

Heston Community School

Key Stage 3 Book Recommendations



Love/Family/Relationships

Annabel Pitcher **“My Sister Lives on the Mantelpiece”**

After Jamie’s twin sister is killed in a terrorist bombing, his family falls apart. Unable to grieve, he believes a TV talent show will bring his family back together.

Suzanne LaFleur **“Love, Aubrey”**

Something terrible has happened, 11 year old Aubrey is on her own. She is determined to hide away and take care of herself, but through her grandmother’s letters, can she see that all is not lost?

Meg Rosoff **“How I Live Now”**

A young girl, Daisy is sent away for the summer to live with English cousins she has never met. Her world will be turned upside down and will explode into a million pieces.

R.J. Palacio **“Wonder”**

Born with a terrible facial abnormality, August has been home schooled his whole life. Now, he is being sent to a real school and all he wants is to fit in. Can he convince his classmates that he is just like them underneath it all?

Anne-Marie Conway **“Forbidden Friends”**

Lizzie and Bee meet on holiday, it seems that they were always meant to be friends. As the holiday ends, the girls are forbidden to see each other again. Could one dark secret from the past hold the answer?

Laura Williamson **“Boy Call Hope”**

Dan Hope has a list of things he wants to do: help Sherlock Holmes solve a mystery, walk on the moon, get his dog to stop eating the plants outside, and for his Dad to love him.

Patrick Ness **“A Monster Calls”**

Since his mother fell ill, Conor has had the same dream every night about a strange visitor. But tonight this visitor wants the most dangerous thing Conor can give, the truth.

Rebecca Stead **“When You Reach Me”**

Miranda receives strange, anonymous letters that make her believe that she is the only one who can prevent a tragic death.

Anne Fine **“Flour Babies”**

Mr. Cartwright’s class receives six-pound bags of flour that must be cared for at all times.

Jerry Spinelli **“Star Girl”**

A classic of our time that celebrates being true to ourselves and the thrill of first love.



Classics

Robert Louis Stevenson **“Treasure Island”**

A voyage for buried treasure spells trouble for Jim Hawkins, who finds himself in the middle of a mutiny with some of the nastiest pirates to ever sail the seven seas.

Arthur Ransome **“Swallows and Amazons”**

The Walker children set out on a voyage, but their days are disturbed by fierce Amazon pirates. Swallows and Amazons battle it out and so begins an incredible adventure.

J.M. Barrie **“Peter Pan”**

Peter Pan comes to the night nursery of the Darling children. He teaches them to fly, then takes them through the sky to Never-Never Land, where they find Red Indians, wolves, Mermaids and... Pirates.

Charles Dickens **“Christmas Carol”**

Ebenezer Scrooge is a mean, bitter old man. One cold Christmas Eve, three ghosts take him on a scary journey to show him the error of his nasty ways. By visiting his past, present and future, Scrooge learns to love Christmas and the people all around him.

Rudyard Kipling **“The Jungle Book”**

Collection of stories centered around the jungles of Central India. Including Mowgli, the man-club who was raised by wolves and Rikki-Tikki-Tavi.

Frances Hodgson Burnett **“The Secret Garden”**

Mary is sent to live with her uncle. Horribly lonely, she discovers a garden on the grounds that has been kept locked and hidden for years.

Louisa May Alcott **“Little Women”**

While their father is away at war, four sisters learn life’s mistakes and disappointments. As well as, the joy and love that comes from life.

Lewis Carroll **“Alice in Wonderland”**

Follow Alice down the rabbit hole into the magical world of Wonderland.

C.S. Lewis **“The Chronicles of Narnia”**

For here is a world where a witch decrees eternal winter; where there are more talking animals than people; and where battles are fought by Centaurs, Giants and Fauns.

J.R.R. Tolkien **“The Hobbit”**

Bilbo Baggins is a hobbit who enjoys his unambitious life, but it is interrupted when a wizard and 13 dwarves whisk him away on an unexpected journey.



Comedy

David Walliams

“A Boy in a Dress”

Dennis was different. Why was he different you ask? Well, a clue might be in the title of the book...

Gennifer Choldenko

“Al Capone Shines My Shoes”

Moose's sister has got a place in the perfect school, one that will help her deal with her autism. But there is one hitch. She got the place with the help of Al Capone and now it's payback time.

Jamie Thomson

“Dark Lord”

Dirk Lloyd, has a dark secret, according to his own account, he's the earthly incarnation of a Dark Lord, stuck in the puny body of a 13 year old school boy.

Sue Townsend

“The Secret Diary of Adrian Mole Aged 13 3/4”

Writing candidly about his parents' marital troubles, the dog, his life as a tortured poet and 'misunderstood intellectual', Adrian's painfully honest diary is hilarious.

Carl Hiassen

“Hoot”

The narrator, Briony, has witnessed mysteries and committed a crime for which she will spend the rest of her life trying to atone.

Frank Cottrell Boyce

“Millions”

Set in a futuristic England where the Pound is about to be replaced by the Euro, two boys find a million pounds to spend in the next 17 days.

Philip Reeve

“Goblins”

Squabbling goblins spend their time fighting and looting, until the powers of a dark sorcerer start to rise again.

Cressida Cowell

“How to Train Your Dragon”

The story of Hiccup, a Viking teenager who doesn't exactly fit in with his tribe's longstanding tradition of heroic dragon slayers.

Holly Smalle

“Geek Girl”

Harriet is known as a “geek,” but when she is spotted by a top modelling agency, she grabs at the chance to reinvent herself.

Louis Sachar

“There's a Boy in the Girl's Bathroom”

Bradley is a troublemaker at school and tends to make up far-fetched stories. But, when he meets school counsellor Carla, she gets him to believe in himself and not his made up stories.



Non - Fiction

Anne Frank

“The Diary of Anne Frank”

In July 1942, 13 year-old Anne Frank and her family, went into hiding in an Amsterdam warehouse. Over the next 2 years Anne describes in her diary the frustrations of living in such close quarters, and her thoughts, feelings and longings as she grows up. Her diary ends when, in August 1944, they were all betrayed

Roald Dahl

“Boy”

The first part of Roald Dahl's remarkable life story, describing his life from birth until leaving school, focusing on living conditions in Britain in the 1920s .

Roald Dahl

“Going Solo”

The second part of Roald Dahl's remarkable life story, following on from *Boy*.

Jacqueline Wilson

“Green Glass Beads”

Jacqueline has taken great delight in selecting her favourite poems for this book, making it a truly personal collection.

Harriet Castor

“Winston Churchill”

One of Britain's most intriguing and celebrated politicians, Winston Churchill was far more than a just successful wartime leader.

Leon Layson

“The Boy on the Wooden Box”

This, the only memoir published by a former Schindler's List child, of WWII, perfectly captures the innocence of a small boy who goes through the unthinkable.

Dave Pelzer

“A Child Called It”

Dave was beaten and starved by his emotionally unstable, alcoholic mother, a mother who played tortuous, games - games that left one of her three sons nearly dead. She no longer considered Dave a son, but a slave; no longer a boy, but an 'it'.

Doreen Rappaport

“Beyond Courage”

In a stirring chronicle, Doreen Rappaport brings to light the courage of countless Jews who organized to sabotage the Nazis and help other Jews during the Holocaust.

Adeline Yen Mah

“Chinese Cinderella”

The story is of survival in the light of the mental and physical cruelty of her stepmother and the disloyalty of her siblings.

Allan Wolf

“The Watch That Ends the Night”

Voices of the Titanic told through remarkable poetry and historical records, and telegraphs.



Multi-cultural

Beverley Naidoo **“Other Side of Truth” (Nigeria)**

Sent to England by their parents, then abandoned by the woman paid to bring them to England, Sade and Femi find themselves alone in a new environment.

Paulo Coelho **“The Alchemist” (Latin America)**

Santiago, a young shepherd, feels that there is more to life than his humble home and his flock. One day he finds the courage to follow his dreams into distant lands.

Sarah Crossan **“Weight of Water” (Poland)**

Armed with an old laundry bag filled with clothes, Kasienka and her mother head for England. Life is lonely, but when someone special swims into her life, Kasienka learns that there might be more than one way for her to stay afloat.

Benjamin Zephaniah **“Refugee Boy” (Ethiopia)**

Alem is on holiday with his father for a few days in London. He has never been out of Ethiopia before. They have a great few days together until one morning when Alem wakes up to find the unthinkable, his father has left him.

Anna Perera **“Guantanamo Boy” (Pakistan)**

Khalid, a 15-year-old Muslim boy from Rochdale, is abducted from Pakistan while on holiday. He is taken to Guantanamo Bay and held without charge, where his hopes and dreams are crushed under the cruellest of circumstances.

Elizabeth Laird **“Garbage King” (Africa)**

Abandoned in Addis Ababa, Mamo is stolen by a child-trafficker and is sold. Escaping, he meets another, very different runaway, together they learn to survive.

Gillian Cross **“Where I Belong” (Somalia)**

In Somalia, Mahmoud is kidnapped and held for a 10,000 dollar ransom. His older sister, Khadija, is in London, 1000s of miles away; and yet his life is in her hands.

Yann Martel **“Life of Pi” (India)**

After his ship crashes, 16 year old Pi find himself ship wrecked and alone with an orang-utan, a zebra, and a Bengal Tiger.

Deborah Ellis **“The Bread Winner” (Afghanistan)**

Young Parvana lives with her family in Kabul, Afghanistan. When her father is arrested by the Taliban, she disguises herself as a boy provide for her family.

Susan Cooper **“Ghost Hawk” (North America)**

John, a European settler, and Little Hawk, a native American Indian strike up a friendship that may put both boys in grave danger.



Historical Fiction

Laurie Halse Anderson

“Chains”

Thirteen-year-old Isabel decides to spy for the American Rebel Army at the beginning of the Revolutionary War after she is sold to a family who treats her cruelly.

Sally Gardner

“I, Coriander”

The story of Coriander in 17th century London, and of her discovery that she has inherited magical powers from her mother, who was a fairy princess.

Mildred D. Taylor

“Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry”

A feisty African-American girl, Cassie Logan, grows up in Mississippi during the Great Depression and learns the shocking realities of racism.

Katherine Marsh

“Jepp, Who Defied the Stars”

Who says fate is written in the stars? Set in 17th century Europe, Jepp is the coming of age story of a teenage dwarf limited not only by his height but by his destiny.

Tony Bradman

“Viking Boy”

Son of a Viking chieftain, Gunnar seeks to avenge his father and save his mother from Skuli and his wolf men.

H.M. Castor

“VII”

The story of Henry VIII as a boy who believes he is destined for greatness.

Tonke Dragt

“Letter for the King”

A secret letter must be delivered to King Unauwen across the Great Mountains. A letter upon which the fate of the entire kingdom depends. Tiuri has a vital role to play, one that might cost him his knighthood.

Rosemary Sutcliff

“Eagle of the Ninth”

A young Roman officer who sets out to discover the truth behind the mysterious disappearance of the Ninth Legion that marched into the mists of Northern Britain and never returned.

David Almond

“Fire Eaters”

When Bobby’s dad falls mysterious ill, he turns to his crazy, fire-eating friends in hopes for a miracle. Set during the Cold War.

Jamilia Gavin

“Coram Boy”

The story follows the wealthy Alexander and Toby, a young boy saved from an African slave ship, as their lives become closely involved.



War

John Boyne

“Boy in the Striped Pajamas”

Bruno knows nothing of the ongoing war or the holocaust. When his family move to the middle of nowhere, he befriends a boy who lives behind a wire fence named Shmuel.

Judith Kerr

“When Hitler Stole Pink Rabbit”

Suppose your country began to change and it became dangerous for some people to live in Germany. Suppose you found, that your own father was one of those people.

Morris Gleitzman

“Once”

The story of a Jewish boy who is determined to escape the orphanage he lives in to save his Jewish parents from the Nazis in the occupied Poland of WWII.

Michelle Magorian

“Goodnight Mr. Tom”

Willie is forced to seek refuge at Tom’s house in anticipation of the WWII bombings of London, the story follows the trials and tribulations of the enduring relationship which eventually forms between them.

Lois Lowry

“Number the Stars”

In Nazi-occupied Denmark, ten-year-old Annemarie Johansen is called upon for a selfless act of bravery to help save her best friend from a terrible fate.

Elizabeth Wein

“Code Name Verity”

Two young women become unlikely best friends during World War II, until one is captured by the Gestapo.

Ruta Sepetys

“Between Shades of Grey”

15 year old Lina, her mother, and young brother are hauled from their home by Soviet guards, thrown into cattle cars and sent away. They are being deported to Siberia.

Michael Morpurgo

“Elephant in the Garden”

When their favourite animal, an elephant named Marlene is going to be shot before the town is bombed, two sisters move her into their back garden to save her.

Aiden Chambers

“Postcards from No Man’s Land”

Two stories in Amsterdam during 1994 and 1944. One features 17-yr old Jacob during the 50-year commemoration of the Battle of Annhem. The other features 19-year old Geertrui late in the German occupation of the Netherlands.

Marcus Sedgwick

“The Forshadowing”

Pretending to be a nurse, Sasha goes behind the front lines to find her brother, risking her own life while trying to save his during WWI.



Mystery/Thrillers

Siobhan Dowd

“London Eye Mystery”

After their cousin disappears from the London eye, Ted and Kat put aside their difference to follow clues left around London to find him.

Lauren St. John

“Dead Man’s Cove”

Adventure and mystery begins for Laura when she is sent to her Uncles’ spooky house.

Peter Abrahams

“Down the Rabbit Hole”

When Ingrid accidentally leaves her favourite football sneakers at a murder scene, she is sucked into a mysterious case.

John Grisham

“Theodore Boone”

Theo Boone, only 13, but dreams of being a lawyer, However, he is then dragged into a murder trial because he knows so much– maybe too much.

Mark Haddon

“The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night Time”

Christopher is 15 and has Asperger’s Syndrome. When he find a neighbour’s dog murdered, he sets out on a journey which will turn his whole world upside down.

Pseudonymous Bosch

“The Name of This Book Is Secret”

Cass and Max set out to discover the history of the mysterious Symphony of Smells.

Trenton Lee Stewart

“The Mysterious Benedict Society”

Four children must go undercover to save not only themselves, but the world.

Julie Berry

“All the Truth that’s In Me”

Missing for two year, Judith returns home, permanently mutilated. She lives like a ghost until her home town is attacked again and she is forced to choose: continue to live in silence or recover her voice even if it means changing her world again.

Andrew Lane

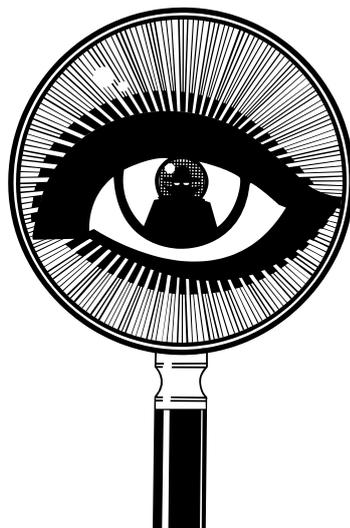
“Young Sherlock Holmes”

Book series about a young Sherlock Holmes in 1860s that is faced with numerous crimes and adventures.

Anne Cassidy

“Looking for J.J.”

Exploring the circumstances and motives behind the murder of a child– by her friend. Six years later, JJ has been released, and has a new identity, but is there any way she can lead a “normal “life?



Horror

Chris Priestley **“Tales of Terror in the Tunnel’s Mouth”**

A boy is put on a train by his stepmother to make his first journey on his own. But soon that journey turns out to be more of a challenge than anyone could have imagined.

Steve Feasey **“The Changeling”**

Trey thought he was an ordinary teenager till one day when he finds himself in the middle of a sinister empire of werewolves, vampires, and sorcerers.

Emerald Fennell **“Shiverton Hall”**

Arthur Bannister has been unexpectedly accepted into Shiverton Hall, which, as it turns out, is an incredibly spooky school, full of surprises.

Holly Black **“The Doll Bones”**

Three children are being haunted by a china doll made from the bones of a murdered girl. They must return the doll to where the girl lived or be curse for eternity.

Anthony Horowitz **“The Power of Five”**

Book series about 5 teenagers who are destined to defeat a mystical occult called “the old ones” who ruled over 10,000 years ago.

Joseph Delaney **“Spooks”**

Book series following Tom Ward, who is becoming a “spook,” fighting supernatural evil in the county. He soon finds he is either destined to save or destroy the world.

Darren Shan **“Cirque Du Freak”**

The chilling Saga of Darren Shan, the ordinary schoolboy plunged into the vampire world.

Justin Somper **“Vampirates”**

A series of books about two, twin children, Conor and Grace who get separated at sea and are each picked up by two very different ships.

Neil Gaiman **“Coraline”**

Coraline finds a mysterious passageway in her flat that leads her to an alternate universe where her parents have creepy black buttons for eyes. She begins a nightmarish game to rescue her real parents and save three children imprisoned in this strange world.

Barry Hutchinson **“Invisible Fiends”**

Kyle’s imaginary friend from childhood is back... with a vengeance.



Fantasy

Christopher Paolini

“Eragon”

A young farm boy named Eragon, who finds a mysterious egg in the mountains. A dragon hatches from the egg and they are then forced to flee from their home town.

Cornella Funke

“Inkheart”

Meggie’s father, Mo, has a wonderful and sometimes terrible ability. When he reads aloud from books, he brings the characters to life--literally.

Patrick Ness

“Chaos Walking Trilogy”

Todd Hewitt lives in a world in which all women are dead, and the thoughts of men and animals are constantly audible as Noise, an oppressive chaos of words, images, and sounds that makes human company exhausting.

Lois Lowry

“The Giver”

In a world with no war, pain, fear, or choices. Jonas is singled out to receive special training from “the giver,” who holds the truth of the world’s pain and pleasures.

Madeline L’Engle

“A Wrinkle in Time”

It was a dark and stormy night; Meg Murry, her small brother Charles Wallace, and her mother had come down to the kitchen for a midnight snack when they were upset by the arrival of a most disturbing stranger.

Katherine Patterson

“Bridge to Terabithia”

Two lonely children create a magical kingdom in the forest where the two of them reign as king and queen, and their imaginations set the only limits.

Jeanne DuPrau

“City of Ember”

The city of Ember was built as a last refuge for the human race, but when the great lamps are beginning to flicker, Lina and Doon save the city before the lights go out.

Joan Aiken

“Wolves of Willoughby Chase”

Wicked wolves and a grim governess threaten Bonnie and her cousin Sylvia when Bonnie's parents leave Willoughby Chase for a sea voyage.

Rachel Hartman

“Seraphina”

In the kingdom of Goredd, dragons and humans live and work side by side – while below the surface, tensions and hostility simmer. Gifted musician Seraphina, holds a deep secret of her own. One that she guards with all of her being.

Jonathan Flanagan

“The Ranger’s Apprentice”

The adventures of Will, an orphan who is taken as an apprentice Ranger, as he strives to keep the Kingdom of Araluen safe from invaders, traitors, and threats.

