

KS3 Reading List




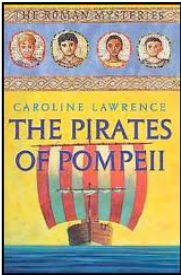
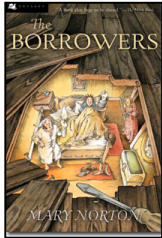
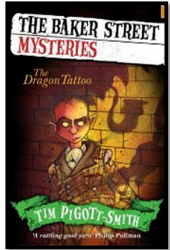
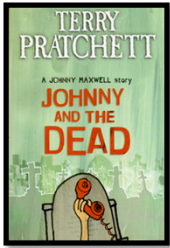
Dear pupils,

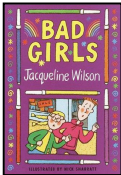
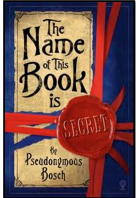

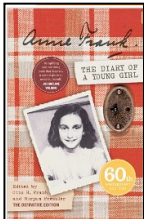
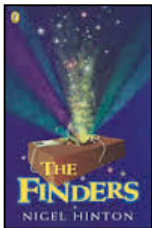
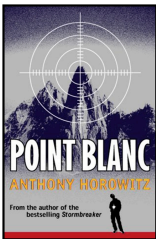
Prepare yourselves as this booklet is going to save your life. Of course, you know that reading improves your levels. However, more importantly, in this booklet you will find out about some fantastic books that are our favourites.


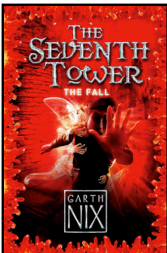

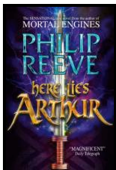
Ms Masud

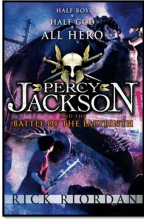
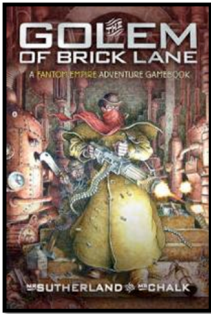

KS3 Reading List – English






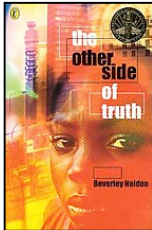
The stars show the difficulty of the text; one is the least difficult and three is the most difficult. However, if you like the sound of a book, then go for it as the most important thing about reading is to enjoy it.

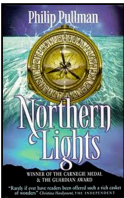
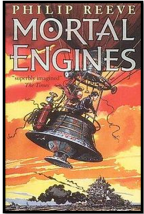

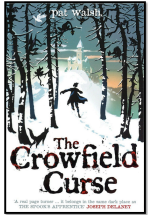
Title	Description	Level
<p><i>As Good as Dead in Downtown,</i> by Neil Arksey</p> 	<p>Kai lives on his wits in the slums of Portobello, under the rule of Nebula, the modern city on the peninsula. The Nebulan scientists are experimenting with genetically modified humans, but twins Phoebe and Phoenix escape from the lab and disappear into Portobello. Kai has been hired to find them, but will everything go to plan?</p>	<p>*</p>
<p><i>The Pirates of Pompeii,</i> by Caroline Lawrence</p> 	<p>It is AD 79 and Mount Vesuvius has erupted, destroying Pompeii. Among the thousands of people huddled in refugee camps along the bay of Naples are Flavia Gemina and her friends, Jonathan the Jewish boy, Nubia the African slave-girl, and Lupus the mute beggar boy. When the friends discover that children are being kidnapped from the camps, they start to investigate. Their search leads them to the pirates of Pompeii...</p> <p>A terrifically exciting and dramatic story.</p>	<p>*</p>
<p><i>The Borrowers,</i> by Mary Norton</p> 	<p>The Borrowers are a tiny race of people who live hidden away in houses or other safe, convenient places, and own nothing except for what they borrow from 'human beans'. But their lives become threatened when Pod is seen while on a borrowing expedition.</p> <p>Will the Borrowers survive?</p>	<p>*</p>
<p><i>Baker Street Mysteries: The Dragon Tattoo,</i> by Tim Pigott-Smith</p> 	<p>Sherlock Holmes has disappeared...</p> <p>Billy Chizzell dreams of hitting the headlines: YOUNG HERO LOCATES MASTER DETECTIVE! Billy's search takes him to Limehouse and a meeting with evil. Rescued by Sam Wiggins, Billy agrees to help Sam stop the plans of the infamous Dragon Clan of Shanghai. Yet, this isn't as easy as it sounds...</p>	<p>*</p>
<p><i>Johnny and the Dead,</i> by Terry Pratchett</p> 	<p>Sell the cemetery? Over their dead bodies.</p> <p>Not many people can see the dead (not many would want to). Twelve-year-old Johnny Maxwell can. And he's got bad news for them: the council want to sell the cemetery as a building site. But the dead have learnt a thing or two from Johnny. They're not going to take it lying down... especially since it's Halloween tomorrow.</p> <p>Besides, they're beginning to find that life is a lot more fun than it was when they were... well... alive. Particularly if they break a few rules.</p>	<p>*</p>

<p><i>Bad Girls,</i> by Jacqueline Wilson</p> 	<p>Mandy is being bullied at school. However, her life changes for the better when Tanya arrives across the road to stay with a foster family.</p>	<p>*</p>
<p><i>The Name of this Book is Secret,</i> by Pseudonymous Bosch</p> 	<p>When fearless investigators Cass and Max-Ernest set out to discover the history of the mysterious Symphony of Smells, they become embroiled in a dastardly experiment involving kidnapped children and the secret of eternal youth. Together they must come up with a plan to rescue their classmate from a hideous fate and escape the eerie pyramid of the Midnight Sun...</p>	<p>**</p>
<p><i>Titanic 2020,</i> by Colin Bateman</p> 	<p>Everyone said the original Titanic was unsinkable. We all know how that story ended. The new Titanic is also supposedly unsinkable. But there are worse things than drowning as Jimmy Armstrong quickly finds out.</p> <p>Stowing away wasn't one of his better ideas, but having to work his passage and put up with spoilt girl Claire is enough to make anyone want to jump overboard. That is until he finds out about a mysterious, incurable disease rapidly infecting the population.</p> <p>Suddenly, being at sea seems the safest place to be...</p>	<p>**</p>
<p><i>The Diary of Anne Frank,</i> by Anne Frank</p> 	<p>During the Nazi occupation of Poland at the time of World War II, Anne and her family are forced into hiding to avoid being identified as Jewish and sent to the death camps. A true life story, Anne records her thoughts in her diary as the threat of capture draws ever closer...</p>	<p>**</p>
<p><i>The Finders,</i> by Nigel Hinton</p> 	<p>Rosie posts a parcel for an old man and becomes spellbound by the properties of the Djinn star locked in the parcel. She travels in time with the finders – two creatures only she can see – to search for the evil Djinn and banish him forever.</p>	<p>**</p>
<p><i>Point Blanc,</i> by Antony Horowitz</p> 	<p>Investigations into the "accidental" deaths of two of the world's most powerful men have revealed just one link: both had a son attending Point Blanc Academy - an exclusive school for rebellious rich kids, run by the sinister Dr Grief and set high on an isolated mountain peak in the French Alps. Armed only with a false ID and a new collection of brilliantly disguised gadgets, Alex must infiltrate the academy as a pupil and establish the truth about what is really happening there.</p>	<p>**</p>

<p><i>The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe,</i> by C.S.Lewis</p> 	<p>A fantasy adventure when children step through the back of the wardrobe and encounter funny, amazing and fearful characters.</p>	<p>**</p>
<p><i>Drop Zone,</i> by Andy McNab</p> 	<p>Ethan Blake is seventeen and desperate to escape from his dead-end life. When he sees someone B.A.S.E. jump from the top of his block of flats, it changes the way he sees the world for ever.</p> <p>Soon, Ethan is caught up in the adrenaline-fuelled world of skydiving. He's a natural, so it's no surprise when he's invited to join an elite skydive team, but is he signing up for more than just jumping out of planes?</p>	<p>**</p>
<p><i>Private Peaceful,</i> by Michael Morpurgo</p> 	<p>'Tommo' Peaceful is recalling his childhood from those terrible battlefields of the First World War, his memories are full of family life in the countryside. But will war change his life forever?</p>	<p>**</p>
<p><i>The Seventh Tower: The Fall,</i> by Garth Nix</p> 	<p>In all the world there is only one place that ever sees the sun. A seven-towered castle built upon a mountain high above the desolate ice lands below.</p> <p>Tal is getting ready for the Day of Ascension – a day when all the 13-year-old Chosen from the Castle of Seven Towers enter the spirit world of Aenir. Then his father disappears with the family's Primary Sunstone. Without it, Tal cannot enter Aenir. Tal tries to steal a Sunstone, but he is thrown off the Castle of Seven Towers by a powerful Spiritshadow Keeper. He falls down to the iceworld below, where he is captured by Icecarls. To save his life, he must team up with Milla – a Shield-Maiden-in-training – and offer his aid to the nomads which complicates his task immeasurably...</p>	<p>**</p>
<p><i>Metawars: Fight for the Future,</i> by Jeff Norton</p> 	<p>Jonah Delacroix can't stand the real world - so he lives most of his life inside a global computer-based virtual world called the Metasphere, where everyone is represented by an avatar. When he discovers the avatar of his dead father, and assumes his online identity, a series of events are unleashed that compel Jonah to race across the real world with a secret society to protect the freedom of all mankind...</p>	<p>**</p>
<p><i>Here Lies Arthur,</i> by Philip Reeve</p> 	<p>Gwyna is just a small girl, a mouse, when she is bound in service to Myrddin the bard - a traveller and spinner of tales. But Myrddin transforms her - into a lady goddess, a boy warrior, and a spy. Without Gwyna, Myrddin will not be able to work the most glorious transformation of all - and turn the leader of a raggle-taggle-band into King Arthur, the greatest hero of all time.</p>	<p>**</p>

<p>Percy Jackson and the Battle of the Labyrinth, by Rick Riordan</p> 	<p>Honestly, blowing up another school was the last thing I wanted to do. As the son of a Greek god, I've had my share of near-death disaster. This summer, I didn't <i>choose</i> to battle the cheerleading squad, but when two hissing she-devils with fangs are heading straight for you, what's a half-blood meant to do?</p> <p>That was just the beginning. This is the one where my arch-enemy, Luke, is looking for a way to invade our camp via an ancient labyrinth. If he succeeds, thousands of bloodthirsty monsters will attack. So it's goodbye sunshine, hello darkness as four of us descend into the terrifying underground and beyond . . .</p>	<p>**</p>
<p>The Outlaw Varjak Paw, by SF Said</p> 	<p>Having saved the city cats from a fate worse than death, Varjak Paw finds himself the elected and popular leader of a new gang - a gang that supports freedom and kindness for all. But will the pressure take its toll on this brave yet sometimes naive cat?</p> <p>Soon the city erupts in an all-out gang war as the evil Sally Bones attempts to control the lives of all cats. Horrified and outnumbered, Varjak and the others must fight for their freedom or die trying; can Jalal's Way really be the best way?</p>	<p>**</p>
<p>Cirque du Freak, by Darren Shan</p> 	<p>Darren goes to a banned freak show with his best mate Steve. It's the wonderfully gothic Cirque Du Freak where weird, frightening half human/half animals appear who interact terrifyingly with the audience. Darren – a spider freak – 'falls in love' with Madam Octa – an enormous tarantula owned by Mr Crepsley. Darren determines to steal the spider so that he can train it to perform amazing deeds. But his daring theft goes horribly wrong and Darren finds himself having to make a bargain with a creature of the night.</p> <p>Atmospheric, funny, realistic, moving and... terrifying.</p>	<p>**</p>
<p>The Golem of Brick Lane, by Sutherland and Chalk</p> 	<p>Welcome to future past. We are in the reign of Queen Victoria and the Industrial Revolution is forcing great and terrible changes on the world. But civilisation stands at a junction: one road will lead to wealth, peace and prosperity, the other to war, poverty and ruin.</p> <p>Clockwork limbs, steam-powered automobiles, tanks and robots; aerial warships and an endless variety of inventions have been built using Steam Age technology. Dark and mysterious forces lurk on the fringes of civilisation, both human and supernatural. These forces reveal themselves as fleeting images only to those who have the power to see beyond the normal.</p> <p>YOU are Nicholas Fantom, a young newspaper reporter who has seen these forces, although few dare believe your visions. Only YOU have the will to battle these shadow empires.</p>	<p>**</p>
<p>The Machine Gunners, by Robert Westall</p> 	<p>Some bright kid's got a gun and 2000 rounds of live ammo. And that gun's no peashooter. It'll go through a brick wall at a quarter of a mile.' Chas McGill has the second-best collection of war souvenirs in Garmouth, and he desperately wants it to be the best. When he stumbles across the remains of a German bomber crashed in the woods - its shiny, black machine-gun still intact - he grabs his chance. Soon he's masterminding his own war effort with dangerous and unexpected results....</p>	<p>**</p>

<p><i>The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time,</i> by Mark Haddon</p> 	<p>A murder mystery like no other, this novel features Christopher Boone, a 15 year-old who suffers from Asperger's syndrome. When he finds a neighbour's dog murdered, he sets out on a terrifying journey destined to turn his whole world upside down.</p>	<p>***</p>
<p><i>Skulduggery Pleasant,</i> by Derek Landy</p> 	<p>Meet the great Skulduggery Pleasant: wise-cracking detective, powerful magician, master of dirty tricks and burglary (in the name of the greater good, of course).</p> <p>Oh yeah. And dead.</p> <p>Then there's his sidekick, Stephanie. She's... well, she's a twelve-year-old girl. With a pair like this on the case, evil had better watch out...</p>	<p>***</p>
<p><i>The Kite Rider,</i> by Geraldine McCaughrean</p> 	<p>Haoyou knows that his father's spirit lives among the clouds above Ancient China. He also knows that to save his mother from being forced into a new marriage he must now follow in his father's footsteps and take to the skies, riding a kite through the clouds and the spirits of the dead.</p> <p>Then the Jade Circus offers him a chance to escape his enemies and travel throughout the empire, and maybe even perform before Kublai Khan himself. But is going with the circus really the best option? It could be that the circus master is leading him into even greater danger.</p> <p>This outstanding story is like nothing else you've ever read - packed with action, adventure and emotion.</p>	<p>***</p>
<p><i>Shark Island,</i> by David Miller</p> 	<p>Hanna, Ned and their parents are on the holiday of a lifetime on the paradise island of Kaitan. But the idyll is shattered when pirates come in the night, burning their house and kidnapping their mother and father. The children are stranded, and don't even know if their parents are alive or dead. In this action-packed adventure, there is no one to help. Survival and escape are up to Hanna and Ned.</p>	<p>***</p>
<p><i>Operation Typhoon Shore,</i> by Joshua Mowill</p> 	<p>Celebes Sea, May 1920: battered by a typhoon, the <i>Expedient</i> is shipwrecked on a volcanic island. No radio, no rescue, no escape. Doug and Becca MacKenzie's search for their missing parents must wait, but what part did the mysterious Guild play in their disappearance? And what is their uncle, Captain MacKenzie, really searching for? Will the strange riddle Doug and Becca unearth be the key to the dark secrets of the Guild and a means to escaping the island?</p>	<p>***</p>
<p><i>The Other Side of Truth,</i> by Beverley Naidoo</p> 	<p>A tragedy – and a terrible loss occurs for Sade and her young brother Femi, children of an outspoken Nigerian journalist. Now terror is all around them and they must flee the country. At once. And alone. But once Sade and Femi reach England, they will be safe – won't they?</p>	<p>***</p>

<p>Northern Lights, by Philip Pullman</p> 	<p>"Without this child, we shall all die." Lyra Belacqua and her animal daemon live half-wild and carefree among scholars of Jordan College, Oxford. The destiny that awaits her will take her to the frozen lands of the Arctic, where witch-clans reign and ice-bears fight. Her extraordinary journey will have immeasurable consequences far beyond her own world...</p>	<p>***</p>
<p>Mortal Engines, by Phillip Reeve</p> 	<p>Tom and Hester have been thrown together. Truly-thrown out of a city on wheels that's left them stranded and starving in the middle of nowhere while it hares off after its prey. Hester is desperate for revenge, and Tom is only desperate to get back on board his beloved London. This is a novel that is a gripping adventure story set in an inspired fantasy world.</p>	<p>***</p>
<p>The Inventors, by Smith and Webb</p> 	<p>Nate and Cat absolutely love inventing. You name it, they've tried to build it. After accidentally turning their headmaster blue, they win a year's scholarship with the world's richest, cleverest, most charismatic inventor, Ebenezer Saint. And along with twenty-three of the brightest scientific minds in the land, they begin their year-long stay in the Saint's Solutions paradise, a vast industrial compound filled with unimaginable inventions.</p> <p>But it soon becomes clear that all is not what it seems. Ebenezer Saint is hiding a dark agenda - and if Nate and Cat ever want to see their families again, they will have to out-wit, out-run and out-invent the world's greatest inventor...</p>	<p>***</p>
<p>The Crowfield Curse, by Pat Walsh</p> 	<p>It's 1347 and fifteen-year-old Will, an orphan boy, lives at Crowfield Abbey. Sent into the forest to gather wood, he rescues instead, a creature from a trap - a hob, who shares with Will a terrible secret. Somewhere in the forest behind the abbey where he lives, is a grave. And buried deep in the snow is an angel. But how can an angel die? What has it to do with the monks of the Abbey? When two hooded strangers arrive at Crowfield asking questions about the angel's grave, Will is drawn into a world of dangerous Old Magic.</p>	<p>***</p>

READING at Maria Fidelis

We hope that you are reading regularly, widely and independently. Whilst it is most important that you read for pleasure, it is also important that you read a variety of texts. In addition to reading books you should also

- talk to friends and family about your reading
- read non-fiction books on other subjects that interest you i.e. sport, biography, travel writing, science etc.
- read news stories once or twice a week either online or in a newspaper
- read other online writing e.g. non-fiction websites, blogs etc.
- ask others for recommendations – what have they enjoyed from this book list?
- search for online recommended book lists e.g. top 50 sci-fi books: <http://forbiddenplanet.com/picks/50-sf-books-you-must-read/> .