



# The Billericay School

## Year 8 Suggested Reading List

While in Year 8, you should try to read a wide variety of types of books. Don't just stick to one author, or one genre. Experiment with something new. That is one reason why this list is arranged in genre based sections. As well as reading books, don't forget that newspapers and good magazines are also excellent reading material and will get you used to a range of reading experiences that will set you up well for GCSE and beyond. Not only will reading benefit you in your school subjects, but it will also broaden your knowledge and understanding of the world around you.

It is recommended that you try to read at least one of the following texts each half term. The texts below are listed to complement what you will be learning during each half term. Please find the BAME authors and texts with BAME protagonists highlighted in pink and the LGBTQ+ authors and texts with LGBTQ+ representation are highlighted in orange.

### Year 8 Autumn 1

#### Murder mystery

What's the title?	Who's the author?	What is it about?
Artemis Fowl	Eoin Colfer	Craftily plotted and fiercely funny, Eoin Colfer's international bestseller follows the adventures of an inimitable twelve-year-old criminal mastermind. Artemis Fowl is determined to restore his family's fortunes and defeat the terrifying, crafty high-tech fairies with his cunning intelligence. A rip-roaring read from start to finish.
One Of Us Is Lying	Karen McManus	Five students go to detention. Only four leave alive.
High-Rise Mystery	Sharna Jackson	With its vibrant urban setting and winning characterisation, High Rise Mystery is a very welcome addition to the burgeoning child detective genre. The murder of their art school teacher sets young sleuths Nik and Norva on a thrilling adventure to bring his killer to justice. Whilst the brooding presence of the high rise block, theTri, ensures the novel feels topical and real, High Rise Mystery is, at its heart, a classic children's whodunit.
The London Eye Mystery	Siobhan Dowd	The London Eye Mystery is a children's mystery novel by

		English author Siobhan Dowd. First published in 2007, it tells the story of how Ted, a boy with Asperger syndrome, and his sister Kat, solve the mystery of how their cousin, Salim, seemingly vanishes from inside a sealed capsule on the London Eye.
A Good Girl's Guide to Murder	Holly Jackson	The case is closed. Five years ago, schoolgirl Andie Bell was murdered by Sal Singh. The police know he did it. Everyone in town knows he did it. But having grown up in the same small town that was consumed by the crime, Pippa Fitz-Amobi isn't so sure. When she chooses the case as the topic for her final project, she starts to uncover secrets that someone in town desperately wants to stay hidden. And if the real killer is still out there, how far will they go to keep Pip from the truth . . .

**Ambitious reads**

<b>What's the title?</b>	<b>Who's the author?</b>	<b>What's it about?</b>
The Hound of the Baskervilles	Sir Arthur Conan Doyle	The Hound of the Baskervilles is one of Sherlock Holmes' most famous and intriguing cases. When Sir Charles Baskerville is found mysteriously dead in the grounds of Baskerville Hall, everyone remembers the ancient legend of the monstrous creature that haunts the moor. The great detective Sherlock Holmes knows that there must be a more rational explanation, but the difficulty is to find it before the hellhound finds him!
The Extraordinary Cases of Sherlock Holmes	Sir Arthur Conan Doyle	There are few detectives in the world of fiction who have captured imaginations as much as Sherlock Holmes, and his trusty sidekick, Doctor Watson. This collection features eight classic crime mysteries, including The Speckled Band and The Reigate Puzzle written by the renowned Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. This is a masterful collection of best-loved stories

		of nocturnal intrigue and suspense, not to mention Mr Holmes' most unique powers of deduction...
Murder on the Orient Express	Agatha Christie	After a murder takes place on a train journey, a detective decides to investigate and find the culprit amongst the passengers aboard. In the process, he also learns the true identity of the victim.

## Year 8 Autumn 2

### Tragedy

What's the title?	Who's the author?	What is it about?
Romeo and Juliet	William Shakespeare	The rivalry between Verona's two well-established families, the Capulets and the Montagues, affects the relationship of their children Romeo and Juliet.
Salt to the Sea	Ruta Sepetys	Salt to the Sea is a 2016 historical fiction young adult novel by Ruta Sepetys. It tells the story of four individuals in World War II who make their way to the ill-fated MV Wilhelm Gustloff.
The Bunker Diary	Kevin Brooks	The Bunker Diary features the story of Linus Weems, a teenager who is captured and imprisoned in a mysterious bunker.
We Were Liars	E. Lockhart	Gloriously witty, sharp and utterly addictive, We Were Liars explores outwardly perfect lives consumed by secrets, deception and privileges taken too far. Controlled and perfectly-paced, Lockhart's ingenious novel has a way of handing you one surprise after another, while still leaving you hungry for more.
The Fault in Our Stars	John Green	Despite the tumor-shrinking medical miracle that has bought her a few years, Hazel has never been anything but terminal, her final chapter inscribed upon diagnosis. But when a gorgeous

		plot twist named Augustus Waters suddenly appears at Cancer Kid Support Group, Hazel's story is about to be completely rewritten.
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### Ambitious reads

What's the title?	Who's the author?	What's it about?
Things Fall Apart	Chinua Achebe	Things Fall Apart is the debut novel by Nigerian author Chinua Achebe, first published in 1958. Its story chronicles pre-colonial life in the southeastern part of Nigeria and the arrival of Europeans during the late 19th century
Othello	William Shakespeare	The story of an African general in the Venetian army who is tricked into suspecting his wife of adultery, Othello is a tragedy of sexual jealousy. First performed around 1604, the play is also a pioneering exploration of racial prejudice.
The Crucible	Arthur Miller	The Crucible is a 1953 play by American playwright Arthur Miller. It is a dramatized and partially fictionalized story of the Salem witch trials that took place in the Massachusetts Bay Colony during 1692–93.

### Year 8 Spring 1

#### Victorian Literature

What's the title?	Who's the author?	What's it about?
A Christmas Carol	Charles Dickens	Maya Angelou's poetry - lyrical and dramatic, exuberant and playful - speaks of love, longing, partings; of Saturday night partying, and the smells and sounds of Southern cities; of freedom and shattered dreams.
Oliver Twist	Charles Dickens	The novel was the first of the author's works to realistically depict the impoverished London underworld and to illustrate his belief that poverty leads to crime.

Alice's Adventures in Wonderland	Lewis Carroll	It tells of a young girl named Alice, who falls through a rabbit hole into a subterranean fantasy world populated by peculiar, anthropomorphic creatures.
Treasure Island	Robert Louis Stevenson	The story is about Jim, a young boy who goes in search of treasure after finding a treasure map. Jim faces shipwreck, a pirate mutiny, and sword fights. Jim's tale is a rags-to-riches story of a young boy who overcomes the odds.

### Ambitious reads

What's the title?	Who's the author?	What's it about?
The Adventures of Tom Sawyer	Mark Twain	Tom Sawyer is an 1876 novel by Mark Twain about a young boy growing up along the Mississippi River. It is set in the 1840s in the fictional town of St. Petersburg, inspired by Hannibal, Missouri, where Twain lived as a boy.
Nicholas Nickleby	Charles Dickens	The story centres on the life and adventures of Nicholas Nickleby, a young man who must support his mother and sister after his father dies.
Robinson Crusoe	Daniel Defoe	Driven from a loving family and a comfortable, secure life by an unswerving compulsion for the high seas, Crusoe finds successive misfortunes and escapes culminating in near-death disaster and emerging as lone survivor.

### Year 8 Spring 2

#### WW1

What's the title?	Who's the author?	What's it about?
War Horse	Michale Morpurgo	In the deadly chaos of the First World War, one horse witnesses the reality of battle from both sides of the trenches. Bombarded by artillery, with bullets knocking riders from his back, Joey tells a powerful story

		of the truest friendships surviving in terrible times.
Summerland	Lucy Adlington	A teenager goes in search of a family mystery when she is evacuated from Europe to England during World War 2.
War is Over	David Almond	It's 1918, and war is everywhere. John's dad is fighting in the trenches far away in France. His mum works in the munitions factory just along the road. His teacher says that John is fighting, too, that he is at war with enemy children in Germany. One day, in the wild woods outside town, John has an impossible moment: a meeting with a German boy named Jan. John catches a glimpse of a better world, in which children like Jan and himself can come together, and scatter the seeds of peace
Private Peaceful	Michael Morpurgo	It is about a soldier called Thomas "Tommo" Peaceful, who is looking back on his life from the trenches of World War I in France.
Poppy in the Field	Mary Hooper	When Poppy learns that the love of her life, Freddie de Vere, is to marry someone else, she knows her heart will break. Devastated, she volunteers her nursing skills overseas to take her away from the painful reminders at home. But things are about to get much worse for Poppy

### Ambitious reads

What's the title?	Who's the author?	What's it about?
Regeneration	Pat Barker	The novel explores the experience of British army officers being treated for shell shock during World War I at Craiglockhart War Hospital in Edinburgh. Inspired by her grandfather's experience of World War I, Barker draws extensively on first person narratives from the period.
A Farewell to Arms	Ernest Hemingway	A Farewell to Arms is a novel by

		Ernest Hemingway set during the Italian campaign of World War I. First published in 1929, it is a first-person account of an American, Frederic Henry, serving as a lieutenant in the ambulance corps of the Italian Army.
The Poems of Wilfred Owen	Edited by John Stallworthy	Owen's death in battle, a few days before the Armistice, was a disastrous loss to English letters and left a legacy of the finest poetry that vividly captured the unimaginable horrors of the Great War. This volume, edited by Oxford Professor Jon Stallworthy, gathers together the poems for which Owen is best known, and which represent his most important contribution to poetry in the twentieth century.

### Year 8 Summer Term

### Novels closely linked with protest and the Black Lives Matter Movement

What's the title?	Who's the author?	What's it about?
Patron Saints of Nothing	Randy Ribay	A powerful coming-of-age story about grief, guilt, and the risks a Filipino-American teenager takes to uncover the truth about his cousin's murder.
I Am Alfonso Jones	Tony Medina	The ghost of fifteen-year-old Alfonso Jones travels in a New York subway car full of the living and the dead, watching his family and friends fight for justice after he is killed by an off-duty police officer while buying a suit in a Midtown department store.
Arctic Zoo	Robert Muchamore	Two teenagers, Georgia in England, Julius in Nigeria, end up in the same Adolescent Mental Health Unit when they become involved in very different violent political protests.
Dear Martin	Nic Stone	Justyce McAllister is top of his class and set for the Ivy League – but none of that matters to the police officer who just put him in handcuffs. And despite leaving

		his rough neighbourhood behind, he can't escape the scorn of his former peers or the ridicule of his new classmates.
"I Will Not Be Erased": Our stories about growing up as people of colour	gal-dem	gal-dem, the award-winning online and print magazine, is created by women and non-binary people of colour. In this life-affirming, moving and joyous collection of fourteen essays, gal-dem's talented writers use raw material from their teenage years - diaries, poems and chat histories - to give advice to their younger selves and those growing up today.

### Ambitious reads

What's the title?	Who's the author?	What's it about?
All American Boys	Jason Reynolds and Brendan Kiely	Two teens--one black, one white--grapple with the repercussions of a single violent act that leaves their school, their community, and, ultimately, the country bitterly divided by racial tension.
On the Come Up	Angie Thomas	It tells the story of Bri, a sixteen-year old rapper hoping to fill the shoes of her father and 'make it' as an underground hip-hop legend.
Concrete Rose	Angie Thomas	Angie Thomas revisits Garden Heights seventeen years before the events of The Hate U Give in this searing and poignant exploration of Black boyhood and manhood. If there's one thing seventeen-year-old Maverick Carter knows, it's that a real man takes care of his family.

### Novels closely linked with the themes explored in 'Crongton Knights'

What's the title?	Who's the author?	What's it about?
Liccle Bit	Alex Wheatle	What's worse than hiding a secret? Liccle Bit's about to find out... Venetia King is the hottest

		<p>girl at school. Too bad Lemar is the second shortest guy in his year. Everyone calls him Liccle Bit, and his two best friends, McKay and Jonah, never tire of telling him he has no chance with girls. Things aren't much better at home. His mum is permanently hassled, his sister a frustrated single mum and his dad moved out years ago. Liccle Bit wishes he could do something - anything! - to make life better. A new phone would be a start...</p>
Straight Outta Crongton	Alex Wheatle	<p>Round these ends, it's hard to hold on to your dreams. Life's a constant hustle for Mo. Her mum's boyfriend Lloyd is just another man who likes to beat down women; the South Crong streets are fraught with hazards and nasty G's; and when it comes to matters of the heart ...she's still hung up on Sam. No wonder she's vexed so much of the time. Thank god her sistrens, Elaine and Naomi, are on her side: if one of them falls then they all fall. When badness goes down and a life is left hanging in the balance, Mo has to face her hot urge for revenge ...and she might end up losing more than she wins.</p>
OrangeBoy	Patrice Lawrence	<p>Sixteen-year-old Marlon has made his mum a promise - he'll never follow his big brother, Andre, down the wrong path. So far, it's been easy, but when a date ends in tragedy, Marlon finds himself hunted. They're after the mysterious Mr Orange, and they're going to use Marlon to get to him.</p>
The Dirty South	Alex Wheatle	<p>Set in Brixton, 20 years after the race riots, The Dirty South follows the adventures of Brickys teenager Dennis Huggins as he drifts into the easy, dangerous life of the shotta - or drug dealer - and discovers that, hard as the struggle for respect on the streets is, the struggle for love is harder still.</p>

## Ambitious reads

What's the title?	Who's the author?	What's it about?
With the Fire on High	Elizabeth Acevedo	Ever since she got pregnant, seventeen-year-old Emoni's life has been about making the tough decisions - doing what has to be done for her young daughter and her grandmother. Keeping her head down at school, trying not to get caught up with new boy Malachi. The one place she can let everything go is in the kitchen, where she has magical hands - whipping up extraordinary food beloved by everyone.
Piecing Me Together	Renee Watson	Tired of being singled out at her mostly-white private school as someone who needs support, high school junior Jade would rather participate in the school's amazing Study Abroad program than join Women to Women, a mentorship program for at-risk girls.