





Reading List

Swallows and Amazons

Arthur Ransome

8-13 years

The Walker children - also known as Captain John, Mate Susan, Able-Seaman Titty, and Ship's Boy Roger - set sail for Wild Cat Island. There they camp under open skies, swim in clear water and go fishing for their dinner. But their days are disturbed by the Blackett sisters, the fierce Amazon pirates. The Swallows and Amazons decide to battle it out, and so begins a summer of incredible adventures.

Wild Song

Janis Mackay

8-13 years

Thirteen-year-old Niilo's unruly behaviour means his loving parents sent him to Wild School, a young offender's unit on an island in the Finnish archipelago. Angry at first, eventually he comes to enjoy being there and builds a close relationship with his mentor, Hannu, who helps him face his demons and overcome his lifelong fear of water.

Murder on the Safari Star

M.G.Leonard & Sam Sedgman

9-12 years

The third in the brilliant 'Adventures on Trains' series, this novel sees amateur sleuth Hal and his Uncle Nat travelling across the African plains in search of wildlife and adventure. With wonderful description of the wildlife and landscape as well as an action-packed plot, this is a book to inspire all adventurers and would-be detectives.

Hoot

Carl Hiaasen

9-12 years

A rare species of burrowing owl lives on an empty lot in Roy's neighbourhood... exactly where a large national pancake chain wants to build their latest restaurant. Set in Florida, this is a laugh-out-loud story with an important message.

To the Edge of the World

Julia Green

7-10 years

A beautifully written tale of courage, friendship, and survival. Jamie had thought that if he could just reach the boat then he could convince Mara to stay, but now he was on board and along for the ride. There was no going back, they were in this together, sailing to the islands at the edge of the world.

Twitch

M.G.Leonard

9-12 years

Twitch, a young birdwatcher, has to call on all his best skills in order to track down an escaped convict who is hiding in the local woods. Luckily for Twitch, he has plenty of friends (avian and human) on hand to help. An exciting adventure and mystery story.

















More Reading

The Swiss Family Robinson

Johann Wyss

8-13 years

William, a Swiss pastor, and his wife Elizabeth are sailing to Australia with their four sons – Fritz, Ernest, Jack and Francis – when their ship is caught in a storm and they become shipwrecked on a deserted island.

Taking all the ship's cargo to land, including livestock, the family set up camp on the island and prepare for a long stay. They explore and adapt to their new environment, encountering an amazing array of animals on the island. Covering ten years of their adventure and survival, the book has all the impossibilities of a tropical island that a child will love.

The Dreamsnatcher

Abi Elphinstone

8-12 years

Twelve-year-old Molly Pecksniff wakes one night in the middle of the forest, lured there by a recurring nightmare - the one with the drums and the rattles and the masks. The Oracle Bones foretold that she and Gryff, a wildcat that has always been by her side, are the only ones who can fight back against the Dreamsnatcher's dark magic.

Skellig

David Almond

9-13 years

Michael is lonely and struggling to deal with his younger sister's illness, one day he finds an angel living in his parents' garage and helps restore the angel to full health.

The Owl Service

Alan Garner

9-13 years

As the kids uncover the mystery of the owl service, they become trapped within a local legend, playing out roles in a tragic love story that has repeated itself for generations... a love story that has always ended in disaster.

Kensuke's Kingdom

Michael Morpurgo

8-13 years

Michael is stranded on an island after his family's boat overturns in a storm. He is taught to fend for himself under the guidance of Kensuke, a Japanese veteran of the Second World War, who lost his family in the bombing of Hiroshima. Kensuke is faced with a heart-breaking choice of whether to give up his secluded life to help Michael.

The Last Wild

Piers Torday

9-12 years

Kester can talk to animals, and it is this special gift which allows him to journey through his war-torn, virus-ravaged land in order to save the last remaining wild creatures. A dystopian story of great significance in the current climate, this is a thought-provoking read for advanced readers and young environmentalists.





