



# Recommended Reads: KS3

## Action, Adventure, Mystery & Thrillers

*The Terrible Thing [...] Barnaby Brocket* by John Boyne  
*Bodyguard* or *The Soul Hunters* (& sequels) -C Bradford  
*Mortal Chaos* or *Lie, Kill, Walk Away* by M Dickinson \*(!)  
*The London Eye Mystery* by Siobhan Dowd (!)  
*Boy Overboard* by Morris Gleitzman  
*Hide and Seeker* by Daka Hermon  
*Murder in Midwinter* by Fleur Hitchcock  
*High Rise Mystery & Mic Drop* by Sharna Jackson  
*I Have No Secrets* by Penny Joelson (!)  
*The Long Weekend* by Savita Kalhan  
*Don't Doubt the Rainbow* by Anthony Kessel  
*Eight Pieces of Silva/Splinters of Sunshine*-Lawrence\* (!)  
*Where the World Ends* by Geraldine McCaughrean\* (!)  
*Hide & Secrets* or *Girl Missing* (& sequels) by S McKenzie  
*Edge of Extinction* by Laura Martin  
*The Recruit* or *Robin Hood* (& sequels) - R Muchamore\*  
*Hatchet* by Gary Paulsen  
*Ruby in the Smoke* by Phillip Pullman  
*Wolf Wilder, Rooftopper* or *The Explorer* by K Rundell  
*Murder Most Unladylike* (& sequels) by Robin Stevens  
*Girl. Boy. Sea* by Chris Vick\*  
*The Extinction Trials* or *The Infinity Files* by SM Wilson\*

## Animal Fiction

*The One and Only Ivan* by K Applegate (gorillas)  
*The Shark Caller* by Zillah Bethell (sharks) (!)  
*Fenway and Hattie* by Victoria Cole (dogs)  
*The Last Bear* by Hannah Gold (polar bear)  
*A Street Dog Named Pup* by Gill Lewis (dogs) (!)  
*War Horse* by Michael Morpurgo (horses) (!)  
*A Wolf Called Wander* by Rosanne Parry (wolves)  
*Pax* by Sarah Pennypacker (foxes) (!)  
*Where the Red Fern Grows* by Wilson Rawls (dogs) (!)  
*Cat Tales: True Stories of Fantastic Felines*- P Rich (cats)  
*Varjak Paw* by SF Said (cats)  
*I, Cosmo* by Carlie Sorosiak (dogs)  
*Dreaming the Bear* by Mimi Thebo (grizzly bears)  
*The Dog Who Saved the World* by Ross Welford (dogs)

## Environment & Climate Change

*Where the River Runs Gold* by Sita Brahmachari  
*World Burn Down* by Steve Cole (SR)  
*Breathe* by Sarah Crossan  
*Melt* by Ele Fountain  
*Squirm, Flush, Chomp* or *Hoot* by Carl Hiaasen  
*FloodWorld & DustRoad* by Tom Huddleston  
*Song of the Dolphin Boy* by Elizabeth Laird  
*Moon Bear* or *White Dolphin* by Gill Lewis (!)  
*The Dog Runner, Across the Risen Sea* - B Macdibble (!)  
*Between Sea and Sky & World Turns Wild* by N Penfeld  
*Here in the Real World* by Sarah Pennypacker (!)  
*Dry* by Neal & Jarrod Shusterman (!)  
*The Summer We Turned Green* by William Sutcliffe  
*No One is Too Small to Make a Difference*– G Thunberg  
*Harklights* by Tim Tilley  
*The Last Wild* (& sequels) by Piers Torday

## Dystopian & Science Fiction

*The Infinite* (& sequels) by Patience Agbabi  
*The Middler* or *Troofriend* by Kirsty Applebaum  
*The Last Human* by Lee Bacon  
*Ink* by Alice Broadway\*  
*City of Rust* by Gemma Fowler  
*Gone* or *BRZK* (& sequels) -Michael Grant\*  
*How I Saved the World in a Week* by Polly Ho-Yen  
*Nowhere on Earth* by Nick Lake\*  
*The Giver* and *Gathering Blue* by Lois Lowry\* (!)  
*The Supreme Lie* by Geraldine McCaughrean (!)  
*Show Us Who You Are* by Elle McNicholl  
*No Man's Land* by Joanna Nadin  
*The Knife of Never Letting Go* (& sequels)-P Ness \*(!)  
*Railhead & Mortal Engines* (& sequels)-P Reeve (!)  
*Scythe, Unwind* (& sequels) – N Shusterman \*(!)  
*Destination Earth* by Ali Sparkes  
*Contagion* or *Slated* (& sequels) by Teri Terry\*  
*The Kid Who Came From Space* by Ross Welford  
*The 5th Wave* (& sequels) by Rick Yancey (!)

## Fantasy, Magic Realism, Horror & Ghost

*The House With Chicken Legs & Girl/Bear* -S. Anderson  
*Six of Crows* by Leigh Bardugo\*  
*Asha & The Spirit Bird* by Jasbinder Bilan  
*Artemis Fowl* (& sequels) by Eoin Colfer  
*Pet* by Akwaeke Emezi\*  
*Who Let the Gods Out* (& sequels) by Maz Evans  
*Ranger's Apprentice* or *Brotherband* - J Flanagan  
*Inkheart* (& sequels) or *Reckless* by Cornelia Funke (!)

*The Graveyard Book* by Neil Gaiman (!)  
*Blackberry Blue* by Jamila Gavin (!)  
*Rumaysa: A Fairytale* by Radiya Hafiza  
*Brightstorm: A Sky-Ship Adventure* by Vashti Hardy  
*Girl of Ink and Stars* by Kiran Millwood Hargrave (!)  
*Skulduggery Pleasant* (& sequels) by Derek Landy  
*Eragon* (& sequels) by Christopher Paolini  
*Tales of Terror, Mister Creecher* –Chris Priestley  
*Northern Lights* (& sequels) by Phillip Pullman \*(!)  
*Goth Girl* (& sequels) by Chris Riddell (SR)  
*Mrs Peregrine’s Home for Peculiar Children* -Riggs  
*Alcatraz & Evil Librarians* (& sequels) by B Sanderson  
*Zom-B or Cirque du Freak* (& sequels) by D. Shan  
*Oh My Gods* by Alexandra Sheppard  
*Black Panther the Young Prince* by Roland L Smith  
*Fear Street* by RL Stine  
*The Edge Chronicles* by P Stewart and C Riddell  
*Children of the Quicksands* by Efua Traore

### **Graphic Novels (GN), Short Stories (SS), Verse Novels (VN), Super-Readable (SR)**

*Booked, Crossover, Rebound* y Kwame Alexander (VN)  
*Gamer* (& sequels) by Chris Bradford (SR)  
*El Deafo* by Cece Bell (GN)  
*Jon for Short* by Malorie Blackman (SR)  
*Worst Case Collin* by Rebecca Caprara (VN)  
*Mind Writer* by Steve Cole (SR)  
*New Kid* or *Class Act* by Jerry Craft (GN)  
*Grave Matter* by Juno Dawson (SR)  
*Stat Man* by Alan Durant (SR)  
*Edgar & Adolf* by Phil Earle & Michael Wagg (SR)  
*Flying Lessons & Other Stories* ed by Ellen Oh (SS)  
*Coraline: Graphic Novel* by Neil Gaiman & C Russell (GN)  
*The Greatest (Muhammed Ali)* by Alan Gibbons (SR)  
*Amazons, Abolitionists and Activists: A Graphic History of Women’s Fight for Rights* -Mikki Kendall (GN)  
*Amulet: The Stonekeeper* by Kazu Kibuishi (GN)  
*Rat* by Patrice Lawrence (SR)  
*In the Key of the Code* by Aimee Lucido (VN)  
*I am Minotaur* by Anthony McGowan (SR)  
*Run Rebel* by Manjeet Mann (VN)\*  
*145<sup>th</sup> Street: Short Stories* by Walter Dean Myers  
*White Bird* by RJ Palacio (GN)  
*Unboxed* by Non Pratt  
*Miles Morales: Spider Man* by Jason Reynolds (GN)  
*Look Both Ways* by Jason Reynolds (SS)  
*Pumpkin Heads* by Rainbow Rowell (GN)  
*Dark Peak* by Marcus Sedgwick (SR)  
*Operation Frog Effect* by Sara Scheerger  
*Dracula* by Bram Stoker retold by Burgan & Ruiz (GN)  
*The Small Things* by Lisa Thompson (SR)

*Lost (Choose Your Own Adventure)* -Tracey Turner (SR)  
*Stargazing* by Jen Wang (GN)

### **Humorous books**

*Little Badman &[...] Killer Aunties* - Humza Arshad  
*Noah’s Gold, Millions, Cosmic or Broccoli Boy* –FC Boyce  
*The Last Kids on Earth* (& sequels) by Max Brallier  
*Adventures of a Wimpy Superhero*(&more)-T.Collins  
*The 13-Storey Treehouse* (& series) by A Griffiths  
*How to Survive Without Grownups* by Larry Hayes  
*Cookie & the Most Annoying Boy...* by Konnie Huq  
*Disaster Diaries: Zombies* (&sequels)-R McGeddon  
*The Accidental Series* by Tom McLaughlin  
*The World of Norm* series by Jonathon Meres (SR)  
*Accidental Trouble: Planet Omar* by Zanib Mian  
*Timmy Failure* series by Stephan Pastis  
*Super-Miraculous Journey of Freddie Yates*–Pearson (!)  
*The Boy Who Made Everyone Laugh* by Helen Rutter  
*Tom Gates* series by Liz Pichon (SR)  
*Something I Said* by Ben Bailey Smith  
*Big Nate* series by Lincoln Peirce (SR)  
*The Day the Screens Went Blank* by Danny Wallace

### **The Immigrant Experience & Refugees**

*No Ballet Shoes in Syria* by Catherine Bruton  
*Efren Divided* by Ernesto Cisneros (!)  
*Illegal* by Eoin Colfer (GN)  
*Boy, Everywhere* by A.M. Dassu (!)  
*Boy 87* by Ele Fountain  
*The Bone Sparrow* by Zana Fraillion (!)  
*The Island* by Armin Greder (PB for older readers)  
*The Eleventh Trade* by Alyssa Hollingsworth  
*Amina’s Voice* by Hena Khan  
*When Stars Are Scattered* by Jamieson & Mohamed (GN)  
*Inside Out and Back Again* by Thanhha Lai (VN) (!)  
*The Crossing* by Manjeet Mann\* (VN)  
*A Glasshouse of Stars* by Shirley Marr  
*A Long Walk to Water* by Linda Sue Park  
*The Red Pencil* by Andrea David Pinkney  
*Esperanza Rising* by Pam Munoz Ryan  
*The Arrival* by Shaun Tan (PB for older readers)  
*Other Words For Home* by Jasmine Warga (VN)  
*Front Desk* by Kelly Yang  
*The Windrush Child* or *Refugee Boy*\*-B Zephaniah

### **Relationships & Tough Situations**

*Cyborg Cat* (& sequels)- Ade Adepitan\* (!)  
*Boy Underwater* by Adam Baron (!)  
*Noughts and Crosses*\* or *Pig-Heart Boy* - M Blackman (!)

*Artichoke Hearts* or *Jasmine Skies* -S. Brahmachari  
*A Pocketful of Stars* by Aisha Bushby  
*One, Apple & Rain, Moonrise, Toffee* -S Crossan\*(!)  
*Heartbeat* by Sharon Creech  
*Me, My Dad and the End of the Rainbow* by B Dean  
*Stella By Starlight* or *Blended* by Sharon Draper (!)  
*Running on Empty* by S.E. Durrant  
*Mind the Gap, Being Billy or Saving Daisy* - P Earle  
*The Many Worlds of Albie Bright* –Chris Edge  
*Mockingbird* by Kathryn Erskine (!)  
*Tulip Touch, Goggle Eyes or Flour Babies* by A. Fine  
*Lenny’s Book of Everything* by Karen Foxlee  
*Check Mates & The Perfect Parent Project* by S Foster (!)  
*One Crazy Summer* by Rita Williams-Garcia  
*When Life Gives You Mangoes* by Kereen Getten (!)  
*George* or *Rick* by Alex Gino  
*Tall Story* or *Shine* by Candy Gourlay  
*The Island at the End of Everything* by KM Hargrave(!)  
*After the Fire* by Will Hill\*(!)  
*Boy in the Tower* by Polly Ho-Yen  
*Red Sky in the Morning* or *Secret Friends* -E Laird (!)  
*Scarlet Ibis, Swan Song, or Eagle Warrior* (SR) - G Lewis  
*Rain Reign* by Ann M Martin  
*Brock, Pike, Rook & Lark* by Anthony McGowan \*(!)  
*A Kind of Spark* by Elle McNicholl (!)  
*A Monster Calls* by Patrick Ness (!)  
*No Fixed Address* or *Word Nerd* – Susin Nielsen\*(!)  
*Wonder* or *Pony* by R.J. Palacio (!)  
*Pax* or *Here in the Real World* - S Pennypacker (!)  
*A Good Kind of Trouble* by Lisa Moore Ramee  
*The Star Outside My Window* by Onjali Rauf (!)  
*Long Way Down* (VN or GN) by Jason Reynolds \*(!)  
*Ghost Boys* or *Black Brother[...]* Jewell P Rhodes (!)  
*Can You See Me* or *Do You Know Me*–Scott & Westcott  
*The Marvels* or *Wonderstruck* by Brian Selznick (1/2 GN)  
*The Boxer* by Nikesh Shukla\*(!)  
*Counting by 7’s* by Holly Goldberg Sloan  
*Stargirl* by Jerry Spinelli \*(!)  
*Clean Getaway* or *Fast Pitch* by Nic Stone  
*The Hate U Give* by Angie Thomas\* (!)  
*Goldfish Boy* by Lisa Thompson  
*The 1000 Year Old Boy* or *Time/Hamster* - Ross Welford  
*A Boy Called Hope* or *Ocean/Armchair* - by L Williamson  
*Brown Girl Dreaming* or *Harbor Me* - J Woodson\*(!)

## Sports

*Booked, Crossover or Rebound* – K. Alexander\* (!)  
*Unstoppable* or *Man of the Match* - Dan Freedman  
*Kick* by Mitch Johnson

*The Fix* by Sophie McKenzie  
*The Greatest: Muhammed Ali* by Walter D Myers\*  
*Ultimate Football Heroes Collection* – M&T Oldfield  
*Football Academy* or *Foul Play* series–Tom Palmer  
*Becoming Muhammed Ali* by J Patterson & K Alexander  
*Soccer Squad, Dream On (& series)* by Bali Rai  
*Gloves Off* by Louisa Reid\* (VN)  
*Ghost, Patina, Sunny, Lu* (Track series) by J Reynolds  
*Macbeth United: A Football Tragedy* by Michael Rosen  
*Outcasts United* (young people edition) -W. St John  
*The Football Boy Wonder* (& sequels) - Martin Smith  
*Pay Attention, Carter Jones* by Gary Schmidt\* (!)

## History, War & Conflict

*Soldier Dog* or *A Horse Called Hero* - Sam Angus  
*Unbound* by Anne Burg\*(VN)  
*The Short Knife* by Elen Caldecott\* (!)  
*Wolf Children, Red Shadow, Eleven Eleven* -Dowswell  
*Copper Sun* by Sharon Draper\* (!)  
*The Last Paper Crane* by Kerry Drewery (!)  
*When the Sky Falls* by Phil Earle (WWII)  
*Under a War-Torn Sky* or *Suspect Red* y L.M. Elliott  
*Once* (& sequels) by Morris Gleitzman  
*Bone Talk* by Candy Gourlay (!)  
*Grenade, Ground Zero* or *Prisoner B-3087* - Alan Gratz\*  
*The Goose Road* by Rowena House  
*Race to the Frozen North, 1783, Blade and Bones* or  
*Sawbones* by Catherine Johnson (!)  
*When the World Was Ours* by Liz Kessler\*  
*Orphan Monster Spy* by Matt Killeen\* (!)  
*Crusade* by Elizabeth Laird  
*Buffalo Soldier, Apache* or *Lightning Strike*- T Landman\*  
*Dog Tags: Semper Fido* or *Strays* by C A London\*  
*Diver’s Daughter: A Tudor Story* by P Lawrence  
*The Skylarks’ War* or *The Swallows’ Flight*- H McKay  
*Red Stars* by Davide Morosinotto\*  
*Shadow* or *In the Mouth of the Wolf* -Morpurgo  
*Sunrise Over Fallujah* by Walter Dean Myers\*  
*After the War, Armistice Runner* or *Over/Line*-T Palmer  
*Now or Never: A Dunkirk Story* or *The Royal Rebel: The Life of Suffragette Princess Sophia Singh* by Bali Rai  
*Salt to the Sea* or *Fountains of Silence* by R Sepetys \*(!)  
*Eagle of the Ninth* by Rosemary Sutcliffe (!)  
*The Land* or *Roll of Thunder* by Mildred D Taylor\*  
*Cane Warriors* by Alex Wheatle\* (!)  
*The Book Thief* by Marcus Zusak\* (!)

\* = Content is slightly more mature

! = Our favourite reads