

Library Collection – Reading List for Second Years

Please note: age ratings suggested for each text are based on online reviews and opinions. If you have any concerns, please review in advance before providing it. [Goodreads](#), [BookTrust](#) and [CommonSenseMedia](#) are three sources for more information and book reviews on each series/book listed below.

Please also check the earlier years reading list in case there are texts that may be of interest there also.

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Fantasy

A Monster Calls

Recommended for: fans of coming of age stories, fantasy, horror and realistic settings

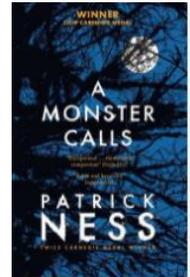
Recommended age: 14+ (contains sensitive themes and some scares)

Blurb: Conor has the same dream every night, ever since his mother first fell ill, ever since she started the treatments that don't quite seem to be working. But tonight is different.

Tonight, when he wakes, there's a visitor at his window. It's ancient, elemental, a force of nature. And it wants the most dangerous thing of all from Conor. It wants the truth.

This book has been made into a feature length film.

(Blurb taken from: [Goodreads A Monster Calls](#))



The Graveyard Book

Recommended for: fans of fantasy, mild scares and ghost stories

Recommended age: 13+

Blurb: Nobody Owens, known to his friends as Bod, is a perfectly normal boy. Well, he would be perfectly normal if he didn't live in a graveyard, being raised and educated by ghosts, with a solitary guardian who belongs to neither the world of the living nor the world of the dead.

There are dangers and adventures for Bod in the graveyard: the strange and terrible menace of the Sleer; a gravestone entrance to a desert that leads to the city of ghouls; friendship with a witch, and so much more.

But it is in the land of the living that real danger lurks, for it is there that the man Jack lives and he has already killed Bod's family.

(Blurb taken from: [Goodreads The Graveyard Book](#))

Three Dark Crowns

Recommended for: fans of thriller, crime plots, magic, complicated families and intrigue.

Recommended age: 15+

Series: 3 books in total.

Blurb: In every generation on the island of Fennbirn, a set of triplets is born—three queens, all equal heirs to the crown and each possessor of a coveted magic. Mirabella is a fierce elemental, able to spark hungry flames or vicious storms at the snap of her fingers. Katharine is a poisoner, one who can ingest the deadliest poisons without so much as a stomachache. Arsinoe, a naturalist, is said to have the ability to bloom the reddest rose and control the fiercest of lions.

But becoming the Queen Crowned isn't solely a matter of royal birth. Each sister has to fight for it. And it's not just a game of win or lose...it's life or death. The night the sisters turn sixteen, the battle begins.

The last queen standing gets the crown.

(Blurb taken from: [Goodreads Three Dark Crowns](#))

Miss Peregrine's Peculiar Children Series

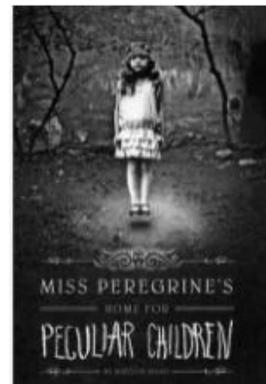
Recommended for: fans of fantasy, mystery and magic

Recommended age: 14+ (contains some gothic themes)

Series: Total of 6 in series

Blurb: A mysterious island. An abandoned orphanage. A strange collection of very curious photographs. It all waits to be discovered in Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children, an unforgettable novel that mixes fiction and photography in a thrilling reading experience. As our story opens, a horrific family tragedy sets sixteen-year-old Jacob journeying to a remote island off the coast of Wales, where he discovers the crumbling ruins of Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children. As Jacob explores its abandoned bedrooms and hallways, it becomes clear that the children were more than just peculiar. They may have been dangerous. They may have been quarantined on a deserted island for good reason. And somehow-impossible though it seems-they may still be alive.

(Blurb taken from: [Goodreads Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children](#))



The Hobbit and Lord of the Rings

Recommended for: fans of fantasy and adventure

Recommended age: any (note: the language in Lord of the Rings may be difficult for some readers)

Series: Total of 4 in series.

Blurb: *In a hole in the ground there lived a Hobbit....*

Join Bilbo Baggins in his unlikely adventure with a group of 13 dwarves and a wizard as they quest to regain their long lost homeland from a cruel dragon named Smaug.

This first novel introduces readers to the magical world of Middle Earth and acts as the prequel to the critically acclaimed Lord of the Rings.

One Ring to rule them all, One Ring to find them, One Ring to bring them all and in the darkness bind them.

When Frodo Baggins inherits a magical ring from his Uncle Bilbo, he has no idea of what lies in wait for him. Leaving the Shire, he and his friends Sam, Merry and Pippin, undertake a quest far larger themselves. Frodo must brave many threats along the way to deliver the ring to the pits of Mount Doom and save Middle Earth from destruction at the hands of the Dark Lord Sauron.

Science Fiction

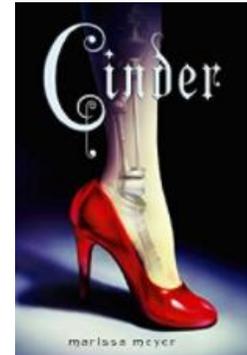
The Lunar Chronicles (Cinder)

Recommended for: *fans of retellings, science fiction and fantasy*

Recommended age: 14+

Series: Total of 4 in series

Blurb: Humans and androids crowd the raucous streets of New Beijing. A deadly plague ravages the population. From space, a ruthless Lunar people watch, waiting to make their move. No one knows that Earth's fate hinges on one girl. . . . Cinder, a gifted mechanic, is a cyborg. She's a second-class citizen with a mysterious past, reviled by her stepmother and blamed for her stepsister's illness. But when her life becomes intertwined with the handsome Prince Kai's, she suddenly finds herself at the center of an intergalactic struggle, and a forbidden attraction. Caught between duty and freedom, loyalty and betrayal, she must uncover secrets about her past in order to protect her world's future.



(Blurb taken from: [Goodreads Cinder](#))

Chaos Walking series

Recommended for: *fans of science fiction and thrillers*

Recommended age: 14+

Series: Total of 3 books in series.

Blurb: Todd Hewitt is the only boy in a town of men. Ever since the settlers were infected with the Noise germ, Todd can hear everything the men think, and they hear everything he thinks. Todd is just a month away from becoming a man, but in the midst of the cacophony, he knows that the town is hiding something from him -- something so awful Todd is forced to flee with only his dog, whose simple, loyal voice he hears too. With hostile men from the town in pursuit, the two stumble upon a strange and eerily silent creature: a girl. Who is she? Why wasn't she killed by the germ like all the females on New World? Propelled by Todd's gritty narration, readers are in for a white-knuckle journey in which a boy on the cusp of manhood must unlearn everything he knows in order to figure out who he truly is.

(Blurb taken from: [Goodreads The Knife of Never Letting Go](#))

Lorian Legacies series

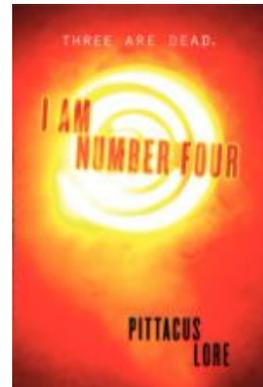
Recommended for: fans of science fiction, aliens and adventure

Recommended age: 13+

Series: Total of 7 books in series

Blurb: Nine of us came here. We look like you. We talk like you. We live among you. We can do things you dream of doing. We have powers you dream of having. We are stronger and faster than anything you have ever seen. We are the superheroes you worship in movies and comic books--but we are real. Our plan was to grow, and train, and become strong, and become one, and fight them. But they found us and started hunting us first. Now all of us are running. Spending our lives in shadows, in places where no one would look, blending in. We have lived among you without you knowing. But they know.

(Blurb taken from: [Goodreads I Am Number Four](#))



Warcross

Recommended for: fans of science fiction and fantasy.

Recommended age: 14+

Series: Total of 2 books in series

Blurb: For the millions who log in every day, Warcross isn't just a game—it's a way of life. The obsession started ten years ago and its fan base now spans the globe, some eager to escape from reality and others hoping to make a profit. Struggling to make ends meet, teenage hacker Emika Chen works as a bounty hunter, tracking down players who bet on the game illegally. But the bounty hunting world is a competitive one, and survival has not been easy. Needing to make some quick cash, Emika takes a risk and hacks into the opening game of the international Warcross Championships—only to accidentally glitch herself into the action and become an overnight sensation.

Convinced she's going to be arrested, Emika is shocked when instead she gets a call from the game's creator, the elusive young billionaire Hideo Tanaka, with an irresistible offer. He needs a spy on the inside of this year's tournament in order to uncover a security problem . . . and he wants Emika for the job.

(Blurb taken from: [Goodreads Warcross](#))

The Maze Runner

Recommended for: fans of science fiction and fantasy.

Series: Three books in series.

Blurb: If you ain't scared, you ain't human.

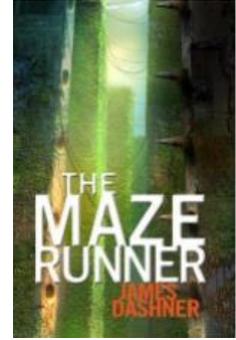
When Thomas wakes up in the lift, the only thing he can remember is his name. He's surrounded by strangers—boys whose memories are also gone. Nice to meet ya, shank. Welcome to the Glade.

Outside the towering stone walls that surround the Glade is a limitless, ever-changing maze. It's the only way out—and no one's ever made it through alive. Everything is going to change.

Then a girl arrives. The first girl ever. And the message she delivers is terrifying.

Remember. Survive. Run.

(Blurb taken from: [Goodreads The Maze Runner](#))



Classics

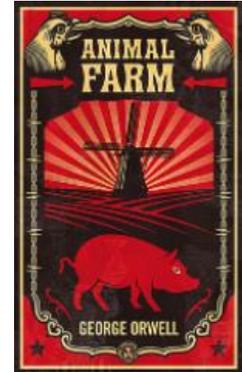
Animal Farm

Recommended for: fans of classics, social commentary and politics

Recommended age: 14+

Blurb: Having got rid of their human masters, the animals of Manor Farm look forward to a life of freedom and plenty. But gradually a cunning, ruthless élite emerges and the other animals discover that they are not as equal as they thought.

(Blurb taken from: DLR Class Sets)



Oliver Twist

Recommended for: fans of Victorian settings, social commentary, day-to-day life insights and survival stories.

Blurb: The story of Oliver Twist - orphaned, and set upon by evil and adversity from his first breath - shocked readers when it was published. After running away from the workhouse and pompous beadle Mr Bumble, Oliver finds himself lured into a den of thieves peopled by vivid and memorable characters - the Artful Dodger, vicious burglar Bill Sikes, his dog Bull's Eye, and prostitute Nancy, all watched over by cunning master-thief Fagin. Combining elements of Gothic Romance, the Newgate Novel and popular melodrama, Dickens created an entirely new kind of fiction, scathing in its indictment of a cruel society, and pervaded by an unforgettable sense of threat and mystery.

(Blurb taken from: [Goodreads Oliver Twist](#))

White Fang

Recommended for: fans of historical fiction, animal narrators, dogs/wolves, adventures in unlikely places and tales of survival.

Blurb: White Fang is part dog and part wolf, and the lone survivor of his family. In his lonely world, he soon learns to follow the harsh law of the North--kill or be killed. But nothing in White Fang's life can prepare him for the cruel owner who turns him into a vicious killer. Will White Fang ever know the kindness of a gentle master?

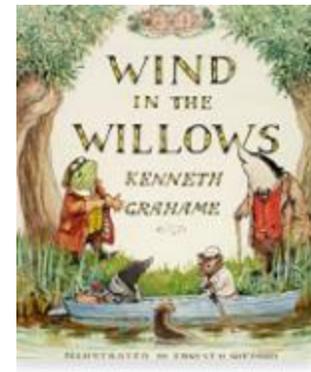
(Blurb taken from: [Goodreads White Fang](#))

The Wind in the Willows

Recommended for: fans of historical fiction, animal narrators, adventures and funny narratives.

Blurb: For more than a century, *The Wind in the Willows* and its endearing protagonists--Mole, Mr. Toad, Badger, and Ratty--have enchanted children of all ages. Whether the four friends are setting forth on an exciting adventure, engaging in a comic caper, or simply relaxing by the River Thames, their stories are among the most charming in all English literature.

(Blurb taken from: [Goodreads The Wind in the Willows](#))



Watership Down

Recommended for: fans of animal narrators, survival stories, rivalries and overcoming all obstacles despite the odds.

Blurb: Set in England's Downs, a once idyllic rural landscape, this stirring tale of adventure, courage and survival follows a band of very special creatures on their flight from the intrusion of man and the certain destruction of their home. Led by a stouthearted pair of friends, they journey forth from their native Sandleford Warren through the harrowing trials posed by predators and adversaries, to a mysterious promised land and a more perfect society.

(Blurb taken from: [Goodreads Watership Down](#))

Mystery and Thrillers

One of Us is Lying

Recommended for: fans of mystery, thrillers, school dramas and contemporary settings.

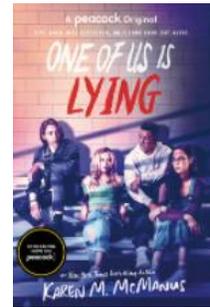
Blurb: Pay close attention and you might solve this.

On Monday afternoon, five students at Bayview High walk into detention. Bronwyn, the brain, is Yale-bound and never breaks a rule. Addy, the beauty, is the picture-perfect homecoming princess.

Nate, the criminal, is already on probation for dealing. Cooper, the athlete, is the all-star baseball pitcher. And Simon, the outcast, is the creator of Bayview High's notorious gossip app.

Only, Simon never makes it out of that classroom. Before the end of detention Simon's dead. And according to investigators, his death wasn't an accident. On Monday, he died. But on Tuesday, he'd planned to post juicy reveals about all four of his high-profile classmates, which makes all four of them suspects in his murder. Or are they the perfect patsies for a killer who's still on the loose?

(Blurb taken from: [Goodreads One of Us is Lying](#))



We Were Liars

Recommended for: fans of mystery, thrillers, school dramas and contemporary settings.

Blurb: A beautiful and distinguished family. A private island. A brilliant, damaged girl; a passionate, political boy. A group of four friends—the Liars—whose friendship turns destructive. A revolution. An accident. A secret. Lies upon lies. True love. The truth.

(Blurb taken from: [Goodreads We Were Liars](#))

Midnight (by Lene Kaaberbøl)

Recommended for: fans of mystery, magical realism, fantastical creatures and intrigue.

Series: 3 in total

Blurb: As an apprentice Bredinari, hot-tempered Kat is finally within touching distance of fulfilling her dream - to tame and ride her own horse, so that she can carry messages on behalf of the Castle and help those in need.

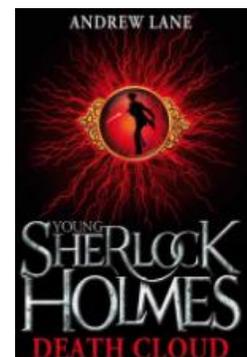
The Young Sherlock Holmes series

Recommended for: fans of mystery, thrillers, retellings, puzzles and intrigue.

Series: 8 in total.

Blurb: 1868 England. Sherlock Holmes, age 14, unexpectedly summers with Farnham relations and befriends orphan Matt. Why does a dark cloud float from a corpse covered in red boils? Sherlock fights, runs, gets caught, drugged, whipped, ordered killed; defending bystander is fatally knifed. Americans logical tutor Amycus Crowe and daughter Virginia in well-fitting breeches help.

(Blurb taken from: [Goodreads Death Cloud](#))



The Theodore Boone Series

Recommended for: fans of mystery, thrillers, political drama, court drama and legal thrillers.

Series: 7 in total.

Blurb: 1868 England. Sherlock Holmes, age 14, unexpectedly summers with Farnham relations and befriends orphan Matt. Why does a dark cloud float from a corpse covered in red boils? Sherlock fights, runs, gets caught, drugged, whipped, ordered killed; defending bystander is fatally knifed. Americans logical tutor Amycus Crowe and daughter Virginia in well-fitting breeches help.

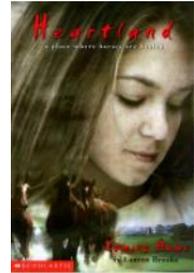
(Blurb taken from: [Goodreads Kid Lawyer](#))

Young Adult Fiction

The Heartland Series

Recommended for: fans of family narratives, horses, stories about overcoming all odds, hardships and animals.

Series: 20 in total, along with several special edition novellas.



Blurb: When Amy’s mother, a skilled horse trainer and healer, is in an accident during a horse rescue, Amy must take up the mantle and learn all that her mother once knew. With her mother’s journals and remedies, Amy tackles problem horses, caring for injured animals and more while also navigating school and home life in the face of her mother’s passing.

The Girl Online Series

Recommended for: fans of romance, contemporary settings and realistic narratives.

Series: 3 in total in series.

Blurb: Penny has a secret. Under the alias GirlOnline, she blogs about school dramas, boys, her mad, whirlwind family - and the panic attacks she's suffered from lately. When things go from bad to worse, her family whisks her away to New York, where she meets the gorgeous, guitar-strumming Noah. Suddenly Penny is falling in love - and capturing every moment of it on her blog.

But Noah has a secret too. One that threatens to ruin Penny's cover - and her closest friendship - forever.

(Blurb taken from: [Goodreads Girl Online](#))

The Model Spy Series

Recommended for: fans of contemporary settings, mysteries, spy stories, thrillers and global adventures.

Series: 3 in total in series.

Blurb: Models, spies and lipstick gadgets... When Jessica's father, a former spy, vanishes mysteriously, Jessica takes matters into her own hands. She's not just a daddy's girl who's good at striking a pose; she's a trained spook who knows how to take on MI6 and beat them at their own game.

(Blurb taken from: [Goodreads Code Red Lipstick](#))



The Book Thief

Recommended for: fans of historical fiction, World War stories, adventure, secrets and survival against all odds.

Blurb: It is 1939. Nazi Germany. The country is holding its breath. Death has never been busier, and will be busier still.

By her brother's graveside, Liesel's life is changed when she picks up a single object, partially hidden in the snow. It is The Gravedigger's Handbook, left behind there by accident, and it is her first act of book thievery. So begins a love affair with books and words, as Liesel, with the help of her accordion-playing foster father, learns to read. Soon she is stealing books from Nazi book-burnings, the mayor's wife's library, wherever there are books to be found.

But these are dangerous times. When Liesel's foster family hides a Jew in their basement, Liesel's world is both opened up, and closed down.

(Blurb take from: [Goodreads The Book Thief](#))

The Boy at the Top of the Mountain

Recommended for: fans of historical fiction, war stories and survival against all odds.

Blurb: When Pierrot becomes an orphan, he must leave his home in Paris for a new life with his Aunt Beatrix, a servant in a wealthy household at the top of the German mountains. But this is no ordinary time, for it is 1935 and the Second World War is fast approaching; and this is no ordinary house, for this is the Berghof, the home of Adolf Hitler.

Quickly, Pierrot is taken under Hitler's wing, and is thrown into an increasingly dangerous new world: a world of terror, secrets and betrayal, from which he may never be able to escape.

(Blurb taken from: [Goodreads The Boy at the Top of the Mountain](#))

