

NEW CLASS READERS

Year 8



TITLE

AUTHOR

COMMENTS

Artemis Fowl Series, The	<i>Eoin Colfer</i>	* Adventure series written with wit and zest.
Caught in the Crossfire	<i>Alan Gibbons</i>	* Northern town post September 11th, BNP 'type' organisation, <i>Romeo and Juliet</i> -like relationship between Muslim girl and white working class boy. Interesting structure of multiple viewpoints, family and racial crises, tragic ending. First book to make me cry in ages.
Fat Boy Swim	<i>Catherine Forde</i>	* Brilliant class reader.
Fire-Eaters, The	<i>David Almond</i>	* A rights of passage novel set against the background of the Cuban missile crisis. A moving study of the effects of violence on people's lives. For able readers.
From Out of the Shadows	<i>Jamila Gavin</i>	* Wide-ranging selection on themes from ecology to love and personal freedom. Often provocative.
Going Straight	<i>Michael Coleman</i>	* Good for Y8 boys who are reluctant readers.
Inventing Elliot	<i>Graham Gardner</i>	* A superb study of intimidation, bullying and personal choice. Many parallels with George Orwell's '1984'.
Journey to the River Sea	<i>Eva Ibbotson</i>	* Modern version of old fashioned children's story theme. Intertextual and beautifully told.
Kite Rider, The	<i>Geraldine McCaughrean</i>	* Exciting, action packed. Set in Ancient China.
Love That Dog	<i>Sharon Creech</i>	* Jack's discovery of poetry in his own words. Good for Y6- Y7 transition work. A book for any age.
Mortal Engines	<i>Philip Reeve</i>	* Imaginative adventure story for boys and girls. Set in future world of Traction Cities and the Engineerium. A marvellous read with plenty about values to make you think and wonderful, inventive language.
Pirates!	<i>Celia Rees</i>	* Gender issues explored in a gripping good yarn.
Rani and Suki	<i>Bali Rai</i>	* Set 100 yrs ago in Punjab and contemporary Leicester.
Raspberries on the Yangtze	<i>Karen Wallace</i>	* Gap between children's and adults' perceptions.
Tell the Moon to Come Out	<i>Joan Lingard</i>	* Set in 1939 Spain (post civil war). The country has been torn apart and Nick travels (illegally) to Spain to track down his father who fought on the Republican side. A good class reader.
Rough Guide to Books for Teenagers, The	<i>Nicholas Tucker & Julia Eccleshare</i>	* Timely and useful compendium of reviews to help secondary pupils, their teachers, parents and librarians make book choices.
Ultimate Book Guide, The	<i>Daniel Hahn & Leonie Flynn</i>	* Guidance in choosing books for 8-12 year olds. Very encouraging and readable.