

Reading List For UKS2

Keen and able reader

These suggestions include some longer novels that avid and able readers will appreciate. Along with some recently published books, we have included some classic and modern classic suggestions. Don't forget that picture books can continue to provide a challenge even for the most able reader, as well as introduce children to a wide range of artistic styles, and there are many non-fiction and poetry books that may inspire too.

9–11 year olds

1. David Almond, Skellig (Hodder)
2. Frances Hodgson Burnett, The Secret Garden, Oxford Children's Classics (Oxford University Press)
3. Susan Cooper, The Dark Is Rising sequence (Random House)
4. Kevin Crossley-Holland, Arthur, The Seeing Stone (Orion)
5. Geraldine McCaughrean, The Death Defying Pepper Roux (Oxford University Press)
6. Philippa Pearce, Tom's Midnight Garden (Oxford University Press)
7. Philip Pullman, His Dark Materials trilogy (Scholastic)
8. Philip Reeve, Mortal Engines series (Scholastic)
9. Louis Sachar, Holes (Bloomsbury)
10. Shaun Tan, The Arrival (Templar)

Keen readers

Suggestions for this group include some quick, accessible reads, which deal with interesting issues for children to think and talk about. They are mainly plot driven so the stories move along at a good pace. Some series are included here as familiarity can help to build children's confidence. The list also includes some illustrated fiction, which may be more appealing for children who have not yet developed the stamina to read pages of unbroken text. Poetry may also be a good choice for some children as it offers bite-sized chunks that children can dip into, at the same time covering a wide range of subject and tone to suit different tastes. There are also plenty of picture books appropriate to this age group which will help children to develop deeper levels of understanding beyond the literal.

9–11 year olds

1. Steve Barlow and Steve Skidmore, Stone Me! (Barn Owl Books)
2. Anthony Browne, Zoo picture book (Red Fox, Random House)
3. Cressida Cowell, How to Train Your Dragon (Hachette)
4. Roald Dahl, Matilda, The Twits and others (Puffin)

5. Morris Gleitzman, *Two Weeks with the Queen* (Puffin)
6. Alex Milway, *Operation Robot Storm* (Walker Books)
7. Chris Riddell, *Ottoline and the Yellow Cat* (Macmillan)
8. Michael Rosen, *Even My Ears Are Smiling* poetry anthology (Bloomsbury)
9. Marcus Sedgwick, *Flood and Fang* and other books in the *Raven Mysteries* series (Orion)
10. Ali Sparkes, *Frozen in Time* (Oxford University Press)

Mad about reading

This list includes suggestions for how you might move readers on who are fixated on reading one type of book, series, or author. It is a good idea to work from children's own preferences, gently prompting them to make more challenging choices or perhaps to try something completely different.

9–11 year olds

1. Alex Rider series, Anthony Horowitz (Walker Books) – try John Grisham, Theodore Boone (Hodder) or Andrew Lane, *Young Sherlock Holmes* series (Macmillan)
2. Animal Ark series, Lucy Owen – try other animal series such as Linda Newbery, *Barney the Boat Dog* (Usborne) or Inbali Iserles, *Cat Tales* for example *The Tygrine Cat* (Walker Books) or Gill Lewis, *Sky Hawk* (Oxford University Press)
3. *The Chronicles of Avantia*, Adam Blade (Scholastic) – try other series such as Julia Golding, *Companions Quartet* (Oxford University Press) or Rick Riordan, *Percy Jackson and the Olympians* (Puffin Books)
4. *Captain Underpants* series, Dav Pilkey (Scholastic) – try Roald Dahl, *Jiggy McCue* (Michael Lawrence Books) or Richmal Crompton, *Just William* (Macmillan Children's Books)
5. *Diary of a Wimpy Kid* series, Jeff Kinney (Puffin) – try other books in a diary format such as the *My Story...* series, various authors (Scholastic) which introduces different historical periods and events written in fictionalised diary format. Also try Pete Johnson, *The Vampire Blog* (Corgi, Random House) and Marcia Williams, *Archie's War* and *My Secret War Diary* (Walker Books)
6. Enid Blyton adventures – try other series such as Lauren St John, *The White Giraffe* (Orion) or Helen Moss, *The Mystery of the Whistling Caves* (Orion) or Eva Ibbotson, *Journey to the River Sea* (Macmillan)
7. *Foul Play* series, Tom Palmer (Puffin) – try Rob Childs, *Black or White* (Frances Lincoln)
8. *Horrible Histories* (Scholastic) – try *My Story* series (Scholastic) or Rosemary Sutcliff, *The Eagle of the Ninth* (Oxford University Press)

9. Jacqueline Wilson books – try books by Cathy Cassidy for example Scarlett and Indigo Blue (Puffin) or Jean Ure, Skinny Melon and Fortune Cookie (Harper Collins)
10. Roald Dahl books – try Andy Stanton, Mr Gum series (Egmont) or David Walliams, The Boy in the Dress (HarperCollins)

Can but can't be bothered – 'I hate reading'

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9–11 year olds

1. Andy Briggs, Hero.com and Villain.net series (Oxford University Press)
www.whichsideareyouon.co.uk
2. Steve Cole, Astrosaurs series (Random House)
3. Anthony Horowitz, The Greek Who Stole Christmas and other books in the Diamond Brothers series (Walker Books)
www.anthonhorowitz.com/work/books_diamond.html
4. Cindy Jeffries, Heart Magazine: A Dream Come True
www.cindyjefferies.co.uk/books.html
5. Jeff Kinney, The Diary of a Wimpy Kid series (Puffin) www.wimpykid.com and watch a trailer for the film: [Youtube](#)
6. Tom Palmer, Foul Play series (Puffin) Hear Tom Palmer's free online reading of the first chapter of Foul Play: [Tom Palmer](#)
7. Charlie Small, Gorilla City (David Fickling, Random House) www.charliesmall.co.uk
8. Andy Stanton, Mr Gum series (Egmont) www.mrgum.co.uk/index.htm
9. Andi Watson, Glister series (Walker Books) www.glisterbook.blogspot.com
10. Jacqueline Wilson, Tracey Beaker series (Random House)
www.bbc.co.uk/cbbc/tracybeaker Watch a taster of the TV series: Series 1, Episode 1: [Youtube](#)

Can't read/ struggling reader

The books on this list are quick reads with minimal text and often more illustration. Try picture books and wordless books as well as comics, graphic novels in cartoon style, and non-fiction. Rhyming stories have memorable language which will help readers develop confidence. Struggling readers may also particularly enjoy reading on-screen and humour is important too.

9–11 years

1. Steve Barlow and Steve Skidmore, Tomb Runner and other books in the I, HERO series (Franklin Watts)
2. Alan Durant, Game Boy in the 4U2read series (Barrington Stoke)
3. Michael Hardcastle, Goal-getter (A & C Black)
4. Rod Hunt, Wolf Hill series (Oxford University Press)
5. David Orme, Starchasers series (Ransom Publishing)
6. Jeremy Strong, Living with Vampires in the 4U2read series (Barrington Stoke)
7. John Townsend et al, Dockside series (Rising Stars)
8. TreeTops, Graphic Novels series (Oxford University Press)
9. Cathy West, Starstruck series (Ransom Publishing)
10. Jonny Zucker, Alien Battle in the Rex Jones series (Badger Books)