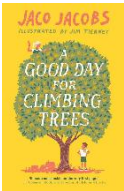
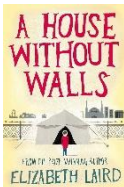
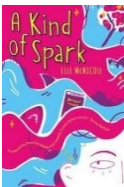
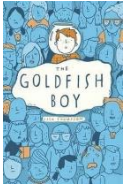
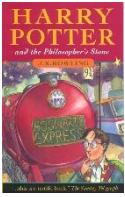
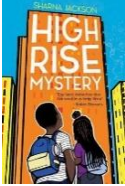
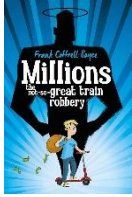
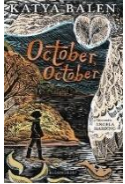
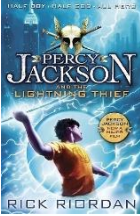


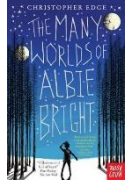
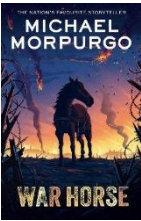
The SMC 'Just Reading' Approach – Reading List

Y7 Text Choices

Book	Plot Summary	Themes & Suggested Reading Age
 A Good Day for Climbing Trees – Jaco Jacobs	Thirteen-year-old Marnus finds himself at the centre of a protest when he and a girl named Leila camp out in a tree to prevent it from being cut down by developers. *Selected as an Honour Title in 2017 for BookTrust's In Other Words Project.	Themes: <i>Coming-of-age, environmental activism, family, friendship</i> <i>Reading Age: 11+</i> <i>Interest Age: 11-14</i>
 A House Without Walls – Elizabeth Laird	Thirteen-year-old Safiya and her family are driven out of Syria by civil war. Her and her family have found a new home and Safiya is trying to find her place in this new and unfamiliar world. *Award winning author.	Themes: <i>Refugee crisis, family, friendships, hope</i> <i>Reading Age: 9-11</i> <i>Interest Age: 11+</i>
 A Kind of Spark – Elle McNicoll	When 11 year old Addie, who is autistic, learns about the 16th century women who were persecuted for witchcraft, she starts to lobby for a local memorial in her small Scottish village. With the help of a new girl at school, she fights valiantly against injustice and oppression. *Won the Waterstone's Children Book Prize in 2021.	Themes: <i>Neurodiversity, friendship, human rights</i> <i>Reading Age: 9+</i> <i>Interest Age: 9-11</i>
 Boy – Roald Dahl	Roald Dahl's bestselling autobiography, filled with hilarious anecdotes about his childhood and school days.	Themes: <i>Growing up, school experiences, family, friendship</i> <i>Reading Age: 9+</i> <i>Interest Age: 9-11</i>

 Goldfish Boy – Lisa Thompson	Matthew has OCD and hasn't left his bedroom in weeks, spending his days watching the world outside of his window. When a local toddler goes missing, he realises that he can possibly use his powers of observation to help with the investigation. *Nominated for the Waterstone's Children Book Prize.	Themes: <i>Mystery, mental health, detective</i> <i>Reading Age: 9+</i> <i>Interest Age: 9-11</i>
 Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone – J.K Rowling	When Harry Potter receives a letter from Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry, he is whisked away on a magical adventure, during which he tackles many new challenges.	Themes: <i>Magic, friendships, coming-of-age</i> <i>Reading Age: 9+</i> <i>Interest Age: 9-11</i>
 High Rise Mystery – Sharna Jackson	After finding their community art teacher murdered on their tower block estate ('The Tri'), sisters Nik and Norva are determined to solve this terrible crime. Swinging into action even before the police have arrived, the whip-smart detective duo develop a list of suspects and a plan to identify motives and methods. *Winner of the 'Best Book for Younger Readers' (Waterstones, 2020).	Themes: <i>Adventure, mystery, crime, diversity, family</i> <i>Reading Age: 9+</i> <i>Interest Age: 9-11</i>
 Max Kowalski Didn't Mean It – Susie Day	When Max meets Tal and his two dads, he learns that there are lots of different ways to be a man, and that his own dad's expectations of him at such a young age aren't fair.	Themes: <i>Adventure, crime</i> <i>Reading Age: 9+</i> <i>Interest Age: 9-11</i>

 Millions – Frank Cottrell- Boyce	One night, a bag containing £229,370 falls from the sky and lands with Damien and his older brother, Anthony. But with only 17 days left before the national currency switches to Euros and the money becomes worthless, this proves to be much more difficult than they had anticipated. *Winner of the 2004 CILIP Carnegie Medal. Written by 2024 Poet Laureate	Themes: <i>Mystery, family, morality</i> <i>Reading Age: 9+</i> <i>Interest Age: 9-11</i>
 October, October – Katya Balen	October has a happy life living with her dad in the forest - but when Dad gets injured in an accident, she's forced to go and live with her estranged mum in the city, where nothing is natural and everything feels new and frightening. *Winner of the YOTO Carnegie Medal 2022.	Themes: <i>Family, animals, nature</i> <i>Reading Age: 9+</i> <i>Interest Age: 9-11</i>
 Percy Jackson & the Lightning Thief – Rick Riordan	In this comic fantasy novel, 12-year-old Percy Jackson discovers that the Greek gods of Olympus are alive and living in modern-day New York.	Themes: <i>Fantasy, adventure, mythology</i> <i>Reading Age: 9+</i> <i>Interest Age: 9-11</i>
 Private Peaceful – Michael Morpurgo	Told in the voice of a young soldier, the story follows 24 hours in his life at the front during World War I, and captures his memories as he looks back over his life. *Won the 2004 Red House Children's Book Award	Themes: <i>World War 1, family, friendships, loss</i> <i>Reading Age: 9+</i> <i>Interest Age: 10-12</i>

 Talking to the Moon – S.E Durrant	Memory and history are explored in this moving story of friendship and love between grandparent and child, which is set by the sea. Iris is defensive, a child with too much on her shoulders, who is trying her best to protect her beloved grandmother from the truths of dementia and aging.	Themes: <i>Mystery, family, friendship, illness</i> <i>Reading Age: 8+</i> <i>Interest Age: 9-11</i>
 The Many Worlds of Albie Bright – Christopher Edge	A son of two scientists, it's only natural that Albie uses quantum theory when his mum dies, to find a parallel universe where she's still alive. Considering the topics covered, this is a fun, light read that explores the possibilities of quantum physics. *Winner of the Brilliant Book Award. Nominated for the 2017 CLIP Carnegie Medal.	Themes: <i>Family, comedy, loss, science</i> <i>Reading Age: 10+</i> <i>Interest Age: 10+</i>
 War Horse – Michael Morpurgo	In the chaos of the First World War, one horse witnesses the reality of battle from both sides of the trenches. Bombarded by artillery, with bullets knocking riders from his back, Joey tells a powerful story of the truest friendships surviving in terrible times. *Winner of the Smarties Award, and the Children's Book Award. Shortlisted for the Carnegie Medal.	Themes: <i>WW1, family, friendship, animals</i> <i>Reading Age: 9-12</i> <i>Interest Age: 10+</i>