



Community

Creativity

Achievement

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## Year 8 Reading for Pleasure List

Community	Creativity	Achievement
<p><b>Illegal</b> by Eoin Colfer and Andrew Donkin For those of you who enjoy graphic novels this is one for you. The story follows the epic journey of one boy, Ebo, from Africa to Europe. The journey is fraught with danger, but with no family left to support him, Ebo only has one option- to try and make it. With every step he holds onto his hopes for a new life, and to one day be reunited with his sister.</p>	<p><b>Blame my Brain: The Amazing Teenage Brain Revealed</b> by Nicola Morgan Contrary to popular opinion, teenagers are not the lazy, unpleasant louts they can appear to be. During the teenage years the brain undergoes its most radical, fundamental change since the age of two. Nicola Morgan's carefully researched, accessible and humorous examination of the ups and downs of the teenage brain has chapters dealing with powerful emotions, the need for more sleep, the urge to take risks, the difference between genders and the reasons behind addiction or depression.</p>	<p><b>Fish In A Tree</b> by Lynda Mullaly Hunt Ally has spent her school days trying to fool smart people into thinking she can read. She's afraid to ask for help, thinking people will see her as dumb. With the help of her new teacher Mr Daniels, Ally learns not to be so hard on herself and that dyslexia is nothing to be ashamed of. As she gains confidence, she feels free to be herself and discovers that there's a lot more to her than a label, and that great minds don't always think alike.</p>
<p><b>How to Save the World with a Chicken and an Egg</b> by Emma Shevah High-spirited Ivy believes she can talk to animals, while Nathaniel, a boarding-school boy, is obsessed with animal facts. They come together unexpectedly on a cold English beach with the arrival of a rare and wondrous sea creature: a giant leatherback turtle who lays her eggs in front of the world's media. Soon they're on a mission to make a difference to the world – even if they have to do it one animal at a time. Hilarious, poignant and highly original.</p>	<p><b>The Girl Who Became A Tree</b> by Joseph Coelho This whole story is told through a series of poems. In the book, Coelho takes the mythical story of Daphne (a girl turned into a tree to avoid the attention of the god Apollo) and develops a totally modern tale. If you enjoyed your work on Gods and Monsters in Year 7 this could be the book for you.</p>	<p><b>You are Awesome</b> by Matthew Syed If you believe you <i>can't</i> do something, the chances are you won't try. But what if you really <i>could</i> get better at maths, or sport or exams? In fact, what if you could excel at anything you put your mind to? <i>You Are Awesome</i> can help you do just that, reminding us that success is earned, not given. With hard work, determination, practice, self-belief, and, most importantly a Growth Mindset, there's no reason why you can't achieve anything.</p>



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## The Miscalculations of Lightning Girl

by Stacy McAnulty

After being struck by lightning as a youngster, 12 year old Lucy develops incredible abilities in mathematics. Ever since she has been home-schooled. Now though, her grandma has decided it's time for her to go to school. Lucy doesn't think school can teach her anything she doesn't already know. In the end though the story is a celebration of community, friendship and reminds us to get out our comfort zones and embrace what makes us unique.

## Gangsta Rap

by Benjamin Zephaniah

A book written entirely in slang to create the voice and identities of the characters within. Follow the story of Ray, excluded from school and with troubles at home. Ray and his friends join a project which allows them to develop their musical skills. Another band take a dislike and trouble ensues. Based on Zephaniah's own life experiences, this book explores the issues many teens face in Britain today.

## Lightning Mary

by Anthea Simmons

One stormy night, a group of villagers are struck by lightning. The only survivor is a baby - Mary Anning. Growing up on the windswept Dorset coast, Mary follows after her father, hunting for fossils. Mary faces danger to bring back valuable treasures to help feed her family. She must depend upon her courage and knowledge to fulfil her dream of becoming a scientist in a time when girls have no opportunities for such ambitions. What will happen when she makes her greatest discovery of all...?