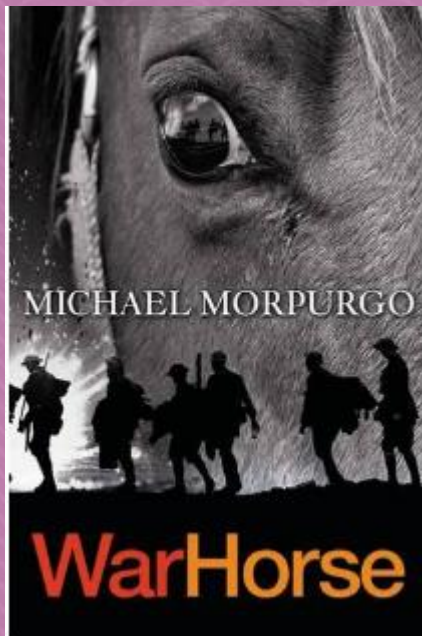
Autobiography | Classic



Across the Barricades by Joan Lingard

Kevin and Sade live in Belfast, and the two of them being seen together isn't an option. A gritty story of religious divide and distrust.

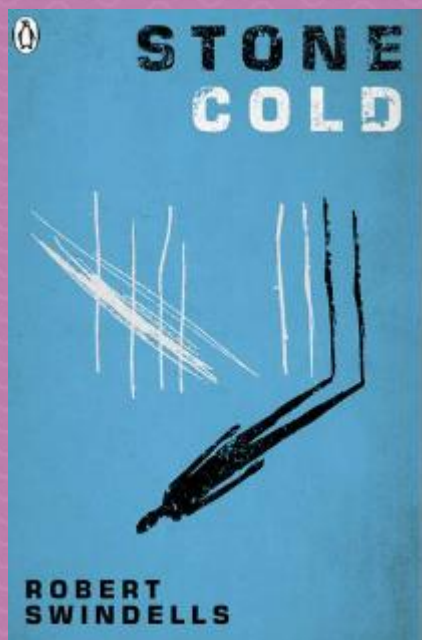
Romance



War Horse by Michael Morpurgo

A gripping description of the horrors of war, told from the perspective of Joey, a horse, who sees the senselessness of war and the importance of friendships more clearly than the soldiers around him. An ideal class novel for pupils in Year 7.

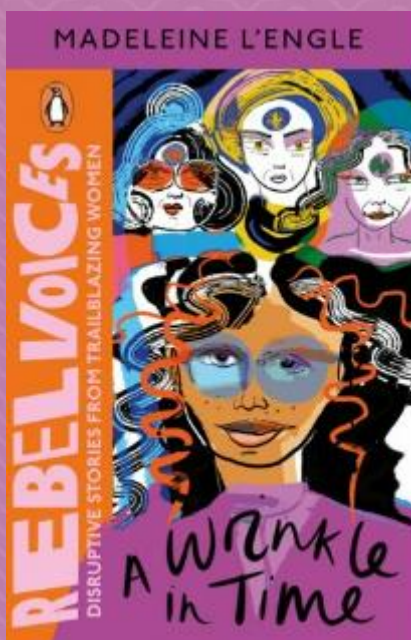
Animal story | War



Stone Cold by Robert Swindells

There's a serial killer targeting the young and homeless and Deb, an intrepid undercover journalist is determined to catch the killer – using herself as bait. A thrilling book for year 7 pupils to read – ideal for book clubs.

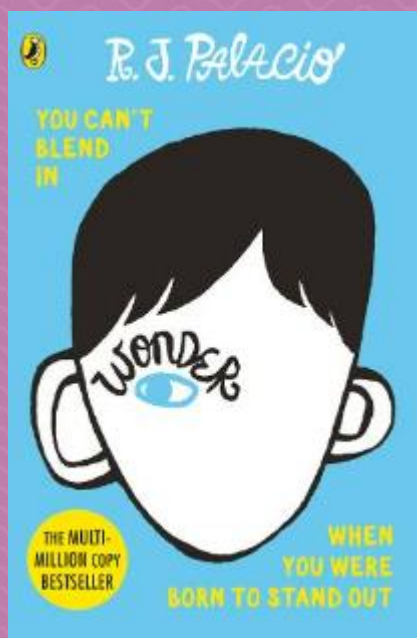
Crime | Thriller



A Wrinkle in Time by Madeleine L'Engle

Charles Wallace Murry's father has disappeared and Charles sets out to find a wrinkle in time – a gateway to a parallel universe – to try and save him. A captivating and imaginative story. The first in a series of great novels for year 7 pupils interested in science.

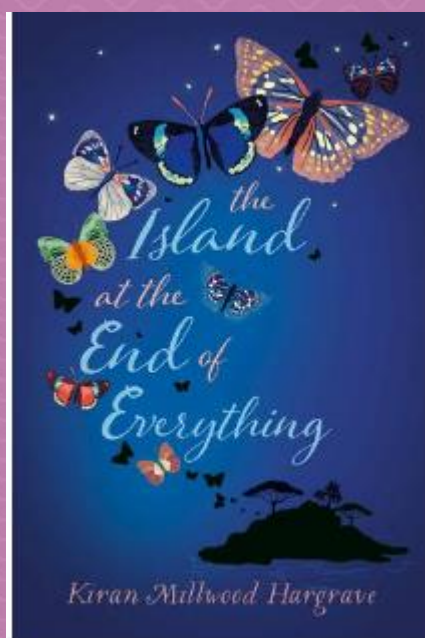
Science fiction



Wonder by R.J Palacio

Augie wants to be like every other ten-year-old. But whenever anyone looks at him they treat him differently because of a terrible facial abnormality. Can he convince everyone that he's just like them inside? Perfect to provoke discussion in Year 7 book clubs.

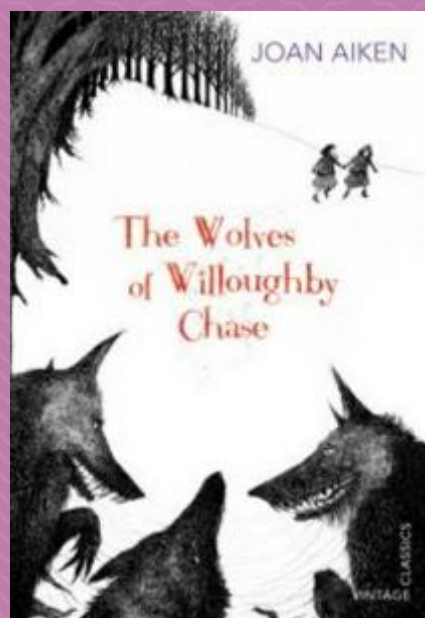
Inclusive



The Island at the End of Everything by Kiran Millwood Hargrave

A thought-provoking and atmospheric story about Amihan, who lives on an island affected by a leprosy outbreak. Forced to leave, she finds some unlikely allies in her quest to return home. An atmospheric book for year 7 readers, and one which is ideal for more confident readers.

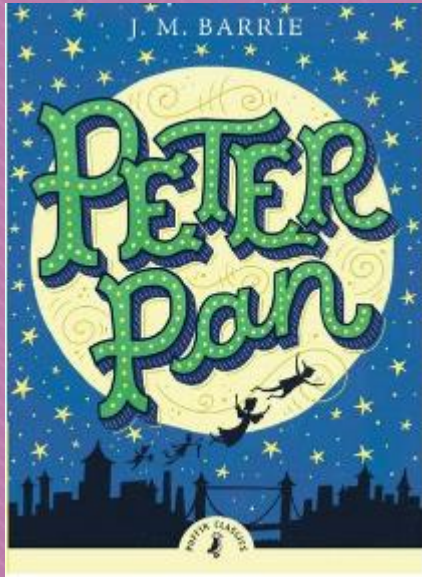
Adventure



The Wolves of Willoughby Chase by Joan Aiken

In an alternative reality, King James III rules in 1832 and the country is plagued by wolves from the Channel Tunnel. But for Sylvia and Bonnie, it isn't clear whether it's the wolves or their governess Miss Slighcarp they should be more afraid of.

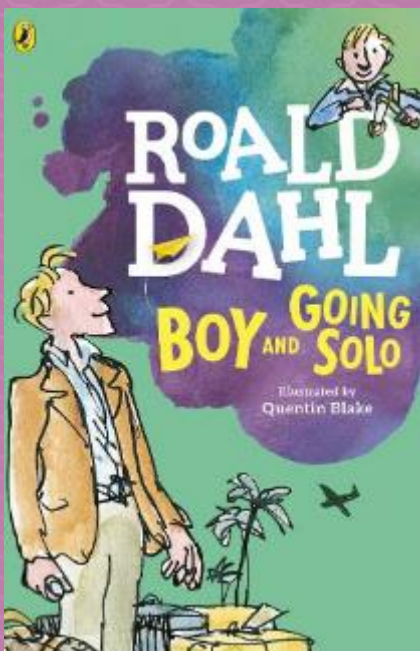
Classic | Adventure



Peter Pan by J.M Barrie

The timeless classic story of the boy who never grew up, Wendy and her brothers, and Neverland, where the Lost Boys are in constant danger from Captain Hook.

Classic | Adventure



Boy and Going Solo by Roald Dahl

Roald Dahl's hilarious autobiographies – Boy, charting his childhood and school days, and Going Solo chronicling his early adult life.

Autobiography



The Cay by Theodore Taylor

When World War II breaks out, 12-year-old Phillip and his mother embark on the S.S. Hato for a long voyage. But the ship is torpedoed, and Phillip is blinded by a blow on the head and left stranded on an island with a man named Timothy.

Historical fiction | Classic

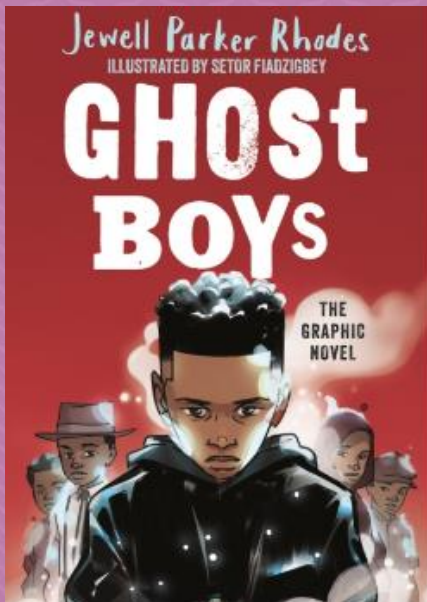
Year 7 Books for 2026-2027



Tickets for Murder by Niyala Farook

Twin sisters Ani and Riri meet up in Los Angeles for a family visit to Deadwood Manor theme park. But when their tour guide is found dead, the trip turns into a page-turning crime investigation. Ani has ADHD and Riri is autistic with OCD, and the story is refreshing in how it shows how they think and work differently. A great LKS3 book club option, this second book in the Tariq Twins series presents classic murder mystery twists in a modern, accessible story for Year 7s.

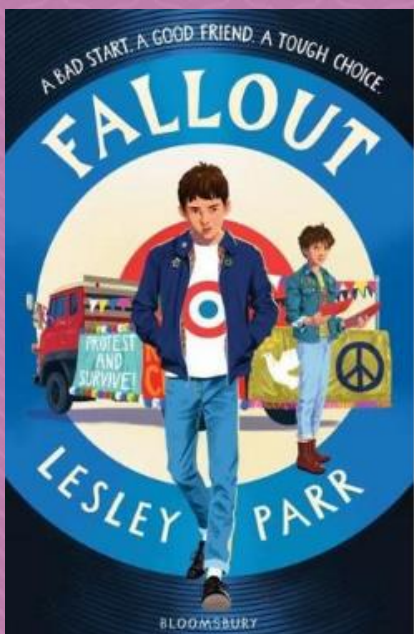
Mystery | Crime



Ghost Boys Graphic Novel by Jewell Parker Rhodes

After being shot by a police officer who mistakes his toy gun for a real one, twelve-year-old Jerome becomes a ghost watching what follows. He sees the effect of his death on his family, his community and the officer involved. Along the way he meets Emmett Till, whose harrowing story echoes his own. Illustrated by Setor Fiadzigbey and told here as an emotive, powerful graphic novel, this adaptation looks directly and unflinchingly at racism, justice and loss. It's a moving and thought-provoking read for Year 7 students.

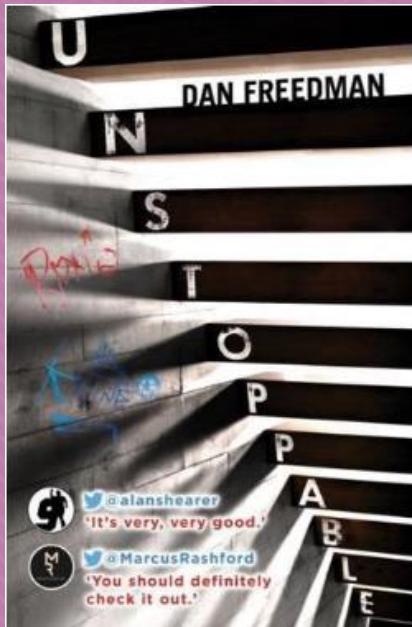
Mystery | Racism



Fallout by Lesley Parr

Set in 1980s Cold War Britain, Fallout follows Marcus Pritchard, a boy desperate to escape his family's shady reputation. When a mysterious accident leaves a man hospitalised, Marcus takes the blame – except his new friend Emma isn't so sure. As they dig for the truth, they confront prejudice, loyalty, and the weight of personal choices. With nuclear war fears and protests simmering in the background, this gripping story explores what it takes to rewrite your future. Perfect for 11+ year olds.

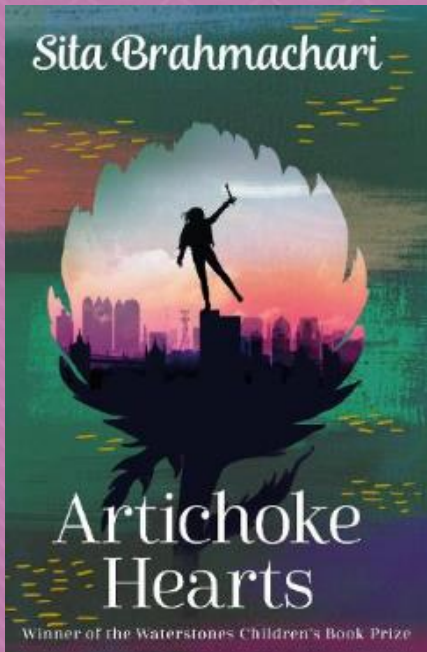
Thriller



Unstoppable by Dan Freedman

Kaine and Roxy are twins with different ambitions: he has a football trial ahead, while she is training for tennis with Wimbledon in view. At home, both feel let down by their dad, and both are keeping secrets that increase the pressure. As their plans begin to come apart, Dan Freedman expertly uses sport to drive an accessible story about rivalry and family strain that will appeal to less confident readers in Year 7. Highly recommended.

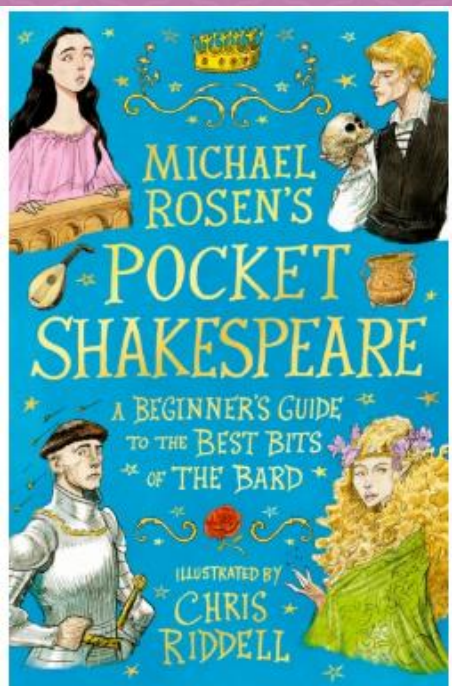
Football



Artichoke Hearts by Sita Brahmachari

A spectacular coming-of-age story where different cultures collide and combine. Through evocative and lyrical prose, the reader will see Mira's unlikely friendship with Jide, learn of tightly guarded secrets, and empathise with Mira's awakening despite a difficult home life. An excellent book to create discussion, Artichoke Hearts is a great choice for a Year 7 teaching text or class reader.

Diverse | Coming of age



Michael Rosen's Pocket Shakespeare by Michael Rosen, illustrated by Chris Riddell

Shakespeare is introduced through highly accessible and fun chapters on love, plotting, insults, and more, with Michael Rosen selecting quotes and speeches and adding short notes on context and discussion. Useful glossaries are paired with each extract, and technical terms such as soliloquy and iambic pentameter are explained clearly. Chris Riddell's lively illustrations, together with helpful first lines of plays, make the book easy to browse, dip into and use for looking up. Highly recommended.

Shakespeare



Always Angel by Kimberly Whittam

Angel is a Year 8 pupil who finds school hard and is often in trouble. With her mum unwell and unable to care for her properly, Angel's life feels unstable and she struggles to fit in. She wants to do better, make friends and enter the school baking contest, but expectations based on her past behaviour are stacked against her. This powerful and ultimately uplifting contemporary story for Year 7s explores friendship, foster care, second chances and learning how to change your life for the better. It's ideal for book club discussion.

Contemporary



The Dark is Rising by Susan Cooper

Just prior to his 11th birthday, Will discovers he's the last person left with the power of the Old Ones, and his mission is to guard the Light and drive out the Dark. A gripping and imaginative story. The best-known (and stand-alone) book of *The Dark is Rising Sequence* is actually the second book in the series chronology of a captivating series of titles for year 7 readers interested in fantasy and mystery. Read the first book, *Over Sea Under Stone*, if you want to begin the sequence at the start.

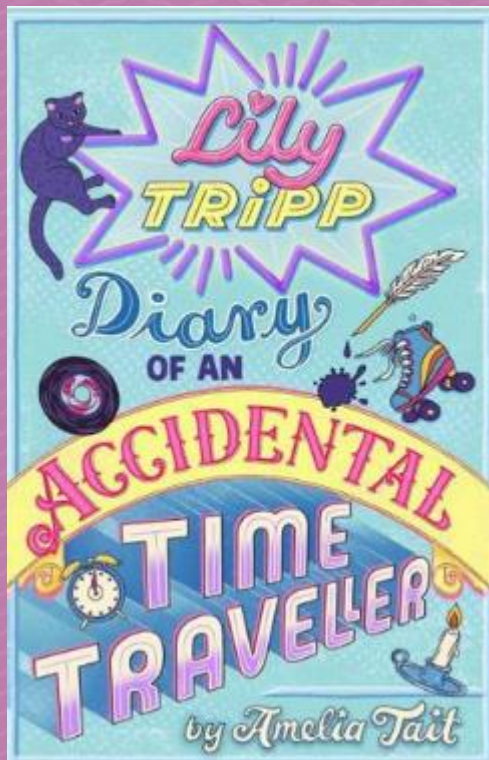
Fantasy



Escape! by Sophie McKenzie, illustrated by Melania Badosa

Bernice's school visit to a sea life sanctuary turns frightening when she and her friends are swept into the cold water of Shark Bay. Drawing on what she knows about marine creatures, she has to steady her nerves and guide everyone to safety. Set within the aquarium's tunnels and tanks, this highly accessible story blends risk, friendship and speed of thought. Short, pacy and unforgettable, it's bound to grab even the most reluctant readers in Year 7.

Adventure



Lily Tripp: Diary of an Accidental Time Traveller by Amelia Tait

Every New Year's Day, Lily wakes up in a different century. She has no control over where or when she lands, and has to cope with unfamiliar rules, clothes and customs while keeping her secret. Told through punchy and accessible diary entries, this stunning debut story mixes laugh-out-loud humour with contemporary friendship worries, family life and a quiet crush. Each jump brings a new historical setting to life, launching a spectacular time-slip series for 11+ year olds. Addictively readable, Lily Trip is highly recommended for readers in Year 7.

Science fiction | Funny

The Longdendale Library has a wide range of non-fiction and fiction books. If there is a particular collection that you wish to read. Please speak to Miss Payton in the Library