

MCS English: Lower School Reading List

Below are some books you might wish to read during your years in the Second and Third Forms. There are a range of genres and levels of difficulty, from the classic to the contemporary. The starred titles offer a slightly greater challenge. The more you read, and get into a habit of reading, the easier and more enjoyable you will find it!

- Isaac Asimov: *I, Robot* * – gripping science-fiction tales, featuring robots.
- Malorie Blackman: *Pig Heart Boy* – a moving tale about a young boy's struggle to gain a donated heart.
- Theresa Breslin: *Remembrance* – an inspiring story about young people caught up in the First World War.
- John Buchan: *The Thirty-Nine Steps* * – a war-time adventure novel.
- Eoin Colfer: *Artemis Fowl* – science fiction fantasy novels about a 12 year-old criminal mastermind.
- Arthur Conan Doyle: *The Valley of Fear* * – Sherlock Holmes solves another mystery...
- Frank Cottrell-Boyce: *Millions* – two boys' adventure after an unexpectedly lucrative train journey/robbery.
- Alexandre Dumas: *The Three Musketeers* * – classic adventure tale.
- Anne Fine: *Flour Babies* – a humorous story about children thrust into a rather odd situation at school.
- Zana Fraillon: *The Bone Sparrow* – the moving story of a refugee boy who has spent his whole life in a detention centre and knows no other life, until he is befriended by a girl from outside the camp.
- Neil Gaiman: *Coraline* – a thrilling fantasy tale: Coraline finds that her new house has a dark side.
- Sally Gardner: *Maggot Moon* – a powerful novella about a dyslexic boy's struggle in a dystopian England .
- Aldous Huxley: *Brave New World* * – genetically modified humans are repressed within a rigid social hierarchy in this classic dystopian novel.
- Judith Kerr: *When Hitler Stole Pink Rabbit* – the inspirational tale of one Jewish family's flight from *Hitler's Germany*.
- Ursula Le Guin: *A Wizard of Earthsea* – first in the *Earthsea* series, it is a thrilling tale of wizards and dragons.
- Jack London: *The Call of the Wild* * – the dramatic adventure of a dog's journey back to nature.
- Taran Matharu: *The Novice (Summoner Series)* – a high fantasy adventure of demons and battlemage training for Fletcher, the blacksmith's apprentice who unexpectedly discovers he has magical abilities.
- Geraldine McCaughrean: *The Kite Rider* – a magical tale of one boy's quest to follow in his father's footsteps.
- Geraldine McCaughrean: *Where the World Ends* – inspired by a true story: a group of boys and men are abandoned on a remote island, survival will require them to pit their wits against all of nature's extremities.
- Ian McEwan: *The Daydreamer* – a story about the fantastical worlds created by the imagination.
- Beverly Naidoo: *The Other Side of Truth* – the moving story of lone child refugees trying to forge a life in England.
- George Orwell: *Animal Farm* – politics transported into the world of the farm where pigs rule the roost.
- Mervyn Peake: *Gormenghast* – a fantasy set in the gothic Castle Gormenghast.
- Christopher Priest: *Fugue for a Darkening Island* * – a topical dystopian science fiction about a world ravaged by political failure and a refugee crisis.
- Philip Reeve: *Here Lies Arthur* – a brilliant re-writing of the Camelot tale.
- Louis Sachar: *Holes* – a gripping story about a boy unjustly sent away to dig holes in a detention centre.
- Marcus Sedgwick: *The Dark Horse* – a dark and powerful story of conflict, betrayal and magic.
- Ian Serrallier: *The Silver Sword* – a moving story of children fleeing war-torn Poland after the Second World War.
- Robert Louis Stevenson: *The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde* * – a gothic tale of a man with a twisted alter-ego.
- J. R. R. Tolkien: *The Hobbit* * – a fantasy classic about a quest for dragon-guarded treasure.
- Mark Twain: *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* * – a thrilling tale about the many escapades had growing on the Mississippi river.
- Lauren Wolk: *Beyond the Bright Sea* – a historical mystery about a young girl discovering her background and the reasons why she was set adrift as a baby to wash up on the shore of a secluded island.