

Book Title	Author	Suggested Age	Genre	Description
<i>Holes</i>	Louis Sachar	11+	Adventure, Mystery	Stanley Yelnats uncovers a mystery while digging holes at a camp for troubled boys. Full of humour and plot twists, it's engaging and challenging.
<i>The Hobbit</i>	J.R.R. Tolkien	12+	Fantasy	Bilbo Baggins embarks on a magical adventure, rich with fantasy and complex characters, ideal for building imagination and vocabulary.
<i>Wonder</i>	R.J. Palacio	10–14	Realistic Fiction	A heart-warming story about Auggie, a boy with a facial difference, navigating school and friendships, promoting empathy and kindness.
<i>Northern Lights (The Golden Compass)</i>	Philip Pullman	12+	Fantasy	Lyra uncovers dark secrets in a world of parallel universes. A thought-provoking and complex fantasy adventure.
<i>Percy Jackson and the Olympians: The Lightning Thief</i>	Rick Riordan	10–13	Fantasy, Mythology	A modern twist on Greek mythology with fast-paced adventure, perfect for young readers who love action and learning about myths.
<i>A Monster Calls</i>	Patrick Ness	12+	Fantasy, Emotional Drama	A boy is visited by a monster while dealing with his mother's illness. Deeply moving and thought-provoking.
<i>Skellig</i>	David Almond	12+	Magical Realism	Michael discovers a mysterious creature, blending fantasy with themes of hope and friendship.
<i>High-Rise Mystery</i>	Sharna Jackson	10+	Mystery	Two friends, Nik and Norva, solve a murder mystery in their high-rise London estate. A fun, diverse, and fast-paced modern mystery.
<i>The Crossover</i>	Kwame Alexander	11–13	Sports, Poetry	Told in verse, this story follows twin brothers who excel at basketball, exploring themes of family, identity, and growing up.
<i>Ghost</i>	Jason Reynolds	11–13	Sports, Realistic Fiction	The story of a young boy with raw talent for running, tackling tough themes like poverty and resilience.
<i>The Breadwinner</i>	Deborah Ellis	11+	Historical Fiction	A powerful novel about an Afghan girl named Parvana who must disguise herself as a boy to support her family under Taliban rule.
<i>Long Way Down</i>	Jason Reynolds	12+	Realistic Fiction, Verse	This gripping novel in verse follows a boy on an elevator ride, making life-altering decisions after his brother's death.
<i>The Boy at the Back of the Class</i>	Onjali Q. Raúf	9–12	Realistic Fiction	A heart-warming tale of a refugee boy's arrival in a new school, highlighting themes of kindness and empathy.
<i>The Wolves of Willoughby Chase</i>	Joan Aiken	10–13	Adventure, Historical	Two girls face danger in an alternate history of England. A thrilling, fast-paced classic.

Book Title	Author	Suggested Age	Genre	Description
<i>The Graveyard Book</i>	Neil Gaiman	12+	Fantasy, Mystery	Bod, raised by ghosts in a graveyard, faces danger and adventure. A dark yet thrilling fantasy novel.
<i>Anne of Green Gables</i>	L.M. Montgomery	11–14	Classic, Realistic Fiction	Anne Shirley’s adventures at Green Gables offer humour and deep character exploration in this classic novel.
<i>Mortal Engines</i>	Philip Reeve	12+	Dystopian, Adventure	Set in a post-apocalyptic future with cities on wheels, this novel is full of action and social themes.
<i>Coraline</i>	Neil Gaiman	10–12	Fantasy, Horror	Coraline finds a parallel world that turns dark and dangerous. A magical and eerie story for young readers.
<i>The House with Chicken Legs</i>	Sophie Anderson	10–13	Fantasy, Folk Tale	Inspired by the Russian folk tale of Baba Yaga, this enchanting novel explores themes of life, death, and belonging.
<i>The Secret Garden</i>	Frances Hodgson Burnett	10–13	Classic, Realistic Fiction	Mary Lennox discovers a hidden garden that transforms her life. A beautiful and thoughtful classic.
<i>The Call of the Wild</i>	Jack London	12+	Adventure, Classic	Set in the harsh wilderness, this story of a dog’s survival challenges readers with its themes of nature and instinct.
<i>Boy 87</i>	Ele Fountain	12+	Refugee, Adventure	A gripping and timely story about a boy fleeing his homeland, touching on themes of courage, survival, and the refugee crisis.
<i>Goodnight Mister Tom</i>	Michelle Magorian	11–14	Historical Fiction	A heart-warming tale of an evacuee and his relationship with a recluse during WWII, highlighting themes of kindness and personal growth.
<i>The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas</i>	John Boyne	12+	Historical Fiction	Set during WWII, this story explores the friendship between a German boy and a Jewish boy in a concentration camp, ideal for mature readers.
<i>The Hate U Give</i>	Angie Thomas	12+	Realistic Fiction	Starr navigates the complexities of racial injustice after witnessing her friend’s shooting. Powerful and timely for older readers.

How Parents Can Support Their Child’s Reading

- **Encourage variety:** A mix of genres and diverse stories keeps reading exciting and broadens understanding of different perspectives.
- **Daily reading:** Even 20-30 minutes of reading a day can help build strong reading habits.
- **Discuss what they read:** Ask about the plot, characters, and themes to engage your child’s thinking.
- **Visit libraries and bookstores:** All of these titles are widely available in the UK, either in libraries or bookstores.