



# Year 8 Academic Book List 2025/26



Humanities	
Subject	Book
English	Raven's Gate by Anthony Horowitz
When Matt Freeman gets into trouble with the police, he's sent to be fostered in Yorkshire. It's not long before he senses there's something wrong with his guardian; with the whole village. Then Matt learns about the Old Ones and begins to understand just how he is different. But no one will believe him; no one can help.	
Spanish / French	Cemetery Boys by Aiden Thomas / Arsene Lupin versus Herlock Sholmes by Maurice LeBlanc
When his traditional Latinx family has problems accepting his gender, Yadriel becomes determined to prove himself a real brujo. With the help of his cousin and best friend Maritza, he performs the ritual himself, and then sets out to find the ghost of his murdered cousin and set it free. This novel is written in English but unapologetically and authentically uses Spanish, too. / Maurice Leblanc's charismatic gentleman burglar, Arsène Lupin, once again baffles the Parisian police. Determined not to be thwarted by the man known as France's "national thief", the authorities turn to England and engage Herlock Sholmes, a thinly disguised version of Arthur Conan Doyle's famous consulting detective.	
Geography	Some Places More Than Others by Renee Watson
A heartwarming and inspiring middle grade novel about finding deep roots and exploring the past, the present, and the places that make us who we are. 'Some of the places I am still getting to know, some of these places I have known all my life. All these places made me, are making me.' All Amara wants for her birthday is to visit her father's family in New York City - Harlem. She can't wait to finally meet her Grandpa Earl and cousins in person, and to stay in the brownstone where her father grew up. This will help her understand her family - and herself - in a new way.	
History	Children of Winter by Berlie Doherty
Catherine and her family set out for her grandmother's house deep in the Derbyshire hills. Sheltering from a storm in an old cruck barn with her younger sister and brother, it becomes strangely familiar to her, and she is drawn back to a time when three children sheltered all winter away from a terrible plague that was devastating their village. Written by a master storyteller, <i>Children of Winter</i> recreates the time when the tiny village of Eyam in Derbyshire cut itself off from the rest of England in 1666.	
Beliefs & Values	The Henna Wars by Adiba Jaigirdar
When Nishat comes out to her parents, they say she can be anyone she wants—as long as she isn't herself. Because Muslim girls aren't lesbians. Nishat doesn't want to hide who she is, but she also doesn't want to lose her relationship with her family. And her life only gets harder once a childhood friend walks back into her life. Flávia is beautiful and charismatic, and Nishat falls for her instantly. But when a school competition invites students to create their own businesses, both Flávia and Nishat choose to do henna, even though Flávia is appropriating Nishat's culture. Amidst sabotage and school stress, their lives get more tangled—but Nishat can't quite get rid of her crush on Flávia and realizes there might be more to her than she realized.	
STEM	
Maths	Counting by 7s by Holly Goldberg Sloan
Willow Chance is a twelve-year-old genius, obsessed with nature and diagnosing medical conditions, who finds it comforting to count by 7s. This is a great cross-curricular read as Willow's perceptions of people, her interaction, and her routines, are driven by her extreme intelligence and enthusiasms for things, like maths, food, hygiene, and the environment. It sets her apart and she likes it that way. This book has been chosen to introduce you to Mathematical concepts and key words. We hope that this fun fictional text which incorporates some mathematical ideas. Our librarian thinks this is an especially great read for fans of Wonder by R. J. Palacio.	
Science	Scavengers by Darren Simpson
Landfill has lived his whole life as a scavenger, running with wooflers, swimming with turtles and feasting on fresh gull. Old Babagoo has always looked after him, on one condition – follow his rules. Never come looking Outside. Never rise above the wall. But despite the dangers, Landfill longs to see Outside. And some rules are made to be broken.	
Computing	Welcome to Trashland by Steve Cole
Theo lives in a vast dumping ground of broken electronics in Ghana. He searches the trash for metal scraps to sell for cash, and dreams of going to school and escaping this harsh life. So, when Emanuel turns up with talk of buried treasure, Theo sees a chance to get out of Trashland. But Emanuel draws the attention of a local gang, and Theo realises his new friend is keeping dangerous secrets...	
Food & Nutrition	When Life Gives You Mangoes by Kereen Getten
Nothing much happens in Sycamore, the small village where Clara lives - at least, that's how it looks. She loves eating ripe mangoes fallen from trees, running outside in the rainy season, and escaping to her secret hideout with her best friend Gaynah. There's only one problem - she can't remember anything that happened last summer. When a quirky girl called Rudy arrives from England, everything starts to change. Gaynah stops acting like a best friend, while Rudy and Clara roam across the island and uncover an old family secret. As the summer reaches its peak and the island storms begin, Clara's memory starts to return, and she must finally face the truth of what happened last year.	
Design & Technology	Cinder by Marissa Meyer
Cinder, a gifted mechanic in New Beijing, is also a cyborg. She's reviled by her stepmother and blamed for her stepsister's sudden illness. But when her life becomes entwined with the handsome Prince Kai's, she finds herself at the centre of a violent struggle between the desires of an evil queen – and a dangerous temptation. Cinder is caught between duty and freedom, loyalty, and betrayal. Now she must uncover secrets about her mysterious past in order to protect Earth's future.	
ARTS	
Drama	The Boy in the Stripped Pyjamas (The Play) by John Boyne adapted for stage by Angus Jackson
Bruno has a friend called Shmuel. Like Bruno, Shmuel is nine years old. Their birthdays are on the same day. But Shmuel lives on the other side of a fence, and he's always wearing striped pyjamas...	
Art & Design	Warhol by Klaus Honnef
Drawing on contemporary advertisements, comic strips, consumer products, and Hollywood's most famous faces, Warhol proposed a radical re-evaluation of what constituted artistic subject matter.	
Music	The Kingdom of Back by Marie Lu
The historical fantasy novel tells the lesser-known story of Maria Anna (Nannerl) Mozart, the older sister of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart. In this thrilling read, you will discover to what dangerous lengths Nannerl will go to make history remember her - a girl who cannot even compose. This fictional story highlights the life for a female aspiring musician during the 18th Century.	
P.E.	Kicking Off! by Eve Ainsworth
It is 1917 and Britain is at war. Shy teenager, Hettie, wants to help the war effort, and signs up to work in the local Dick, Kerr & Co. munitions factory. For, inside this factory are young women who are about to make sporting history.	