

Recommended Reads

YEAR 6 • AGES 10–11

A menu of possibilities

Year 6 readers benefit from genuine choice and thoughtful conversation. Encourage a varied reading diet, including challenging books shared with an adult, shorter high-interest texts and books that reflect both children's own lives and experiences beyond them. These suggestions are not a reading test or a list to finish, and there is no need to buy the books.

Stories to get lost in

The Final Year — Matt Goodfellow & Joe Todd-Stanton

A powerful verse novel about friendship, family and the move towards secondary school.

The Island at the End of Everything — Kiran Millwood Hargrave

A lyrical historical story about family, separation and hope.

Windrush Child — Benjamin Zephaniah

A moving novel in verse about migration, belonging and post-war Britain.

Can You See Me? — Libby Scott & Rebecca Westcott

A perceptive story about an autistic girl navigating friendship and change.

No Ballet Shoes in Syria — Catherine Bruton

A hopeful story about displacement, friendship and the power of dance.

The Boy Who Made Everyone Laugh — Helen Rutter

A warm, funny story about a boy with a stammer who dreams of comedy.

The Explorer — Katherine Rundell

Four children must survive in the Amazon after a plane crash.

The Star Outside My Window — Onjali Q. Raúf

A sensitive mystery about grief, family and finding a way forward.

The London Eye Mystery — Siobhan Dowd

A cleverly plotted mystery solved through close observation and distinctive thinking.

The Good Thieves — Katherine Rundell

A stylish historical adventure involving a heist, corruption and loyal friends.

The Infinite Lives of Maisie Day — Christopher Edge

A mind-bending science mystery about family, time and the universe.

Skellig — David Almond

A strange, haunting novel about family, change and an extraordinary discovery.

Family tip: Visit the library, read a first page together and let your child decide what they would like to try.



More ways into reading

Pictures, facts, poetry, audio and shorter texts all help children build knowledge, language and a positive reading identity.

Graphic novels & visual storytelling

The Sleeper and the Spindle — Neil Gaiman & Chris Riddell
A dark, richly illustrated reimagining of two familiar fairy tales.

New Kid — Jerry Craft
A thoughtful, funny graphic novel about identity, friendship and fitting in.

Illegal — Eoin Colfer, Andrew Donkin & Giovanni Rigano
A graphic novel following one child's dangerous journey towards Europe.

The Sad Ghost Club — Lize Meddings
A gentle graphic novel about loneliness, anxiety and finding connection.

Poetry & verse

Rebound — Kwame Alexander
A dynamic verse novel about grief, basketball, family and growing up.

Funky Chickens — Benjamin Zephaniah
Funny, rhythmic and socially aware poems written to be heard aloud.

Be the Change — Liz Brownlee, Matt Goodfellow & Roger Stevens
Poems encouraging readers to think, question and act on issues that matter.

Dark Sky Park — Philip Gross & Jesse Hodgson
Poetry and art explore the wildlife, wonder and mystery of the night.

Fascinating non-fiction

Human 2.0 — Patrick Kane & Samuel Rodriguez
Accessible science explores how technology can repair and enhance the human body.

What a Waste — Jess French
A clear, practical guide to rubbish, recycling and protecting the planet.

Hidden Figures — Margot Lee Shetterly, adapted by Winifred Conkling
The true story of Black women mathematicians whose work helped NASA reach space.

Politics for Beginners — Louie Stowell, Alex Frith & Rosie Hore
A balanced, accessible introduction to governments, elections and political ideas.

Shorter and super-readable

Needle — Patrice Lawrence
A tense Barrington Stoke story about anger, assumptions and the care system.

The Humiliations of Welton Blake — Alex Wheatle
A funny, fast-paced story about one disastrous day and a very important date.

Resist — Tom Palmer
A gripping, accessible wartime story inspired by resistance fighter Audrey Hepburn.

The Disconnect — Keren David
A thought-provoking short novel about teenagers challenged to live without phones.

More ideas online

[The Reader Teacher – Year 6](#) • a longer, regularly updated list
[BookTrust – Great Books Guide](#) • recommendations grouped by age

HELP YOUR CHILD CHOOSE

- Browse together
- Try audio or read aloud
- Talk about the book
- Stop if it is not working

External websites are offered for further ideas. Great Leighs Primary School is not responsible for their commercial links or changing content.