



Summer Reading Suggestions

Year 7 and 8

[Race to Kangaroo Cliff](#) by [Alexander McCall Smith](#)

In a nutshell: exciting children's adventure story on a tall ship Twins Ben and Fee will be the envy of children everywhere: their school is a tall ship and alongside ordinary lessons they learn seamanship and how to sail.

[The Lifters](#) by [Dave Eggers](#)

Granite Flowerpetal is new to the town of Carousel, an unusual city with a big mystery. He learns that underground the city, people like Catalina Catalan work as Lifters. Their job is to prop up the many tunnels created by the townspeople's sadness, the Hollows. Granite (Gran) and Catalina soon realize that it's up to them to fight the Hollows and save the town from sinking.

[I Capture the Castle](#) by [Dodie Smith](#)

17-year-old Cassandra lives an eccentric existence with her bohemian family in a crumbling castle in the English countryside, in this delightful classic coming-of-age story.

[The Ruby in the Smoke](#) by [Philip Pullman](#)

Determined to discover the truth about her father's tragic death, Sally Lockhart is plunged into a dangerous and terrifying adventure that takes her to the dark heart of Victorian London.

[A Skinful of Shadows](#) by [Frances Hardinge](#)

May 2018 Book of the Month | A Julia Eccleshare Pick of the Month May 2018 | Shortlisted for Waterstones Book of the Year 2017 Award-winning Frances Hardinge's latest novel bubbles over with brilliant ideas in a fast-paced and thought-provoking adventure...

[A Good Day for Climbing Trees](#) by [Jaco Jacobs](#)

In a nutshell: quirky treetop adventure with a streak of activism Cape Town is the setting for Jaco Jacobs' quirky adventure, but the emotions described will be familiar to all young readers. It's the holidays and Marnus is bored...

Year 9

[The Family Tree](#) by [Mal Peet](#)

June 2018 Book of the Month | **In a nutshell:** themes of fatherhood, memory and guilt explored in haunting YA novella Mal Peet, who died in 2015, wrote with extraordinary sensitivity and insight and this novella, freshly published by Barrington...

[Starry Eyes](#) by [Jenn Bennett](#)

In a Nutshell: Summer of romance, revelations, friendship and feuds Stars collide and sparks fly in this electrifying story of a wildly unforgettable summer. Thought-provoking, funny and flooded with energy, this is contemporary YA at it's finest.

[Encounters](#) by [Jason Wallace](#)

April 2018 Book of the Month | Shortlisted for the UKLA 2018 Book Award | **In a Nutshell:** Alleged alien encounter inspired by true events | An utterly absorbing novel based on the real-life phenomenon of a



group of Zimbabwean schoolchildren...

[Open Road Summer](#) by [Emery Lord](#)

In a Nutshell: Road-trip, romance, fame and friendship Surely one for fans of Jandy Nelson and Rainbow Rowell, this smart coming-of-age story reels with romance, life lessons and big questions about finding your way.

[Genuine Fraud](#) by [E. Lockhart](#)

June 2018 Book of the Month. Wonderfully chilling, this is another thrilling treat from E. Lockhart, author of *We Were Liars*. Two girls, in an intense relationship are both looking for escape but at what cost?

[Savage Island](#) by [Bryony Pearce](#)

In a Nutshell: When a £1 million prize game becomes more than a game... Extreme pressure, perils and outright horrors fester when five friends enter a contest on a private island and find themselves in a gruesome fight for survival...

Year 10

[Good Me, Bad Me](#) by [Ali Land](#)

Milly's mother is a serial killer. Though Milly loves her mother, the only way to make her stop is to turn her in to the police. Milly is given a fresh start: a new identity, a home with an affluent foster family, and a spot at an exclusive private school.

[Black Rabbit Summer](#) by [Kevin Brooks](#)

Pete Boland is facing a long hot lazy summer, when everything changes and he is drawn back into a complicated friendship group one last time before everyone drifts in different directions. Pete is instantly likeable because of his loyalty to his odd mate Raymond, though all the characters here feel real, flawed and familiar. In an edgy atmosphere of shifting loyalties, Pete and his mates get drunk, then head to the funfair where the worst night of their lives starts to unfold.

[The Sky Is Everywhere](#) by [Jandy Nelson](#)

When Lennie's beloved sister Bailey dies, she's heartbroken. She struggles with the enormity of her feelings and the fact that she's suddenly obsessed with sex and finding herself drawn to her sister's fiancé Toby. Lennie's grief actually makes her more alive than ever, and she battles it, feeling disloyal to Bailey. The arrival of beautiful new boy Joseph is a welcome distraction. Preoccupied with her loss, yet Lennie manages to let him in and they fall in love over the hot Californian summer – till Joseph sees her kissing Toby and recoils in bitterness.

[A Song for Ella Grey](#) by [David Almond](#)

David Almond's reworking of the Orpheus myth is set in the beautiful Northumberland landscape. It starts at the beginning of an ordinary summer, with a group of friends facing the exam season, and restlessly searching for more. They escape the city and camp on the beach, drinking, talking, singing and falling in love. But two of them fall in love more deeply and more dangerously than the others: Ella Grey and the mysterious newcomer Orpheus.

[We Were Liars](#) by [E Lockhart](#)

Stylish, compelling and heartbreaking, this is one of our favourite books of recent years. We have to be careful how we describe it, as the plot twist is so breathtakingly successful that we had to start from the beginning the moment I finished reading it.



Bone Jack by Sara Crowe

This summer, Ash Tyler has won the right to be the stag boy in the local Stag Chase, like his father twenty years earlier. Ash wants his father, Stephen, to witness his race, but he has returned from war altered by trauma. There's also a new distance between Ash and his best friend Mark Cullen, grieving for his own father who killed himself after the foot-and-mouth outbreak destroyed their farm. While out running, Ash encounters ghostly apparitions of a previous Stag Chase, as well as the mysterious figure of Bone Jack. By the end of the novel, Ash is running for his survival, forced to make life-or-death decisions.

The Square Root of Summer by Harriet Reuter Hapgood

Gottie is dealing with lots of stuff: the death of her beloved grandfather, the cooling of her first love with Jason, the return of her former best-friend-next-door Thomas, oh, and some weird worm-holes when time and memory do not behave according to the rules.

Young Adult Summer Reads

The Bell Jar by Sylvia Plath

When Esther Greenwood wins an internship on a New York fashion magazine in 1953, she is elated, believing she will finally realise her dream to become a writer. But in between the cocktail parties and piles of manuscripts, Esther's life begins to slide out of control

One Flew Over The Cuckoo's Nest by Ken Kesey

Tyrannical Nurse Ratched rules her ward in an Oregon State mental hospital with a strict and unbending routine, unopposed by her patients, who remain cowed by mind-numbing medication and the threat of electroshock therapy. But her regime is disrupted by the arrival of McMurphy - the swaggering, fun-loving trickster with a devilish grin who resolves to oppose her rules on behalf of his fellow inmates.

Girl Interrupted by Susanna Kayson

In 1967, after a session with a psychiatrist she'd never seen before, eighteen-year-old Susanna Kaysen was put in a taxi and sent to McLean Hospital to be treated for depression.

The Great Gatsby by F Scott Fitzgerald

Fitzgerald-inspired by the parties he had attended while visiting Long Island's north shore-began planning the novel in 1923, desiring to produce, in his words, "something new-something extraordinary and beautiful and simple and intricately patterned."

Slaughter House 5 by Kurt Vonnegut

Prisoner of war, optometrist, time-traveller - these are the life roles of Billy Pilgrim, hero of this miraculously moving, bitter and funny story of innocence faced with apocalypse. Slaughterhouse 5 is one of the world's great anti-war books.

The Beach by Alex Garland

Richard lands in East Asia in search of an earthly utopia. In Thailand, he is given a map promising an unknown island, a secluded beach - and a new way of life. What Richard finds when he gets there is breath taking: more extraordinary, more frightening than his wildest dreams.

Blogs to Suit Every Taste:

KS3:

- ThisGirlCan (sport)



HEART OF ENGLAND

Creating Futures

- TheRugbyBlog (rugby)
- GuardianGamesBlog (gaming)
- Caughtoffsideblog (football)
- Techcrunchblog (tech and gadgets)
- <http://www.trulymadlykids.co.uk/> (Craft, food, travel)
- Nationalgeographickids

KS4:

- Teen Vogue (fashion)
- Libdemchild (politics)
- NewTigerInTown (about parents!)
- Foodieat15 (food)
- The F Bomb (feminism)
- Ultraculture (films)
- ThisGirlCan (sport)
- TheRugbyBlog (rugby)
- GuardianGamesBlog (gaming)
- Caughtoffsideblog (football)
- Techcrunchblog (tech and gadgets)