Great Reads for Y8



How I Live Now by Meg Rosoff

Fifteen-year-old New Yorker Daisy is sent to the English countryside over the summer, to live with cousin's she has never met. Her aunt goes away on business leaving the children alone and then the war breaks out. This is a poignant story about love, survival and growing up in a senseless world. It is a read which is funny as well as sad.

Rebound by Kwame Alexander. This story is written in verse: fewer words which express a lot of meaning. Charlie's life is tough. He has lost his dad, is struggling in school and to make things even worse, he has to stay with his grandparents over the summer. But then his cousin introduces him to basketball and life start to gradually improve. **Rebound** is funny, moving and perfect for those who think reading is not for

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them.

Welcome to Nowhere by Elizabeth Laird follows a 12 year old Syrian boy, Omar, and his family who have to flee their home because of the war. But where can they go? This is a powerful, dramatic and moving story, written with humour and empathy: you feel that you are there with them.



The Island at the End of Everything by Kiran Millwood Hargrave is a poignant adventure story about friendship and being different. Ami lives on a paradise island, but it is contaminated by leprosy and she is forced to leave her infected mother behind. Ami discover a secret and decides she must make the perilous journey back to the island. This is a poetically written book about love, loss and friendship.

Looking for JJ by Anne Cassidy. Jennifer Jones was 10 years old when she was involved

in a serious crime, a murder. Alice Tully was there too and is desperately trying to



forget the past and lead a normal life. What are these girls' connection? Is it possible to forgive someone for their past? A terrifying thriller which is both moving and mysterious. **Chessboxer** by Stephen Davies. Leah Baxter is a junior chess genius and her life is on course to achieve everything her mom and coach want for her. But Leah is grieving for her father, and feels suffocated and very angry. She discovers her new gambit:

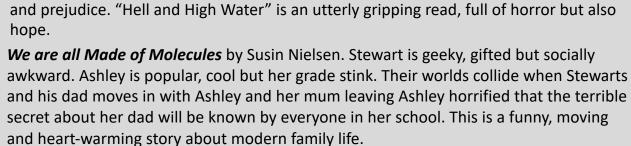
her father, and feels suffocated and very angry. She discovers her new gambit: chessboxing, a dangerous hybrid sport which will test her body and mind to their limits. Can she reach the top? **Chessboxer** is a fast, tense and gripping story told through blog posts which will keep the reader on the edge of the seat.

Hell and High Water by Tanya Landman. It is 1752. 15-year-old Caleb's Pa is falsely accused of theft and is sent as a convict to the American Colonies. Then Caleb finds a badly decomposed man on the shore, who is wearing his father's signet ring. This is

the beginning of an intriguing mystery, which exposes a world full of corruption, lies

Hell and High Water







Anne Frank: The Diary of a Young Girl. Anne Frank was forced to hide from the Nazis during World War 2, because she was a Jew. The diary she kept between 1942 and 1944, were found after the war and published by her father, the only surviving member of her family. It gives an extraordinary insight into life in hiding. Anne describes the constant fear of discovery, gnawing hunger, but also about her hopes for the future. Her diary is a poignant and gripping read which will stay with you for a long time.



A Skinful of Shadows by Frances Hardinge. Twelve-year-old Makepeace has learned to defend herself from the ghosts which try to possess her in the night, desperate for refuge, but one day a dreadful event causes her to drop her guard. And now there's a spirit inside her. This is an enthralling and beautifully written supernatural fantasy story, set during the English Civil War.