

Recommended Summer Reads 2014

5-8 years

1. **Flat Stanley Series – Jeff Brown** - When Stanley Lambchop wakes up one morning, his brother, Arthur, is yelling. A bulletin board fell on Stanley during the night, and now he is only half an inch thick! Amazing things begin happening to him. He may be flat, but he's a hero! Stanley gets rolled up, mailed, and flown like a kite, catches art thieves, travels the world. This classic series has been re-vamped recently and is proving a favourite in a new generation of children.
2. **Alice Miranda Series – Jacqueline Harvey** - Move over Matilda and Madeline, there's a charming miniature heroine ready to make her mark! Her name is Alice-Miranda--and she's full of spunk! There are 7 books following Alice Miranda at school, on holiday and around the world. Perfect for girls who love an adventure!
3. **The Dragon sitter – Josh Lacey** - 'Dear Uncle Morton. You'd better get on a plane right now and come back here. Your dragon has eaten Jemima.' It had sounded so easy: Edward, Emily and their mum were going to look after Uncle Morton's unusual pet for a week while he went on holiday. But soon their fridge is empty, their curtains are blazing, and the postman is fleeing down the garden path. – First in a series of books these hilarious books will keep boys and girls laughing all summer
4. **Time Hunters – Chris Blake** - If you ever thought History was boring – think again! This new time-travelling series - perfect for fans of Beast Quest succeeds in making history a roller coaster of thrills, excitement and adventure. Throughout the series Tom embarks on incredible treasure hunts through time and battles history's mightiest warriors. In the first book ten-year-old Tom accidentally smashes a statue in a museum he releases Isis, a young Egyptian mummy who has been imprisoned for thousands of years. To break an ancient curse, the duo must travel back in time to find six hidden amulets - battling Gladiators, Knights, Greeks, Vikings, Pirates and Egyptian Warriors! On Tom and Isis's first adventure they arrive in Ancient Rome. To find the amulet they will have to fight the fiercest gladiator who ever lived!
5. **Princess Poppy – Janey Louise Jones** – Fans of Rainbow magic, Secret Kingdom and all things pink, fluffy and girly are going to love these books. Follow Princess Poppy and her friends on lots of different adventures. Girls will relate to Princess Poppy's different experiences and will love being lost in a glittery world – and isn't every girl a Princess at heart?
6. **Bob and Barry's Lunar Adventures – Simon Bartram** – This series of books feature Fantastic adventures set in space featuring Bob and Barry well known from the picture books 'Man on the Moon' and 'Bob's Best Ever Friend'. With fabulous illustrations and amusing stories this book will leave your child giggling.

7. **Alien in my Pocket – Nate Ball** – There are currently 3 titles in this series with another to be released in August all of the books support the common core state standards. When a four-inch-tall alien crash-lands through Zack McGee's bedroom window, Zack is sure he's about to become the first victim in a new War of the Worlds. But when the alien turns out to have weapons that are more ticklish than terrifying, Zack realizes that rather than protect the world from the alien it's up to him to protect the alien in his pocket from the world.

With illustrations on every spread, a how-to on launching a rocket, fun scientific facts, and the hilarious adventures of Zack and Amp, this book is the perfect gift for any young reader! Complete with a do-it-yourself science experiments your child will have something else to do during our hot summer!

8. **Worst Witch series – Jill Murphy** – I absolutely loved these books growing up and am really pleased to see that the enthusiasm hasn't died with the new generation of children. Fans of Harry Potter, Malory Towers, St Claires and Winnie the Witch will just love these books, as will anyone who tries really hard to be good but somehow always seems to get it wrong! Miss Cackle's Academy is no ordinary school. It stands at the top of a high mountain surrounded by a pine forest, and one clear days you can just see the pupils flitting about on their broomsticks above the playground wall. For this is a school for witches and, instead of the usual lessons, the girls there all have to learn about such things as casting spells and making magic potions. Mildred Hubble has a reputation for being the worst pupil in the school - she's always getting her spells wrong. But she manages to get by until she turns Ethel, the teacher's pet, into her deadly enemy. For more Witchy adventures why not also check out the Magic Trix series by Sara Grant

9. **Secret Agent Mummy – Steve Cole** . Fans of Steve Cole's other best selling series (Astrosaurus, Toxic Squad, Cows in Action) are going to absolutely love this new series. What could be crazier than a 200-year-old Egyptian mummy detective moving in next door? How about: An army of brain washed baboons? A flying bandaged dog's-bottom? A talking cat goddess? An evil sorcerer from another world? Somehow, Niall Rivers has got to deal with all of them. Still, it's not the end of the world...Is it? Packed with black and white illustrations, real facts about Ancient Egypt, plus fun and action on every page, this is the first book in a brilliant new series by Steve Cole that will amuse girls and boys alike
10. **Littlenose – John Grant**. The Neanderthal winter lasts for months and months; it's a great time to go exploring. With ice, snow, mist and fog all around, there's lots of fun to be had - from sledging and hunting to rescuing strange tribespeople from the snow. But Littlenose's curiosity also leads him into trouble - somehow he just can't seem to steer clear of it! This collection comprises fifteen classic Littlenose stories. Things are never calm for long in this naughty caveboy's world...

9-12 Years

1. **Mission Survival Series – Bear Grylls –** These fast paced adventures are full of real survival details and tips from Bear Grylls (Chief Scout and now TV personality on the Discovery Channel). Each book is set in an different country and encounters a new survival scenario. Boys especially will love the adventure, thrills and new skills to learn!
2. **The Turtle Secret – Julia Johnson -** The Turtle Secret tells the story of ten-year-old Hessa and her mission to save the turtles. When Hessa rescues a turtle in the local market, she takes it straight to her uncle, a marine biologist. She finds herself captivated by these fascinating marine creatures and their precarious way of life. But with her sister about to marry and her father still grieving over her deceased mother, Hessa realizes that none of her loved ones have time for her, or her passion for turtles. When her uncle discovers that someone has been stealing turtle eggs from the beach because of their high value as a rare delicacy, Hessa embarks on a mission to catch the thieves and protect the turtles, leading to a thrilling adventure. The Turtle Secret is unique in that it touches on subjects that resonate with contemporary readers, such as the local culture and the wildlife of the region, as well as the role of women in Emirati society, reflecting the author's love for the region and her interest in the social and cultural nuances that define it
3. **Mouse Hunter series – Alex Milway -** In Emiline's world, there are thousands of species of mice, some rarer than others. Mousehunters travel the world collecting the rarest and most special breeds, from the wily and deadly Sharpclaw Mouse to the dog-sized Elephant Mouse and the quick-as-lightning Comet Mouse.

For Emiline, a mousekeeper in the employ of wealthy Isiah Lovelock, there is no greater dream than becoming a famous mousehunter. So when she is given the opportunity to join the hunt for the legendary pirate Mousebeard, she sets off on the most dangerous, most thrilling, most swashbuckling adventure of a lifetime.

The Mousehunter is an extremely accessible, dark and thrilling story, featuring original black & white illustrations, maps and character portraits. Also in the series Mousehunter's Revenge and Curse of Mousebeard

4. **Sword of Kuromori – Jason Rohan - Ancient monsters bite off more than they can chew in this action-packed adventure set in modern Japan**

When Kenny Blackwood arrives in Tokyo to spend the summer with his father, he is stunned to discover a destiny he had never dreamed of. He finds himself in the middle of a hidden war that is about to explode. Racing against an impossible deadline, Kenny must find the fabled Sword of Heaven and use it to prevent the disaster. But a host of terrifying monsters is out to destroy him, and success will come at a price. With clever, fearless, sarcastic Kiyomi

at his side, Kenny must negotiate the worlds of modern and mythic Japan to find the lost sword, before it's too late. Fans of Percy Jackson and the Kane Chronicles are going to love this one!

5. **Nick and Tesla's Secret Agent – Bob Pflugfelder-** Nick and Tesla are bright 11-year-old siblings with a knack for science, electronics, and getting into trouble. When their parents mysteriously vanish, they're sent to live with their Uncle Newt, a brilliant inventor who engineers top-secret gadgets for a classified government agency. It's not long before Nick and Tesla are embarking on adventures of their own—engineering all kinds of outrageous MacGyverish contraptions to save their skin: 9-volt burglar alarms, electromagnets, mobile tracking devices, and more. So far there are 3 books in this series with plans for more. I really love them as they are not only great adventure reads for both boys and girls who love science and discover but readers are invited to join in the fun as each story contains instructions and blueprints for five different projects. So after they have read the book your child can then build their own robot, burglar alarm and more – a book that keeps on entertaining!
6. **Kick off (Jamie Johnson series) – Dan Freeman –** Unless you have been living under a rock you will know that the world has got Football Fever! This series of 5 books are great for your Soccer mad children – when it is too hot to kick the ball outside (or they are just too worn out!) then read about it instead!

In the first book of the series 'Kick off' Jamie's heart seemed to be beating all through his body. Everything depended on him. He had to score. Jamie Johnson's desperate to become his school's star football player (and in his dreams, a top professional too). He's got so much to prove, and not just on the pitch - so why aren't his mum, teachers and best mate on his side? The pressure's on, but has Jamie got what it takes?

7. **House of Secrets– Chris Columbus –** Everyone in Magrudy's knows this is one of my favourite children's books. It is definitely a **children's** book as Adults would find it far too bizarre. All the children I have lent this book to have loved it! It is a fast paced roller coaster of an adventure with twists and turns to keep the reader turning the page. Thankfully the sequel to House of Secrets **Battle of the Beasts** did not disappoint and is just as great as the first! A great read for both boys and girls who are fans of Percy Jackson, A series of Unfortunate events, the Magic Treehouse or Narnia.

Siblings Brendan, Eleanor, and Cordelia Walker once had everything they could ever want. But everything changed when Dr. Walker lost his job. Now the family must relocate to an old Victorian house, formerly the home of occult novelist Denver Kristoff—a house that simultaneously feels creepy and too good to be true. By the time the Walkers realize that one of their neighbors has sinister plans for them, they're banished to a primeval forest way off the grid.

Bloodthirsty medieval warriors patrol the woods around them, supernatural pirates roam the neighboring seas, and a power-hungry queen rules the land. To survive, the siblings will have to be braver than they ever thought possible—and to fight against their darkest impulses. The key may lie in their own connection to the secret Kristoff legacy. But as they unravel that legacy, they'll discover that it's not just their family that's in danger . . . it's the entire world!

8. *The Case of the Exploding Loo* – Rachel Hamilton. This locally based Dubai author has within one week of her book being published shot to the top of our best sellers list. It seems Dubai children cannot wait to find out what happens when your Dad disappears in a port-a-loo!

Quirky twelve year old Noelle Hawkins may be one of the brightest girls in her class but even she can't explain how her dad, wacky scientist Big Brain Brian, spontaneously combusted while sitting in a portalo. It's true that he was working on a new top secret Brain Ray machine and was on the point of a great break-through - could this have had something to do with his disappearance? Know-All is sure all is not as it seems and with the help of her sister Holly she is determined to find out what really happened to her dad!

9. *The One and Only Ivan* – Katherine Applegate. Winner of the 2013 Newbery Medal and a #1 *New York Times* bestseller, this stirring and unforgettable novel from renowned author Katherine Applegate celebrates the transformative power of unexpected friendships. Inspired by the true story of a captive gorilla known as Ivan, this illustrated novel is told from the point-of-view of Ivan himself.

Having spent 27 years behind the glass walls of his enclosure in a shopping mall, Ivan has grown accustomed to humans watching him. He hardly ever thinks about his life in the jungle. Instead, Ivan occupies himself with television, his friends Stella and Bob, and painting. But when he meets Ruby, a baby elephant taken from the wild, he is forced to see their home, and his art, through new eyes. For all animal loving children.

10. *The Copernicus Legacy – the Forbidden Stone* – Tony Abbot. Bestselling author Tony Abbott's epic new middle grade series, the Copernicus Legacy, begins with *The Forbidden Stone*, a thrilling adventure packed with puzzles, intrigue, and action. Fans of Rick Riordan and Ridley Pearson will love this first book in an exciting series that takes the reader all over the globe in a race to find pieces of a mysterious hidden past—before it's too late.

Wade, Lily, Darrell, and Becca fly from Texas to Germany for the funeral of an old family friend. But instead of just paying their respects, they wind up on a dangerous, mind-blowing quest to unlock an ancient, guarded secret that could destroy the fate of the world.

Young Adults

1. Divergent Series – Veronica Roth (Divergent, Allegiant, Insurgent) – This is the book that all teenagers are reading! A book to rival ‘the Hunger Games’ once you start reading the Divergent series you will find it hard to put the books down. (I confess I have even done the on line quizzes to find out which faction I belong in!)

In Beatrice Prior’s dystopian Chicago world, society is divided into five factions, each dedicated to the cultivation of a particular virtue—Candor (the honest), Abnegation (the selfless), Dauntless (the brave), Amity (the peaceful), and Erudite (the intelligent). On an appointed day of every year, all sixteen-year-olds must select the faction to which they will devote the rest of their lives. For Beatrice, the decision is between staying with her family and being who she really is—she can’t have both. So she makes a choice that surprises everyone, including herself.

During the highly competitive initiation that follows, Beatrice renames herself Tris and struggles alongside her fellow initiates to live out the choice they have made. Together they must undergo extreme physical tests of endurance and intense psychological simulations, some with devastating consequences. As initiation transforms them all, Tris must determine who her friends really are—and where, exactly, a romance with a sometimes fascinating, sometimes exasperating boy fits into the life she's chosen. But Tris also has a secret, one she's kept hidden from everyone because she's been warned it can mean death. And as she discovers unrest and growing conflict that threaten to unravel her seemingly perfect society, she also learns that her secret might help her save those she loves . . . or it might destroy her.

Debut author Veronica Roth bursts onto the YA scene with the first book in the Divergent series—dystopian thrillers filled with electrifying decisions, heartbreaking betrayals, stunning consequences, and unexpected romance.

2. **Partials series – Dan Wells** - For fans of *The Hunger Games*, *Battlestar Galactica*, and *Blade Runner* comes the first book in the Partials Sequence, a fast-paced, action-packed, and riveting sci-fi teen series, by acclaimed author Dan Wells.

Humanity is all but extinguished after a war with Partials—engineered organic beings identical to humans—has decimated the population. Reduced to only tens of thousands by a weaponized virus to which only a fraction of humanity is immune, the survivors in North America have huddled together on Long Island. But sixteen-year-old Kira is determined to find a solution. As she tries desperately to save what is left of her race, she discovers that the survival of both humans and Partials rests in her attempts to answer questions about the war's origin that she never knew to ask.

Playing on our curiosity of and fascination with the complete collapse of civilization, *Partials* is, at its heart, a story of survival, one that explores the individual narratives and complex relationships of those left behind, both humans and Partials alike—and of the way in which the concept of what is right and wrong in this world is greatly dependent on one's own point of view.

3. **Agent 21 Series – Chris Ryan** – This series will attract fans of 'The Bourne Identity' and *Mission Impossible*. When Zak Darke's parents die in an unexplained mass murder he's left alone in the world. That is until he's sought out by a mysterious man: "I work for a government agency," the man tells him. "You don't need to know which one. Not yet. All you need to know is that we've had our eye on you. There's a possibility you could help us in certain... operational situations."

Zak becomes Agent 21. What happened to the 20 agents before him he'll never know. What he does know is that his life is about to change forever.

4. **Maze Runner – James Dashner**– This first book in the Maze Runner trilogy (*Maze Runner*, *Scorch Trials*, *Death Cure*) is soon to be released as a movie. Perfect for fans of *The Hunger Games* and *Divergent*. *The Maze Runner* motion picture featuring the star of MTV's *Teen Wolf*, Dylan O'Brien; Kaya Scodelario; Thomas Brodie-Sangster; Will Poulter; and Aml Ameen, and hits theaters September 19, 2014!.

If you ain't scared, you ain't human.

When Thomas wakes up in the lift, the only thing he can remember is his name. He's surrounded by strangers—boys whose memories are also gone.

Nice to meet ya, shank. Welcome to the Glade.

Outside the towering stone walls that surround the Glade is a limitless, ever-changing maze. It's the only way out—and no one's ever made it through alive.

Everything is going to change.

Then a girl arrives. The first girl ever. And the message she delivers is terrifying.

Remember. Survive. Run.

5. **Fighting Ruben Wolfe – Markus Zusak** - I say, 'Don't lose your heart, Rube.' And very clearly, without moving, my brother answers me. He says, 'I'm not tryin' to lose it, Cam. I'm tryin' to find it.' The Wolfe brothers know how to fight. They've been fighting all their lives. Now there's something more at stake than just winning. A powerful, poignant novel from the author of the international bestseller, *The Book Thief*.
6. **Fault in our stars – John Green.** By now so many teenagers (and adults) have read *Fault in our stars* it is pretty much a classic already! As the movie is about to hit the screens the popularity is increasing daily! However don't forget that John Green also has some other amazing titles an *Abundance of Katherines*, *Papertowns*, *Will Grayson*, *Will Grayson*, *Looking for Alaska* all of which will keep you page turning this summer. Beware you will need a box of tissues at hand as you laugh and cry!

Fault in our Stars - 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.

Insightful, bold, irreverent, and raw, *The Fault in Our Stars* brilliantly explores the funny, thrilling, and tragic business of being alive and in love.

7. **Tape - Steve Camden –TAPE** is set to be the outstanding teen debut of 2014. Told with cracking prose, shimmering with humour and devastatingly moving, it will haunt anyone who reads it...Record a voice and it lasts forever...In 1993, Ryan records a diary on an old tape. He talks about his mother's death, about his dreams, about his love for a new girl at school who doesn't even know he exists. In 2013, Ameliah moves in with her grandmother after her parents die. There, she finds a tape in the spare room. A tape with a boy's voice on it - a voice she can't quite hear, but which seems to be speaking to her. Ryan and Ameliah are connected by more than just a tape. This is their story. I just loved this book. A great book to show your teenager that times haven't changed that much and even your Parents were young once!
8. **Find Me – Romily Bernard – Fans of the Girl with the Dragon Tattoo** trilogy will just love this creepy and alluring teen thriller. Complete with action, techie intrigue, a horrifying mystery, and a blossoming romance full of sparks, *Find Me* is an exhilarating debut.

When teen hacker and foster child Wick Tate finds a dead classmate's diary on her front step, with a note reading "Find me," she sets off on a perverse game of hide-and-seek to

catch the killer. But things get even more personal as Wick's deadbeat dad returns and the killer points to Wick's sister Lily as the next target.

With the help of oh-so-cute hacker-boy-next-door Griff, can Wick find her tormenter and save her sister? I absolutely loved this book and so did both my sons and my niece – put the X Box and Play Station away this is a thriller that combines video games, and techie jargon with a fast paced mystery.

9. **Skinny – Donna Cooner –** When I read this book my first thought was ‘Finally a book that highlights what I felt as a teenage girl!’ This novel kick started a national conversation on weight, beauty, and transformation. In it, we meet Ever, a fifteen-year-old girl who weighs over 300 pounds and is haunted by a voice in her head she calls "Skinny." Skinny tells Ever she is ugly. Fat. Unlovable. And Ever believes her. When Ever makes the controversial choice to have gastric bypass surgery, she does start losing weight and gains the interest of boys...but Skinny is still there, louder than before. Ever will need to confront that voice before she can truly find, and accept, her own. Although this story tackles obesity in teenagers it is also a story about fitting in, and self esteem in women.

10. **Smart – Kim Slater -** his is an evocative and compelling debut for fans of *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time*. 'I found Jean's friend dead in the river. His name was Colin Kirk. He was a homeless man, but he still wanted to live.' There's been a murder, but the police don't care. It was only a homeless old man after all. Kieran cares. He's made a promise, and when you say something out loud, that means you're going to do it, for real. He's going to find out what really happened. To Colin. And to his grandma, who just stopped coming round one day. It's a good job Kieran's a master of observation, and knows all the detective tricks of the trade. But being a detective is difficult when you're Kieran Woods. When you're amazing at drawing but terrible at fitting in. And when there are dangerous secrets everywhere, not just outside, but under your own roof.

Must Reads!

Famous Five series - Boys and Girls 8 -11 yrs

Secret Seven Series – Boys and Girls 6-9 yrs

Inkheart series (Inkheart, Inkspell, Inkdeath) – Cornelia Funke Boys and Girls 10-13yrs
(appeals more to girls)

Power of Five series – Anthony Horowitz – Young Adult (appeals more to boys)

Book Thief – Markus Zusak

Demonata series – Darren Shan (more for the boys!) – Young Adult

Rick Riordan novels – (Percy Jackson & Kane Chronicles) Boys and Girls 10+

Mortal Instruments series – Cassandra Clare – Young Adult

Young Bond Series – Charlie Higson – Young Adult

Nancy Drew series & Hardy Boys Series – 8+

Big Nate – Lincoln Peirce – Boys & Girls 7+

All Michael Morpurgo books - Boys & Girls 7+

Beast & Sea Quest Books – Adam Blade– Mainly Boys 6+

Secret Kingdom – Rosie Banks – Mainly Girls 6+\

Geronimo Stilton – Boys and Girls 6+

Captain Underpants & Ricky Ricotta’s Might Robot – Dav Pilkey – Mainly Boys 7+

Horrid Henry – Francesca Simon – Boys and Girls 5+

Middle School Series – James Patterson – Boys and Girls 9+

39 Clues – Boys and Girls 9+

Infinity Ring – Boys and Girls 9+

My sister the Vampire series – Sienna Mercer – Girls 9+

Fizzlebert Stump series – A. F Harold – Boys and Girls 8+

How to Train your Dragon (new movie coming out soon!) – Cressida Cowell – Boys and Girls 7+

World of Norm – Jonathan Meres – Boys and Girls 8+