



PHS KS3 Reading List

Reading is a skill which is developed through practice, practice, practice.

Like any other skill, whether art, music, sport or dance, the skill of reading is developed through years of consistent practice.

This is why we do private reading at the start of English lessons in Year 7, 8 and 9.

We want our students to use this time wisely and we also want them to be engaged, excited, challenged and captivated by private reading.

Reading regularly between the age of 11 and 14 will greatly improve reading skills, which will unlock a host of other subjects and opportunities.

Here are a list of 44 books for people unsure what to read next, that will develop your reading skills, entertain and help prepare for KS4.



PHS KS3 Reading List

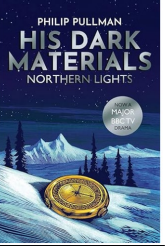

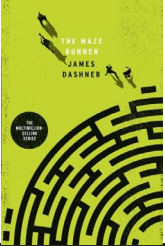
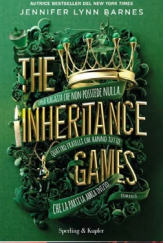
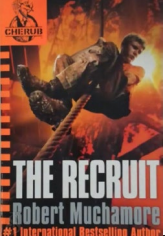
Use these slides as a guide to help inform your next book choice.

*Tip: finding a series you can get into is a great way to build momentum with your reading.

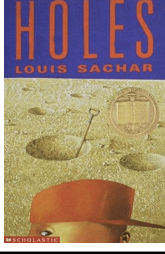
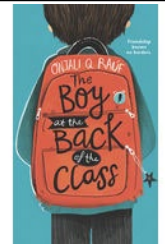

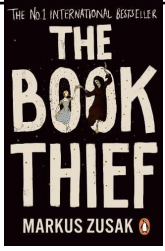
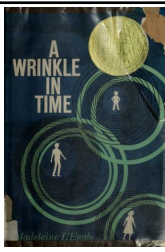
Useful links:

- The Literacy Trust - <https://literacytrust.org.uk/>
- Age specific literacy activities - <https://wordsforlife.org.uk/activities/>
- [100 best teen novels](#)

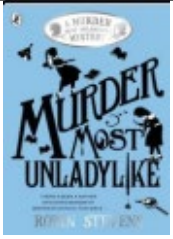
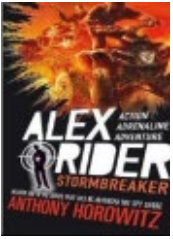
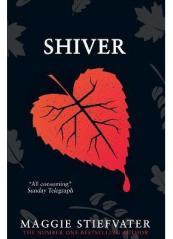
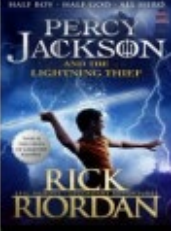
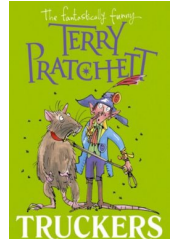
Best-selling series

	<p><u>His Dark Materials by Philip Pullman</u> A gripping fantasy trilogy where two children journey across worlds, battling dark forces to uncover the secrets of the universe and the soul.</p>
	<p><u>The Hunger Games by Suzanne Collins</u> A dystopian thriller where a girl fights to survive a brutal, televised death match in a battle against tyranny.</p>
	<p><u>The Maze Runner by James Dashner</u> A boy suffering amnesia finds himself in an encampment surrounded by constantly moving walls with other teenagers.</p>
	<p><u>The Inheritance Games by Jennifer Lynn Barnes</u> a twist-filled mystery where a girl must solve deadly riddles to claim a billionaire's fortune—and survive those who want it for themselves.</p>
	<p><u>The CHERUB series by Robert Muchamore</u> This series follows a boys recruitment into the children's division of Mi5.</p>

Tried and trusted

	<p><u>Holes by Louis Sachar</u> a cleverly layered tale about a boy named Stanley Yelnats who is sent to a mysterious camp where digging holes uncovers a hidden family curse, buried secrets, and the path to redemption.</p>
	<p><u>The Boy at the Back of the Class by Onjali Rauf</u> a heartfelt story about a group of children who befriend a Syrian refugee named Ahmet and go on a mission to help reunite him with his family.</p>
	<p><u>Skellig by David Almond</u> a mysterious and moving novel about a boy named Michael who discovers a strange, winged creature in his garage that helps him cope with his baby sister's illness.</p>
	<p><u>The Book Thief by Markus Zusak</u> a poignant novel set in Nazi Germany, narrated by Death, that tells the story of a young girl named Liesel who finds solace in stealing books</p>
	<p><u>A Wrinkle in Time by Madeleine L'Engle</u> a science fantasy novel in which a young girl named Meg Murry travels through space and time with her brother and a friend to rescue her father from a dark, evil force threatening the universe.</p>

Best-selling series

	<p><u>Murder Most Unladylike by Robin Stevens</u> Set in the 1930s, two girls investigate the murder of a teacher at their boarding school.</p>
	<p><u>Alex Rider series by Anthony Horowitz</u> When his guardian dies in suspicious circumstances, 14-year-old Alex Rider becomes involved with MI6 and has to complete his dead guardian's mission.</p>
	<p><u>The Shiver trilogy by Maggie Stiefvater</u> A haunting romance about a girl named Grace and a boy named Sam who struggles to stay human as he battles the curse of turning into a wolf with the changing seasons.</p>
	<p><u>Percy Jackson by Rick Riordan</u> An American teenager discovers he is half human, half Greek god, and sets about trying to avert a war among the Olympians.</p>
	<p><u>Truckers (The Nome Trilogy) by Terry Pratchett</u> Follows a group of tiny, hidden people called Nomes as they journey from the confines of a department store to the wider world in a witty, adventurous quest for survival, freedom, and understanding their origins.</p>

Tried and trusted

	<p><u>The Diary of Anne Frank</u> Anne Frank's diary during her family's time in hiding during the Nazi occupation in Holland.</p>
	<p><u>Hacker by Malorie Blackman</u> A girl uses a computer to prove her father is innocent of a bank robbery.</p>
	<p><u>Boy by Roald Dahl</u> Autobiographical account of the early life of one of the world's most famous authors.</p>
	<p><u>The Secret Garden by Frances Hodgson Burnett</u> A lonely, spoiled girl named Mary Lennox who discovers a hidden, neglected garden that transforms her life and the lives of those around her through friendship, healing, and the power of nature.</p>
	<p><u>Auggie and Me by RJ Palacio</u> Tells the stories of Julian, Christopher, and Charlotte—whose lives are changed by their experiences with Auggie Pullman, offering new perspectives on kindness, empathy, and acceptance.</p>

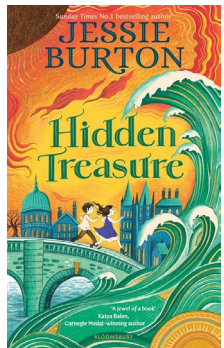
Author visits

Here are books by two authors who visited PHS in the 24-25 academic year.



Mayowa and the Sea of Words by **Chibundu Onuzo**

A vibrant story about a curious girl who discovers the magical power of language and storytelling during a visit to her grandfather's house.



Hidden Treasures by **Jessie Burton**

When Bo Delafort finds treasure on the muddy foreshore of the River Thames, her life turns upside down.

Dyslexia-friendly books

These engaging books have been carefully designed to be accessible in terms of font and layout, plus they tell gripping stories.



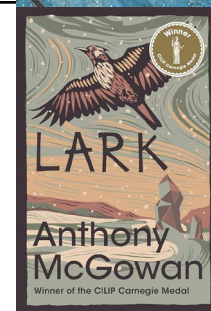
Climbers by **Keith Gray**

Climbers explores themes of rivalry, friendship, and growing up through the story of Sully, a boy whose climbing prowess is challenged by a new arrival named Nottingham



The List by **Keith Gray**

A comic and compelling tale from award-winning author Keith Gray. It's the end of the summer and Denny is having to move away with his mum now that she's found a good job, but he's not planning on leaving quietly.



Lark by **Anthony McGowan**


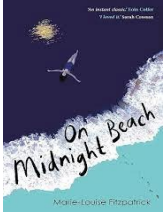
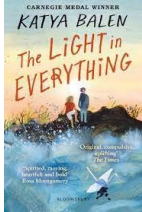
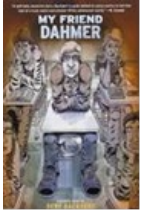




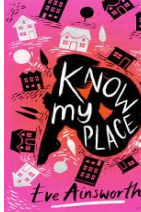

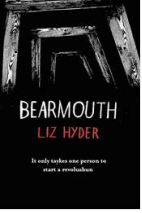
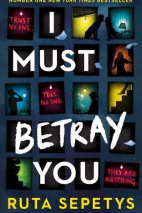


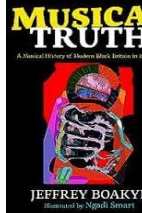
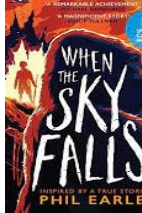



A The boys are keen to escape tension at home and decide to have an. But this “lark” turns into a nightmare when the unpredictable moors weather becomes a blizzard and the story is then about survival.



PHS Reading Advocates



'Our staff's verdicts on Young Adult reading choices'

									
<p>Mr Bush says: 'See the world from Harris' point of view: new boy at school and wheelchair user who wants to find his group.'</p>	<p>Mrs Cornwall says: 'An Irish legend in a modern setting- friendship and rivalry that grips you until the shocking end.'</p>	<p>Ms Guest says: 'A beautiful book with a journey into the minds of two very different young people as they learn how to be part of the same family.'</p>	<p>Mrs Hoyle says: 'The chilling back story of the infamous American serial killer, told from the perspective of his friend.'</p>	<p>Mr Horobin says: "Totally authentic narrative about the life of a young person in care. Brilliant dialogue brings Charlene to life.'</p>	<p>Mrs Greenfield says: 'A bittersweet tale from a rural village of Shell's hopes and hardship, written with real Irish charm that made me think of my grandad as I read it.'</p>	<p>Miss Norwood says: 'A beautifully written book which made me feel like a child again. Tells the story of an amazing journey that sets the wild woods versus city in the narrator's life.'</p>	<p>Miss Earl says: 'A story of loyalty and friendship with relatable characters coming together to fight against the bullies.'</p>	<p>Miss Wilson says: 'An emotive book that makes you realise how difficult life in the care system can be. An easy read that draws you emotionally to the main character.'</p>	<p>Mrs Hicketts says: 'I will be completely honest with you. I really didn't enjoy the book – I found it quite boring. Sorry.'</p>
									<h2>Which one will you pick?</h2>
<p>Mr Hoyle says: 'Rattling adventure story about danger, friendship, hope – and fighting for revolushun!'</p>	<p>Mrs Angell says: 'An eye-opening account of life in 1980s Eastern Europe and a story of what can happen if you believe that things can be better.'</p>	<p>Miss H Williams says: 'A heartbreaking tale of a teenage mum in the 1960s. A real page turner.'</p>	<p>Miss Cockitt says: 'An enthralling retelling of real events, transporting you to a different time and place. Very difficult to put down once you start.'</p>	<p>Mrs Tupman says: 'Music fans you can literally dance all the way through this book or step into the past one song at a time.'</p>	<p>Miss Wild says: 'A brilliant story for animal lovers. It will have you rooting for the main character, and the unique best friend he makes along the way!'</p>	<p>Mrs Hardman says: 'A book set in the mists of the Fens where women are strong and to be feared but also have little control over their destiny. A fascinating read with some really touching parts as well.'</p>	<p>Mrs Riley says:' 'A modern take on what life could be like if a nuclear bomb went off. Sad but also heart warming to see how families pull together when things get tough.'</p>	<p>Mrs Smeaton says: 'This book makes you think, makes you hope and makes you want to find out more about a family problem that has affected us all in some way.'</p>	<p>*please ask your teacher to check age suitability on the asterisked books.</p>