

## KS3 English - **suggestions for independent reading**

This list is for you as parents and for your son(s). These titles are simply suggestions, your son does not need to read them all. Advise your son to ask his teacher, the librarian or his friends to help him choose a book. Not too easy, not too difficult - a kind of story that's just right for your son.

### (1) Getting Started

John Talbot *Our Toilet's Haunted*

Betsy Byars *The Eighteenth Emergency*

Dave Shelton *A Boy and a Bear in a Boat*

Pete Johnson *How to Train Your Parents*

Morris Gleitzman *Bumface*

Lemony Snicket *The Bad Beginning*

Jeff Kinney *Diary of a Wimpy Kid*

Various authors, The Goosebumps series

Adam Blade *Beast Quest*

Adam Stanton *You're a bad man Mr Gum.*

### (2) Books on a Common Theme

#### **Childhood and Growing Up**

Siobhan Dowd *A Swift Pure Cry*

Neil Gaiman *The Graveyard Book*

Malorie Blackman *Boys Don't Cry*

Elizabeth Laird *Red Sky in the Morning*

Gaye Hicyilmaz *The Frozen Waterfall*

Gillian Cross *Where I Belong*

Guus Kuijer *The Book of Everything*

Frank Cottrell Boyce *Framed*

Frank Cottrell Boyce *Millions*

David Almond *Kit's Wilderness*

Lesley Beake *A Cageful of Butterflies*

Benjamin Zephaniah *Face*

Melvyn Burgess *Junk*

Annabel Pitcher *My Sister Lives on the Mantelpiece*

Gennifer Choldenko *Al Capone Does my Shirts*

Graham Gardner *Inventing Elliott*

R. J. Palacio *Wonder*

Bertie Doherty *Street Child*

Anita Desai *The Village by the Sea*

Anne Cassidy *Looking for JJ* (older readers)

Siobhan Dowd *The London Eye Mystery*

Anthony Mc Gowan *Henry Tumour*

Faiza Guene *Just Like Tomorrow*

Timothee de Fombelle *Toby Alone*

Mildred D. Taylor *Roll of Thunder, Hear my Cry*

Anne Fine *Flour Babies*

Malorie Blackmail *Tell Me No Lies*

Louis Sachar *Holes*

Nicky Singer *Feather Boy*

Sharon Creech *Love That Dog*

Stephen Chbosky *The Perks of Being a Wallflower*

Jenny Downham *Before I die*

Sarah Crossan *The Weight of Water*

#### **Political Situations**

Michelle Magorian *Goodnight Mr. Tom*

Elizabeth Laird *A Little Piece of Ground*

Benjamin Zephaniah *Refugee Boy*

Michael Morpurgo *Wreck of the Zanzibar*

Bali Rai *What's Your Problem?*  
Jennifer Johnston *Shadows on Our Skin*  
Lesley Beake *A Cageful of Butterflies*  
Bernard MacLaverly *Cal*  
John Boyne *The Boy in Striped Pyjamas*  
Bernard Ashley *Little Soldier*  
Harper Lee *To Kill a Mockingbird*

Jan Needle *Piggy in the Middle*  
Morris Gleitzman *Once*  
Jason Wallace *Out of Shadows* (older readers)  
  
Gudrun Pausewang *The Final Journey*  
Alan Gibbons *An Act of Love*

## **War**

Robert Swindells *Brother in the Land*  
Anne Frank *The Diary of Anne Frank*  
Michael Morpurgo *Private Peaceful*  
J. G. Ballard *Empire of the Sun*  
Marcus Zusak *The Book Thief*

Robert O'Brien *Z for Zachariah*  
Nina Bawden *Carrie's War*  
Michael Morpurgo *War Horse*  
Robert Westall *The Machine Gunners*  
Elizabeth Wein *Code Name Verity*

## **Adventure**

Cristy Burne *Takeshita Demons*  
M G Harris *The Joshua Files: Invisible City*  
Jack London *The Call of the Wild*  
Eoin Colfer *The Artemis Fowl Series*  
Mal Peet *Keeper*  
Geraldine McCaughrean *The Death-Defying Pepper Roux*

Eva Ibbotson *Journey to the River Sea*  
Tim Bowler *River Boy*  
Ian Serraillier *The Silver Sword*  
Mal Peet *Exposure*  
Paul Dowsell *Ausländer*

## **Love**

Angela Jariwala *Pardesi*  
Karen McCombie *My Funny Valentine*  
Bali Rai *Rani and Sukh*

Daniel Handler *Why we broke up*  
Maggie Stiefvater *Shiver*  
Julie Bertagna *The Opposite of Chocolate*

## **Survival**

Meg Rosoff *How I Live Now*  
James Vance Marshall *Walkabout*  
William Mayne *Drift*  
Suzanne Collins *The Hunger Games*  
William Golden *Lord of the Flies*  
Charlie Higson *The Fear*

Russell Evans *Survival*  
Gary Paulsen *Hatchet*  
Rachel Anderson *Asylum*  
Sally Gardner *Maggot Moon*  
Michael Grant *Gone*

## **Myths and Legends**

Kevin Crossley-Holland *The Seeing Stone* (trilogy)  
Madhur Jaffrey *Seasons of Splendour*  
Rick Riordan- *Percy Jackson and the Lightning Thief*

John Mayhew – *Demon Collector*  
Michelle Paver – *Wolf Brother*  
Zizou Corder *Halo*  
Adele Geras *Troy*

## **Fantasy**

Joan Aiken *The Whispering Mountain*  
Eoin Colfer *Artemis Fowl*  
Cornelia Funke *Inkheart*  
Philip Reeve *Fever Crumb*  
Susan Cooper *Over Sea, Under Stone*  
Philip Pullman *His Dark Materials*

Geraldine McCaughrean *The Kite Rider*  
China Mieville *Un Lun Dun*  
Patrick Ness *The Knife of Never Letting Go*  
J.R.R. Tolkien *Lord of the Rings*  
J.R.R. Tolkien *The Hobbit*

## **Historical Fiction**

Celia Rees *Sorceress*  
Celia Rees *Witch Child*  
Kevin Crossley-Holland, trilogy on the story of Arthur  
Theresa Breslin *Prisoner of the Inquisition*

Henrietta Branford *Fire, Bed and Bone*  
Philip Reeve *Here Lies Arthur*  
Michael Morpurgo *Arthur, High King of Britain*  
Jamila Gavin *Coram Boy*

## **Graphic Novels**

Charles Higson *Silverfin: the graphic novel*  
Dean and Shannon Hale *Calamity Jack*  
Tony Lee *Outlaw: The Legend of Robin Hood*  
Shaun Tan *Tales From Outer Suburbia*  
Sir Arthur Conan Doyle *The Hound of the Baskervilles: Graphic Novel*  
John Harris Dunning *Salem Brownstone: All Along the Watchtowers*

## **Thrillers and Chillers and Crime**

Malorie Blackman *The Stuff of Nightmares*  
Kate Cann *Leaving Poppy*  
F. E Higgins *The Black Book of Secrets*  
Darren Shan *Cirque Du Freak*  
Darren Shan *Lord Loss*  
Celia Rees *Truth or Dare*  
Chris Priestley *Uncle Montague's Tales of Terrors*  
Marcus Sedgwick *My Swordhand is Singing*  
Robert Muchamore *The Killing* (part of a series)  
Anthony Horowitz *Stormbreaker*

Charlie Higson *The Enemy*  
Anne Fine *The Tulip Touch*  
Neil Gaiman *Coraline*  
Kevin Brooks *Martyn Pigg*  
Melvin Burgess *The Ghost Behind the Wall*  
Philip Pullman *The Ruby and the Smoke (trilogy)*  
Robert Swindells *Abomination*  
Nick Lake *In Darkness*  
Terry Deary- *Terribly True Crime Stories*  
Marcus Sedgwick *Midwinterblood*

## **The Future**

Robert Westall *Futuretrack 5*

Ursula Le Guin *The Lathe of Heaven*

Ursula Le Guin *The Left Hand of Darkness*

Rebecca Stead *When You Reach Me*

Johnny O'Brien *The Day of Deliverance*

Julie Bertagna *Zenith and Exodus*

Jan Mark *The Ennead*

Alex Scarrow *Time Riders*

## **Short stories**

David Almond *Counting Stars*

Beverley Naidoo *Out of Bounds*

ed. Marion Dane Bauer *Am I Blue?*

Ray Bradbury *The Golden Apples of the Sun*

Leon Garfield *Six Shakespeare Stories*

Jan Mark *A Can of Worms*

New Windmill Book *Classic Short Stories*

ed. David Kitchen *Don't Make Me Laugh* (funny short stories)

ed. Jonathan Strahan *Under my Hat: Tales from the Cauldron* (scary short stories)

## **Poetry**

Malorie Blackman *Cloud Busting*

ed. Kaye Webb *I Like this Poem*

Benjamin Zephaniah: *Too Black, Too Strong*

*Talking Turkey, Funky Chickens, Wicked World*

Michael Rosen & Roger McGough *You Tell Me*

ed. Grace Nichols *Poetry Jump Up*

ed. Peters & Fusek *Poems With Attitude*

ed. Wendy Cope *Is That the New Moon?*

ed. Chatterjee & Frazer *Rainbow World: Poems from Many Cultures*

ed. Seamus Heaney & Ted Hughes *The Rattlebag*

Jan Mark *A Jetblack Sunrise: Poems about War...*

Allan Ahlberg *Friendly Matches*

Sharon Creech *Heartbeat*

We also recommend the website Lovereading4Kids, [www.lovereading4kids.co.uk](http://www.lovereading4kids.co.uk), to get other ideas for book choices, and [www.booktrust.org.uk](http://www.booktrust.org.uk).

Don't forget, you can also go to your local library and borrow a book for free from there. Below is a list of libraries in Camden.

Belsize Library  
Camden Town Library  
Chalk Farm Library  
Heath Library  
Highgate Library  
Holborn Library

Kentish Town Library  
Kilburn Library Centre  
Queens Crescent Library  
Regents Park Library  
St Pancras Library  
Swiss Cottage Central Library  
West Hampstead Library