

Holcombe's Year 8 Recommended Reading List

Ghost Boys by Jewell Parker Rhodes *A ghostly boy confronts injustice and racism in modern America.*

Homebody by Theo Parish *A lyrical verse novel about grief, healing, and finding home.*

The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time by Mark Haddon *A boy with autism investigates a mystery in his neighbourhood.*

A Monster Calls by Patrick Ness *A monster visits a boy struggling with his mother's illness.*

The Island at the End of Everything by Kiran Millwood Hargrave *A girl fights to reunite with her mother on a leper colony.*

Flying High by Cao Wenxuan & Yu Rong *A poetic celebration of flight and freedom.*

I Am Malala (Young Readers Edition) by Malala Yousafzai *The inspiring story of a girl who stood up for education.*

Skellig by David Almond *A mysterious creature in a garage changes a boy's life.*

The Middler by Kirsty Applebaum *A middle child uncovers secrets in a dystopian village.*

The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas by John Boyne *A haunting friendship across a concentration camp fence.*

The Bubble Boy by Stewart Foster *A boy who lives in a sterile room dreams of adventure.*

The Many Worlds of Albie Bright by Christopher Edge *A boy uses quantum physics to find his mum in parallel worlds.*

The Girl of Ink and Stars by Kiran Millwood Hargrave *A cartographer's daughter sets out to save her island.*

The Dark is Rising by Susan Cooper *A boy discovers he's part of an ancient battle between light and dark.*

The Nowhere Emporium by Ross MacKenzie *A magical shop appears and disappears, offering wonders and danger.*

The Guggenheim Mystery by Robin Stevens & Siobhan Dowd *A stolen painting leads to a transatlantic mystery.*

The Unforgotten Coat by Frank Cottrell-Boyce *Two Mongolian brothers bring mystery and magic to a Liverpool classroom.*

The Boy Who Fooled the World by Lisa Thompson *A lie about a painting spirals into fame and trouble.*

The Book of Stolen Dreams by David Farr *Siblings race to protect a magical book from a tyrant.*

Crater Lake by Jennifer Killick. *It's spooky, funny, and fast-paced — perfect for readers who enjoy eerie settings and brave young protagonists.*