



# READ THESE BOOKS!

## Year 7 Suggestions

**The Borrowers** Mary Norton. The Borrowers live in the secret places of quiet old houses. They own nothing, borrow everything, and think that human beings were invented just to do the dirty work. Then, their lives changed for ever when Arrietty, the daughter of Pod, an expert Borrower, made friends with the human boy living in the house...

**Boy** Roald Dahl. Roald Dahl's tales of his own childhood are completely fascinating and fiendishly funny. Did you know that Roald Dahl nearly lost his nose in a car accident? Or that he was once a chocolate candy tester for Cadbury's?

**The Call of The Wild** Jack London. The author, Jack London, explores the laws of civilization and wilderness—and the pull of instinct—through the eyes of Buck, a half Saint Bernard, half Scottish shepherd dog. Stolen from his comfortable life in California, Buck is sold into service as a sled dog during the Klondike Gold Rush, where returning to his primordial nature is the only way for him to survive.

**Carrie's War** Nina Bawden. It is the Second World War and Carrie and Nick are evacuated from London to a small town in Wales, where they are placed with strict Mr Evans and his timid mouse of a sister. Their friend Albert is luckier, living in Druid's Bottom with Hepzibah Green who tells wonderful stories, and the strange Mister Johnny, who speaks a language all of his own. Carrie and Nick are happy to visit Albert there, until one day when Carrie does a terrible thing - the worst thing she ever did in her life...

**The Wolf Wilder** Katherine Rundell. Feodora and her mother live in the snowbound woods of Russia. Ten minutes away, in a ruined chapel, lives a pack of wolves. Feodora's mother is a wolf wilder, and Feo is a wolf wilder in training. A wolf wilder is the opposite of an animal tamer: it is a person who teaches tamed animals to fend for themselves, and to fight and to run. When the

Russian army threatens her very existence, Feo is left with no option but to go on the run. What follows is a story of revolution and adventure, about standing up for the things you love and fighting back.

**Holes** Louis Sacher. Stanley Yelnats' family has a history of bad luck, so when a miscarriage of justice sends him to Camp Green Lake Juvenile Detention Centre he is not surprised. Every day he and the other inmates are told to dig a hole, five foot wide by five foot deep, reporting anything they find. The evil warden claims that it is character building, but this is a lie and Stanley must dig up the truth.

**A Monster Falls** Patrick Ness. Conor has the same dream every night, ever since his mother first fell ill, ever since she started the treatments that don't quite seem to be working. But tonight is different. Tonight, when he wakes, there's a visitor at his window.

**When Hitler Stole Pink Rabbit** Judith Kerr. Suppose your country began to change without your noticing and it became dangerous for some people to live in Germany any longer. Suppose you found, to your complete surprise, that your own father was one of those people. That is what happened to Anna in 1933. She was nine years old when it began, too busy to take much notice of political posters, but out of them glared the face of Adolf Hitler, the man who would soon change the whole of Europe - starting with her own small life.

**Swallows and Amazons** Arthur Ransome. The Walker children set sail on the *Swallow* and head for Wild Cat Island. There they camp under open skies, swim in clear water and go fishing for their dinner. But their days are disturbed by the Blakett sisters, the fierce Amazon pirates. The Swallows and Amazons decide to battle it out so begins a summer of unforgettable discoveries and incredible adventures.



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**Black Beauty** Anna Sewell. *Black Beauty* tells the story of the horse's own long and varied life, from a well-born colt in a pleasant meadow to an elegant carriage horse for a gentleman to a painfully overworked cab horse. Throughout, the author Anna Sewell, tackles - in a gentle, 19th-century manner - animal maltreatment

**The Garbage King** Elizabeth Laird. Inspired by the true story of an African childhood lived on the edge of destitution, *The Garbage King* takes you on an unforgettable emotional journey. When Mamo's mother dies, he is abandoned in the shanties of Addis Ababa. Stolen by a child-trafficker and sold to a farmer, he is cruelly treated. Escaping back to the city, he meets another, very different runaway. Dani is rich, educated - and fleeing his tyrannical father. Together they join a gang of homeless street boys who survive only by mutual bonds of trust and total dependence on each other.

**Millions** Frank Cottrell Boyce. Two brothers, Damian and Anthony, are unwittingly caught up in a train robbery during Britain's countdown to joining the Euro. Suddenly finding themselves with a vast amount of cash, the boys have just one glorious, appalling dilemma - how to spend it in the few days before it becomes worthless. Torn between the vices of buying a million pizzas and the virtues of ending world poverty, the boys soon discover that being rich is a mug's game. For not only is the clock ticking - the bungling bank robbers are closing in too. Pizzas or World Peace - what would *you* choose?

**The Secret Garden** Frances Hodgson Burnett. When Mary Lennox is sent to Misselthwaite Manor to live with her uncle everybody says she is the most disagreeable-looking child ever seen. It is true, too. Mary is pale, spoilt and quite contrary. But she is also horribly lonely. Then one day she hears about a garden in the grounds of the Manor that has been kept locked

and hidden for years. And when a friendly robin helps Mary find the key, she discovers the most magical place anyone could imagine...

**Stormbreaker** Alex Rider. In the first book in the number one bestselling Alex Rider series by Anthony Horowitz, fourteen-year-old Alex is forcibly recruited into MI6. Armed with secret gadgets, he is sent to investigate Herod Sayle, a man who is offering state-of-the-art Stormbreaker computers to every school in the country. But the teenage spy soon finds himself in mortal danger

**The Owl Service** Alan Garner. It all begins with the scratching in the ceiling. From the moment Alison discovers the dinner service in the attic, with its curious pattern of floral owls, a chain of events is set in progress that is to effect everybody's lives. Relentlessly, Alison, her step-brother Roger and Welsh boy Gwyn are drawn into the replay of a tragic Welsh legend - a modern drama played out against a background of ancient jealousies. As the tension mounts, it becomes apparent that only by accepting and facing the situation can it be resolved.

**The Harry Potter Series** JK Rowling. Starting with the first in the series, *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone*, these magical books are a must read for anyone interested in stories about friendship, adventure, magic and mystery. Read them all!

**Shadow of the Minotaur** Alan Gibbons. For Phoenix it's easy. He hates his new home and the new school where he is bullied. He's embarrassed by his computer geek dad. But when he logs on to *The Legendeer*, the game his dad is working on, he can be a hero. He is Theseus fighting the terrifying Minotaur, or Perseus battling with snake-haired Medusa. It feels as though he's really there. *The Legendeer* is more than just a game. Play it if you dare.