

Advanced reading list for KS3

Noughts and crosses, by Malorie Blackman. Corgi, 2001

First of the acclaimed quartet about a society where the privileged Crosses treat the light skinned Noughts as inferiors.

Restless, by William Boyd. Bloomsbury, 2006

A daughter discovers her mother was a spy during WW2; the story of the mother's service during the war is interspersed with that of her life now. A riveting spy thriller.

Black Rabbit Summer, by Kevin Brooks. Penguin, 2008.

Puts many adult detective stories to shame. Teenage readers will find it impossible to tear themselves away from this dark, tense and gripping new novel from award-winning Kevin Brooks.

Girlfriend in a Coma, by Douglas Coupland. Harper, 2004

A witty masterpiece about a girl in a coma. What if she were to wake up decades into a future gone dark?

Bog Child, by Siobhan Dowd. Definitions, 2008.

The extraordinary story of one long summer in the life of an 18-year-old boy caught up in the chaos and conflict of Ireland in the 1980s. An astonishing novel exploring the sacrifices made in the name of peace, and the unflinching strength of the human spirit.

Ostrich Boys, by Keith Gray. Definitions, 2008.

3 boys steal the urn containing the ashes of their best friend and begin a remarkable journey to give their friend the memorial they believe he deserves.

About a Boy, by Nick Hornby. Penguin, 1998.

Witty book about an immature 36 year old who makes friends with a 12 year old. The two help each other start to act their age.

The Historian, by Elizabeth Kostova. Sphere, 2005

An intricately plotted update of the Bram Stoker classic about Dracula; a young woman is plunged into the secrets of her father's past and her mother's mysterious fate.

Life of Pi, by Yann Martel. Canongate, 2002.

The only survivors, stranded on a lifeboat, of a shipwreck are a 16 year old boy called Pi, a hyena, an orang-utan, a tiger, and a zebra with a broken leg...

Suite Francaise, by Irene Nemirovsky. Vintage, 2007
Two stories put together about the year that France fell to the Nazis. The author died in Auschwitz in 1942 and never lived to see her novel put together and published.

Chaos Walking trilogy, by Patrick Ness (The Knife of Never Letting Go, The Ask and the Answer, Monsters of Men). Walker, 2008-2010.
Award winning dystopian trilogy, exploring themes of power, survival and the horrors of war.

Sisterland, by Linda Newbery. Definitions, 2003
A grandmother comes to live with her family. As she becomes increasingly confused, her granddaughter finds out about events from her past that deeply affect the present.

The Time Traveller's wife, by Audrey Niffenegger. Vintage, 2005
A love story in which a couple attempt to live a normal life in the face of the fact that the man suffers from a condition where his genetic clock resets itself and he is pulled suddenly into his past or his future.

Northern Lights, by Philip Pullman. Scholastic, 2005
First in a trilogy about a girl and a boy who live in parallel worlds, who get drawn into a battle between good and evil.

The Lovely Bones, by Alice Sebold. Picador, 2002
A young girl is murdered. In spirit, she comes back to visit her family, follows them as they cope with her loss, and supports her father in his quest to solve the mystery of her death.

My Sister Lives on the Mantelpiece

Annabel Pitcher

Jamie is trying to deal with the loss of his sister. His dad drinks, his mom has disappeared and Jamie is lost. This book deals with terrorism, racism and family issues. A beautiful and emotional novel.

How I Live Now

Meg Rosoff

This was an instant teen classic when published. Daisy is sent to England from New York for the summer... It will turn out to be an explosive summer in more way than one. War, love and family are dealt with against a rural English backdrop. One of my top 10 novels of all time, (Mrs. Watters, LRC)

The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time

Mark Haddon

Christopher is 15 and has autism. He likes maths and lists, but hates the colours yellow and brown and he hates being touched. When he discovers his neighbour's dog murdered it leads him on an adventure that will turn his world upside down.

The Chocolate War

Robert Cormier

A powerful tale about the power of gangs within a school, this book is equally fascinating and uncomfortable. The prose is stark and concise, but the message packs a punch.

The Outsiders

SE Hinton

Change the outfits of these gangs and this could be set in any decade in any country. This tale of brotherly love, gangs and society is as relevant today as it ever was.

The Kite Runner

Khalid Hosseini

Afghanistan, 1975: Twelve-year-old Amir is desperate to win the local kite-fighting tournament and his loyal friend Hassan promises to help him. But neither of the boys can foresee what will happen to Hassan that afternoon, an event that is to shatter their lives. After the Russians invade and the family is forced to flee to America, Amir realises that one day he must return to Afghanistan under Taliban rule to find the one thing that his new world cannot grant him: redemption.

The Wall

William Sutcliffe

This coming of age novel is set in Israel, though this is never actually stated. Joshua finds his way underneath The Wall where he discovers a world completely different from his own. Everything he has been taught will be called into question.

A Monster Calls

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. It's ancient, elemental, a force of nature. And it wants the most dangerous thing of all from Conor. It wants the truth.

The Bunker Diary

Kevin Brooks

This book has been described as **Lord of the Flies** meets **Room**. I say it's better. Linus awakes to find himself in an underground concrete bunker... He isn't alone for long. But what does their captor want?

Every Day

David Levithan

Imagine waking up in a different body every day, and having to live that person's life. That's what life is for A. Boy, girl... A never knows. The only rule is to never get attached to anyone.

The Perks of Being a Wallflower

Stephen Chbosky

The story of Charlie, who isn't too much of a geek, but certainly not popular. Set in an American high-school, this is a wonderful coming of age novel.

Wonder

R.J. Palacio

Auggie wants to be an ordinary ten-year-old. He does ordinary things - eating ice cream, playing on his Xbox. He *feels* ordinary - inside. But ordinary kids don't make other ordinary kids run away screaming in playgrounds. Ordinary kids aren't stared at wherever they go.

The Hit

Melvin Burgess

The latest drug is "Death". Take it and have the most amazing week of your life. But is it too high a price to pay?

Speak

Laurie Halse Andersen

A powerful novel with a believable, bitterly ironic teenage heroine, following her through her first year at high school, from outcast to acceptance.

Hostage Three

Nick Lake

Amy is on the trip of a lifetime when their yacht is taken over by Somali pirates. Amy becomes "Hostage Three" and develops a relationship with one of the captors.

The Book Thief

Marcus Zusak

1939. Nazi Germany. The country is holding its breath. Death has never been busier. Liesel, a nine-year-old girl, is living with a foster family on Himmel Street. Her parents have been taken away to a concentration camp. Liesel steals books. This is her story and the story of the inhabitants of her street when the bombs begin to fall.

Uglies

Scott Westerfeld

When you turn 16 you become "pretty"... But Shay isn't sure she wants to. The first novel in a sci-fi trilogy that looks at a society obsessed with how people look.

The Help

Kathryn Stockett

Set in Mississippi in the early 1960s this novel tells the story of black maids working for moneyed white families. A warm, sometimes sad, sometimes funny novel it is, nevertheless shocking.

Charm and Strange

Stephanie Kuehn

It's tough to describe this book without giving it away... It is a tense, psychological thriller that will blow your mind and stay with you long after you have read it.

KS3 Recommended Reading

Title	Author	Quick description
Stig of the Dump	King, Clive	Adventure
Skelling My Name is Mina	Almond, David	Fantasy
Carrie's War	Bawden, Nina	WW2/History
When Hitler Stole Pink Rabbit	Kerr, Judith	WW2/History
Two Weeks With the Queen Once Now Then After	Gleitzman, Morris	Comedy WW2/History
The Granny Project Flour Babies	Fine, Anne	Family Teen issues
My Sword Hand is Singing Revolver	Sedgwick, Marcus	Historical
A Monster Calls	Ness, Patrick	Death
Hacker Noughts and Crosses Boys Don't Cry	Blackman, Malorie	Family Racism Teen Pregnancy
The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas Noah Barleywater Runs Away	Boyne, John	WW2 Fantasy
Tall Story	Gourlay, Candy	Family/folk tale
Everybody Jam	Lewis, Ali	Family/ teen pregnancy/different lifestyles
Witching Hour Garbage Boy Oranges in No Man's Land	Laird, Elizabeth	Historical fantasy Real life/other countries
Moon Pie	Mason, Simon	Family
Cosmic Millions Framed	Cottrell-Boyce, Frank	Comedy/growing up
Glass Collector Guantanamo Boy	Perera, Anna	Different countries/lifestyles
Trash	Mulligan, Andy	Different countries/lifestyles
Run Rabbit Run	Mitchelhill, Barbara	WW2
Being Billy	Earle, Phillip	Children in care
When You Reach Me	Stead, Rebecca	Time travel
Maggot Moon I, Coriander	Gardner, Sally	Conspiracy Historical
Holes There's a Boy in the Girl's Bathroom The Cardturner	Sachar, Louis	Comedy Family
Chocolate Cake With Hitler	Craigie, Emma	WW2

Auslander	Dowswell, Paul	WW2
Rowan the Strange	Hearne, Julie	WW2/ Mental health
You Against Me	Downham, Jenny	Rape
Looking for JJ	Cassidy, Anne	Crime/ Murder
Looking for Violet Park	Valentine, Jenny	Death
Department 19	Hill, Will	Adventure/ horror
My Sister Lives on the Mantelpiece	Pitcher, Annabel	Death
Coraline The Graveyard Book	Gaiman, Neil	Fantasy
Coram Boy	Gavin, Jamilia	Historical
The Lion, The Witch and the Wardrobe	Lewis, C.S.	Fantasy
Private Peaceful	Morpurgo, Michael	War
The Memory Cage	Eastham, Ruth	Adpotion/family
Charlotte's Web	White, E.B.	
The Amazing Maurice and His Educated Rodents	Pratchett, Terry	Humour/fantasy
Goodnight Mr Tom	Magorian, Michelle	
How I Live Now	Rosoff, Meg	War/future
I Capture the Castle	Smith, Dodie	Family
Long Lankin	Barraclough, Lindsey	Horror
iBoy Black Rabbit Summer Kissing the Rain	Kevin Brooks	Mystery
Refugee Boy	Benjamin Zephaniah	Life
Saffy's Angel	Hilary McKay	Life
Journey to the River Sea	Eva Ibbotson	Adventure
Howell's Moving Castle	Diana Wynne Jones	Fantasy
The Turbulent Term of Tyke Tyler	Gene Kemp	School, growing up
Bootleg	Alex Shearer	
Watership Down	Richard Adams	Animals
Wolves of Willoughby Chase	Joan Aitken	
Black Beauty	Anna Sewell	Animals
Wonder	R J Palacio	Disability
Call of the Wild White Fang	Jack London	Animals