

ENGLISH · Y3–Y6

Recommended Books: Ages 7–11

KS2 reading list — 40 titles

Lower KS2 (ages 7–9)

Years 3–4 standouts

- Charlotte's Web — E.B. White (friendship, death, beautiful writing — one of the greatest)
- The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe — C.S. Lewis (adventure, morality, classic)
- Roald Dahl — any title, but especially: Matilda (empowerment), Charlie and the Chocolate Factory (class), Danny the Champion of the World (father/child bond)
- The Butterfly Lion — Michael Morpurgo (Africa, WW1, love — cries every time)
- The Firework Maker's Daughter — Philip Pullman (adventure, female protagonist, beautiful)
- The 13-Storey Treehouse — Andy Griffiths (absurdist, great for reluctant readers)
- Ottoline and the Yellow Cat — Chris Riddell (graphic-novel style, funny, accessible)
- Flat Stanley — Jeff Brown (series, imagination, first solo reading)

Upper KS2 (ages 9–11)

Years 5–6 standouts

- The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas — John Boyne (WWII, moral complexity, powerful)
- Holes — Louis Sachar (race, injustice, survival — superb construction)



- The Graveyard Book — Neil Gaiman (dark but beautiful, death handled with warmth)
- Wonder — R.J. Palacio (empathy, disability, school — transformative class read)
- Kensuke's Kingdom — Michael Morpurgo (isolation, friendship, survival, WWII)
- Private Peaceful — Michael Morpurgo (WWI, courage, devastating — Y6 only)
- The Midnight Fox — Betsy Byars (nature, childhood, beautifully observed)
- Watership Down — Richard Adams (for confident Y6 readers — extraordinary)
- Northern Lights — Philip Pullman (fantasy, philosophy, adventure)

Fiction and poetry

Essential KS2 titles

- Awful Auntie / Gangsta Granny — David Walliams (popular bridge into reading)
- Everything You Need to Know About the Human Body — DK (reference, anatomy)
- The New Oxford Treasury of Children's Poems (anthology — broad range)
- Michael Rosen's Book of Very Silly Poems (performance, rhyme, accessible)
- Goodnight Stories for Rebel Girls (diverse role models, bedtime reading)
- When Stars Are Scattered — Victoria Jamieson (graphic novel, refugee experience, Y5–6)
- Say Hello to the Ugliest Dog in the World — Rachel Hamilton (funny, accessible, Y3+)
- Roald Dahl's Revolting Rhymes (poetry, familiar fairy tales subverted, brilliant)

