



Archbishop Ilsey Catholic School Library Recommended Reading List

<u>Fantasy</u>			
Author	Title	Synopsis	AR Level
David Almond	Skellig	Twelve-year-old Michael has just moved house. His baby sister is seriously ill. Michael discovers an angel, Skellig, who is bad-tempered and eats Chinese takeaways. Over time Skellig mysteriously helps Michael's sister to be restored to health.	3.5
Eion Colfer	Artemis Fowl Series	Twelve-year-old Artemis Fowl is a millionaire, a genius—and, above all, a criminal mastermind. But even Artemis doesn't know what he's taken on when he kidnaps a fairy, Captain Holly Short of the LEPrecon Unit. These aren't the fairies of bedtime stories—they're dangerous!	6.6
Helen Dunmore	Ingo	Master storyteller Helen Dunmore writes the story of Sapphire and her brother Conor, and their discovery of INGO, a powerful and exciting world under the sea.	3.9
Elizabeth Goudge	Little White Horse	For a fleeting instant Maria thought she saw a little white horse with a flowing mane, poised, halted in mid-flight, as though it had seen her and was glad.' The beautiful valley of Moonacre is shadowed by the memory of the Moon Princess and the mysterious	6.8

		little white horse.	
Pullman, Philip	The Firework-maker's Daughter	More than anything else in the world, Lila wants to be a Firework-Maker. But every Firework-Maker must make a perilous journey to face the terrifying Fire-Fiend! Can Lila possibly survive? Especially when she doesn't know she needs special protection to survive his flames.	5.3
Philip Reeve	Mortal Engines	The World of the Traction Era. Mobile cities fight for survival in a post-apocalyptic future. The first installment introduces young apprentice Tom Natsworthy and the murderous Hester Shaw flung from the fast-moving city of London into heart-stopping adventures in the wastelands of the Great Hunting Ground.	6.6
<u>Adventure</u>			
Jon Blake	The Last Free Cat	Not far in the future, cat flu has meant that cat breeding is strictly controlled, and cats are only for the rich in their private estates. When Feela turns up in Jade's garden, she can't resist taking her in, even though it could cost her everything. But then Feela gets sick, and Jade is forced to seek help. But soon Comprot are raiding Jade's house. When Jade's mother dies, the only person left for Jade to turn to is Kris, the cynical school loner. Jade has always trusted the authorities, but now she begins to question the very society she lives in. And soon Jade and Kris are on the run ...	4.9

Frank Cottrell Boyce	Millions, Framed, Cosmic		4.0, 4.2, 4.5 respectively
Joe Craig	Jimmy Coates Series		
Charlie Higson	Young Bond Series		
Sophie McKenzie	Girl Missing	Lauren has always known she was adopted but when a little research turns up the possibility that she was snatched from an American family as a baby, suddenly Lauren's life seems like a sham. How can she find her biological parents? And are her adoptive parents really responsible for kidnapping her?	3.8
Mark Walden	H.I.V.E Series		
<u>World War II</u>			
John Boyne	The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas	If you do start to read this book, you will go on a journey with a nine-year-old boy called Bruno. And sooner or later you will arrive with Bruno at a fence. We hope you never have to cross such a fence	5.8
Michelle Magorian	Goodnight Mr Tom	Young Willie Beech is evacuated to the country as Britain stands on the brink of WW2. A sad, deprived child, he slowly begins to flourish under the care of old Tom Oakley - but his new-found happiness is shattered by a summons from his mother back in London...	5.1
Michael Morpurgo	An Eagle in the Snow	In the darkness, sheltering in a railway tunnel, the stranger in the carriage with Barney and	5.2

		his mother tells them a story to pass the time. And what a story. The story of a young man, a young soldier in the trenches of World War I who, on the spur of the moment, had done what he thought was the right thing.	
Robert Westall	Blitzcat	She knew that somewhere ahead was her person, but far, far away. She miaowed plaintively.. She had led the way to safety, out of the blazing hell of blitzed Coventry. People touched her for luck; feared her as an omen of disaster. Wherever she went, she changed lives...From her beginning to her end she never wavered. She was the Blitzcat.	5.9
Classics			
Frances Hodgson Burnett	The Secret Garden	A spoiled, sickly orphan discovers the pleasures of friendship.	6.3
Alexandre Dumas	The Three Musketeers	When hot-blooded young d'Artagnan comes to Paris to seek his fortune, he finds himself challenged to a duel with not one, but three of the King's Musketeers. But Athos, Porthos and Aramis are to become his greatest friends, and companions in dangerous adventure when he becomes embroiled in the intrigues of the Court and the beautiful, evil Lady de Winter.	11.3
C. S. Lewis	Narnia		
L.M.Montgomery	Anne of Green Gables	Marilla and Matthew Cuthbert are in for a big surprise. They are waiting for an orphan boy to help with the work at Green	7.3

		Gables - but a skinny, red-haired girl turns up instead. Feisty and full of spirit, Anne Shirley charms her way into the Cuthberts' affection with her vivid imagination and constant chatter.	
E Nesbit	The Railway Children Unabridged	When Roberta, Peter and Phyllis's father is imprisoned after being falsely accused of spying, they and their mother have to leave their comfortable London home to go and live in a small house in the country. However, the children soon come to love the railway that runs near their cottage, and have many adventures - stopping a train from disaster, saving an infant and dog from a barge canal on fire, and getting help when they find an injured boy in the trail tunnel. When they befriend an Old Gentleman who regularly takes the 9:15 train near their home, he helps them to prove their father's innocence, and the family is reunited at last.	5.5
Mary Norton	The Borrowers	The Borrowers live in the secret places of quiet old houses; behind the mantelpiece, inside the harpsichord, under the kitchen clock. They own nothing, borrow everything, and think that human beings were invented just to do the dirty work. Arrietty's father, Pod, was an expert Borrower. He could scale curtains using a hatpin, and bring back a doll's teacup without breaking it. Girls weren't supposed to go borrowing but as Arrietty was	5.3

		an only child her father broke the rule, and then something happened which changed their lives.	
Arthur Ransome	Swallows and Amazons	John, Susan, Titty and Roger sail their boat, Swallow, to a deserted island for a summer camping trip. Exploring and playing sailors is an adventure in itself but the island holds more excitement in store. Two fierce Amazon Pirates, Nancy and Peggy, challenge them to war and a summer of battles and alliances ensues.	5.1
Johanna Spyri	Heidi	Little Heidi goes to live with her grandfather in his lonely hut high in the Alps and she quickly learns to love her new life. But her strict aunt decides to send her away again to live in the town. Heidi cannot bear being away from the mountains and is determined to return to the happiness of life with her grandfather.	8.2
<u>Thought provoking books</u>			
Malorie Blackman	Pig Heart Boy	Cameron is thirteen and in need of a heart transplant when a pioneering doctor approaches his family with a startling proposal. He can give Cameron a new heart - but from a pig. Cameron is fed up with just sitting on the side of life, always watching and never doing	4.3
Zizou Corder	Lionboy	Charlie Ashanti, the hero of LIONBOY, speaks cat - the language of all cats wild and domestic alike. His unusual talent helps him on his quest to find his kidnapped parents	5.7

		<p>who have discovered a cure for asthma. The local cats of his home town (a futuristic London) start him on his search to solve the mystery of his missing parents, which leads him across the channel on board a circus ship bound for Paris. It is on this wonderful vessel that Charlie establishes a close relationship with the homesick circus lions who become his accomplices. But Charlie is in danger, for close behind him on his trail, is a cirony of the mysterious group who have kidnapped his parents. They want Charlie too.</p>	
Anita Desai	Village by the Sea	<p>This is a story of survival set in a small fishing village near Bombay. Lila and Hari, aged 13 and 12, struggle to keep the family, including two young sisters, going when their mother is ill and their father usually the worse for drink. When Hari goes to Bombay to find work, Lila seems to be responsible for everything. Although the book paints a picture of extreme poverty, it demonstrates the strength of the family even in the most extreme circumstances and offers a powerful picture of another culture.</p>	6.0
Adeline Yen Mah	The Chinese Cinderella	<p>n Chinese Cinderella and the Secret Dragon Society, Adeline tells the story of Chinese Cinderella, a young girl who, after being thrown out of her home, has no choice but to go out and seek her own destiny. Soon she meets up with a group of children, all</p>	5.4

		orphaned but each from a different background, who live with an old lady called Grandma Wu	
<u>Empathy</u>			
My Sister live on the Mantelpiece	Annabel Pitcher	Five years ago, Jamie's sister, Rose, was blown up by a terrorist bomb. His family is torn apart by their grief. His mum runs away. His dad turns to drink and hate. Rose's surviving twin sister Jasmine stops eating, gets piercings and dyes her hair pink - anything to look different to her twin. But Jamie hasn't cried in all that time. To him, Rose is just a distant memory.	5.2
Wonder	R J Palacio	My name is August. I won't describe what I look like. Whatever you're thinking, it's probably worse.' Auggie wants to be an ordinary.He feels ordinary - inside. But ordinary kids don't make other ordinary kids run away screaming in playgrounds.	4.8
Car Wash Wish	Sita Brahmachari	We're inside Hudson's head. He's a 14-year-old with Asperger's Syndrome, trying to make sense of his parents' separation and his grandfather's death. Short book packing a big punch.	4.6
Running on Empty	S. E. Durrant	Narrator AJ is 11, passionate about running but unable to afford the right trainers. He's having to grow up fast as he tries to support his parents, who have learning difficulties. We're right alongside as he finds his way forward. Emotional and life-affirming.	4.0
The Boy in Striped Pajamas	John Boyne	Set during the Holocaust in Nazi Germany, this novel follows the budding friendship between two boys who live on opposite sides of the fence of a Nazi Death Camp in WWII. One child is a prisoner and the other is the son of the Commandant.	5.8

A Monster Calls	Patrick Ness	<i>The monster showed up just after midnight. As they do. But it isn't the monster Conor's been expecting. He's been expecting the one from his nightmare, the one he's had nearly every night since his mother started her treatments.</i>	4.8
Smart	Kim Slater	<i>Smart tackles the realities of Britain's urban underclass head on, but without judgement and with real compassion. And although Smart is very dark in places, it is also warm and funny, thanks to its unforgettable protagonist, Kieran. His world seems grey and tough, but his inner voice brings hope too, despite the awful nature of his life.</i>	4.7
<u>Ghosts & Horror</u>			
Breathe: A ghost story	Cliff McNish	Jack has always had an affinity with the supernatural, people who lived long ago and whose spirits remain in this world. Following his father's death, he and his mother move to an isolated house. Instantly, Jack senses the presence of the previous owner. But he is soon aware of other spirits reaching out to claim him. At the heart of the house is the Ghost Mother - long dead, but still mourning her daughter, for whose death she feels responsible - who has imprisoned four children, from different times and families. She has intercepted their passage from the living world to the afterlife and draws her strength by leeching their souls. Is it her intention that Jack meets the same fate? Or has she other plans for her latest resident?	4.8

Witch Child Sorceress	Celia Rees	When Mary sees her grandmother accused of witchcraft and hung for the crime, she is silently hurried to safety by an unknown woman. The woman gives her tools to keep the record of her days - paper and ink. Mary is taken to a boat in Plymouth and from there sails to the New World where she hopes to make a new life among the pilgrims. But old superstitions die hard.	6.0
My Swordhand is Singing	Marcus Sedgwick	In the bitter cold of an unrelenting winter Tomas and his son, Peter, arrive in Chust and despite the inhospitability of the villagers settle there as woodcutters. Tomas digs a channel of fast-flowing waters around their hut so they have their own little island kingdom. Peter doesn't understand why his father has done this, nor why his father carries a long battered box everywhere they go, and why he is forbidden to know its mysterious contents.	4.9
The Beast beneath the stairs	Michael Dahl	In 'Beast Beneath the Stairs' the librarian's collection of deadly books has gone missing. Unless he finds them the entire world will be faced with a plague of endless evil.	3.4
Blood on Snow	Tim Bowler	In a fast-moving plot, 14-year-old Will terrifyingly experiences a voice from the past when visiting the Norman remains of Totnes Castle in Devon.	3.8
Cuckoo Song	Frances Hardinge	The first things to shift were the doll's eyes, the beautiful grey-green glass eyes. Slowly they swivelled, until their gaze	6.0

		was resting on Triss's face. Then the tiny mouth moved, opened to speak. 'What are you doing here?'	
Devil for Sale	E E Richardson	Ben's under a curse that will kill him unless he sells it on to someone else. Can he bring himself to do it? While he hesitates, the body count rises...Spellbinding horror	3.3
The Graveyard Book	N Gaiman	When a baby escapes a murderer intent on killing the entire family, who would have thought it would find safety and security in the local graveyard? Brought up by the resident ghosts, ghouls and spectres, Bod has an eccentric childhood learning about life from the dead. But for Bod there is also the danger of the murderer still looking for him	5.1
Humour			
Bindi Babes	Narinder Dhani	Three feisty, fun-loving Anglo-Asian sisters rule the roost over their dad since their mum died. They've got a reputation at school for being the coolest, most sorted babes in town - and what they certainly don't need is an interfering Auntie-Ji from India inviting herself over to England and cramping their style. Which is exactly what their dad organizes - The girls decide the only way out of this nagging-adult dilemma is an arranged marriage - for their auntie! Enter Mr Arora, the dream boat teacher who just might whisk Auntie off in his arms and into the sunset. (They hope!)	4.2

Agatha Parrot and the Floating Head	K Poskitt	This book is about Odd Street School where I go along with mad Ivy who always jumps down stairs four at a time WAHOO! And Martha who is big and jolly and can sort out boys. The oddest teacher we've got is Miss Barking who wears goggles and gloves to use a pencil sharpener.	4.7
Awful Auntie	David Walliams	A page-turning, rollicking romp of a read, sparkling with Walliams' most eccentric characters yet and full of humour and heart.	5.0