Recommended Dyslexia-friendly reads

At Chailey we recommend you read regularly in your own time (at least 15 minutes 3 times per week). This will help you to increase your vocabulary and reading fluency. Ideally you should try to read aloud to an adult once a week too. It’s always good to talk about the books you’ve read and share your ideas and opinions about them. Try to read widely from a range of authors.

Barrington Stoke is the foremost publisher of dyslexia-friendly books and those for reluctant readers. Barrington Stoke specialises in producing books designed and written to be accessible to all readers including those with dyslexia: short narratives, carefully chosen fonts and layout, and cream paper help, but good stories are crucial too. There are lots of Barrington Stoke titles in the school library, as well as graphic novels and other good dyslexia-friendly reads.

Below are some recommended dyslexia-friendly readers from a range of different genres which you may enjoy.

Books for Interest age 11+

The Evil Within
Catherine MacPhail ISBN: 9781781125878
Interest Age 11+ Reading Age 8 In a nutshell: creepy, haunting story of the young Jekyll and Hyde.
Flyboy Tom Palmer ISBN: 9781781125359

Interest Age 8-12 Reading Age 8+ Tom Palmer’s new story starts on a football pitch and then, via a clever bit of ghost story gives readers the experience of the skill and bravery required to pilot a fighter plane in World War One.

Sweetness and Lies Karen Mccombie ISBN 9781121993

Interest Age 8-12 Reading Age 8+

Brilliantly observed, this is a thoughtful story about truth and friendship.


A humorous and perceptive tale exploring teen life. Luke defends his sister and ends up challenging the hardest boy in school to a fight! Will he survive the showdown? Particularly suitable for struggling, reluctant and dyslexic readers aged 12+
**Bulletcatcher**  Chris Bradford  **ISBN-10:** 1781124450  
**Interest Age 8-12**  **Reading Age 8**

Troy is quietly reading a Batman comic when all hell breaks loose. He’s caught up in a terrorist attack that kills his parents – so far so Bruce Wayne – but also reveals he has a super-power – he’s bullet-proof!

**Glee Club**  Jo Cotterill  **ISBN:** 978-1-78112-449-9  
**Interest Age 9-11**  **Reading Age 6+**

This one will be enjoyed by any stage-struck teen or X Factor fan. It looks like Burford School Glee Club’s hopes of winning the local schools’ competition are dashed when their teacher falls ill. Step forward Mel who’s persuaded to be temporary artistic director.

**Over the Line**  Tom Palmer  **ISBN-10:** 1781123934  
**One of our Dyslexia Friendly Books of the Year 2014**  **Interest Age 10+**  **Reading Age 8**

Football never dies – even during the darkest days of the First World War. Tom Palmer tells the true story of the Footballers’ Battalion.
**Graphic**  Cathy Brett  ISBN 1781122148  
Interest Age 11+  Reading Age 8

This is a great teen novel with a twist that everyone will relate to. Joe loves to draw but he also loves a girl called Honey. But he has a problem. His drawings of Cal seem to be coming to live and delivering horrible consequences. Can he really be making this happen? An imaginative tale with wonderful illustrations also by the author.

**United Here I Come!**  Alan Combes  ISBN-10: 1781122679

Interest Age 10-15  Reading Age 6+

A fun football story with a reading age of 6.5. Written by a former football reporter for The Sunday Times - the author knows his subject well. Particularly suitable for struggling, reluctant and dyslexic readers.
Hagurosan  Darren Shan  ISBN10 1781122067
A Dyslexia Friendly Books of the Year 2013 - Interest Age 8-12
Reading Age 8
A tale full of wonder from the master story-telling Darren Shan! Hagurosan is sent by his mother to take an offering of cake to the spirits of the shrine. Feeling peckish on his way there, Hagurosan eats the cake! Convinced he will be cursed forever, Hagurosan is terrified, but luckily he has a chance to redeem himself and to bring happiness to others for many years to come. An original story with a traditional feel. Particularly suitable for struggling, reluctant and dyslexic readers of 8+.

Alligator  Theresa Bresin  ISBN-10: 1781121303
Interest Age 11+, Reading Age 7+.
Jono didn’t mean to buy an alligator. It just sort of happened. And now his mum’s going to kill him... if the alligator doesn’t get there first! A hilarious comedy. Particularly suitable for reluctant, struggling and dyslexic readers of 10+, reading age 7.
Pale  Chris Wooding  ISBN 1781120919

Interest Age 11+ Reading Age 8+.

A brilliant addition to the award-winning Barrington Stoke series. Jed hates Pales. Everyone does. They are pathetic individuals who should not, by rights, be alive. They have only been saved from death by the Lazarus Serum. Attacking them is only natural. But when a terrible accident happens Jed learns some very important truths. Although it doesn't preach, this thought-provoking story about what really matters in life will set readers thinking.

My Name is O  Sam Enthoven  ISBN 1842998382

Interest Age 11+  Reading Age 8+.

A thrilling fantasy set in a world where all your choices are made before you are even born… Sick of being programmed to do what is expected of him, fifteen year old O is determined to make a personality for himself. It takes great courage and he faces huge danger but O is not faint-hearted. If he achieves his mission, life will change for everyone. Can he do it? Yes, he can.
Crow Girl  Kate Cann  ISBN-10: 1842993461
Interest Age 11+  Reading Age 8+.

Teenager Lily suffers horribly at the hands of the school bullies. Teased about her appearance and everything else she retreats miserably into her shell.
Meeting an old woman in the woods, Lily is introduced to the crows. Soon she finds she has new friends and, with them, new powers. Gradually Lily builds up her confidence and puts it to the test at Kyle’s Halloween party. Suddenly Lily is a new person. An inventive and empowering story about the importance of self-belief.

Interest Age 11+  Reading Age 8+. The past comes alive for Rosie when she finds herself transported back to the time of the Tudors and to the court of Queen Elizabeth I herself. Rosie finds herself playing an important role in keeping great Queen Bess safe as the Spanish Armada approaches. From her new companions Rosie learns first hand all about the history of the time; how ordinary people lived and what frightened them as well as the big political issues. History at school will never be so difficult for Rose – even though she finds reading so hard!
Rose of No Man’s Land (A Timepiece Novel)  Anne Perry ISBN 9781842994870
Interest Age 11+ Reading Age 8+.
Second in a brand new time travel series by an award-winning author (the first was Tudor Rose). Will Rosie cope as a nurse in a WW1 Red Cross Hospital?
Struggling with her inability to read and too proud to tell anyone Annie is miserable and lonely. When she is given a nurses watch from World War I she is suddenly swept back to the time of the war.

Take Two  Jo Cotterill ISBN 1842998749
Interest Age 9+ Reading Age 6.5+. Two girls get the better of a love rat at their prom. Fun girly story.
The Harder They Fall  Bali Rai  ISBN: 1781126828

Interest Age Teen  Reading Age 8 |

In a nutshell: bullying, injustice and the power of friendship. In short, sharp, economical sentences, Bali Rai presents a story of bullying – by individuals and the state. Cal is picked on at school by Anu, who humiliates him and hurts him for being smart and geeky. New boy Jacob is singled out by the other class bully for being scruffy, poor, an outsider. Cal thinks they could be friends – they share in interest in superheroes – but Jacob, who uses a foodbank, is super sensitive to pity. Eventually the two do become friends and find a way to expose those who like to hurt the weak and less fortunate. The setting will be familiar to all readers, and the message that by standing together it’s possible to improve society, is an important one.

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