

50(ish) Brilliant Books to Read during Year 7



- All the books on this list may be borrowed from the school library.
- This list contains just 1 title per author. Most of the authors have written other equally good books. If you enjoy reading a particular book, then do try other books by the same author.
- Titles in italics are the first in a series.

Alcott, Louisa M	<i>Little Women</i>	Classic story about the lives of four sisters during the American Civil War. Less demanding and interesting to read alongside the original, is Becoming Jo by Sophie McKenzie, which retells the sisters' story, setting it in Britain today.
Almond, David	Skellig	When Michael's new sister is critically ill, an unconventional angel comes to his aid. If like me you are fascinated by the character of Mina, then read the companion book My name is Mina .
Anderson, Sophie	The House with Chicken Legs	A story based on the Russian Folk Tales about Baba Yaga. Twelve year old Marinka is destined to become a Yaga, like her grandmother with whom she lives. But she is tired of constantly moving and only meeting dead people.
Bell, Cece	El Deafo	An autobiography in the form of a graphic novel. Cece who is deaf, recalls the isolation she felt at school. Her hearing aids immediately marked her out, though sometimes they enabled her to hear private conversations.
Brahmachari, Sita	<i>Artichoke Hearts</i>	A thoughtful, real life story set around Hampstead Heath. Mira will soon be a teenager. Life is full of possibilities. At the same time, there is sadness as her beloved grandmother is dying from cancer.
Burnett, Frances H	The Secret Garden	A classic. When Mary's parents die, she is sent to live with an uncle she has never met who lives in a large house full of secrets on the Yorkshire Moors.
Cross, Gillian	After Tomorrow	In the near future, Britain goes bankrupt and descends into anarchy. In a reversal of the current situation, thousands of desperate British refugees try to cross the English Channel and France is overwhelmed.
De Prince, Michaela	Hope in a Ballet Shoe	An autobiography. Born in war-torn Sierra Leone, Michaela ended up in an orphanage. She was adopted and taken to America where her new parents fostered her love of dance. Today she is a professional dancer.

Dhami, Narinder	13 Hours	A nail-biting thriller with an unexpected ending. Anni's home is under siege. She had the chance to escape, but her agoraphobic mother refused to leave the house. So they must stay and hope they survive
Dowd, Siobhan	The London Eye Mystery	At 11.32am Salim enters a pod on the London eye. The pod completes a revolution. At 12.02pm the door opens. But Salim does not exit the pod. How could this be? If you enjoy this book try Smart By Kim Slater which is similar.
Doyle, Roddy	A Greyhound of a Girl	A family story set in Ireland which shows how life has changed for women over 4 generations.
Edge, Christopher	<i>Twelve Minutes to Midnight</i>	Partly historical, partly fantasy and definitely a mystery. Why do the inmates of Bedlam, London's notorious lunatic asylum, begin writing frenziedly at precisely 12 minutes to midnight each night?
Erskine, Kathryn	Mockingbird	Caitlin has Asperger's Syndrome. She struggles with everyday conversations. Her classmates think she is "weird". When he beloved brother is shot dead, her life implodes
Farrant, Natasha	<i>After Iris</i>	Everyday life in a chaotic family as captured by 13 year old Bluebell in her diaries.
Fine, Anne	The Devil Walks	Gothic horror. Daniel has never been outside his home. When he is "rescued" by a well-meaning doctor, he ends up in the clutches of his sinister uncle.
Fraillon, Zana	The Bone Sparrow	Subhi's family are Rohingya Muslims from Myanmar. Subhi was born in a refugee camp. Now he is 10 and still in the camp. Will he ever go beyond the fence which separates the camp from the world outside?
Hardinge, Frances	The Lie Tree	Adventure, intrigue, fantasy, history and very clever writing. Faith is a girl in Victorian times to conform to Victorian ideas of womanhood
Hepburn, Sam	If You were Me	Aliya and her family have recently arrived in London from Afghanistan. When her brother is accused of terrorism, she is sure he is innocent. But can she prove it?
Ibbotson, Eva	The Star of Kazan	An adventure story set in Austria and Germany at the beginning of the 20th century. Annike has been adopted by the people in the house where she was abandoned as a baby. Then unexpectedly her mother claims her back.
LaFleur, Suzanne	Love Aubrey	This book will make you both smile and cry. After a family tragedy, Aubrey must start a new life with her grandmother in Vermont.
Landman, Tanya	<i>Mondays are Murder</i>	A murder mystery that is short and easy to read. Working out "whodunit?", however, is much more difficult.

Lewis, Gill	Sky Hawk	An animal adventure story set in the Scottish Highlands. When Callum and Iona discover a rare osprey nesting on Callum's Farm, they are determined to protect it
Magorian, Michelle	Back Home	1945. World War 2 has finally ended and 12 year old Rusty returns to an austere England and a family she hardly remembers after 5 years as an evacuee in USA.
McCaughrean, Geraldine	Where the World Ends	A gripping tale of survival set in the St Kilda islands, the remotest part of Britain.
McLachlan, Jenny	<i>Flirty Dancing</i>	It's a familiar story. As girls become teenagers, friendships fall apart. Bullied and isolated, Bea is persuaded by her grandmother to try "old-fashioned" dancing.
Mah, Adeline Yen	Chinese Cinderella	An autobiography. Adeline's mother died shortly after giving birth to her. So according to Chinese custom, Adeline was unlucky and was treated badly.
McKenzie, Sophie	<i>Girl Missing</i>	Lauren always knew she was adopted, but her adoptive parents refuse to tell her anything about her real family. Could it be that she was adopted illegally?
Montgomery, L M	<i>Anne of Green Gables</i>	Classic heartwarming story about an orphan girl mistakenly sent to a middle-aged brother and sister who wish to adopt a boy to work on their farm.
Morpurgo, Michael	War Horse	Joey is an exceptional horse who makes his mark on the battlefields during World War One.
Moss, Miriam	Girl on a Plane	In 1970, Anna is flying back to her boarding school in England when her plane is hijacked and the passengers held hostage in the desert. Based on a real event.
Mulligan, Andy	Trash	A thriller about a group of children living in extreme poverty in the Philippines who find a bag of money. Sadly, people do live on rubbish tips like the characters in this book.
O'Hearn, Kate	<i>Pegasus and the Flame</i>	Modern fantasy adventures involving Pegasus, the legendary winged horse
Palacio, R J	Wonder	August is severely disfigured. At the age of 10, he is going to school for the first time. How will his new classmates react to his face?
Paver, Michelle	<i>Wolf Brother</i>	An epic historical adventure set in the Stone Age, a time when people believed in magic. Torak is all alone in the world apart from his dog
Pitcher, Annabel	My sister lives on the Mantelpiece	Following the death of his sister in a terrorist attack, Jamie's family falls apart and he has to move from London and start a new life in the Lake District.
Pullman, Philip	<i>Northern Lights</i>	A complex fantasy adventure story set in an alternative world where everyone is accompanied by a "daemon", an animal version of their soul. It raises important questions about the relationship between religion and science.
Rundell, Catherine	Rooftoppers	As a baby Sophie is found floating in the English Channel in a cello case. When

		Social Services threaten to separate her from the kind man who found her, they run away to Paris together in search of her mother.
Sachar, Louis	Holes	Stanley Yelnats was framed for a crime he did not commit. He is sent to a juvenile detention camp in the hot desert and forced to dig a large hole each day.
Selznick, Brian	The Marvels	An intriguing brick of a book about family connections over 300 years. The book is in two parts. The first consists entirely of pencil drawings.
St John, Lauren	The One Dollar Horse	When Casey rescues a starving horse, she dreams of becoming a champion rider. But the odds are stacked against a poor girl from Hackney. This horse story is reminiscent of Enid Bagnold's classic National Velvet , which you might also enjoy.
Saunders, Kate	Five Children on the Western Front	A sequel to E Nesbit's classic story Five Children and It . It is not necessary to have read the original book, though having read this book you will probably want to! Nine years have passed, and it is the start of World War One. The eldest boys must go to war, whilst back home everybody must contribute to the war effort.
Stevens, Robin	<i>Murder Most Unladylike</i>	A murder mystery set in a girls' boarding school during the 1930s. Good readers who enjoy these books are encouraged to move on to the works of Agatha Christie which have many similarities to Stevens' series.
Telgemeier, Raina	Drama	A graphic novel about a school musical where there is plenty of drama both on and off stage.
Thebo, Mimi	Dreaming the Bear	A thoughtful family story about a teenage girl who cares for an injured bear in a snowy wilderness.
Torday, Piers	<i>The Last Wild</i>	In a fantasy future world where there are supposedly no animals left and all food is flavoured pink gloop, Kester embarks on a great adventure.
Westcott, Rebecca	Dandelion Clocks	Like all families, Liv's family have good times and bad times. But nothing has prepared Liv for her mother becoming terminally ill.
Winter, Tamsin	Being Miss Nobody	Starting secondary school is daunting for everyone, but imagine being unable to speak. Tamsin can talk, but only in places where she feels safe, like at home. She is bullied relentlessly, until she finds a way to fight back.
Wolk, Lauren	Wolf Hollow	This book has similarities with the American classic To Kill a Mockingbird . The story is in rural Pennsylvania in the 1940. When bully Betty comes to live with her grandmother, a chain of terrible events is set in motion.

S Green, Librarian