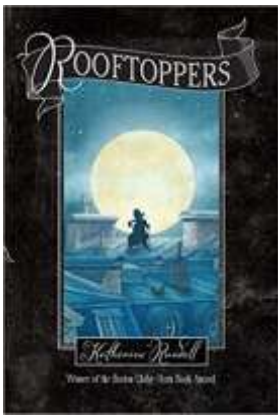


# Year 8 Reading List

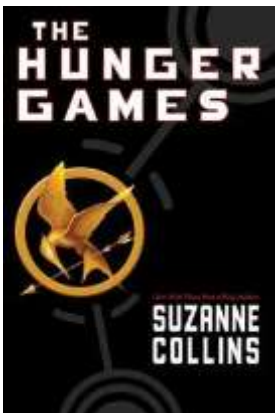
The books in this list have all been enjoyed by many students – read the synopses and the comments to decide which ones you would like to read.

## Adventure



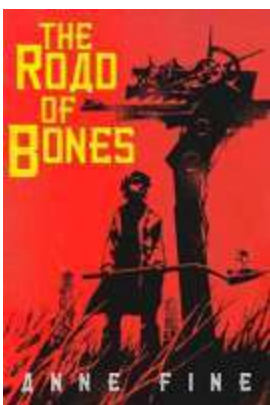
Set in Victorian Paris, *Rooftoppers* tells the story of Sophie, an orphan who was found floating in a cello case by her now guardian, Charles. But Sophie believes her mother is alive and with the help of Charles and the Rooftoppers, Sophie travels through Paris to find her mother.

*“Rooftoppers is exciting and kept me guessing”*



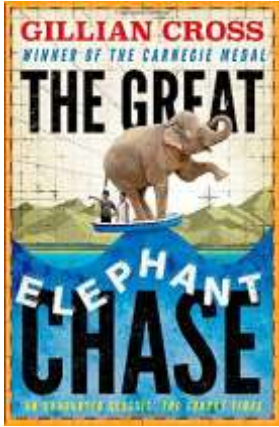
The Hunger Games is a searing novel set in a future with unsettling parallels to our present. Welcome to the deadliest reality TV show ever...

*“Everything about this world is exciting and a little scary”*



Told who to cheer for, who to believe in, Yuri grows up in a country where no freedom of thought is encouraged. A few careless and silly words lead him to a death sentence. On a journey that will surely mean his death, who can Yuri believe in?

*“Powerful and compelling”*



Penniless and parentless, Tad and Cissie are on the run from the tyrannical Mr Jackson. But hiding an enormous elephant is no easy task, and Tad realises that he must find courage and determination if they are ever to reach their destination - a proper home on the other side of America."

*"There were parts that had my heart racing"*



In the city of Agora, *anything* can be bought and sold. Even children are possessions until their twelfth birthday. Mark and Lily are thrown together on a quest to break free but all is not as it seems. Their lives depend on this question: what is the Midnight Charter?

*"You will not be disappointed!"*

## Classics



Follow Alice down the rabbit's hole as she battles a Jabberwocky, tries to reason with the tyrannical Queen of Hearts and realises it's important to be true to yourself.

*"I love reading about Wonderland. It's such a unique and magical place"*



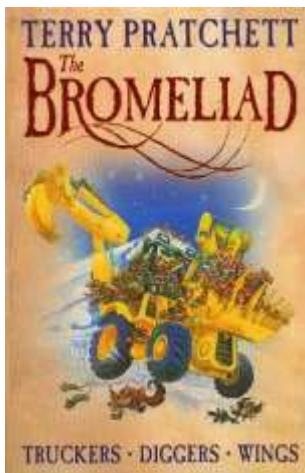
Sara Crewe was sent home from India to school at Miss Minchin's: a school for privileged little girls. Then her father dies and his wealth disappears, and Sara has to learn to cope with her changed circumstances. Her strong character enables her to fight successfully against her new-found poverty and the scorn of her fellows.

*"Sara is an inspiration"*



Five children and their dog, Timmy always seem to find their summer holidays packed with adventures, from chasing criminals to finding lost treasure.

*“I liked trying to see if I could figure it out before it was revealed”*



To the thousands of tiny nomes living under the floorboards of a large department Store, there is no Outside. No Day or Night, no Sun or Rain. They're just daft old legends. Until they hear the devastating news that the Store is to be demolished . . .

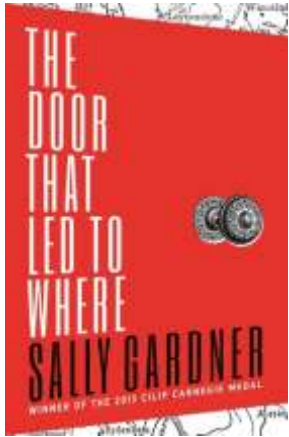
*“Weird and wonderful”*



George and his childlike friend Lennie, have nothing in the world except the clothes on their back - and a dream that one day they will have some land of their own. Just as their dreams appear reachable, it's brutally snatched away.

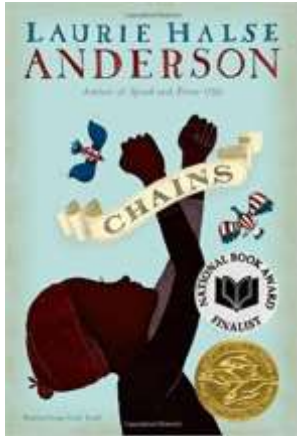
*“It makes you realise the strength people need if they want to survive”*

## Historical Fiction



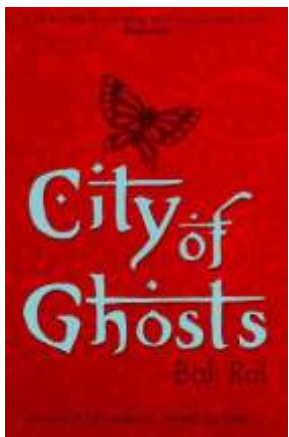
AJ Flynn has just failed all but one of his GCSEs, and his future is looking far from rosy. So when he is offered a junior position at a London law firm he hopes his life is about to change - but he could never have imagined by how much.

*“A time-travelling adventure”*



Sisters and slaves, Isabel and Ruth were promised their freedom upon the death of their owner but in a cruel twist of fate they end up the property of a wicked couple in New York, the Locktons.

*“Isabel’s strength and courage is an inspiration”*



An epic story of love and life, war and death, *City of Ghosts* follows three friends’ stories as their city is on the brink of rebellion. Set in post-WWI India.

*“Three stories are woven together in such an interesting way you can’t put it down. It is also interesting to see how other cultures coped with the aftermath of WWI”*

## Fantasy



The world of the Traction Era, where mobile cities fight for survival in a post-apocalyptic future. Young apprentice Tom Natsworthy and the murderous Hester Shaw, are flung from the fast-moving city of London into heart-stopping adventures in the wastelands of the Great Hunting Ground.

*“He (the writer) creates a world like no other. It’s exciting and unnerving.”*



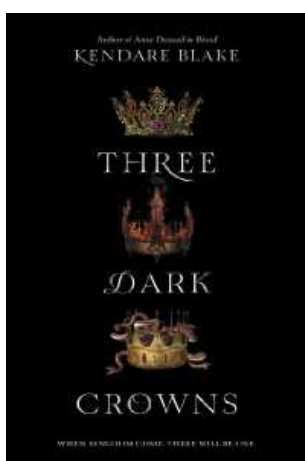
When the murderous hostility of the Russian Army threatens her very existence, Feo is left with no option but to go on the run. What follows is a story of revolution and adventure, about standing up for the things you love and fighting back. And of course, the wolves.

*“Feo is brave and clever... I have never felt tension like it”*



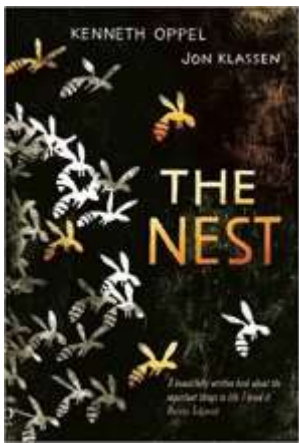
*The Last Wild* tells the story of Kester, the only hope to save the last animals in existence, and his fight against the terrifying FACTO corporation.

*“An animal adventure like no other”*



In every generation on the island of Fennbirn, a set of triplets is born: three queens, all equal heirs to the crown and each possessor of a coveted magic. But becoming the Queen Crowned isn't solely a matter of royal birth. Each sister has to fight for it. And it's not just a game of win or lose...it's life or death.

*“Dark and enthralling”*



Steve should be looking forward to his summer but as his baby brother grows sicker and his parents struggle to cope, Steve is worried for his family. In his dreams, Steve is visited by the Queen wasp who offers to “fix” the baby. All he has to do is say *yes*...

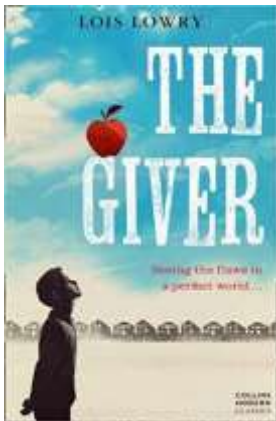
*“Steve is a complex character and his story is darker than you think”*



In the dark, filthy salt mines of Endovier, an eighteen-year-old girl is serving a life sentence. She is a trained assassin, the best of her kind, but she made a fatal mistake. She got caught.

*“Celaena is brave and ruthless”*

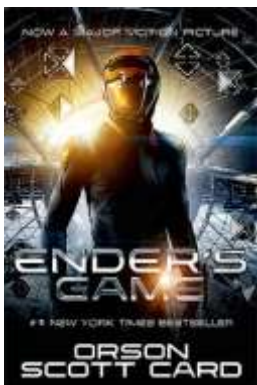
## Science Fiction



Jonas's world is perfect. Everything is under control. There is no war or fear of pain. There are no choices. Every person is assigned a role in the community.

When Jonas turns 12 he is singled out to receive special training from The Giver. The Giver alone holds the memories of the true pain and pleasure of life. Now, it is time for Jonas to receive the truth. There is no turning back.

*“A story and world to get lost in...”*



The alien Buggers threaten humanity with extinction, and Earth's ultimate savior may be one small boy. Andrew "Ender" Wiggins thinks he is only playing computer games, but he is really commanding Earth's last great fleet.

*“The ultimate sci-fi novel”*



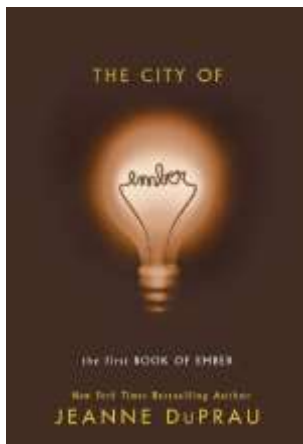
Long-legged Liam makes a giant leap for boy-kind by competing with a group of adults for the chance to go into space. Is Liam the best boy for the job? Sometimes being big isn't all about being a grown-up.

“



A plane appears from nowhere carrying thirty-six babies. As soon as they were taken off the plane, it vanished. Now, thirteen years later, two of those children are receiving sinister messages, and they begin to investigate their past.

*“The story has so many layers and so much action”*



Many hundreds of years ago, the city of Ember was created by the Builders to contain everything needed for human survival. When the lights start to fail, Doon and Lina realise that Ember may soon be engulfed in complete darkness. Can they save their world?

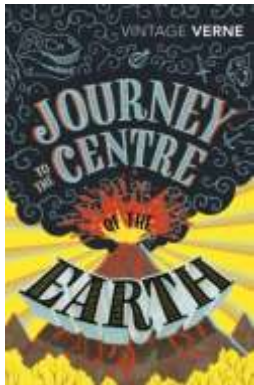
*“Ember is a fascinating place and I loved how the story unravelled”*



When Charles goes searching through a 'wrinkle in time' for his lost father, he finds himself on an evil planet where all life is enslaved by a huge pulsating brain known as 'It'. Charles, his sister Meg and friend Calvin need to find and free his father with the help of the funny and mysterious trio of guardian angels known as Mrs Whatsit, Mrs Who and Mrs Which.

*“The guardians are my favourite!”*

## Mystery / Thriller



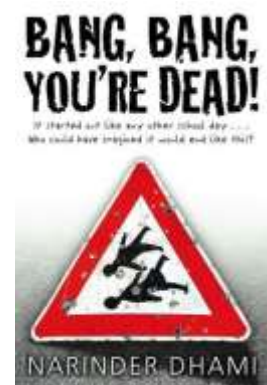
The novel deals with the discovery of an ancient runic manuscript by a German scholar who, with his nephew and a guide, undertakes a journey to the centre of the earth by entering through an extinct Icelandic volcano, the Snæfellsjökull.

*"I loved the adventure but I definitely loved the characters more"*



Matt has always known he has unusual powers. Raised in foster care, he is sent to Yorkshire on a rehabilitation programme, only to find himself in the midst of sinister goings-on. Matt investigates and uncovers a terrible secret – eight guardians are protecting the world from the Old Ones, beings banished long ago by five children.

*"Each chapter raised more question... I've now read all 5 books!"*

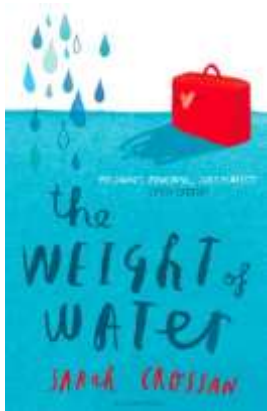


When a mysterious gunman takes a class hostage, the rest of Mia's school is evacuated. But Mia is determined to stay behind. She knows it's a life or death situation but there's something she fears more than dying. Mia thinks she might know who the gunman is, and, if she's right, then she may be the only one who can save her schoolmates...

*"I finished it in a night... I needed to know how it ended"*



## Young Adult



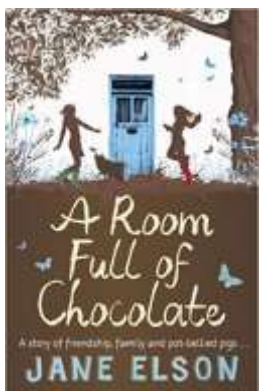
Life is lonely for Kasienska. She and her mother have just moved to England. At home her mother's heart is breaking and at school friends are scarce. But when someone special swims into her life, Kasienska learns that there might be more than one way for her to stay afloat.

*"This book deals with so many issues, including poverty, racism, immigration, family, growing-up and school life."*



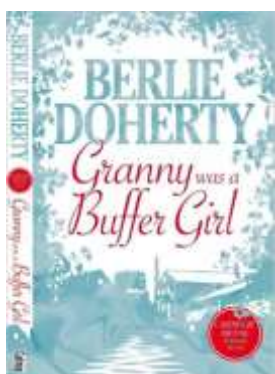
Tom is sent to his aunt and uncle's house for summer. He has prepared himself for weeks of endless boredom. Lying in bed, he hears the grandfather clock strike thirteen, Tom races down the stairs and out the back door, into a garden everyone told him wasn't there. Can the children he meets be real or are they something else?

*"I really enjoyed the time-travel element of this book and the story is beautifully told"*



Grace's world is turned upside down when her mother finds a lump. Whilst her mum tries to get better Grace is sent to live with her grandfather. He's grumpy and lives on a farm in Yorkshire. With the help of her new friend Megan and her pig, Claude, they hatch a plan to get Grace back to London to be with her mum.

*"An endearing story"*



*Granny was a Buffer Girl* recounts stories of love, loyalty and change in several generations of a Sheffield family from the 1930s to the 1980s. It shows different perspectives of different family members and their struggles to find their identity and independence.

*"An enjoyable and thoughtful read"*