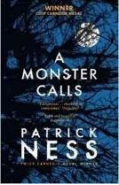

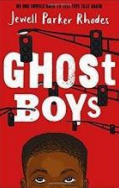





Drop Everything And Read – Year 8 Book Choices

Book	Plot Summary	Themes & Suggested Reading Age
 <p>A Monster Calls Patrick Ness</p>	<p>This is a fantasy story about a 13-year old boy, Connor, whose mother has a serious illness. Each night, he is visited by a monster who tells him three stories, which help him to understand his complicated feelings about grief and loss.</p>	<p>Themes: Coming-of-age, loss, family</p> <p>Reading Age: 10+ Interest Age: 11-14</p>
 <p>Dread Wood Jennifer Killick</p>	<p>As the fear and dread build up in this tense thriller, a group of misfits is forced to work as a team to defeat the most terrifying of hidden attackers. Creepy things lurk in the shadows, indescribable nasties leap out when least expected and death, or worse, awaits anyone who dares to put a foot to the ground.</p>	<p>Themes: Adventure, mystery, thriller, science fiction</p> <p>Reading Age: 9+ Interest Age: 9-12</p>
 <p>Ghost Boys Jewell Parker-Rhodes</p>	<p>In Chicago, a white police officer shoots and kills black 12-year-old Jerome, mistaking his toy gun for a real one. As a ghost, young Jerome witnesses the aftermath of his death. The writer expertly deals with grief, prejudice, the idea of biases (both conscious and unconscious) and the fight for justice.</p>	<p>Themes: Prejudice, death, crime, human rights</p> <p>Reading Age: 9+ Interest Age: 10-13</p> <p>*Infrequent swearing</p>
 <p>Joe All Alone Joanna Nadin</p>	<p>When thirteen-year-old Joe is left behind in Peckham while his mum flies to Spain on holiday, he decides to treat it as an adventure. But when the food and money run out, his mum doesn't come home, and the local thugs catch up with him, Joe realises time is running out too, and makes a decision that will change his life forever.</p>	<p>Themes: Crime, family, friendship</p> <p>Reading Age: 10+ Interest Age: 10+</p> <p>*Infrequent swearing</p>

 <p>Pig Heart Boy Malorie Blackman</p>	<p>Cameron is thirteen, and all he wants is a 'normal' life - friends, swimming, school, family. However, he desperately needs a new heart because his doesn't work properly – until one doctor offers hope. Cameron could - if he and his parents agree - take part in a radical and controversial procedure involving the transplant of a pig's heart into his human body.</p>	<p>Themes: Medicine, scientific advancements, moral dilemma, family</p> <p>Reading Age: 10+ Interest Age: 10-12</p>
 <p>The Other Side of Truth Beverley Naidoo</p>	<p>When twelve-year-old Sade's mother is killed, she and her little brother Femi are forced to flee from their home in Nigeria to Britain. They're not allowed to tell anyone - not even their best friends - as their whole journey is secret, dangerous - and illegal. Their dad promises to follow when he can, but once the children arrive in London, things go from bad to worse when they're abandoned by the people, they had been told would protect them.</p>	<p>Themes: Experiences of refugees, family, prejudice, human rights</p> <p>Reading Age: 10+ Interest Age: 11-16</p>
 <p>The Hobbit J.R.R. Tolkien</p>	<p>This is the classic story of Bilbo Baggins - a home- loving hobbit who enjoys a quiet and contented life in his cosy hobbit hole and has no desire to travel afar. But then the wizard Gandalf and a band of dwarves arrive unexpectedly and enlist his services, and soon Bilbo finds himself part of an extraordinary expedition to raid the treasure-hoard of Smaug the Dragon - and on the way becomes the possessor of a very unusual ring.</p>	<p>Themes: Adventure, fantasy, magic, humour</p> <p>Reading Age: 10+ Interest Age: 8+</p>