



READ THESE BOOKS!

Year 9 Suggestions

Lark by Anthony McGowan is the winner of the 2020 Carnegie Medal. It is also a dyslexia-friendly book and is suitable for reluctant readers...

Things are tense at home for Nicky and Kenny. Their mum's coming to visit and it will be the first time they've seen her in years. A lot has changed since they were little and Nicky's not so sure he's ready to see her again. When they head for a trek across the moors to take their minds off everything, a series of unforeseen circumstances leaves the brothers in a vulnerable and very dangerous position. There might even be a chance that this time not everyone will make it home alive.

All the Truth That's In Me Julie Berry. This is a story of desperate yearning and unrequited love. It's a page-turning mystery full of twists and turns that will keep you guessing until the very end. But most of all it's an empowering drama about a girl's journey from victim to hero.

Dead Girls Don't Write Letters Gail Giles. When Jazz is reported dead and her apartment burns down, Sunny, Jazz's sister, receives a letter from jazz. But how could she? Jazz is dead!

Elsewhere Gabrielle Zevin. Liz is killed in a hit and run accident and her 'life' takes an unexpected turn. But things carry on almost as they did on Earth except that the inhabitants get younger, dogs and humans can communicate, and new relationships are formed.

Empire of the Sun J G Ballard. The story of a boy's life in a Japanese prisoner of war camp during World War Two.

Jane Eyre Charlotte Bronte. The story of a young girl growing up and becoming an independent woman in Victorian England.

My Sister Lives on the Mantelpiece Annabel Pitcher. Heart breaking and funny in near equal measure, this is the story of 10-year-old Jamie's direct and wide-eyed telling of the emotional chaos he and his family live through following the death of his sister in a terrorist attack.

Out of the Easy Ruta Sepetys. Out of the Easy is set against the vivid backdrop of 1950s New Orleans. Written by *New York Times* bestselling author Ruth Sepetys, this novel has something for

everyone: love, mystery, murder, blackmail and warmth.

Refugee Boy Benjamin Zephaniah. As the family lay sleeping, soldiers kicked down the door of the house and entered waving their rifles round erratically...

Rivers of London Ben Aaronovitch. Rivers of London is highly recommended for anyone looking for some urban fantasy fun with a real life spin, the sights and smells of London just ooze out from between the pages.

Stuff of Nightmares Malorie Blackman. Kyle has always been afraid of things, especially dying. But when he gets on the train that is taking him and his class on a school trip, he has no idea how close to death he is going to come.

The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn Mark Twain. Mark Twain's satiric masterpiece opens with Huck running from his murderous father while Jim is fleeing slavery. The pair join forces and pilot a raft down the Mississippi with many adventures.

The Bunker Diary Kevin Brooks. *Room* meets *Lord of the Flies*, *The Bunker Diary* is a pulse-pounding exploration of what happens when your worst nightmare comes true - and how will you survive?

The Child's Elephant Rachel Campbell-Johnston. An African tale of two halves: *Born Free/Bambi* crossed with a dark and sad tale of child soldiers.

The Earthsea Quartet Ursula Le Guin. One of the major works of fantasy of the twentieth century.

The Echo Boy Matt Haig. Audrey's father taught her that to stay human in the modern world, she had to build a moat around herself; a moat of books and music, philosophy and dreams. A moat that makes Audrey different from the echoes: Daniel is an echo - but he's not like the others. He feels a connection with Audrey; a feeling Daniel knows he was never designed to have, and cannot explain. And when Audrey is placed in terrible danger, he's determined to save her.

The Flambarbs Series K M Peyton. This series follows the life of Christina, who grows up as an



READ THESE BOOKS!

Year 9 Suggestions

orphan in the home of her crippled Uncle. It gives a wonderful peak into life during the early part of the 20th century and WWI. Great books about life, living and love.

The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy Douglas Adams. One Thursday lunchtime the Earth is unexpectedly demolished to make way for a new hyperspace bypass. For Arthur Dent, who has only just had his house demolished that morning, this seems already to be more than he can cope with.

The Hunted Charlie Higson. The sickness struck everyone over fourteen. First it twisted their minds, next it ravaged their bodies. Now they roam the streets, crazed and hungry.

The Lie Tree Frances Hardinge. Faith's father has been found dead under mysterious circumstances, and as she is searching through his belongings for clues she discovers a strange tree. The tree only grows healthy and bears fruit if you whisper a lie to it. The fruit of the tree, when eaten, will deliver a hidden truth to the person who consumes it. The bigger the lie, the more people who believe it, the bigger the truth that is uncovered. The girl realises that she is good at lying and that the tree might hold the key to her father's murder, so she begins to spread untruths far and wide across her small island community. But as her tales spiral out of control, she discovers that where lies seduce, truths shatter.

The Lord of the Rings J.R.R Tolkien. 'One ring to rule them all and in the darkness bind them.'

The Machine Gunners Robert Westall. Some bright kid's got a gun and 2000 rounds of ammo. And that gun's no peashooter. It will go through a brick wall at a ¼ of a mile away.

The Rest of Us Just Live Here Patrick Ness.

Award-winning writer Patrick Ness's bold and irreverent novel powerfully asks what if you weren't the Chosen One?

What I Was Meg Rosoff. 'I was at boarding school in East Anglia, my third. I didn't want to be there. But if there had been no school, there would be no Finn. He lived in a hut on the coast. He was like the hut in fact - it took a while for both of them to warm up. Now I am waiting for the end, and looking back to the beginning.'

Why We Took the Car Wolfgang Herndoff. Mike doesn't get why people think he's boring. Sure, he doesn't have many friends. And everyone laughs at him when he reads his essays out loud in class. And he's never invited to parties. But one day Tschick, the odd new boy at school, shows up at Mike's house out of the blue. He dares him to go on a road trip with him. No parents, no map, no destination. Will they get hopelessly lost in the middle of nowhere? Probably. Will they meet crazy people and get into serious trouble? Definitely. But will they ever be called boring again? Not a chance!

Am I Normal Yet Holly Bourne. All Evie wants is to be normal. And now that she's almost off her meds and at a new college where no one knows her as the-girl-who-went-nuts, there's only one thing left to tick off her list...But relationships can mess with anyone's head - something Evie's new friends Amber and Lottie know only too well. The trouble is, if Evie won't tell them her secrets, how can they stop her making a huge mistake?

Noughts and Crosses Malorie Blackman. Sephy is a Cross: she lives a life of privilege and power. But she's lonely, and burns with injustice at the world she sees around her. Callum is a nought: he's considered to be less than nothing - a blanker, there to serve Crosses - but he dreams of a better life. They've been friends since they were children, and they both know that's as far as it can ever go. Noughts and Crosses are fated to be bitter enemies - love is out of the question. Then - in spite of a world that is fiercely against them - these star-crossed lovers choose each other. But this is love story that will lead both of them into terrible danger . . . and which will have shocking repercussions for generations to come. This is the first book in Malorie Blackman's brilliant series.

Further resources:

[Books for 13/14 year-olds \(358 books\) \(goodreads.com\)](#)

[Ultimate Teen Reading List Books \(goodreads.com\)](#)