

## Recommended Reads for Year 5-6

### Action, Adventure & Mystery

***The Lost Twin*** (+) by Sophie Cleverly. Boarding school, a missing identical twin & mysterious clues

***The Lightning Girl*** (+) by Alesha Dixon. Aurora discovers she is a superhero. What next?

***The London Eye Mystery*** by Siobhan Dowd. Salim disappears from the London Eye; can he be found?

***Escape Room*** by Christopher Edge. A creepy novel where a games venue becomes key to survival.

***Murder At Snowfall*** by Fleur Hitchcock. Danger and mystery – and an abandoned trunk covered in snow

***High Rise Mystery & Mic Drop*** by Sharna Jackson. A tech-savvy detective duo fight crime in London.

***Detention Detectives*** by Lis Jardine. Year 7 detectives find a dead body at school!

***Highland Falcon Thief*** (+) by MG Leonard. First in an exciting series of mysteries set on trains!

***Anisha, Accidental Detective*** (+) by Serena Patel. A ransom note, a wedding & lots of twists and turns

***Lost In the Jungle of Doom*** (+) by Tracey Turner. Choose & live or die in this interactive adventure.

***H.I.V.E.*** (+) by Mark Walden. A Hogwarts of sorts but for villains. Filled with action and humour.

### Animals

***The Shark Caller*** by Zillah Bethell. Grief, adventure, a beautiful island setting & language + sharks

***Dog Diaries*** by Steven Butler. Written from the perspective of a naughty dog. Great for pet-lovers.

***Because of Winn Dixie*** by Kate DiCamillo. Opal's mother is gone – will a stray dog help?

***The Way of the Dog*** by Z Fraillion. Told from the perspective of a lonely young pup trying to find love

***The Last Bear*** (+), ***The Last Whale***. Heartwarming bonds with animals; environment & survival

***Dogs of the Deadlands*** by Anthony McGowan. Dogs, wolves, bears fighting for survival – and love

***Wolf Brother*** (+) by Michelle Paver. Only Torak - and a wolf cub - can save the world. Great series!

***Pax*** by Sara Pennypacker. A beautifully written story of a boy and his fox, who struggle to reunite.

***Tyger*** by SF Said. Adam finds a mysterious, magical tyger in future London – can they save the world?

### Fantasy or Magic Realism

***Amari and the Night Brothers*** (+) by B.B. Alston. Mermaids, aliens, weredragons & a missing brother

***Artemis Fowl*** (+) by Eoin Colfer. A 12 yo criminal mastermind robs high-tech fairies.

***Who Let the Gods Out*** (+) by Maz Evans. A zodiac goddess, a death daemon & Greek gods!

***Rumaysa: A Fairytale*** (+) by R. Hafiza. Rapunzel with a hijab. Hilarious retelling of 3 fairy tales.

***In the Shadow of the Wolf Queen*** by KM Hargrave. World-building fantasy with magic & danger.

***The Boy With Wings*** by Lenny Henry. Tunde has sprouted wings – and needs to save the world.

***Pages & Co*** (+) by Anna James. Fictional characters come to life for Tilly & she can wander into stories!

***The Legend of Podkin One-Ear*** by K Larwood. Destruction, magic, evil, adventure – and rabbits!

***The Elemental Detectives*** by P Lawrence. A sleeping sickness is coming to London. Magic galore!

***The Land of Roar*** by Jennifer McLachlan. A fantasy adventure with dragons, villains & magic.

***Impossible Creatures*** by K Rundell. An avalanche of mythical creatures tearing down the hill!

***Loki: A Bad God's Guide to Being Good*** (+) by Louie Stowell. Loki has been banished to earth. Funny!

***Malamander*** by Thomas Taylor. Mystery, mermonkeys, monsters & magic in Eerie-on-Sea.

***The Lost Magician*** by Piers Torday. Step through the Narnia-esque library door for an adventure.

### Fun

***Little Badman...*** (+) by H Arshad. Bees, microwaved pants, embarrassing relatives & an 11yo rapper!

***Maddy Yip's Guide to Life*** by Sue Cheung. Hilarious illustrations & mini-comics make this a winner!

***The Accidental Billionaire*** (+) by Tom McLaughlan. Jasper creates the world's first talking cat.

***Planet Omar*** (+) by Zanib Mian. Omar will keep you laughing and reading (better than Wimpy Kid!)

***Shoe Wars*** by Liz Pichon. A laugh-aloud story that includes flying shoes and lots of gadgets!

***My Brother is a Superhero*** (+) - D Solomon. It's unfair that Luke's brother gets superpowers!

***Sam Wu is Not Afraid*** (+) by Kevin Tsang. Sam Wu is definitely NOT scared of ghosts or zombies!

***The Day the Screens Went Blank*** by Danny Wallace. Stella (age 10) wakes up to a world with no tech.

## Ghosts and Horror

**Werewolf IHero** (+) by S Barlow & S Skidmore. You choose your own destiny – as a monster hunter!

**The Savage** by David Almond. What if your writing became reality – and you have created a savage?

**Doll Bones** by Holly Black. Eleanor Black died in 1895 – and now she wants to play.

**The Graveyard Book** by Neil Gaiman. Possibly the best opening to a story ever! Carnegie & Newbery.

**Dread Wood** (+) by Jennifer Killick. The worst detention ever, including battling huge spiders!

**Spirit Hunters** (+) by Ellen Oh. Murderous ghosts, diverse characters and spooky twists.

**Uncle Montague's Tales of Terror** by C. Priestley. A collection of intertwined, spine-tingling stories.

## Realistic Fiction & Tough Situations

**Cyborg Cat: Rise of the Parsons Road Gang** (+)- A. Adepitan. Friends, fun, racism & disability

**All to Play For** by Eve Ainsworth. Talented Lewis adores football but mum is too worried & sad.

**Light in Everything** by Katja Balen. Can step-siblings Tom & Zophia overcome their hatred of each other?

**Boy Under Water** by Adam Baron. A funny and poignant book sensitively exploring depression.

**Cloud Busting** or **Pig-Heart Boy** by Malorie Blackman. Inspiring and heart-warming books.

**The Flower Boy & Flower Power** by Keith Campion. James in Year 6 finds communicating difficult...

**Danny Chung Does Not Do Maths** by M Chan. Nai Nai (Grandmom) is taking over Danny's life.

**Check Mates** by Stewart Foster. Felix has ADHD is often in trouble. Grandad wants him to learn chess.

**If You Read This** by Kereen Getten. Grief & love, and Mama's last treasure hunt for 12yo Brie. Poignant

**Hello, Universe** by EE Kelly. A story of unusual friendships from 4 points of view. Newbery winner.

**Scarlet Ibis** by Gill Lewis. Whatever it takes, Scarlet will get her autistic brother back. Will make you cry.

**A Kind of Spark** by Elle McNicholl. Autistic 11-year-old Addie campaigns for a witch trial memorial.

**Wonder** by R.J. Palacio. A heart-warming story of a boy with a severe facial deformity.

**The Night Bus Hero** by Onjali Rauf. Biggest bully in school learns empathy and solves a mystery.

**As Brave As You** by Jason Reynolds. What does it mean to be brave? Disability, diversity and truth.

**The Rollercoaster Boy** by Lisa Thompson. A mystery & also a sensitive exploration of mental health.

**Front Desk** (+) by K Yang. Mia has lots of secrets, including that her parents hide immigrants.

## Robots/Science Fiction

**Troofriend** by K Applebaum. What could go wrong when your only friend is a robot with feelings?

**The Last Human** by Lee Bacon. Humans are (mostly) extinct. Robots are surely better at ruling?

**Runaway Robot** by FC Boyce. A fun, moving story of a boy with a prosthetic hand & a one-legged robot.

**The Wild Robot** (+) by Peter Brown. A robot on a remote island, battling animals – and her past?

**Adam-2** by Alistair Chisholm. In the war between humans & robots, which side will AI Adam take?

**The Attack of the Robot Librarians** (+) by Copeland & Pearson. Robots in charge of class behaviour!

**Slick** by MM Vaughan. Eric is the first android in society – but doesn't know it. Can he make friends?

**The Monkey Who Fell From the Future** by Ross Welford. Time travel – 400 years in the future!

## War & History

**Soldier Dog** by Sam Angus. Stanley is a dog-handler in WWI. Will his dog save countless lives?

**When the Sky Falls** or **When the Storm Rages** by Phil Earle. Unbeatable WWII novels set in London

**Call of the Titanic** by Lindsay Galvin. Drama & horror on the Atlantic – an exciting survivors tale

**Once** (+) by Morris Gleitzman. A Jewish boy trying to find his parents in Nazi-occupied Poland.

**Peril on the Atlantic** by AM Howell. A mystery set in 1936 as the Queen Mary crosses the ocean

**Race to the Frozen North** by Catherine Johnson. Based on M. Henson's life, a story of a pioneer.

**Number the Stars** by Lois Lowry. Why did most Jews in Nazi Denmark survive? Newbery winner.

**Resist** by Tom Palmer. Nazi rule in Holland was brutal, and this is Audrey Hepburn's story.

**How I Became a Ghost** (+) by Tim Tingle. A Choctaw Trail of Tears story – stunning.

**Windrush Child** by B Zephaniah. Living as a Jamaican immigrant in the UK. A page-turner.

+ = sequels/other books in the series available