



## John Colet School: Year 7 Recommended Reading List

### **Sharon Creech: Love That Dog**

Slowly Jack learns the pleasures of writing poetry as Miss Stretchberry encourages him to tell his own story through verse. What emerges is a moving and memorable story about a boy and his dog and his growing passion for poetry.

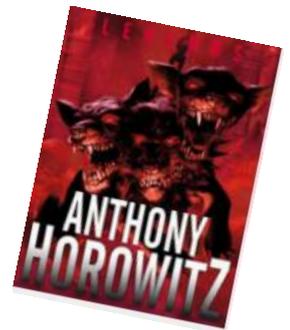


### **Terry Pratchett: Truckers**

The Nomes are tiny little people who, up until now, lived happily beneath the floorboards of Arnold Bros (est 1905) department store. But their tiny, comfortable little world is shattered when they discover that the store is to be demolished and they have to find a way of getting to The Outside—a mystical place they never really believed in until a small tribe of Outsiders, led by the intrepid Masklin. The only escape route is via one of the huge trucks that Humans use to deliver goods.

### **Anthony Horowitz: Death and the Underworld**

When life is over, and the conflicted souls of the dead wend their weary way down to the underworld, what do they see? A three-headed dog with slavering jaws, a dark and foreboding river with a skeletal ferryman or simply darkness? Only the very brave or very foolish will venture down into the realm of the afterlife by choice, and they will seldom live to tell the tale!



### **Malorie Blackman: Pig Heart Boy**

You're thirteen. All you want is a normal life. But most normal kids don't need heart transplants. So there's this doctor. He says there's a chance for you. But he also says it's experimental, controversial and risky. And it's never been done before. This is a powerful, thought-provoking story from the award-winning Malorie Blackman.

### **Mary Hooper: At the sign of The Sugared Plum**

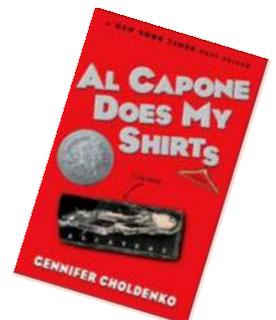
Hannah is excited as she is about to take her first ever trip to London to help her sister in her shop 'The Sugared Plum', making sweetmeats for the gentry. Hannah does not however get the reception she expected from her sister Sarah. Instead of giving Hannah a hearty welcome, Sarah is horrified that Hannah did not get her message to stay away - the Plague is taking hold of London.

### **Morris Gleitzman: Once**

Set during the Holocaust, this is the tale of Felix, a young Jewish child who runs away from a Catholic orphanage to try and find his parents. He meets other orphans who join his journey, and he is eventually forced onto a train heading for the concentration camps. Felix copes with the tragedy of his life through storytelling, making the audio most effective. Always seeking to see the bright side, Felix helps others escape through fantasy as well, weaving tales to make those around him feel better.

### **Gennifer Choldenko: Al Capone Does My Shirts**

When Moose Flanagan and his family move home, yet again, and become residents of the famous prison island Alcatraz, things get interesting. First of all, they share the island with a few other families and a lot of pretty heavy-duty criminals including Al Capone. And secondly, Moose's sister is starting a new school, which everyone hopes will help her become more integrated with those around her. When Moose comes up with some pretty cunning money-making schemes based on his famous co-residents, he does not count on his sister becoming inadvertently involved. This is a charming, funny and utterly enchanting book that skilfully and delicately weaves a humorous tale with some important issues.



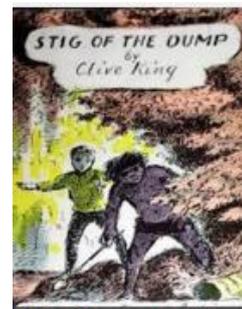
### **Chris O'Dowd: Moone Boy. The Blunder Years**

Martin Moone is eleven years old and is completely fed up being the only boy in a family of girls. He is desperate for a wingman to help him to navigate his idiot life. When best friend Pdraic suggests he gets an imaginary friend or IF for short he decides to give it a go. His first attempt is Loopy Lou a hyperactive goofball who loves writing rubbish rap

songs. But Martin soon gets fed up with Lou's loopiness and decides to trade in his IF for something less whacky. Enter Sean "caution" Murphy, an imaginary office clerk in a bad suit with a passion for laziness and a head full of dodgy jokes. Sean is full of tips and tricks to guide Martin through the perils of the playground from dealing with his sister's pranks to beating the bullying Bonner Boys. But getting rid of Lou is not that easy and having TWO imaginary friends is a recipe for trouble!

### **Clive King: Stig of the Dump**

Barney is a solitary little boy given to wandering off by himself. One day he is lying on the edge of a disused chalk pit when it gives away and he lands in a sort of cave. Here he meets somebody with a lot of shaggy hair and two bright black eyes and wearing a rabbit skin and speaking in grunts, he names him Stig. Of course nobody believes Barney when he tells his family all about Stig but for Barney cave man Stig is totally real. They become great friends learning each other's ways and embarking on a series of unforgettable adventures.



### **David Walliams: Gangsta Granny**

Our hero Ben is bored beyond belief after he is made to stay at his grandma's house. She's the boringest grandma ever: all she wants to do is to play Scrabble, and eat cabbage soup. But there are two things Ben doesn't know about his grandma. She was once an international jewel thief and all her life, she has been plotting to steal the Crown Jewels, and now she needs Ben's help...

### **Michael Morpurgo: Farm Boy**

Joey was the last working horse on the farm, and the apple of Grandpa's eye. In 'War Horse', Joey was sent away from the farm to be a warhorse in WWI. Grandpa had joined the cavalry in order to find, and fight, with Joey. 'Farm Boy' brings us forward fifty years with Grandpa not only telling his grandson, Joey's story but also a 'shameful secret' which he has held for years...

### **Jean Ure: Skinny Melon and Me**

Cherry's mother has just re-married, much to Cherry's disgust. The worst thing about her step-father is his name: Roland Butter. Can you imagine? Cherry's best friend, Skinny Melon, is a sounding board for all Cherry's angsts - Roland's allergies for one - who wants a wimpy step-father, all sniffly and red-eyed? All this and curried compost school dinners to contend with. But when Roland starts sending Cherry coded messages, her curiosity is aroused. Will she ever learn to live with, and even like, Roland Butter?



### **Pete Johnson: Awesome!**

When Ben starts at a new school, the last thing he expects is to be mistaken for a TV star! Can he stop pretending to be someone he's not before things spin out of control? Light-hearted comedy. Suitable for dyslexic, struggling and reluctant reader teens. Ben is just the new boy - until the most beautiful girl in school, Jasmine, mistakes him for the star of TV show 'Awesome!' He doesn't have the heart to tell her the truth! As his lie escalates and more and more people begin to believe it, will Ben do the right thing?

### **Siobhan Dowd: The London Eye Mystery**

When Ted and Kat watched their cousin Salim get on board the London Eye, he turned and waved before getting on. After half an hour it landed and everyone trooped off - but no Salim. Where could he have gone? How on earth could he have disappeared into thin air? Since the police are having no luck finding him, Ted and Kat become sleuthing partners. Despite their prickly relationship, they overcome their differences to follow a trail of clues across London in a desperate bid to find their cousin. And ultimately it comes down to Ted, whose brain works in its own very unique way, to find the key to the mystery.

### **Roald Dahl: The Witches**

Witches really are a detestable breed. They disguise themselves as lovely ladies, when secretly they want to squish and squelch all the wretched children they despise. Luckily one boy and his grandmother know how to recognize these vile creatures, but can they get rid of them for good?

### Joel Snape: Going out with a Bang

In Dylan's thirteen years on the planet he's successfully avoided learning how to dance without looking like a fool, and kissing a girl. But thanks to some advice from his more experienced (or so he'd like to think...) friend Dec, a helpful footballing analogy (something about needing to score in the 3rd division before getting to the premier league...), a gorgeous new girl at school and - praise be! - a party, Dylan hopes all that's about to change...(That's if he manages not to burn off his eyebrows in an attempt to make the party go with a bang - not a good look...)

Bilbo Baggins enjoys a quiet and contented life, with no desire to travel far from the comforts of home; then one day the wizard Gandalf and a band of dwarves arrive unexpectedly and enlist his services – as a burglar – on a dangerous expedition to raid the treasure-hoard of Smaug the dragon. Bilbo's life is never to be the same again.

### Alexander McCall Smith: Akimbo and the Snakes

Akimbo loves his life in Africa. He loves living in the great game reserve where his father is ranger. He is able to see all sorts of wonderful animals. But he doesn't see many snakes - they usually slither away when he gets close. But then his Uncle Peter asks if Akimbo would like to visit his snake park and Akimbo jumps at the chance!

