



## Year Seven Reading List

These are books you might enjoy, and which we think may stretch you as well. I would like you to try and read at least **THREE** of these over the summer and write a book review of **ONE**. If your work is neat enough it may go on a new book display and you **COULD** win a prize!

Books marked \* are particularly relevant to our work in the Autumn Term, which will be based around **FANTASY**. Our book will be **I, Coriander** by Sally Gardner. In the Lent Term we will read poetry and **The Man Who Planted Trees** by Jean Giono and in the Summer Term we will read **The Other Side of Truth** by Beverley Naidoo.

**Percy Jackson** (series) - Rick Riordan. Rick Riordan writes stories based on mythology.

\***Deltora Quest** – Emily Redda. This is a fantasy series about the fight to defeat the Shadow Lord and complete the belt of Deltora.

**The Maze Runner** (series) - James Dashner A boy finds himself at the centre of a terrible, strange maze.

**Journey to the River Sea** – Eva Ibbotson (adventure in Brazil)

**Murder Most Unladylike** - Robin Stevens (very popular detective stories, loved by this year's Y7s)

**Gone** – Michael Grant. All adults disappear! The start of a series.

**The Wheel of Surya** – Jamila Gavin – (A girl's family in India, 1947)

**The Silver Donkey** – Sonya Hartnett (French children try to help a deserting soldier return to England)

**Blood Red, Snow White** – Marcus Sedgwick. Set during the Russian Revolution, this novel is based on the visit of Arthur Ransome to Russia).

**Treasure Island** – RL Stevenson. The classic story of pirates. Harder to read than you might think.

**The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas** – John Boyne (Set in and around a Nazi concentration camp, this is the story of a boy who meets a prisoner there).

\***Over Sea, Under Stone** – Susan Cooper (In Cornwall, a grail is found..)

**Skulduggery Pleasant (series)** – Derek Landry  
**Tanglewreck** – Carol Ann Duffy  
**\*The Sword in the Stone** – TH White (Arthurian fantasy)  
**Clay** – David Almond (something comes alive...)  
**Emil and the Detectives** – Erich Kastner (detective fiction, set in Germany before WWII)  
**I Am Number Four** – Pittacus Lore (science fiction, set in the far future)  
**Young Bond** (series) - Charlie Higson  
**Watership Down** – Richard Adams – a classic story of a group of rabbits' attempt to stay alive amidst mounting threats.  
**Dolphin Song** – Lauren St John  
**Earthfall** – Mark Walden – an invasion of earth by alien robots. The start of a series.  
**Holes** – Louis Sachar (someone accidentally goes to prison)  
**\*The Hobbit** – J R R Tolkein  
**Snow Merchant** – Sam Gayton (someone invents snow)  
**Blitzcat** – Robert Westall (World War II at home)  
**The Company of Ghosts** – Berlie Doherty (ghosts at sea)  
**Pyjama Jones** – JA Jennings (secret Egyptian world under a house)  
**The Blood Stone** – Jamila Gavin (adventure on the seas).  
**\*The Wish List** – Eion Colfer (Tasks to get into heaven)  
**Monster Madness** – Guy Bass (training to be monsters)  
**\*Lion Boy** – Zizou Corder  
**How to be Topp** – Geoffrey Williams and Ronald Searle (public school-set story of an incredibly lazy and cheeky boy with bad spelling)  
**\*The Owl Service** – Alan Garner (An ancient Welsh myth comes alive in a spooky story with a teenage cast)  
**The London Eye Mystery** – Siobhan Dowd  
**\*The Seeing Stone (Arthur)** – Kevin Crossley-Holland (a young King Arthur grows up on a medieval farm)  
**\*The Spirit of the Greenwood** – Stephanie Scofield (A fantasy novel but where the usual elements of fantasy are mixed up with real concerns such as environmentalism)  
**Bootleg** – Alex Shearer (chocolate? illegal?)  
**The Machine Gunners** – Robert Westall (World War II adventure)  
**Face** – Benjamin Zephaniah (someone having to cope with a serious injury)  
**The Outsiders** – SE Hinton. A gang of boys try to act cool but also look after themselves. A rival gang provide unwanted competition.  
**Walkabout** – J Vance Marshall (children lost in the Australian outback. A powerful story.)

**Coraline** – Neil Gaiman (I find this quite unsettling – a different world behind a door)

**In the Money** - Helen Dunmore (a thriller about where the money in a family comes from)

**Running Scared** – Bernard Ashley. The story of a girl who gets mixed up with some really nasty criminals. By the same author, **Little Soldier**, about a child soldier.

\***Eragon** – Christopher Paolini. Although I found this rather hard-going, lots of children love this story of a boy whose life becomes bound up with a powerful Empire.

**Artemis Fowl** – Eoin Colfer. This mixes elements of fantasy, science fiction and crime fiction! Unforgettable.

**The Haunting** - Margaret Mahy. A very chilling tale with plenty of ghostly elements.

**The Hitchhikers' Guide to the Galaxy** – (series) – Douglas Adams. I actually think the original 1978 radio series is far better but the books are worth reading and Douglas Adams' sense of humour is unique.

**Wonder** – RJ Palacio. The story of a boy with a deformed face. Many of this year's Y7s have read it and think it is excellent.

Finally, **The Diary of Anne Frank** by Anne Frank. This is the true diary of a Jewish girl caught up in the Nazi hunt for Jewish people across Europe. Her family hide in someone's house for years trying to evade capture and while stuck there, Anne writes her diary.

If you read something brilliant not on this list, let me know and I will add it to the next edition of the list!

By all means read poetry. Aside from children's poets – Brian Moses, John Fuller, Charles Causley, Brian Patten – there are many collections of poetry worth dipping in and out of.

I recommend **The School Bag** and **The Rattle Bag** by Ted Hughes and Seamus Heaney (editors) as good anthologies of poetry.

KJJD  
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