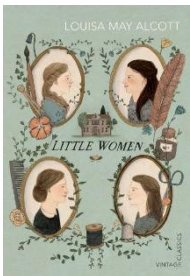
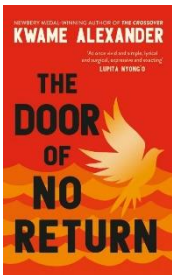
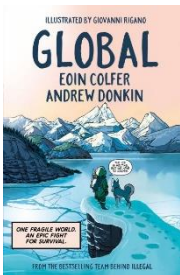

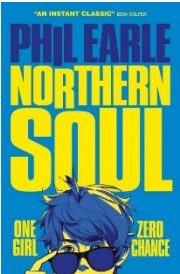
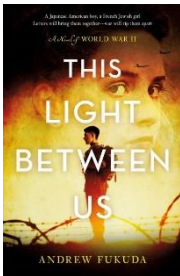
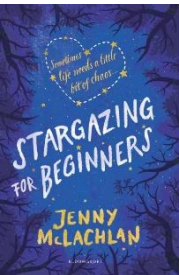


Year 8 Recommended Reads

This booklist has been put together to help you explore a wide range of stories and voices. Inside, you'll find exciting adventures, powerful and emotional tales, and modern books that reflect the world you live in today. Some titles will challenge you, some will inspire you, and some might even become your new favourites. The books are available to borrow from the Senior Library or from the digital library SORA.

	<p>Little Women – Louisa M Alcott</p> <p>A heart-warming tale of love, sisterhood and hardship during the New England Civil War, Little Women tells the story of the loveable March family. Meg, Beth, Jo and Amy try to support their mother at home while their father is away at war and enter into various scrapes and adventures as they do so.</p> <p>American Civil War / Classic Fiction / Families / Relationships</p>
	<p>Door of No Return – Kwame Alexander</p> <p>Dreams are today's answers for tomorrow's questions. Eleven-year-old Kofi Offin has dreams of water, of its urgent whisper that beckons with promises and secrets. He has heard the call on the banks of Upper Kwanta, where he lives. He loves these things above all else: his family, the fireside tales of his father's father, a girl named Ama, and, of course, swimming. But when the unthinkable - a sudden death - occurs during a festival between rival villages, Kofi ends up in a fight for his life. What happens next will send him on a harrowing journey across land and sea, and away from everything he loves. Yet Kofi's dreams may be the key to his freedom.</p> <p>Novel in Verse / Historical story / Ghana / Slavery / Families / Friends</p>
	<p>Global – Eoin Colfer</p> <p>Follows two young people on different continents whose lives are catastrophically changed by global warming.</p> <p>Arctic / Climate Change / Death / Global warming / Graphic Novel / Resilience / Slavery</p>

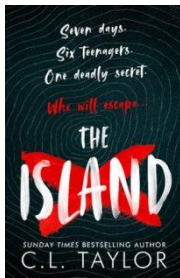
	<p>The Vulpine – Polly Crosby</p> <p>Ora has always been fascinated by chilling fairy stories of the Vulpine - the mythical, fox-like monsters who live below ground, emerging at night to snatch 'imperfect' babies and children. Because Ora knows that disability and illness have no place in her world. To succeed is to be genetically 'perfect', just like her best friend Casta and his family. Then, one day, Casta's baby sister disappears. And Ora's mother reveals a long-buried secret: Ora herself has a genetic illness that affects her lungs. And she's about to be found out. Desperate for answers and sanctuary, Ora decides to do the unthinkable and seek out the fabled Vulpine. And below the earth, she discovers a hidden world that turns everything she has been taught upside-down.</p> <p>Cystic Fibrosis / Disabilities / Dystopia / Folktales, Folklore / Genetics / Illnesses / Science Fiction Stories</p>
	<p>Northern Soul – Phil Earle</p> <p>Until now, Marv's uneventful life has revolved around playing football with his best mate. But things take a turn for the dramatic with the arrival at school of new girl Carly Stonehouse. It's love at first sight, but there's no way a girl like Carly will ever look at him. Unless, perhaps, he enlists help from a very unusual source – the ghost of soul legend, Otis Redding. What follows is a hilarious, agonising quest for love, featuring some of the most cringeworthy song lyrics you might ever have heard.</p> <p>Dyslexia friendly / Funny story / School / Empathy / Relationships</p>
	<p>This Light Between Us – Andrew Fukuda</p> <p>A French Jewish girl and a Japanese American boy become pen pals in 1935 and their correspondence continues as each experiences the various horrors of the Second World War.</p> <p>Anti-Semitism / Auschwitz / Historical Stories / Japanese / Jewishness / WW2</p>
	<p>Stargazing for Beginners – Jenny McLachlan</p> <p>Science geek Meg is left to look after her little sister for ten days after her free-spirited mum leaves suddenly to follow up yet another of her Big Important Causes. But while Meg may understand how the universe was formed, baby Elsa is a complete mystery to her. And Mum's disappearance has come at the worst time: Meg is desperate to win a competition to get the chance to visit NASA headquarters, but to do this she has to beat close rival Ed. Can Meg pull off this double life of caring for Elsa and following her own dreams? She'll need a miracle of cosmic proportions.</p> <p>Astronomy / Babies / Family / Relationship / Space</p>



Pax – Sara Pennypacker

Pax was only a kit when his family was killed and he was rescued by 'his boy', Peter. Now the country is at war and when his father enlists, Peter has no choice but to move in with his grandfather. Far worse than leaving home is the fact that he has to leave Pax behind. But before Peter spends even one night under his grandfather's roof he sneaks out into the night, determined to find his beloved friend. This is the story of Peter, Pax, and their journeys back to each other as war rampages throughout the country.

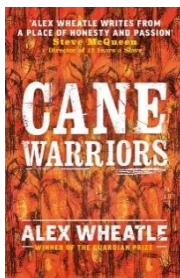
Animal stories / Foxes / Friendship / War



The Island – C L Taylor

A group of sixteen-year-olds find themselves fighting for their lives when a holiday to a tropical island takes a terrifying turn.

Adventure stories / Mystery stories / Thriller Stories



Cane Warriors – Alex Wheatle

Based on true events in 1760 in Jamaica, a fourteen-year-old slave boy becomes involved in an uprising against his oppressors.

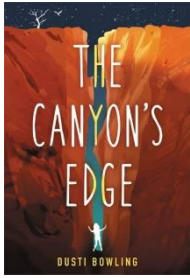
History / Jamaica / Slavery



Agency for Scandal – Laura Wood

When Izzy's secret crush becomes embroiled in her most dangerous case yet, the two must work together to uncover a sinister plot, unmask a villain.

19th Century / Crime stories / Historical Stories / Romance Stories



Canyon's Edge – Dusti Bowling

One year after a random shooting changed their family forever, Nora and her father are exploring a slot canyon deep in the Arizona desert, hoping it will help them find peace. Nora longs for things to go back to normal, like they were when her mother was still alive, while her father keeps them isolated in fear of other people. But when they reach the bottom of the canyon, the unthinkable happens: A flash flood rips across their path, sweeping away Nora's father and all of their supplies. Suddenly, Nora finds herself lost and alone in the desert, facing dehydration, venomous scorpions, deadly snakes, and, worst of all, the Beast who has terrorized her dreams for the past year. If Nora is going to save herself and her father, she must conquer her fears, defeat the Beast, and find the courage to live her new life.

Adventure stories / Deserts / Novels in verse / Survival / Survival Skills