GHS Whole School Literacy

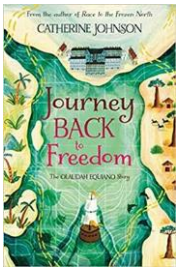
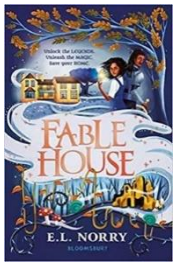
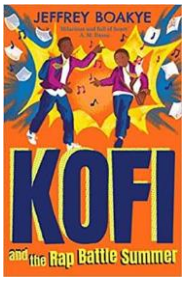
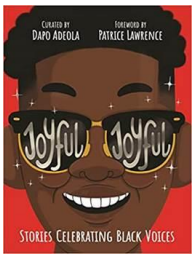
Reading List

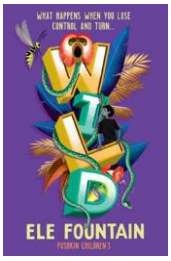
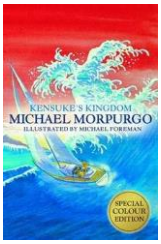
'Books shouldn't be daunting, they should be funny, exciting and wonderful; and learning to be a reader gives a terrific advantage.'

- **Roald Dahl**

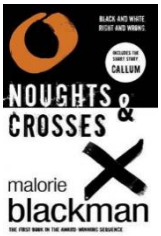
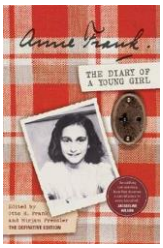
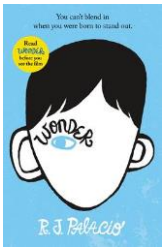
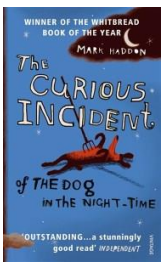
Please see below for some wonderful book recommendations for you. We can assure you that whether or not you are a book lover, all of these stories can enrich your life, if you only open the cover and see what magic lies in the pages. Happy reading!

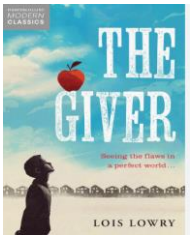
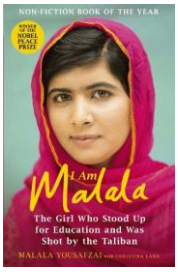
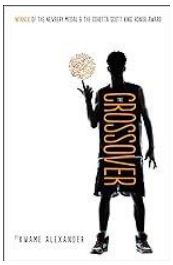
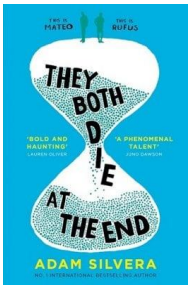
Use the QR code above to access additional recommendations from the Book Trust.

Getting started	Reading ages 9-10	
'Journey back to Freedom: The Olaudah Equiano Story' by Catherine Johnson	Interest Age 9-11 Reading Age 9+. Olaudah is just 11 years old when he is kidnapped from his lovely family in Essaka, Africa in 1745, sold into brutal slavery and renamed Gustavus. It's a really exciting tale of daring adventures and incredible spirit, of bravery, of the unimaginable cruelty and injustice of slavery and also moments of kindness.	
'Fable House' by EL Norry	Interest Age 9-11 Reading Age 9+ When Heather moves to Fablehouse Children's Home she finds a safe haven and real friends for the first time in her life. As they roam the ancient woodlands together in 1950s Britain they meet Palamedes, a Black Knight from way back in time: King Arthur's court. This is a wonderful book, full of hope and magic.	
'Kofi and the Rap Battle Summer' by Jeffrey Boakye	Interest Age 9-11 Reading Age 9+. The irrepressible Kofi is bubbling with ideas to make money. It's the 1990s, everyone at school loves music, but the likes of *Smash Hits* magazine never have the lyrics of TLC, Mary J. Blige, Snoop Dogg etc. Using Kofi's sales patter and his best friend Kelvin's excellent memory, the boys create *Paper Jam*, a fanzine of song lyrics – and the buzz at school is unreal.	
'Joyful Joyful' by Various	A joyous collection of stories, poems and illustrations celebrating Black voices. Every narrative fills the reader with joy. Each has universal appeal, being a snapshot of a child living their life, whether it's in urban London, a Trinidadian town or a Ugandan farm. This is a truly beautiful book. All the illustrations are vibrantly colourful, and the overall feeling is of warmth.	

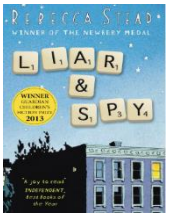
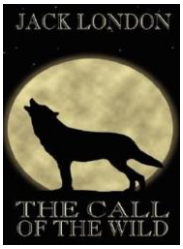
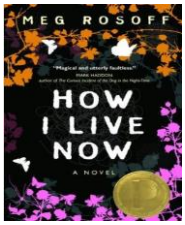
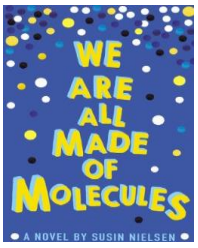
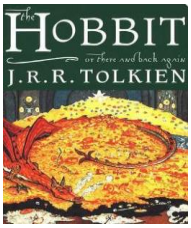
Getting started	Reading ages 9-10	
'The Last Whale' by Chris Vick	Interest Age 9-11, Reading Age 10+. Abi has been asked 'not to return' to St Hilda's Academy after using her exceptional IT skills for purposes that were seen as inappropriate, if not illegal. But she can forget about that small problem over the summer holidays and focus on saving the planet instead! Action-packed, moving and thought-provoking, this book will take your breath away.	
'21% Monster' by P.J. Canning	Interest Age 9-11, Reading Age 10+. When Darren destroys his school with his bare hands, he is arrested and sent to a high-security juvenile prison. He is 'rescued' by Marek, who claims to be 19% alien and reveals that Darren is 21% monster. Marek explains that they were both created through Project Helix, a series of experiments conducted by secret organisation XSP. When 49 children died, Project Helix was shut down, and now XSP want to destroy all the evidence – including Darren and Marek.	
'Wild' **by Ele Fountain**	Interest Age 12, Reading Age 10+. When his dad dies, teenager Jack is devastated and spirals out of control. Over the Christmas holidays, Mum suggests they go overseas for a break, but Jack is livid when he realises that she has dragged him along on a work trip to South America. They journey deep into the rainforest in search of an indigenous tribe. Jack must put his emotions aside if he is to deal with the challenges of the inhospitable rainforest and when Mum disappears, Jack is terrified that he has lost her too.	
'Goodnight Mister Tom' by Michelle Magorian	Interest age 9+, Reading Age 10+. Willie Beech is evacuated to a tiny English village in the country just before the outbreak of World War II. A lonely and deprived child, he finds himself living with the reclusive, gruff old widower, Thomas Oakley. Although the two find it hard to adjust to their life together at first, they gradually develop a strong, mutual bond. This classic wartime story is a superbly written and deeply moving tale.	
'Kensuke's Kingdom' by Michael Morpurgo	Interest Age 10+, Reading Age 10+. Michael is hungry, lonely and scared when he is washed up on a seemingly deserted island. He soon discovers another inhabitant - Kensuke, a former Japanese soldier. This is a beautifully written tale of an exceptional friendship which survives beyond the boundaries of culture and language.	

Many of these titles are published by Barrington Stoke, the experts on engaging less able and dyslexic readers. Their books are often written by the best children's authors and use a dyslexia friendly font and paper colour.

Moving Forward	Reading ages 11-13	
'Northern Lights' by Philip Pullman	Interest Age 9-14, Reading Age 10+. Lyra and her animal daemon live a carefree life amongst the scholars of Jordan College, Oxford. Yet the destiny that awaits her will take her far from her home, to the magical frozen lands of the Arctic, amongst the witch-clans and ice-bears. This extraordinary fantasy is the first book in Philip Pullman's multi-award-winning *His Dark Materials* trilogy.	
'Noughts and Crosses' by Malorie Blackman	Interest Age 12+, Reading Age 12+. In this ground breaking novel, the population is divided into two: the white Noughts are second-class citizens, and the black Crosses are perceived as the superior race. 15-year-old Callum is a Nought, and his best friend, Sephy, as well as being a Cross, is also the daughter of one of the most influential politicians in the country. This is an outstanding and thought-provoking exploration of the futility of prejudice. A contemporary classic.	
'Anne Frank: The Diary of a Young Girl' by Anne Frank	Interest Age 12-16, Reading Age 12+. Now widely regarded as one of the most important pieces of historical literature of all time, Anne Frank's diary has lost none of its power since its publication. Anne's diary begins in 1942 on her 13th birthday, when she receives the diary as a gift, and she continues to address her imaginary friend "Kitty" in entries over the next two years of her life; detailing the experiences of an average Jewish family under the threat of Nazi occupation. A powerful and moving tale.	
'Wonder' by R. J. Palacio	Interest Age 10+, Reading Age 10+. Like most ten-year olds, August Pullman just wants to be accepted at his new school, especially as he's previously been home-schooled. However, Auggie can't help but stand out - he was born with a severe facial deformity. Most people react with horror to his appearance and don't take the time to meet the smart, funny, Star Wars-loving boy underneath. Thought-provoking, engaging and uplifting, this is a wonderful read with a powerful message - we can all choose to be kind.	
'The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time' by Mark Haddon	Interest Age 10-14, Reading Age 10+. When Christopher Boone discovers the dog dead on the lawn, he follows in the footsteps of his hero Sherlock Holmes and sets out to find out who did it. But Christopher's Asperger's syndrome means he finds emotions near-impossible to unravel, and Mark Haddon's telling of Christopher's unpredictable response to them is original, compassionate, disturbing and profoundly moving.	

Moving Forward	Reading ages 11-13	
'Skulduggery Pleasant' by Derek Landy	Interest Age 11+, Reading Age 11+. Meet Skulduggery Pleasant: detective, sorcerer, warrior. Oh yeah. And dead. Stephanie's uncle Gordon is a writer of horror fiction. But when he dies and leaves her his estate, Stephanie learns that while he may have written horror, it certainly wasn't fiction. Pursued by evil forces intent on recovering a mysterious key, Stephanie finds help from an unusual source – the wisecracking skeleton of a dead wizard.	
The Giver Quartet by Lois Lowry	Interest Age 11+, Reading Age 11+. Great sci-fi classics. At the age of twelve, Jonas, a young boy from a seemingly utopian, futuristic world, is singled out to receive special training from The Giver, who alone holds the memories of the true joys and pain of life.	
'I Am Malala' by Malala Yousafzai	Interest Age 11+, Reading Age 11+. When the Taliban took control of the Swat Valley, one girl fought for her right to an education. On Tuesday, 9 October 2012, she almost paid the ultimate price when she was shot in the head at point-blank range. Malala Yousafzai's extraordinary journey has taken her from a remote valley in northern Pakistan to the halls of the United Nations. She has become a global symbol of peaceful protest and is the youngest ever winner of the Nobel Peace Prize.	
'The Crossover' by Kwame Alexander	Interest Age 12+, Reading Age 11+. 12-year-old Josh and his twin Jordan have basketball in their blood. They're kings of the court, star players for their school team. Their father used to be a champion player and they each want nothing more than to follow in his footsteps. In this heartfelt novel in verse, the boys find that life doesn't come with a play-book and it's not all about winning.	
'They Both Die at the End' by Adam Silvera	Interest Age 11+, Reading Age 12+. On September 5th, a little after midnight, Death-Cast calls Mateo Torrez and Rufus Emeterio to give them some bad news: they're going to die today. They are total strangers, but, for different reasons, they're both looking to make a new friend on their End Day. The good news: there's an app for that. It's called the Last Friend, and through it, Rufus and Mateo are about to meet up for one last great adventure - to live a lifetime in a single day.	

These books are a little more challenging, but may encourage readers who are ready to move on and would like to try a wider variety of texts and genres.

Pushing Higher	**Reading ages 13-15**	
'The Book Thief' by Markus Zusak	It is 1939. In Nazi Germany, the country is holding its breath and Death has never been busier. By her brother's graveside, Liesel's life is changed forever when she picks up a single object, abandoned in the snow. It is The Gravedigger's Handbook, and this is her first act of book thievery. But these are dangerous times, and when Liesel's foster family hides a Jew in their basement, nothing will ever be the same again.	
'Liar and Spy' By Rebecca Stead	When Georges moves into a new apartment block he meets Safer, a twelve-year-old self-appointed spy. Soon Georges has become his spy recruit. His first assignment? To track the mysterious Mr X, who lives in the flat upstairs.	
'The Call of the Wild' By Jack London	*The Call of the Wild* is regarded as Jack London's masterpiece. Based on London's experiences as a gold prospector in the Canadian wilderness and his ideas about nature and the struggle for existence, *The Call of the Wild* is a tale about unbreakable spirit and the fight for survival in the frozen Alaskan Klondike.	
'How I Live Now' By Meg Rosoff	Fifteen-year-old Daisy is sent from Manhattan to England to visit her aunt and cousins she's never met. Then her aunt goes away on business soon after Daisy arrives. The next day bombs go off as London is attacked and occupied by an unnamed enemy.	
'We Are All Made of Molecules' By Susin Nielsen	Stewart has a slightly different perspective on life from those around him. He finds life difficult enough before he is thrown together with his new stepsister, the extrovert and social magnet, Ashley. Life gets even more interesting at school…	
'The Hobbit' By J.R.R. Tolkien	Now recognized as a timeless classic, this introduction to the hobbit Bilbo Baggins, the wizard Gandalf, Gollum, and the spectacular world of Middle-earth recounts the adventures of a reluctant hero, a powerful and dangerous ring.	

These texts are for students who are pushing higher with their reading, are looking to read something different or are looking to expand their literary appetite!

Exploring the Classics	Reading ages 15+	*More Challenging reads*
'Pride and Prejudice' By Jane Austen	Since its immediate success in 1813, *Pride and Prejudice* has remained one of the most popular novels in the English language. Jane Austen called this brilliant work "her own darling child".	
'Wuthering Heights' By Emily Bronte	A classic love story following the intertwining lives of Catherine and Heathcliffe. Spanning many years and many life changing events, this story of passion, revenge and betrayal is a classic.	
'Great Expectations' By Charles Dickens	The life of Pip is explored in this timeless saga filled with unique and memorable characters, about one boy's drive to overcome life's obstacles and become a gentleman.	
'Cider with Rosie' By Laurie Lee	Idyllic childhood memories in the Cotswolds are painted in this timeless tale about growing up in an almost forgotten world.	
'I Capture the Castle' By Dodie Smith	Cassandra lives a carefree life in a dilapidated castle in the countryside. But her life changes forever when Americans arrive unexpectedly to claim the castle as their inheritance.	
'Nineteen Eighty-Four' By George Orwell	The dystopian novel without which we would not have Big Brother or the Ministry of Truth. Orwell explores a world where we witness what can happen when a state takes control.	
'Lord of the Flies' By William Golding	When a plane crash lands on a desert island stranding a group of school boys, they start to celebrate their freedom from adult supervision. However, the adventure soon becomes more sinister.	
'To Kill a Mockingbird' By Harper Lee	Compassionate, dramatic, and deeply moving. This modern classic takes readers to the roots of human behaviour - to innocence and experience, kindness and cruelty, love and hatred. A powerful tale.	
'Little Women' By Louisa May Alcott	Generations of readers have fallen in love with the March sisters of Louisa May Alcott's most enduring novel, *Little Women*. This tale follows the lives and loves of these diverse and wonderful sisters.	
'Murder on the Orient Express' By Agatha Christie	Just after midnight, a snowdrift stops the famous Orient Express in its tracks as it travels through the mountainous Balkans. But, by the morning, it is one passenger fewer. Hercule Poirot investigates.	

Useful reading websites:

Waterstones book of the month: Books of the Month | Waterstones

Barrington Stoke - dyslexia friendly reading: https://www.barringtonstoke.co.uk/

www.epicreads.com

www.goodreads.com

https://readingagency.org.uk/

https://www.lovereading4kids.co.uk/

Tips for getting children to read: https://www.booktrust.org.uk/

The Magic Ten: top ten tips for supporting your child to read

1. **Encourage your child to read** - support them to read for a short amount of time every day.
2. **Switch it up** - encourage your child to read to you from a book they are enjoying and read sections of your favourite books to them.
3. **Encourage reading choice -** give children lots of opportunities to read different things in their own time - it doesn't just have to be books. There's fiction, non-fiction, poetry, comics, magazines, recipes and much more.
4. **Create a comfortable environment for reading** - create a calm environment for reading, where your child can relax, focus and avoid distractions.
5. **Talk about books -** make time to discuss what books you are reading, what is happening in the story, what they like or dislike about books they have read.
6. **Visit your local library -** explore your local library and look at the types of reading material available - including audiobooks and e-books.
7. **Find a good book shop near you** - good book shops offer much more than just books. Many of the staff have a wealth of knowledge and can make personalised recommendations based on your child's reading taste.
8. **Bring books to life** - it is wonderful if you can explore local literary festivals or events, book signings, or theatrical adaptations of novels. These can really help to bring a story to life!
9. **Book swap -** swap recommendations with your child and challenge them to read one of your favourite books of all time, while you swap and read their recommendation. This can generate some fantastic conversations and encourages children to consider their own reading preferences.
10. **Engage your child in a way that suits them** - you know what will work best to motivate and support your child rather than pressuring them. Listen to what your child enjoys and work around that. They need to see reading as a pleasurable activity in order to truly engage.