



# Year 7 Reading List

Reading fiction is good for us in so many ways. For example, did you know that if you read a story book it can help with your problem-solving skills, it can help you understand the world around you much better, it can help to relieve stress and take you on a journey to anywhere in the world!

So how come you don't read? Maybe it's because there are so many books out there that you don't know where to start. This is where this reading list will help you. There are twenty one books in this booklet from classic Greek myths (don't worry, it's retold in modern English) and Arthurian legends to contemporary issues such as the Syrian conflict and friendship issues, with lots in between. Some of these stories are funny, some are sad and some are fast paced action thrillers from start to finish. You may not like all of them, but give them a go and discover a whole new world of excitement!

Happy reading!



Welland Park  
Academy

An 11 - 16 Community College

Tel: 01858 464 795 | [www.wellandparkacademy.co.uk](http://www.wellandparkacademy.co.uk)

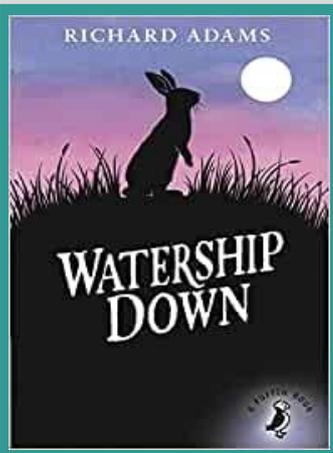
Welcome



Welland Park  
Academy



Learning For Life

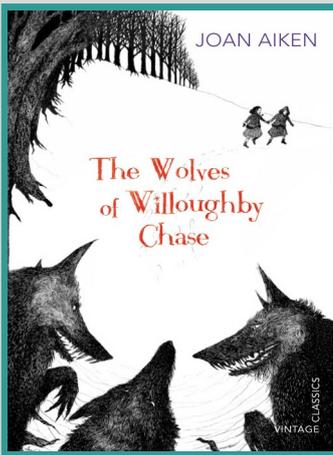


*Watership Down*  
Richard Adams

Fiver could sense danger. Something terrible was going to happen to the warren - he felt sure of it. So did his brother Hazel, for Fiver's sixth sense was never wrong.

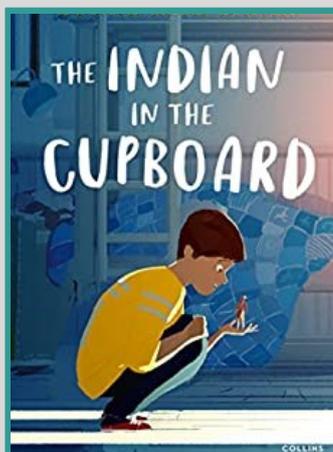
They had to leave immediately, and they had to persuade the other rabbits to join them. And so begins a long and perilous journey of a small band of rabbits in search of a safe home. Fiver's vision finally leads them to Watership Down, but here they face their most difficult challenge of all...

Full of adventure, humour, excitement and sadness this book will enthrall you until the very last page.



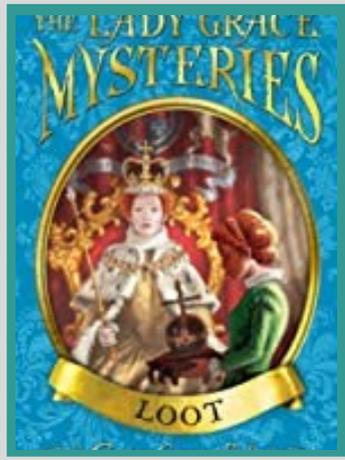
*The Wolves of Willoughby Chase*  
Joan Aiken

1832 - a period of English History that never happened. Good King James III is on the throne and the country is ravaged by wolves which have migrated through the newly-opened Channel Tunnel. When Sylvia and Bonnie (both orphans) fall into the hands of evil Miss Slighcarp, they must use all their wits to escape unscathed - for the governess is more cruel and merciless than the wolves that surround the great house of Willoughby Chase.



*The Indian in the Cupboard*  
Lynne Reid Banks

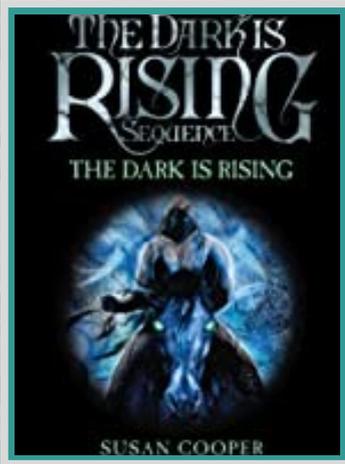
The Indian in the Cupboard is the first of five gripping books about Omri and his plastic North American Indian - Little Bull - who comes alive when Omri puts him in a cupboard. For Omri, it is a dream come true when the plastic American Indian he locks into the old cupboard comes to life. Little Bull is everything an Indian brave should be - proud, fearless and defiant. But being in charge of a real, live, human being is a heavy responsibility, as Omri soon discovers. And when his best friend, Patrick, is let in on the secret, he soon realises that life-changing decisions lie ahead.



*Loot*  
Grace Cavendish

When the crown jewels are stolen from a locked room in the castle right under Queen Elizabeth I nose, she's furious and asks Grace, her secret Lady Pursuivant, to investigate. This is the toughest mystery Grace has had to solve yet. The thief must be amongst them in the palace...Can Grace figure out their identity before it's too late?

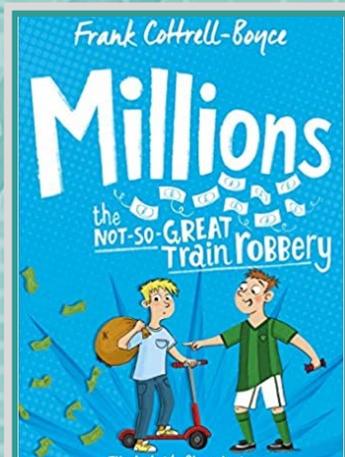
Part of the *Lady Grace Mysteries* series. There are fifteen books in total but they don't have to be read in order.



*The Dark is Rising*  
Susan Cooper

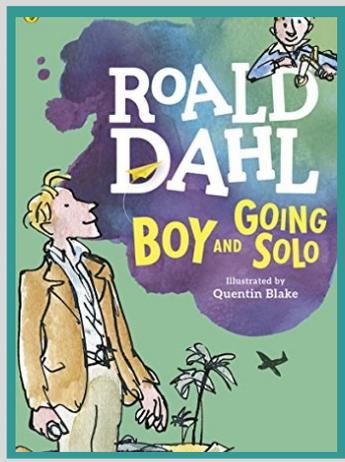
'This night will be bad, and tomorrow will be beyond imagining'. It's Christmas-time in the Stanton family house: presents, carol singing, good cheer. Then on Midwinter Day, Will wakes up to a different world: silent, covered in snow and ancient forest, a world of another time. He is the last person to be born with the power of the Old Ones, and as a guardian of the Light he must begin a dangerous journey to vanquish the terrifyingly evil magic of the Dark.

This is the second book in "The Dark is Rising" series; it can be read on its own, but if you enjoy it, why not read the whole series?



*Millions*  
Frank Cottrell-Boyce

*Millions* is the tale of a not-so-great train robbery. Two brothers are unwittingly caught up in a train robbery during Britain's countdown to joining the Euro. Suddenly finding themselves with a vast amount of cash, the boys have just one glorious, appalling dilemma - how to spend it in the few days before it becomes worthless. Torn between the vices of buying a million pizzas and the virtues of ending world poverty, the boys soon discover that being rich is a mug's game. For not only is the clock ticking - the bungling bank robbers are closing in too. Pizzas or World Peace - what would you choose?

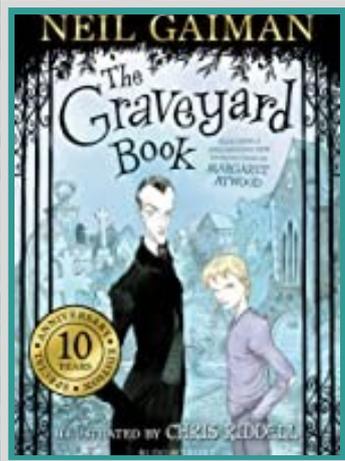


**Boy & Going Solo**  
Roald Dahl

Roald Dahl wasn't always a writer. Once he was just a schoolboy. Have you ever wondered what he was like growing up?

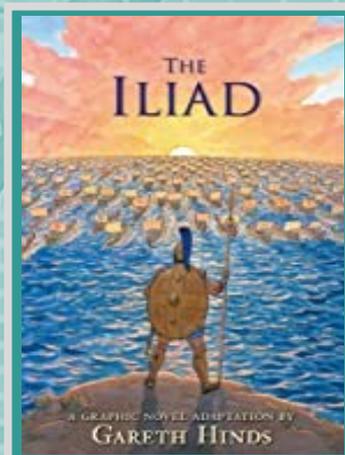
In *Boy* you'll find out why he and his friends took revenge on the beastly Mrs Pratchett who ran the sweet shop. He remembers what it was like taste-testing chocolate for Cadbury's and he even reveals how his nose was nearly sliced off. Then in *Going Solo*, you'll read stories of whizzing through the air in a Tiger Moth Plane, encounters with hungry lions, and the terrible crash that led him to storytelling.

Roald Dahl tells his story in his own words - and it's all TRUE



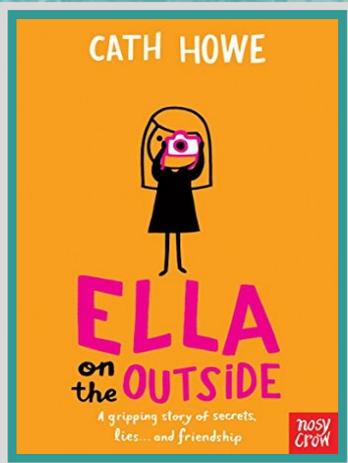
**The Graveyard Book**  
Neil Gaiman

When a baby escapes a murderer intent on killing the entire family, who would have thought it would find safety and security in the local graveyard? Brought up by the resident ghosts, ghouls and spectres, Bod has an eccentric childhood learning about life from the dead. But for Bod there is also the danger of the murderer still looking for him - after all, he is the last remaining member of the family. A stunningly original novel deftly constructed over eight chapters, featuring every second year of Bod's life, from babyhood to adolescence. Will Bod survive to be a man?



**The Iliad**  
Gareth Hinds

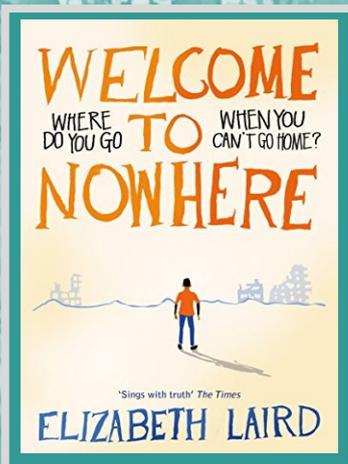
A crisis point in the Trojan War - Achilles, hero of the Greeks and leader of the ferocious Myrmidons, smoulders in anger against Agamemnon, the most powerful of the Greek leaders. As long as Achilles refuses to fight, the Greeks are destined to fail, pushed back ever further from the stronghold city of Troy by Hector and Paris' Trojan army. Above the fighting on Mount Olympus, the gods watch on, each allied to a different warrior and each willing to extend the hand of divine intervention to ensure their success... Battle, glory, pride, death and revenge take centre stage in this classic epic retold in Gareth Hind's graphic novel.



*Ella on the Outside*  
Cath Howe

Ella is the new girl at school. She doesn't know anyone and she doesn't have any friends. And she has a terrible secret. Ella can't believe her luck when Lydia, the most popular girl in school, decides to be her new best friend - but what does Lydia really want? And what does it all have to do with Molly, the quiet, shy girl who won't talk to anyone?

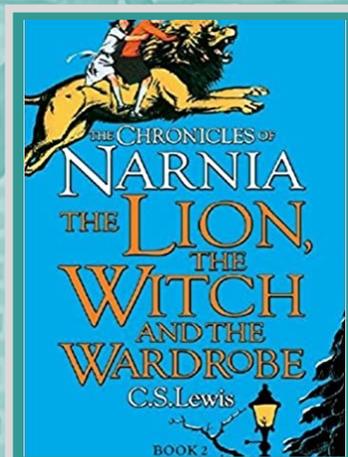
This is a pacy story of secrets and lies but it also carries a heart-warming message of friendship and finding the inner strength to be who you really want to be.



*Welcome to Nowhere*  
Elizabeth Laird

Twelve-year-old Omar and his brothers and sisters were born and raised in the beautiful and bustling city of Bosra, Syria. Omar doesn't care about politics - all he wants is to grow up to become a successful businessman who will take the world by storm. But when his clever older brother, Musa, gets mixed up with some young political activists, everything changes ...

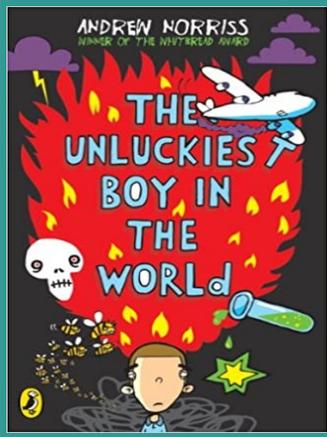
Before long, bombs are falling, people are dying, and Omar and his family have no choice but to flee their home with only what they can carry. Yet no matter how far they run, the shadow of war follows them - until they have no other choice than to attempt the dangerous journey to escape their homeland altogether. But where do you go when you can't go home?



*The Lion, the Witch & the Wardrobe*  
C.S. Lewis

Perhaps the ultimate battle between Good and Evil? Classic tale of children who travel to a world of endless winter – “always winter but never Christmas”. They have to join with Aslan to battle the forces of the evil White Witch to try and awaken the world from its wintry spell but one of them has been swayed by greed to the forces of darkness.....

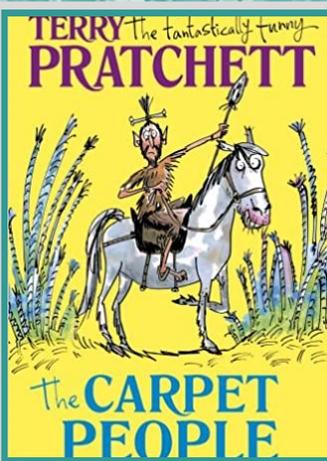
This is probably the most well-known in *The Chronicles of Narnia* series of seven books. It can be read on its own or as part of the seven book series.



*The Unluckiest Boy in the World*  
Andrew Norriss

Nicholas Frith has always considered himself to be about as lucky as the average boy. But while on holiday with his mum, Nicholas accidentally disturbs an ancient tomb and everything changes.

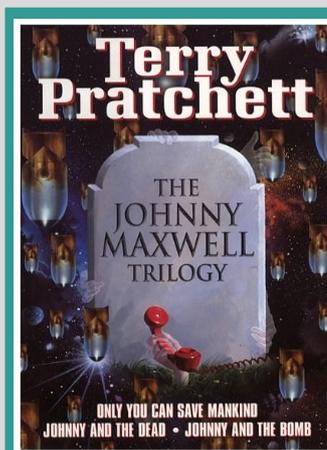
Nicholas falls under an ancient curse and suddenly misfortune, calamity and disaster follow him everywhere! The curse can't touch Nicholas himself, but bad things happen to everyone else around him. Forced to move from school to school, Nicholas loses hope of ever lifting the curse or ever finding someone who will risk being his friend. But one day he meets Fiona - the one person who is prepared to take that risk. Through Fiona's friendship, Nicholas learns to believe in himself and break the curse at last, changing his luck for ever.



*The Carpet People*  
Terry Pratchett

In the beginning, there was nothing but endless flatness. Then came the Carpet... That's the old story everyone knows and loves. But now the Carpet is home to many different tribes and peoples and there's a new story in the making. The story of Fray, sweeping a trail of destruction across the Carpet. The story of power-hungry moults - and of two Munrung brothers, who set out on an amazing adventure. It's a story that will come to a terrible end - if someone doesn't do something about it. If everyone doesn't do something about it....

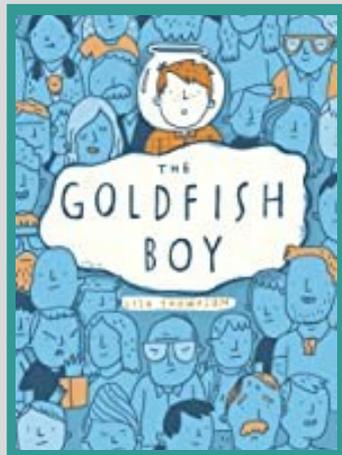
If you have always wanted to read *The Lord of the Rings*, but are not quite up to it yet, this is the perfect starting place.



*Only You Can Save Mankind*  
Terry Pratchett

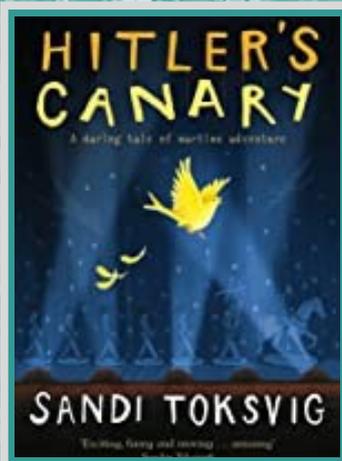
Johnny Maxwell is just an ordinary boy – not smart, popular or rich. But he does love video games. And as his parents argue themselves out of a marriage, Johnny plays at becoming humanity's last hope, shooting the mighty alien fleet out of a pixelated sky. But then they send him a message: We surrender. They're not supposed to do that! They're supposed to die. And computer joysticks don't have 'Don't Fire' buttons. But it's only a game.....isn't it?

The first book in the Johnny Maxwell Trilogy. The other books are *Johnny and the Dead* and *Johnny and the Bomb*



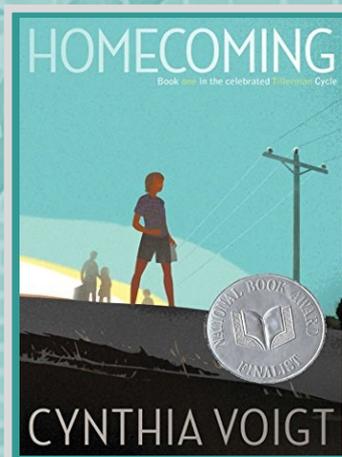
**The Goldfish Boy**  
Lisa Thompson

Twelve-year-old Matthew is trapped in his bedroom by crippling OCD, spending most of his time staring out of his window as the inhabitants of Chestnut Close go about their business. Until the day he is the last person to see his next door neighbour's toddler, Teddy, before he goes missing. Matthew must turn detective and unravel the mystery of Teddy's disappearance - with the help of a brilliant cast of supporting characters. Page-turning, heart-breaking, but ultimately life-affirming, it is a book that will make you laugh and cry.



**Hitler's Canary**  
Sandi Toksvig

It's April 1940 and German troops are pouring onto the streets of Denmark. 12-year-old Bamse is ordered by his father to keep his head down and stay out of trouble. But Bamse and his daring friend Anton can't resist playing the occasional practical joke on the invading soldiers. When it becomes clear that the trouble isn't just going to pass them by, the people of Denmark decide to take action and Bamse and his eccentric family are about to take part in one of history's most dramatic rescues - smuggling Denmark's Jewish population, across the water to Sweden, and safety. Many of the characters are based on Sandi's own family, including her father, Bamse, and the book was inspired by the stories her told to her.



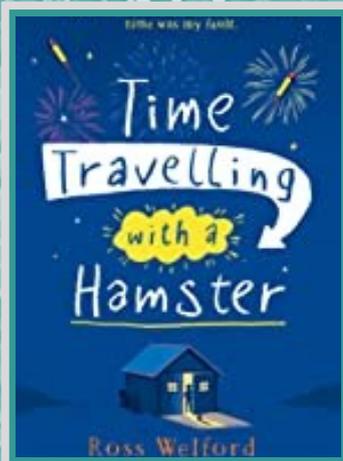
**Homecoming**  
Cynthia Voigt

"It's still true." That's the first thing James Tillerman says to his older sister, Dicey, every morning. It's still true that their mother has abandoned the four Tillermans in a mall parking lot somewhere in the middle of Connecticut. It's still true that they have to find their own way to Great-aunt Cilla's house in Bridgeport. It's still true that they need to spend as little as possible on food and seek shelter anywhere that is out of view of the authorities. It's still true that the only way they can hope to all stay together is to just keep moving forward.

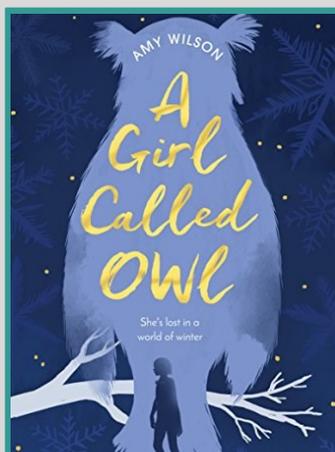
Deep down, Dicey hopes they can find someone to trust, someone who will take them in and love them. But she's afraid it's just too much to hope for....



**H.I.V.E.**  
Mark Walden



**Time Travelling With a Hamster**  
Ross Welford



**A Girl Called Owl**  
Amy Wilson

The Higher Institute of Villainous Education, or H.I.V.E as it is more commonly known, selects its students carefully: each has a special talent for the supremely villainous. Otto Malpense has been chosen for his skills in Global Domination. But, Otto doesn't feel the need to study when he's already so skilled. Can he escape? A thrilling story about some unusually villainous students.

There are eight books in this fast paced crime adventure series that will have you gripping the edge of your seat!

"My dad died twice. Once when he was thirty-nine and again four years later when he was twelve."

On Al Chaudhury's twelfth birthday his beloved Grandpa Byron gives him a letter from Al's late father. In it Al receives a mission: travel back to 1984 in a secret time machine and save his father's life.

Al soon discovers that time travel requires daring and imagination. It also requires lies, theft, setting his school on fire and ignoring philosophical advice from Grandpa Byron. All without losing his pet hamster, Alan Shearer...

It's bad enough having a mum dippy enough to name you Owl, but when you've got a dad you've never met, a best friend who needs you more than ever, and a new boy at school giving you weird looks, there's not a lot of room for much else. So when Owl starts seeing strange frost patterns on her skin, she's tempted to just burrow down under the duvet and forget all about it.

Could her strange new powers be linked to her mysterious father? And what will happen when she enters the magical world of winter for the first time?