



Key Stage 3 Reading List

Reading is the key to improving all aspects of your English work, and it will benefit you in other curriculum areas too. More importantly, you may be inspired, able to relax more easily, and your imagination will flourish...

Wondering what to read?

Below is a list of suggested titles by Theme. (*perhaps quicker / easier reads)

After the Themed suggestions, there are some more lists linked to your timetabled subjects at school.

Adventure

*Horrid Henry series – Francesca Simon
Black Hearts in Battersea – Joan Aiken
River Boy – Tim Bowler
The Artemis Fowl series – Eoin Colfer
The Spiderwick Chronicles – Tony ‘Terlizzi
The Wind in the Willows – Kenneth Grahame
The Joshua Files: Invisible Cry – MG Harris
Journey to the River Sea – Eva Ibbotson
The Call of the Wild – Jack London
The Time of Green Magic – Hilary McKay
The Death-Defying Pepper Roux – Geraldine McCaughrean
Kensuke’s Kingdom – Michael Morpurgo
The Amulet – E. Nesbit
Exposure and Keeper – Mal Peet
The Book of Dust – Phillip Pullman
Holes – Louis Sachar
H.I.V.E – Mark Walden

Fantasy

*Stig of the Dump – Clive King
The Whispering Mountain – Joan Aiken
Skellig – David Almond
The Dark is Rising series- Susan Cooper
After Tomorrow – Gillian Cross
Inkheart – Cornelia Funke
The Chronicles of Narnia – CS Lewis
Peter Pan in Scarlet – Geraldine McCaughrean
Un Lun Dun – China Mieville
The Knife of Never Letting Go – Patrick Ness
Erago – Christopher Paolini
Northern Lights series – Phillip Pullman
Fever Crumb – Phillip Reeve
Lord of the Rings – JR Tolkien
The Happy Prince collection – Oscar Wilde

Myths and Legends

Halo – Zizou Corder

The Seeing Stone – Kevin Crossley-Holland
The God Beneath the Sea – Leon Garfield and Edward Blishen
Troy – Adele Geras
Shadow of the Minotaur – Alan Gibbons
Seasons of Splendour – Madhur Jaffrey
Percy Jackson and the Lightning Thief series – Rick Riordan

The Future

Exodus and Zenith – Julie Betagna
The Lathe of Heaven – Ursula Le Guin
The Giver – Lois Lowry
The Ennead – Jan Mark
Tyger – SF Said
When You Reach Me – Rebecca Stead
Time Riders – Alex Scarrow

Poetry

Cloud Busting – Malorie Blackman
Rainbow World: Poems from Many Cultures – Ed. Chatterjee and Frazer
Is that the New Moon? – Ed. Wendy Cope
Heartbeat – Sharon Creech
The Rattlebag – Ed. Seamus Heaney and Ted Hughes
A Jet-black Sunrise: Poems about War – Jan Mark
Jump Up – Ed. Grace Nichols
Poems With Attitude – Ed. Peters and Fusek
I Like This Poem – Ed. Kaye Webb
Too Black, Too Strong – Benjamin Zephaniah

Thrillers, Chillers and Crime

*The Falcon’s Malteser - Anthony Horowitz
*Ghost Dog – Pete Johnson
*Our Toilet’s Haunted – John Talbot
The Stuff of Nightmares – Malorie Blackman
The Ghost Behind the Wall – Melvin Burgess
Leaving Poppy – Kate Cann

Coraline – Neil Gaiman
The Black Book of Secrets – FE Higgins
The Enemy – Charles Higson
Stormbreaker – Anthony Horowitz
Henderson Boys series – Robert Muchamore
The Ruby and the Smoke – Phillip Pullman
Truth or Dare – Celia Rees
Cirque Du Freak – Darren Shan
My Swordhand is Singing – Marcus Sedgwick
Abomination – Robert Swindells
Catch Your Death – Ravena Guron
Thirteen – Tom Hoyle
I must Betray You – Ruta Sepetys

Graphic Novels

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

World at War and the Changing World

Carrie's War – Nina Bawden
The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas – John Boyne
War Boy – Michael Foreman
Diary of Anne Frank – Anne Frank
The Wheel of Surya (Trilogy) – Jamila Gavin
An Act of Love – Alan Gibbons
A Little Piece of Ground – Elizabeth Laird
Trouble on Cable Street – Joan Lingard
To Kill a Mockingbird – Harper Lee
Wreck of the Zanzibar – Michael Morpurgo
War Horse – Michael Morpurgo
Piggy in the Middle – Jan Needle
The Final Journey – Gudrun Pausewang
Friedrich – Hans Peter Richter

Dystopias

Ship Breaker – Paolo Bacigalupi
Exodus and Zenith – Julie Bertagna
The Maze Runner – James Dashner
Gone – Michael Grant
London – Michael Moorcock
Predator Cities Quartet – Phillip Reeve

How I Live Now – Meg Rosoff
Divergent – Veronica Roth
The Silver Sword – Ian Serrailier
Refugee Boy – Benjamin Zephaniah
The Book Thief – Marcus Zusak
Welcome to Nowhere – Elizabeth Laird

Funny

Agent Z - Mark Haddon
*Diary of a Wimpy Kid - Jeff Kinney
The World of Norm - Jonathan Meres
The Race for the Lost Keystone - Val Rutt
Billionaire Boy - David Walliams
Demon Dentist - David Walliams

Childhood and Growing Up

*Boy - Roald Dahl
*Wonder – RJ Palacio
*Matilda - Roald Dahl
*Scribbleboy – Philip Ridley
The Crossover – Kwame Alexander
Kit's Wilderness – David Almond
Peter Pan – JM Barrie
How to Train your Parents – Pete Johnson
A Cageful of Butterflies – Lesley Beake
Artichoke Hearts – Sita Brahmachari
Al Capone Does My Shirts – Gennifer Choldenko
Millions – Frank Boyce
Framed – Frank Boyce
Love That Dog – Sharon Creech
Just William series – Richmal Crompton
Street Child – Berlie Doherty
A Swift Pure Cry – Siobhan Dowd
The London Eye Mystery – Siobhan Dowd
Toby Alone – Timothee de Fombelle
Inventing Elliott – Graham Gardner
Just Like Tomorrow – Faiza Guene
Pardesi – Angela Jariwala
The Book of Everything – Guus Kuijer
My Funny Valentine – Karen McCombie
Tom's Midnight Garden – Philippa Pearce
The Boy at the Back of the Class – Onjali Rauf
Five Children on the Western Front – Kate Saunders
Tsunami Girl – Julian Sedgewick and Chie Kutsuwada
Shiver – Maggie Stiefvater
Face – Benjamin Zephaniah

Biology

All About Biology (Big Questions) - Robert Winston.
Your Brilliant Body (Operation Ouch!) - Chris Van Tulleken and Xand Van Tulleken.
Life on Earth - David Attenborough
Deadly Detectives: Top Tips to Track Wildlife - Steve Backshall
How the Body Works: The Facts Simply Explained - Dorling Kindersley
Kay's Marvellous Medicine: A Gross and Gruesome History of the Human Body - Adam Kay.
Kay's Anatomy: A Complete (and completely disgusting) Guide to the Human Body - Adam Kay.
Mad Science - Ben Goldacre
Where Are You Really From: Adventure Through Millions of Years of Human History - Adam Rutherford.

Chemistry

What is Chemistry - Peter Atkins
A Really Short History of Nearly Everything – Bill Bryson
Horrible Science: Chemical Chaos - Nick Arnold
The Manga Guide to Chemistry – Masaaki Mitani
All About Chemistry: Big Questions - Robert Winston
The Disappearing Spoon – how science affects everything - Sam Kean.
The Periodic Table Book: A Visual Encyclopaedia of the Elements - Dorling Kindersley
Molecules at an Exhibition: Portraits of Intriguing Materials in Everyday Life – John Emsley

Computer Science

Alan Turing: The Enigma by Andrew Hodges
Nine Algorithms That Changed the Future: John Maccormick
Once upon an algorithm - Martin Erwig,
Lauren Ipsum - Carlos Bueno
Bletchley Park Puzzles and Brainteasers (Children's Edition) Sinclair McKay

Design and Technology

Design By Numbers: John Maeda
The Laws of Simplicity (Simplicity: Design, Technology, Business, Life): John Maeda
Creative Code: Aesthetics + Computation: John Maeda and Red Burns
Women Design: Pioneers from the Twentieth Century to Today: Libby Sellers

Drama

The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Nighttime: play text adapted - Simon Stephens
Noughts and Crosses: play text adapted - Dominic Cook
My Father, Odysseus: Timberlake Wertenbaker
The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas: play text adapted - Angus Jackson
War Horse: play text - Nick Stafford
Shakespeare Plays: Macbeth / The Tempest / A Midsummer Night's Dream / Much Ado About Nothing
Collected Grimm Tales: adapted - Carol Ann Duffy and dramatized - Tim Supple

French

Conner and the Telescope: Children's Bilingual Picture Book – English, French
French: <https://www.lightbulblanguages.co.uk/resources-fr-ks3-txt.htm>
The Frightfully Fabulous French (The Horrible Histories Collection)
Asterix or Tintin

Geography

Touching the Void – Scholastic Edition
Great Adventures – Alastair Humphrey
The Boy who Biked the World – Alastair Humphrey
Horrible Geographies Series
Shackleton’s Journey – William Grill
Plate Tectonics – Iain Stewart
Solving the Puzzle Under the Sea – Robert Burleigh
I Am Malala – Christina Lamb and Malala Yousafzai
World Without Fish – Mary Kurlansky
Factfulness – Hans Rosling
The Explorer – Katherine Rundell
Off the Map – Alastair Bonnett
The Human Planet – Simon Lewis and Mark Maslin
The Almighty Dollar – Dharshini David
The Carbon Diaries 2015 and 2017 – Saci Lloyd
Journey to the River Sea – Eva Ibbotson
Refugee Boy – Benjamin Zephaniah
Running Wild – Michael Morpurgo
Kick – Mitch Johnson
Hidden – Miriam Halahmy
Northern Lights – Phillip Pullman
Prisoners of Geography – Tim Marshall
Our Planet – Matt Whyman, Richard Jones and Sir David Attenborough
Welcome to Nowhere – Elizabeth Laird
Bright New World - Bethany Lord and Cindy Forde

German

Conner and the Telescope: Children’s Bilingual Picture Book – English, German
German: <https://www.lightbulblanguages.co.uk/resources-ge-ks3.htm>
The Jumbled Germans (The Horrible Histories Collection)
Wickie und die starken Männer

History

Carrie’s War - Nina Bawden
PoW - Martin Booth
Kezzie - Theresa Breslin
Remembrance - Theresa Breslin
King of Shadows - Susan Cooper
Arthur and the Seeing Stone - Kevin Crossley-Holland
The Kin - Peter Dickinson
Children of Winter - Berlie Doherty
Street Child - Berlie Doherty
The Diary of Anne Frank - Anne Frank
Coram Boy - Jamilla Gavin
Stars of Fortune - Cynthia Harnett
When Hitler Stole Pink Rabbit - Judith Kerr

Latin

The Roman Mysteries Series by Caroline Lawrence
Amarantus and his Neighbourhood by Caroline Lawrence

Mythos by Stephen Fry
Heroes by Stephen Fry
Troy by Stephen Fry
Odyssey by Stephen Fry
The eagle of the Ninth by Rosemary Sutcliffe

Maths

Flatlands- A romance of many dimensions by Edwin A Abbott
The curious incident of the Dog in the Night-Time by Mark Haddon
The Number Devil: A Mathematical Adventure by HansMagnus Enzensberger
The Man Who Counted by Malba Tahan
Sir Cumference series by Cindy Neuschwander
Anno's Magic Seeds by Mitsumasa Anno
The Man who Loved Only Numbers by Paul Hoffman
Humble Pi by Matt Parker
Murderous Maths series by Kjartan Poskitt
Why do buses come in threes? Rob Eastaway and Jeremy Wyndham
Maths on the Go by Rob Eastaway and Mike Askew
Alex's Adventures in Numberland – Alex Bellos
Alex Through the Looking Glass – Alex Bellos
Can you solve my problems? - Alex Bellos
The Joy of x by Steven Strogatz
Alex's adventures in Numberland – A Bellos
The Tiger that Isn't: Seeing Through a World of Number – A Dilnot
The Colossal Book of Mathematics – M Gardner
Games, Set and Math – I Stewart
How to Think like a Mathematician – K Houston
Does God Play Dice – I Stewart
Flatterland – I Stewart
The Penguin Dictionary of Curious and interesting numbers – D Wells
The Thrilling Adventures of Lovelace and Babbage – Sydney Padua
The Indisputable existence of Santa Claus – Hannah Fry and Thomas Evans
How Many Socks Make a Pair – Rob Eastaway

Music

Goosebumps: Piano lessons can be murder – RL Stine
The Piano at the Station – Helen Rutter
Big Bangs by Howard Goodall
Kofi and the Rap Battle Summer by Jeffrey Boakye
Black History Makers: Musicians by Debbie Foy
The Ultimate Guide to Music by Joe Fullman.

PE

*Extra Time - Morris Gleitzman
Faster Than Lightning: My Autobiography – Usain Bolt
*Do Your Bit to be Physically Fit
*Get Up and Go! – Stuart J. Murphy
12 Ways to Stay Active and Fit – Patrizia Jones
My Body Needs Exercise – Jenna Lee Gleisner
The Crossover – Kwame Alexander
Run Rebel – Manjeet Mann

Soccer Smarts for Teens – Andrew Latham
The Young Champion’s Mind – Jim Afremow
Rugby Flyer – Gerard Siggins
Fever Pitch – Nick Hornby

Physics

Wonders of the Solar System – Brian Cox.
Storm in a Teacup: The Physics of Everyday Life – Helen Czerski
Astrophysics for Young People in a Hurry – Neil deGrasse Tyson
Beyond the Sky and the Universe – Dara O’Brian
The Physics Book: Big Ideas Simply Explained – Dorling Kindersley
All About Physics – Richard Hammond

RS

The Life of Pi - Yann Martel
Noughts and Crosses - Malorie Blackman
His Dark Materials trilogy - Philip Pullman
Boy A - Jonathan Trigell
Uglies trilogy - Scott Westerfield
The Killables trilogy - Gemma Malley
Does My Head Look Big In This? - Randa Abdel-Fattah

Science: History of Science

Medical Milestones and Crazy Cures (Operation Ouch!) – Chris Van Tulleken and Xand Van Tulleken. Archimedes and the Door to Science – Jeanne Bendick
On a Beam of Light: A Story of Albert Einstein – Jennifer Berne and Vladimir Radunsky.
The Space Race – John Hamilton
Horrible Science Collection – Nick Arnold

Science: General Science

Ground Control to Major Tim – Clive Gifford.
The Science Book: Big Ideas Simply Explained – Dorling Kindersley
What If? – Randall Munroe
Does Anything Eat Wasps? – New Scientist
How Science Works: The Facts Visually Explained (How Things Work) – Dorling Kindersley
Women in Science: 50 Fearless Pioneers Who Changed the World – Rachel Ignotofsky
A Short History of Nearly Everything – Bill Bryson

Science Fiction

*The Iron Man – Ted Hughes
A Hitchhiker’s Guide to the Galaxy – Douglas Adams
War of the Worlds – HG Wells
Journey to the Centre of the Earth – Jules Verne
George’s Secret Key to the Universe – Lucy and Stephen Hawkins
Black Holes and Uncle Albert – Russell Stanning