



# The Billericay School

## Year 7 Suggested Reading List

While in Years 7, 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 7 Autumn 1 and 2

#### Gothic/Horror

What's the title?	Who's the author?	What is it about?
The Lie Tree	Frances Hardinge	The Lie Tree is set in the male-dominated Victorian scientific society, and tells the story of Faith Sunderly, a 14-year-old girl whose father is killed in mysterious circumstances after the family moves to the fictional island of Vane.
Coraline	Neil Gaiman	While exploring her new home, a girl named Coraline discovers a secret door, behind which lies an alternate world that closely mirrors her own but, in many ways, is better. She rejoices in her discovery, until the Other Mother and the rest of her parallel family try to keep her there forever. Coraline must use all her resources and bravery to make it back to her own family and life.
Miss Peregrine's Peculiar Children	Ransom Riggs	When his beloved grandfather leaves Jake clues to a mystery that spans different worlds and times, he finds a magical place known as Miss Peregrine's School for Peculiar Children. But the mystery and danger deepen as he gets to know the residents and learns about their special

		powers - and their terrifying enemies.
The Spiderwick Chronicles	Tony Diterlizzi and Holly Black	9-year-old twins Jared and Simon and their 13-year-old sister Mallory move with their mother to a decaying Victorian house after their father leaves them. On their first night, they discover a secret library, and later discover a more house secrets and passages
Goth Girl	Chris Riddell	After befriending the ghost of a mouse who needs her help, Ada begins boldly exploring her home, discovering new rooms, gardens, and friends while learning of a sinister plot being hatched by Maltravers, the creepy gamekeeper charged with organizing an annual indoor hunt inside the massive estate.
The Signalman	Charles Dickens	In the story, a practical-minded narrator meets a railway worker who has been seeing supernatural visions. The narrator doubts the man at first, but at the story's conclusion a strange event makes him a believer.

### **Ambitious reads**

<b>What's the title?</b>	<b>Who's the author?</b>	<b>What's it about?</b>
The Woman in Black	Susan Hill	A young solicitor travels to a remote village where he discovers the vengeful ghost of a scorned woman is terrorizing the locals. ... However, Arthur goes to the isolated manor and soon he finds that Eel Marsh House is haunted by the vengeful ghost of a woman dressed in black.
Dracula	Bram Stoker	Dracula is a classic and genre-defining tale of horror from famed author Bram Stoker. This novel contains the chilling tales of those that encountered the

		monster Dracula on his quest to emigrate from Transylvania to England, as he seeks to consume blood and spread his undead curse to the innocent.
Frankenstein	Mary Shelley	Victor Frankenstein is a scientist obsessed with generating life from lifeless matter. He subsequently manages to create a horrifying, sentient creature assembled from pieces of stolen body parts. Shunned by society and faced with eternal isolation, the creature becomes murderous with revenge against the one who brought him into existence, Frankenstein.

### Year 7 Spring 1

### Bildungsroman

What's the title?	Who's the author?	What is it about?
Looking for Alaska	John Green	Miles (Pudge) Halter goes to a boarding school in search of "the great perhaps". There he meets Alaska, a young girl with whom he falls in love. In trying to learn all about Alaska, Pudge learns more about himself and the great perhaps.
Beyond the Bright Sea	Lauren Wolk	What does it mean to be a family? In this beautifully written and heart-wrenching story, 12-year-old Crow explores questions of her own identity and where she truly belongs.
How High the Moon	Karyn Parsons	How High the Moon is an ambitious novel weaving together family drama with a miscarriage of justice and the horrifying reality of the prejudice and racism faced by

		black and mixed race people.
The Alchemist	Paulo Coelho	Santiago is a shepherd boy who dreams that a treasure awaits him beside the Egyptian pyramids. After a long, uneventful journey he finds that real riches are waiting for him in an unexpected place.
Alex In Wonderland	Simon James Green	A shy teenager finds friendship and romance when he lands a summer job in a local seaside amusement arcade.
Wolf Hollow	Lauren Wolk	Wolk's children's novel revolves around twelve year-old Annabelle as she attempts to deal with a local bully named Betty while defending local recluse and World War I veteran Toby against lies and accusations of violence during World War II.
To Be Perfectly Honest	Jess Vallance	Gracie makes a vow to try and be completely honest about everything when she uncovers a family secret.
Noughts and Crosses	Malorie Blackman	Sephy is a Cross - a member of the dark-skinned ruling class. Callum is a nought - a 'colourless' member of the underclass who were once slaves to the Crosses. The two have been friends since early childhood. A romance between the two lands them in trouble.

### **Ambitious reads**

<b>What's the title?</b>	<b>Who's the author?</b>	<b>What's it about?</b>
We Have Always Lived in the Castle	Shirley Jackson	Not only does this novel feature the best opening paragraph of all time (or at least one of them; see the entry for We The Animals on this very list), but it also features a very compelling young protagonist coming to terms with what I'll gingerly describe as a . . . unique family situation.
Great Expectations	Charles Dickens	Great Expectations follows the childhood and young adult years of Pip, a blacksmith's apprentice

		in a country village. He suddenly comes into a large fortune (his great expectations) from a mysterious benefactor and moves to London where he enters high society.
The Black Flamingo	Dean Atta	Big hearted and dizzyingly flamboyant, Atta's verse novel about a black gay teen reclaiming his identity as a drag artist is an outspoken triumph from opening couplet to last. A beautiful book about self-discovery and embracing the real you, The Black Flamingo is suffused with optimism, positivity and love.

## Year 7 Spring 2

### Poetry anthologies and novels following the poetic form

What's the title?	Who's the author?	What's it about?
And Still I Rise	Maya Angelou	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.
The Rattle Bag	Seamus Heaney and Ted Hughes	Edited by Seamus Heaney and Ted Hughes, and conceived of as a collection of their own favourite poems, <i>The Rattle Bag</i> has established itself as the classic anthology of our time. Heaney and Hughes have brought together an inspired and diverse selection, ranging from undisputed masterpieces to rare discoveries, as well as drawing upon works in translation and traditional poems from oral cultures.
A Poem for Every Day of the Year	Allie Esiri (Jackie Kay, Robert Frost, Martin Luther King Jr, Robert Burns, Edgar Allan Poe etc.)	<i>A Poem For Every Day of the Year</i> is a magnificent collection of 366 poems compiled by Allie Esiri, one to share on every day of the year. Reflecting the changing seasons and linking to events on key dates – funny for April Fool's Day, festive for

		Christmas – these poems are thoughtful, inspiring, humbling, informative, quiet, loud, small, epic, peaceful, energetic, upbeat, motivating, and empowering!
Funky Chickens	Benjamin Zephaniah	Enter the crazy world of rap poet Benjamin Zephaniah! A reissue of the wonderfully irreverent collection of poetry for young people, touching on anything from vegetables to the Queen and from sewage to the sun. There's plenty of humour as well as poems on racism, pollution and the murder of a cat.
A Poem for Every Night of the Year	Allie Esiri (William Wordsworth, Langston Hughes, Sappho, T.S. Eliot etc.)	A Poem For Every Night of the Year is a magnificent collection of 366 poems compiled by Allie Esiri, one to share for every night of the year. The poems – together with introductory paragraphs – have a link to the date on which they appear. Shakespeare celebrates midsummer night, Maya Angelou International Women's Day and Lewis Carroll April Fool's day.
Long Way Down	Jason Reynolds	A breath-taking examination of loyalty, guilt and the self-destructive urge for retribution, Long Way Down is a verse novel set in real time and a single location that packs one hell of a punch.
Unheard Voices	Malorie Blackman	In 1807, the British parliament passed an Act making the trading and transportation of slaves illegal. This book brings together stories and poems which provide a first-hand account of the horrors of slavery, remembering the brutal and long-lasting inflictions which have shaped millions of lives.

### Ambitious reads

What's the title?	Who's the author?	What's it about?
Half-Caste	John Agard	The tensions brought about by differences of race and culture

		are at the heart of this powerful and entertaining collection by one of Britain's most exciting and original poets and performers. John Agard, winner of the Queen's Gold Medal for Poetry, explores the richness of human diversity in the world today.
Shakespeare for Every Day of the Year	Allie Esiri (William Shakespeare)	William Shakespeare wrote at least 37 plays, 154 sonnets and a handful of longer poems and you can discover them all here. Each page of this unique collection contains an extract, which might be a famous poem, quote or scene, matched to the date. Allie Esiri's introductions give her readers a new window into the work, time and life of the greatest writer in the English language.
Poet X	Elizabeth Acevedo	Xiomara has always kept her words to herself. When it comes to standing her ground in her Harlem neighbourhood, she lets her fists and her fierceness do the talking. But X has secrets – her feelings for a boy in her bio class, and the notebook full of poems that she keeps under her bed. And a slam poetry club that will pull those secrets into the spotlight.

## Year 7 Summer 1

### Magical Realism

What's the title?	Who's the author?	What's it about?
Life of Pi	Yann Martel	After the tragic sinking of a cargo ship, a solitary lifeboat remains bobbing on the wild, blue Pacific. The only survivors from the wreck are a sixteen-year-old boy named Pi, a hyena, a zebra (with a broken leg), a female orang-utan - and a 450-pound Royal Bengal tiger.
The Ocean at the End of the Lane	Neil Gaiman	The book follows a nameless narrator who returns, in middle age, to his childhood hometown for a funeral. The trip brings to

		mind his youthful friendship with his old neighbor, Lettie Hempstock, a strange girl who insisted that the little pond by her house was an ocean. Lettie's since moved to Australia — or so our hero thinks. As he lingers around his childhood haunts, he comes to remember more and more about his past. It turns out that the idyllic veneer of his childhood hides secrets both monstrous and magical.
Harry Potter (7 books)	J.K. Rowling	Harry Potter is a series of fantasy novels written by British author J. K. Rowling. The novels chronicle the lives of a young wizard, Harry Potter, and his friends Hermione Granger and Ron Weasley, all of whom are students at Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry.
His Dark Materials (Trilogy)	Phillip Pullman	His Dark Materials is a trilogy of fantasy novels by Philip Pullman consisting of Northern Lights (1995) (published as The Golden Compass in North America), The Subtle Knife (1997), and The Amber Spyglass (2000).
Letting Go	Cat Clarke	Agnes tries to sort out her tumultuous feelings when she helps her ex-girlfriend and her new boyfriend scatter her mum's ashes.

### Ambitious reads

What's the title?	Who's the author?	What's it about?
Skelling	David Almond	This book revolves around a 10-year old boy, Michael. When Michael moves into a crumbling, old house with an ancient garage that he cannot resist going into, he encounters a mysterious creature named Skellig.
The Rest of Us Just Live Here	Patrick Ness	Award-winning writer Patrick Ness's bold and irreverent novel powerfully asks what if you weren't the Chosen One? The one who's supposed to fight the zombies, or the soul-eating ghosts, or whatever this new

		<p>thing is, with the blue lights and the death? What if you were like Mikey? Who just wants to graduate and go to prom and maybe finally work up the courage to ask Henna out before someone goes and blows up the high school. Again. Because sometimes there are problems bigger than this week's end of the world and sometimes you just have to find the extraordinary in your ordinary life.</p>
The Book Thief	Markus Zusak	<p>In 1938, young orphan Liesel arrives at the home of her new foster parents, Hans and Rosa.. When Hans, a kindly house painter, learns that Liesel cannot read, he teaches the child the wonders of the written language. Liesel grows to love books, even rescuing one from a Nazi bonfire. Though Liesel's new family barely scrape by, their situation becomes even more precarious when they secretly shelter a Jewish boy whose father once saved Hans' life.</p>

## Year 7 Summer 2

### Plays to read and explore

What's the title?	Who's the author?	What's it about?
Grimm Tales	Carol Ann Duffy	Grimm Tales is a play by British poet Carol Ann Duffy, based on the original fairy tales written down by the Brothers Grimm.
Blood Brothers	Willy Russell	The story is a contemporary nature versus nurture plot, revolving around fraternal twins Mickey and Eddie, who were separated at birth, one subsequently being raised in a wealthy family, the other in a poor family.
Noughts and Crosses RSC	Malorie Blackman	An electrifying, bittersweet love story with echoes of Romeo and Juliet, set in a society divided by racial bigotry and a world rocked by terrorism. Adapted from

		Malorie Blackman's best-selling novels.
Face (The Play)	Benjamin Zephaniah and Richard Conlon	Benjamin Zephaniah and Richard Conlon deal with issues such as prejudice, drugs and disfigurement in this vibrant, gritty adaptation of Zephaniah's bestselling novel for young people. Everything is going Martin's way. The holidays have started, he's got a gorgeous girlfriend and everyone agrees he's the coolest dancer around. But when his world is turned upside down by a crash in a stolen car, he has to come to terms with more than his facial injuries...

### Ambitious reads

What's the title?	Who's the author?	What's it about?
A Midsummer Night's Dream	William Shakespeare	A Midsummer Night's Dream is a comedy written by William Shakespeare in 1595/96. The play consists of multiple subplots that revolve around the marriage of Theseus and Hippolyta.
The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe	C.S. Lewis (adapted by Glyn Robbins)	