

# Recommended Books for KS3

"When I think about how I understand my role as citizen, setting aside being president, and the most important set of understandings that I bring to that position of citizen, the most important stuff I've learned I think I've learned from novels. It has to do with empathy. It has to do with being comfortable with the notion that the world is complicated and full of greys, but there's still truth there to be found, and that you have to strive for that and work for that. And the notion that it's possible to connect with some[one] else even though they're very different from you."

Barack Obama

Some useful websites:

<https://schoolreadinglist.co.uk/category/reading-lists-for-ks3-pupils/>

<https://www.lovereadng4schools.co.uk/>

<https://www.goodreads.com/>

<https://www.booktrust.org.uk/booklists/1/100-best-12-14/>

The books included in this list are from recommended reading lists for KS3 and Young Adults (including other schools and commercial sites like Amazon), as well as recommendations by our own staff and pupils.

Please use the following as a rough guide. Books don't come with age ratings like films and video games but often have recommended age ranges - which can be very broad and vary between sources. What is age appropriate for one reader may not be for another. It may be useful to check out online reviews to see what other people are saying.

(11+) The books not in bold are generally recommended for pupils from the start of KS3. There might be some mild swearing, sexual references and exploration of adult themes.

(12+) **Books in bold** are recommended for slightly more mature readers. The content and themes are a little more adult. There might be some more explicit swearing as well as stronger depictions of violence and sex.

(13+ and Young Adult) **These books** are recommended for teens. Content and themes are more adult. There might be explicit swearing and strong depictions of violence and sex.



## Adventure:

**The Plague Dogs** by Richard Adams

**The Coral Island** by R.M. Ballantyne

Looking at the Stars by Jo Cotterill (refugees flee a mysterious war)

**I Am Apache** by Tanya Landman

**Hell and High Water** by Tanya Landman (18<sup>th</sup> Century smugglers)

The Call of the Wild by Jack London

**Not the End of the World** by Geraldine McCaughrean (Noah's Ark!)

**The Kite Rider** by Geraldine McCaughrean (ancient China)

**The White Darkness** by Geraldine McCaughrean

**Lark** by Anthony McGowan

The Girl Savage by Katherine Rundell (from Africa to English boarding school)

The Good Thieves by Katherine Rundell

**Blood Red, Snow White** by Marcus Sedgwick

**Treasure Island** by R.L. Stevenson

The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn by Mark Twain

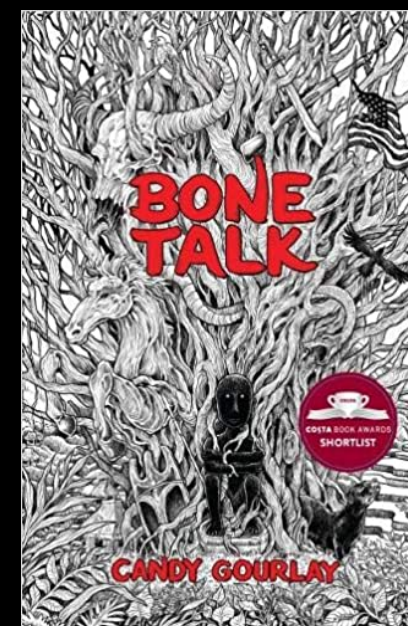
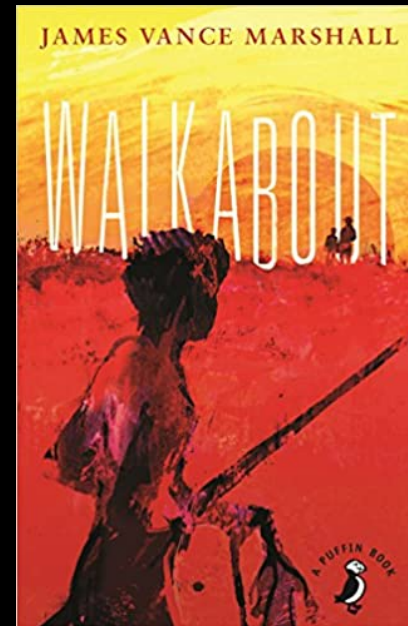
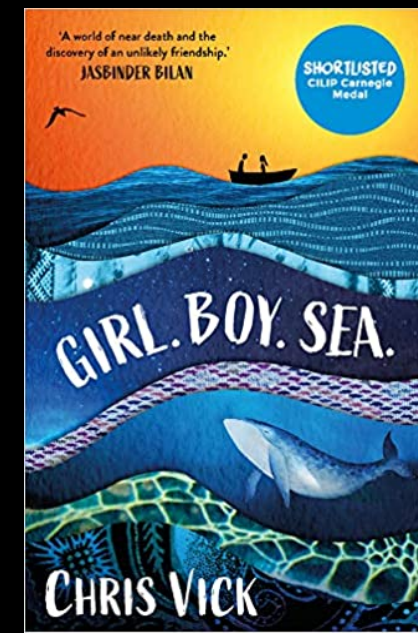
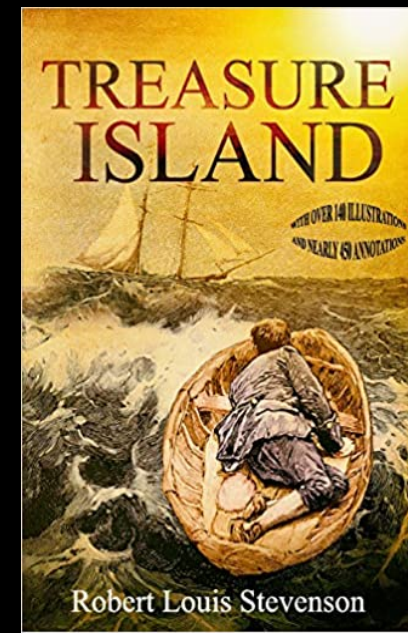
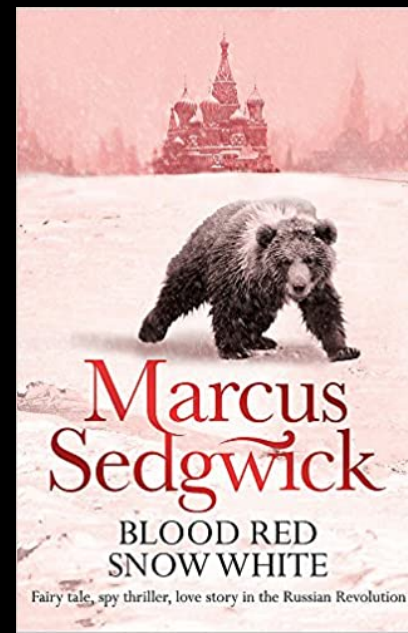
Walkabout by James Vance Marshall (lost in the Australian Outback)

**Girl. Boy. Sea.** by Chris Vick

13+

**Bone Talk** (Filipino-set adventure, 100 years ago)

**Hatchet** by Gary Paulsen (survival story)





## Diary, biography and autobiographical:

Notes from a Small Island by Bill Bryson

Boy and Going Solo by Roald Dahl

My Family and Other Animals by Gerald Durrell

The Diary of a Young Girl by Anne Frank

Mud, Sweat and Tears by Bear Grylls (autobiography)

The Flame Trees of Thika by Elspeth Huxley (growing up in Africa)

Cider with Rosie by Laurie Lee (autobiography)

13+

I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings by Maya Angelou

Shakespeare: The World as a Stage by Bill Bryson

Touching the Void by Joe Simpson

## Factual/Non-Fiction:

Stories of WW1 edited by Tony Bradman

The Dam Busters by Paul Brickhill

The Silk Roads: A New History of the World by Peter Frankopan

This Book Isn't Safe! by Colin Furze

Protest! By Alice Haworth-Booth

This Book is Anti-Racist by Tiffany Jewell

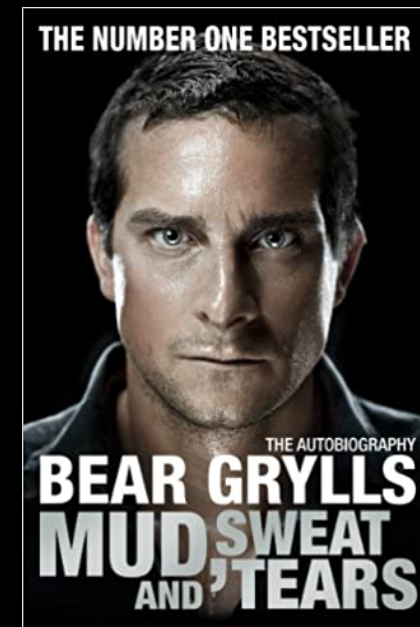
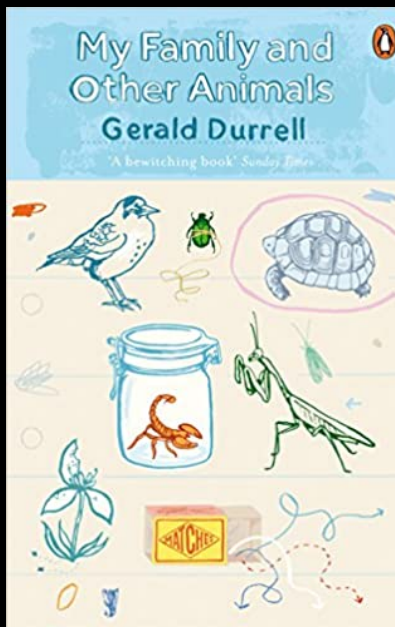
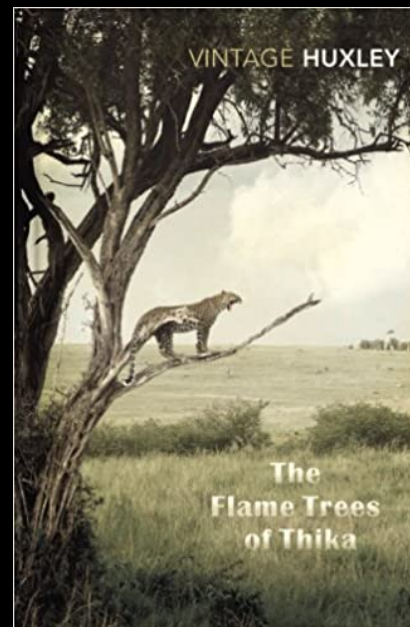


the dam busters



Paul Brickhill

BILL BRYSON  
*Notes from a*  
**SMALL  
ISLAND**





## Dystopian and post-apocalyptic

**Flawed by Cecilia Ahern**

The Last Human by Lee Bacon

**Exodus by Julie Bertagna (a world ravaged by Global Warming)**

**The Darkest Minds (series) by Alexandra Bracken**

**The Princess Trials (series) by Cordelia K. Castel**

**The Testing (series) by Joelle Charbonneau (like Hunger Games)**

**The Roar by Emma Clayton**

**The Hunger Games (series) by Suzanne Collins**

**The Maze Runner (series) by James Dashner**

Forgotten City by Michael Ford

Blue Window by Adina Rische Gerwitz

Dreambender by Ronald Kidd

**Dance of Thieves (series) by Mary E. Pearson**

**How to Bee by Bren McDibble (a world without bees)**

Prodigy by Marie Lu

Edge of Extinction by Laura Martin

**Z for Zachariah by Robert O'Brien (nuclear survival)**

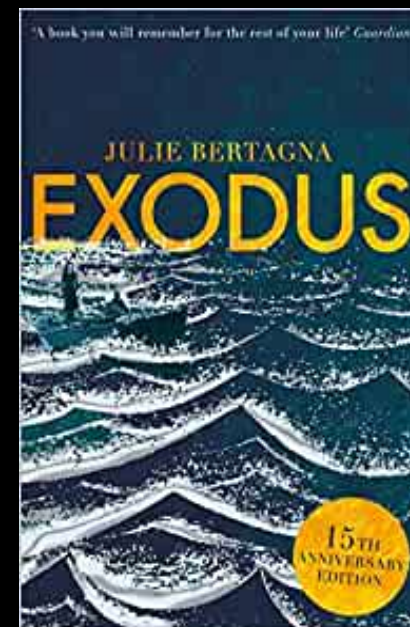
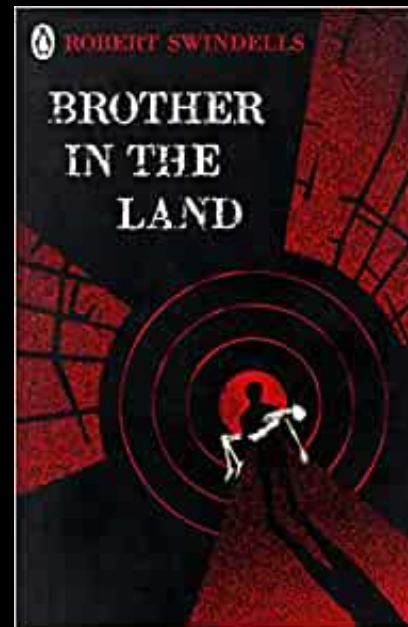
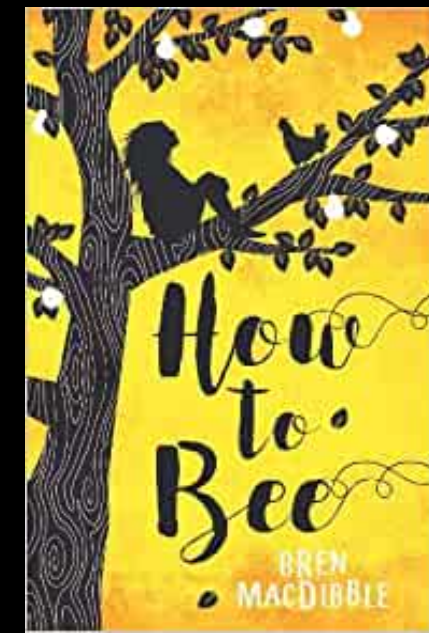
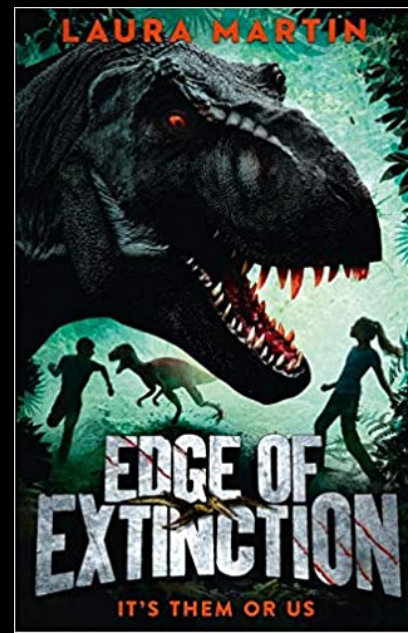
Mortal Engines (series) by Philip Reeve

**Divergent (series) by Veronica Roth**

Bootleg by Alex Shearer (in a world where chocolate is illegal...)

**The Outlaws Scarlett and Browne by Jonathan Stroud**

**Brother in the Land by Robert Swindells (nuclear survival)**





# Dystopian and post-apocalyptic

13+

The Selection (series) by Kiera Cass

Eve of Man by Giovanna and Tom Fletcher (no girl born for 50 years!)

Maggot Moon by Sophie Gardner (mature content)

Feed by Mira Grant (post-Apocalyptic zombie thriller)

Wool (series) by Hugh Howery

Brave New World by Aldous Huxley (classic dystopian tale)

Maladapted by Richard Kurti

Never Let Me Go by Kazuo Ishiguro (a love story with a twist)

The Loneliest Girl in the Universe by Lauren James

The Quiet at the End of the World by Lauren James

The Boy I Am by K.L. Kettle

Legend by Marie Lu

The Declaration (series) by Gemma Malley

The Knife of Never Letting Go (Chaos Walking series) by Patrick Ness

Nineteen Eighty-Four by George Orwell (mature content)

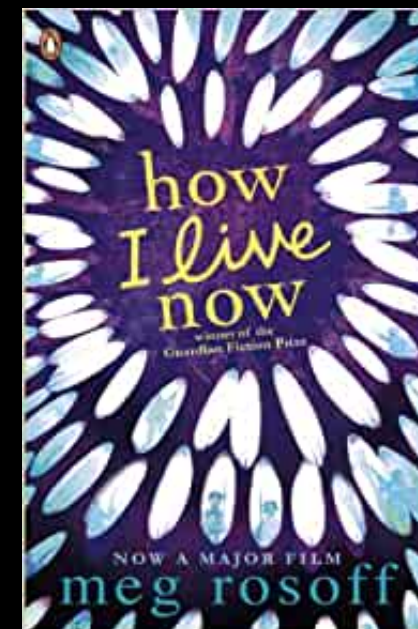
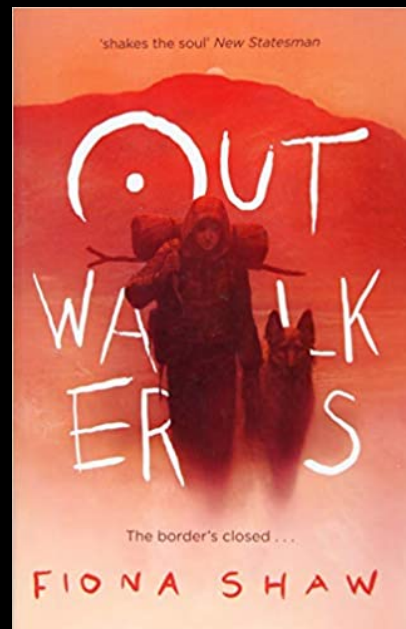
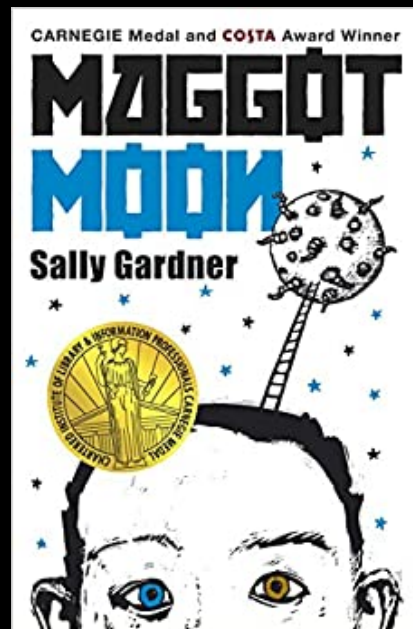
The Remnant (series) by Mary E. Pearson (mature content)

How I Live Now by Meg Rosoff (nuclear survival)

Forest of Hands & Teeth by Carrie Ryan (zombie apocalypse!)

Outwalkers by Fiona Shaw (a gritty thriller in a post-Brexit future)

The Age of Miracles by Karen W. Thompson





## Historical:

**The Short Knife by Ellen Caldicott (5<sup>th</sup> Century Wales)**

**King of Shadows by Susan Cooper**

The Kin by Peter Dickinson (adventure in Africa, 2000 years ago)

Children of Winter by Berlie Doherty

Street Child by Berlie Doherty

**Coram Boy by Jamila Gavin**

**Stars of Fortune by Elizabeth Harnett (Elizabeth I)**

**Petals in the Ashes by Mary Hooper (Great Fire of London)**

Freedom by Catherine Johnson (slavery in the 18<sup>th</sup> Century)

The Roman Mysteries (series) by Caroline Lawrence

Where the World Ends by Geraldine McCaughrean (18<sup>th</sup> Century Scotland)

**Flambards by K.M. Peyton (growing up in the 1910s)**

**Witch Child and Sorceress by Celia Rees (16<sup>th</sup> Century witchcraft)**

The Eagle of the Ninth by Rosemary Sutcliffe (**Romans in Britain**)

Cue for Treason by Geoffrey Tease

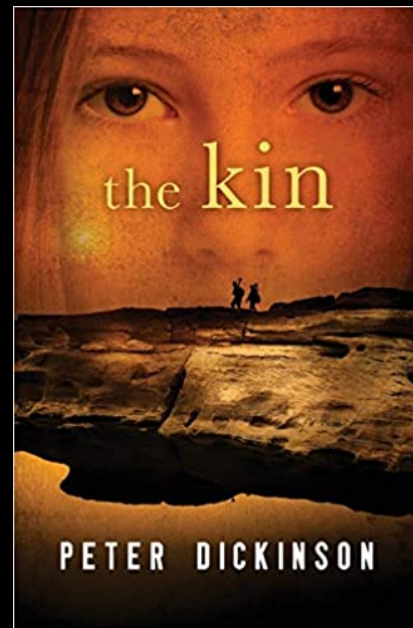
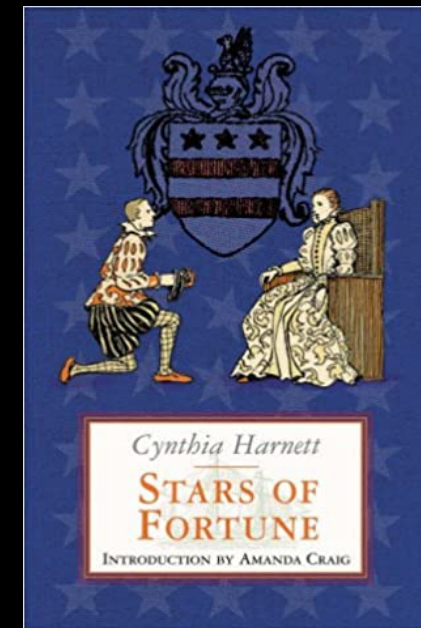
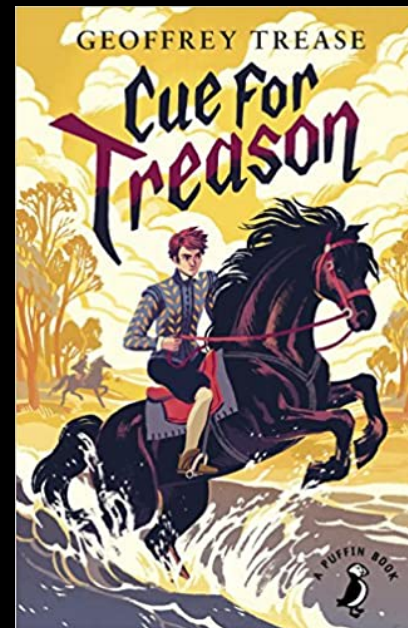
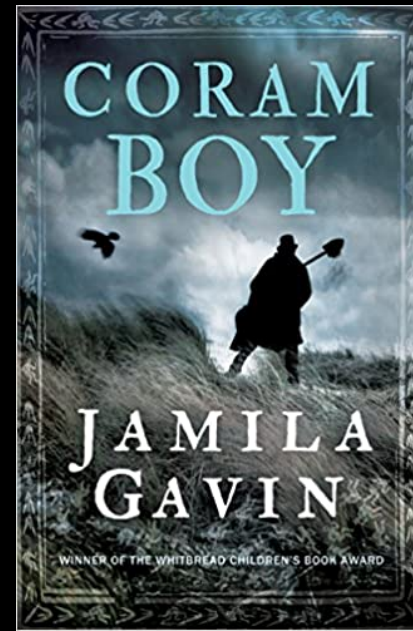
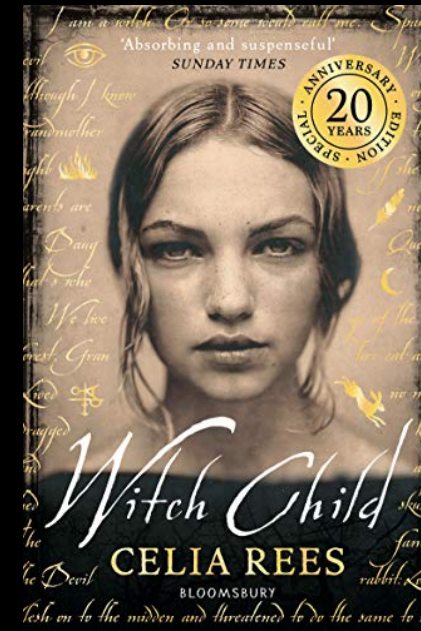
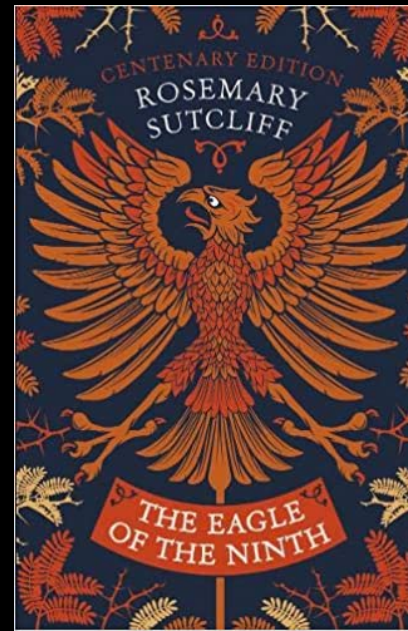
**The Daughter of Time by Josephine Tey (Richard III mystery)**

13+

**The Medici Seal by Theresa Beslin (Renaissance Italy/Leonardo Da Vinci)**

**I, Claudius by Robert Graves**

**The Last Paper Crane by Kerry Drewery (the aftermath of Hiroshima)**





## Horror and Ghost Stories:

Leaving Poppy by Kate Cann

The Book of Lost Things by John Connelly

The Ghost Box by Catherine Fisher

Granny and You Remember Me by Nicholas Fisk (sci-fi)

Don't Open Your Eyes by Ann Halam

A Skinful of Shadows by Frances Hardinge (ghosts)

Red Velvet by Carol Hedges

The Haunting of Aveline Jones (Phil Hicke)

The Enemy (series) by Charlie Higson (zombies!)

The Monsters of Rookhaven by Padraig Kenny

Crater Lake by Jennifer Killick (the school trip from hell)

The Haunting by Margaret Mahy (ghosts)

Mortlock by Jon Mayhew

Ghost Stadium by Tom Palmer

Edgar Alan Poe's Tales of Horror by Edgar Alan Poe

Soul Taker by Celia Rees

Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children by Ransom Riggs

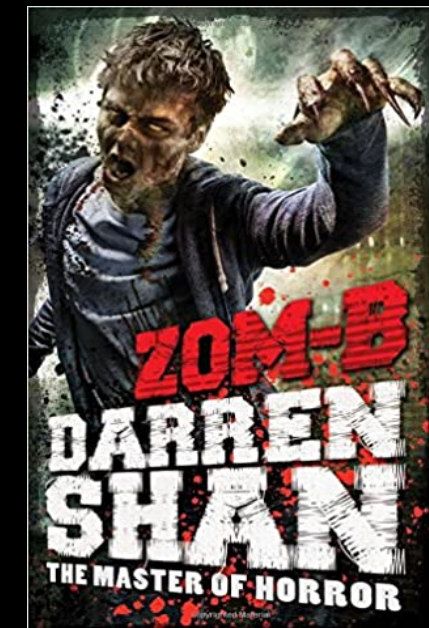
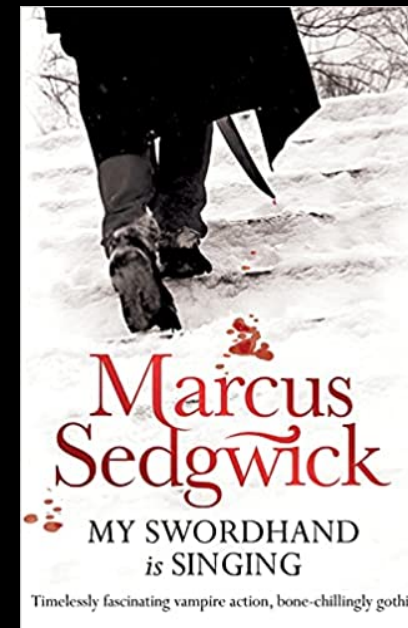
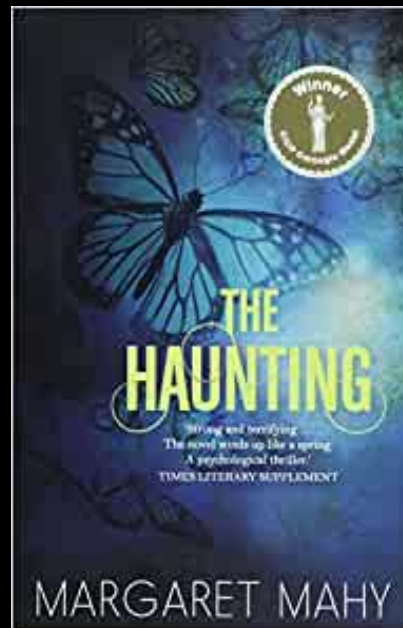
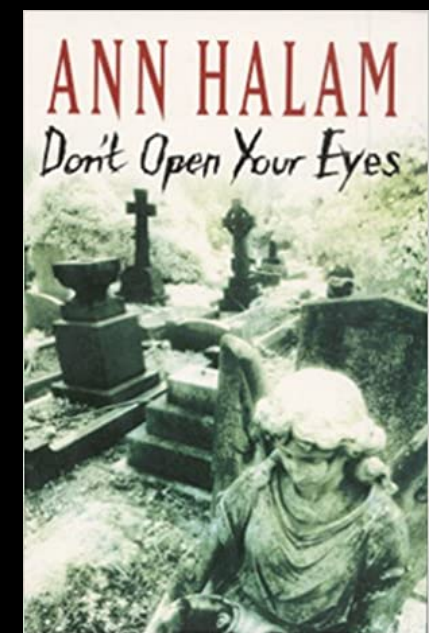
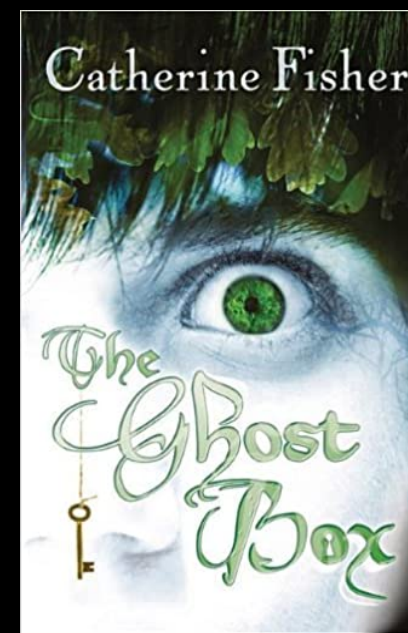
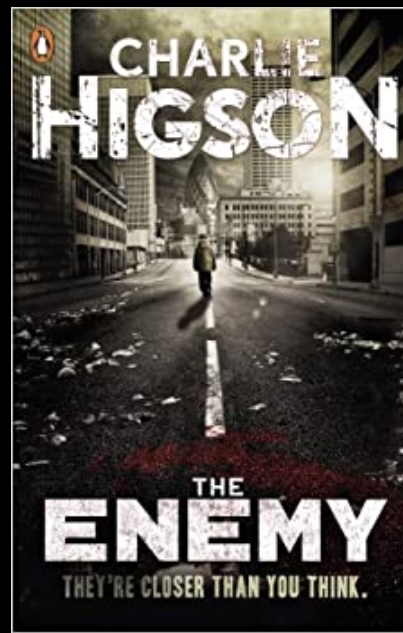
Van Helsing: The Novel by Kevin Ryan (Film tie-in)

My Swordhand is Singing by Marcus Sedgwick (17<sup>th</sup> Century vampires)

Cirque de Freak (series) by Darren Shan

The Demonata Series by Darren Shan

Zom-B (series) by Darren Shan





## Horror and Ghost Stories:

Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde by Robert Louis Stevenson

Goosebumps (series) by R.L. Stein

The Ghosts of Gosswater by Lucy Strange

Lockwood & Co. (series) by Jonathan Stroud

Room 13 by Robert Swindells

The Scarecrows by Robert Swindells

The Haunting of Alaiabel Clay by Chris Wooding

13+

Apocalypse by Tim Bowler (nightmarish fantasy thriller)

Warm Bodies by Isaac Marion (a zombie love story – *Romero* and *Juliet*)

Vampire Academy (series) by Richelle Mead

The Twilight Saga by Stephanie Meyer (werewolves and sparkly vampires!)

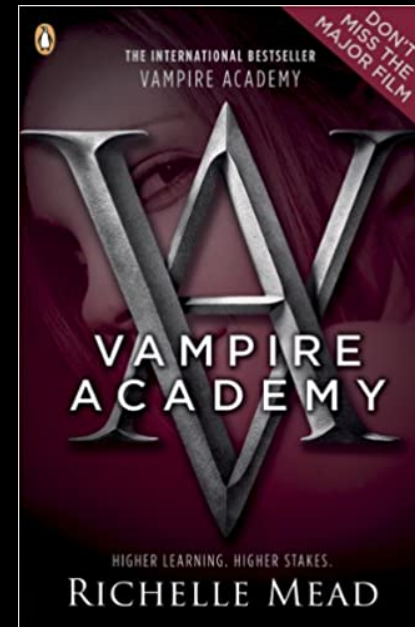
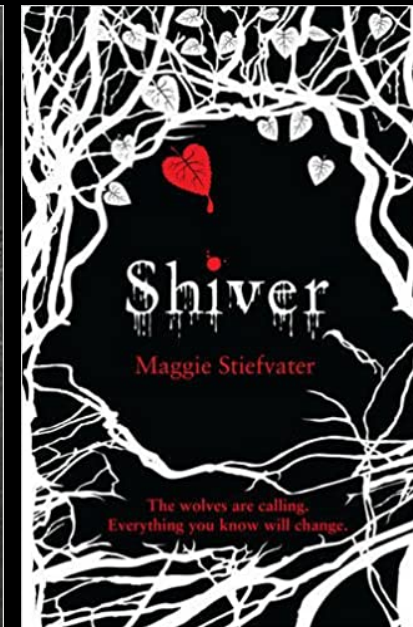
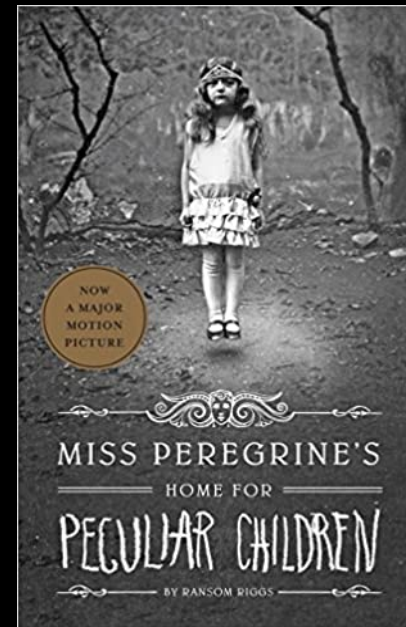
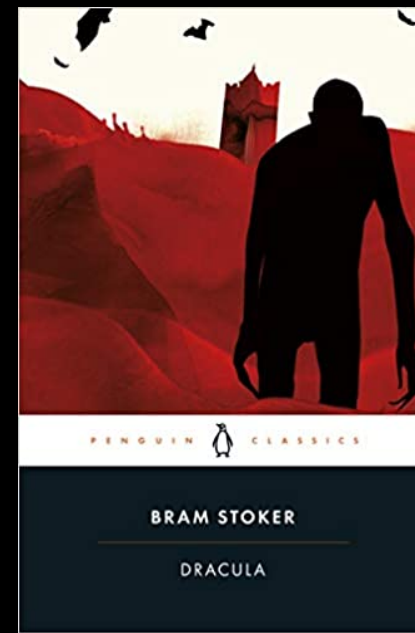
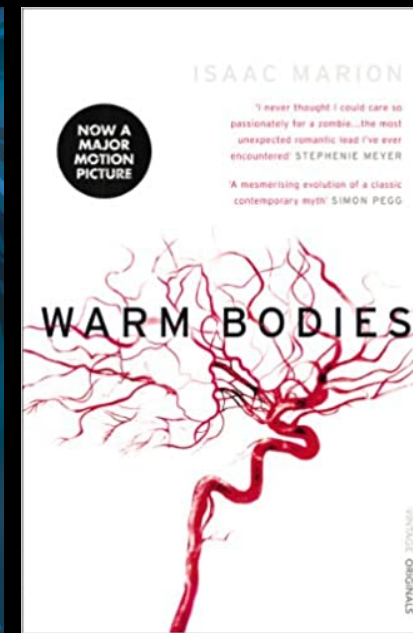
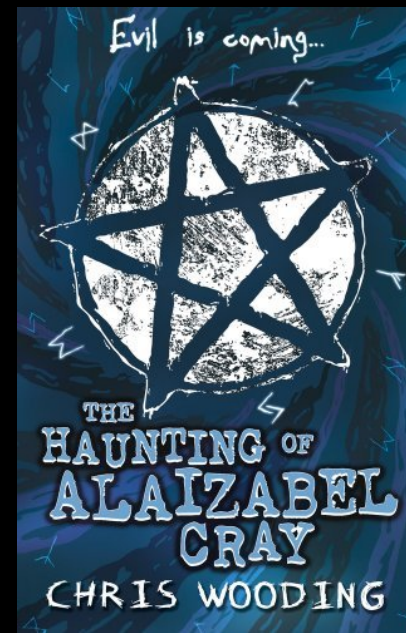
Dracula by Bram Stoker

Frankenstein by Mary Shelley

Shiver by Maggie Stiefvater (a girl falls in love with a werewolf)

**“No two persons ever read the same book.”**

**Edmund Wilson**





## Magic and Fantasy:

The House with Chicken Legs by Sophie Anderson

The Indian in the Cupboard (trilogy) by Lynne Reid Banks

Peter Pan by JM Barrie

**Shadow and Bone (series) by Leigh Bardugo**

The Looking Glass Wars by Frank Beddor

**What Magic is This? by Holly Bourne**

**Midget by Tom Bowler (bullied by older brother)**

**Basilisk by N.M. Browne**

Eren by Simon P. Clark **(If you liked Skellig...)**

The Dark is Rising (series) by Susan Cooper

Dark Ground (series) by Gillian Cross

The Letter for the King by Tonke Dragt

Ingo (series) by Helen Dunmore (mermaids; coping with loss)

Twelve Minutes to Midnight (trilogy) by Christopher Edge

The Lost Soul Atlas by Zana Fraillon

Inkheart (Inkworld Series) by Cornelia Funke

The Sleeper and the Spindle by Neil Gaiman (fairy tales with a twist)

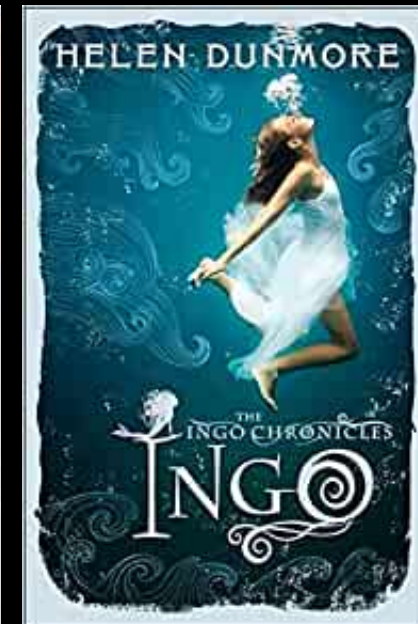
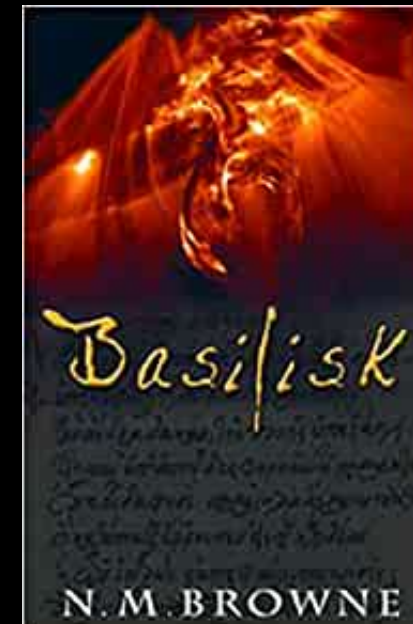
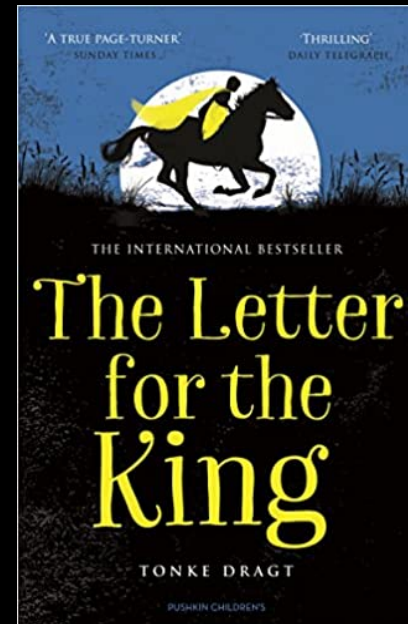
**I, Coriander by Sally Gardner**

**Tinder (Moments in History) by Sally Gardner**

The Weirdstone of Brisingamen by Alan Garner

The Owl Service by Alan Garner

Shadow of the Minotaur (series) by Alan Gibbons (a gripping fantasy thriller)





## Magic and Fantasy (continued):

**Deeplight** by Frances Hardinge

The Island at the End of Everything by Kiran Millwood Hargrave

**Across the Nightingale Floor (series)** by Liam Hearn (mythical feudal Japan)

Minders by Diana Hendry

Redwall (series) by Brian Jacques

**Children of the Lamp (series)** by P.B. Kerr

North of Nowhere by Liz Kessler

**Skullduggery Pleasant (series)** by Derek Landy

A Wizard of Earthsea (Earthsea series) by Ursula K. Le Guin

A Wrinkle in Time by Madeline L'Engle

The Box of Delights by John Masefield (**fantasy classic**)

**Summoner (Series)** by Taran Matharu

**Cinder** by Marissa Mayer

**The Daydreamer** by Ian McEwan

Doomspell (trilogy) by Cliff McNish

The Sailweaver's Son by Jeff Minerd

Orphans of the Tide by Straun Murray

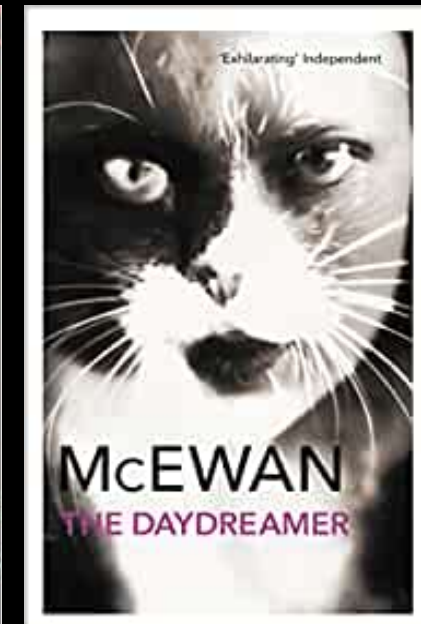
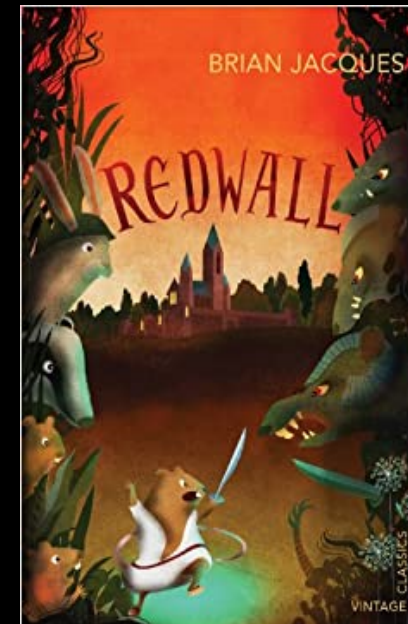
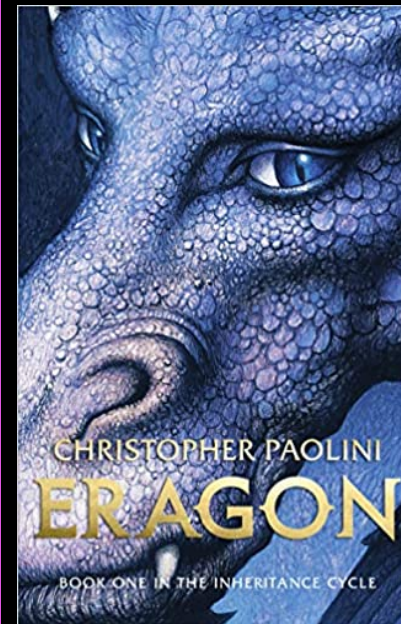
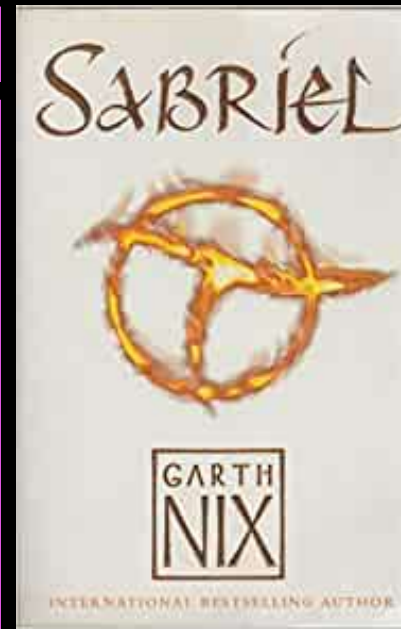
**Seeker (Noble Warrior's Trilogy)** by William Nicholson

**The Wind Singer (The Wind on Fire trilogy)** by William Nicholson

**Sabriel (Abhorsen Trilogy)** by Garth Nix

Eragon (series) by Christopher Paolini

Gabriel's Clock by Hilton Pashley





## Magic and Fantasy (continued):

Bridge to Terabithia by Katherine Paterson

Wolf Brother (Series) by Michelle Paver

**Keeper by Mal Peet (football and magic collide)**

His Dark Materials (series) by Philip Pullman

**The Book of Dust (series) by Philip Pullman**

The Midnight Hour (series) by Benjamin Read

**The Kane Chronicles by Rick Riordan**

Percy Jackson (series) by Rick Riordan

**Haroun and the Sea of Stories by Salman Rushdie**

The Race for the Lost Keystone by Val Rutt

Endymion Spring by Matthew Skelton

A Series of Unfortunate Events (series) by Lemony Snickett

Middle Earth by Chris Stewart and Paul Riddell

Secret Songs by Jane Stemp (a story of love, silkies and the sea)

Wings of Fire (series) by Tui T. Sutherland (**warring dragon tribes**)

**Shadowmancer by G.P. Taylor**

**Daughter of Smoke and Bone by Laini Taylor**

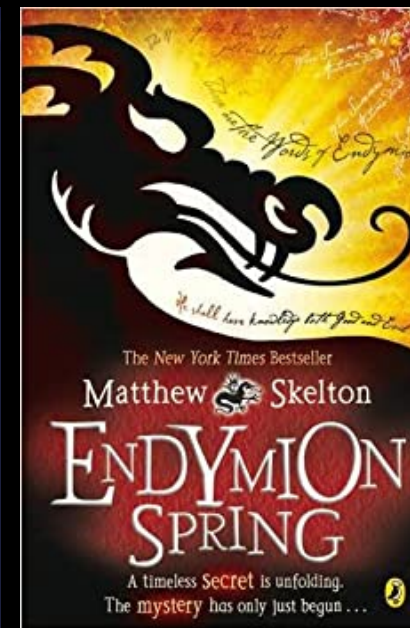
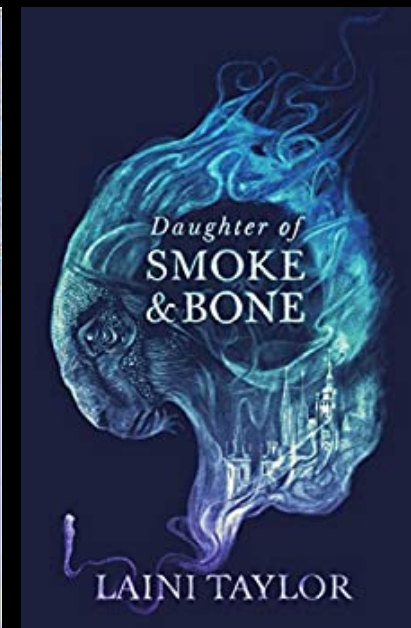
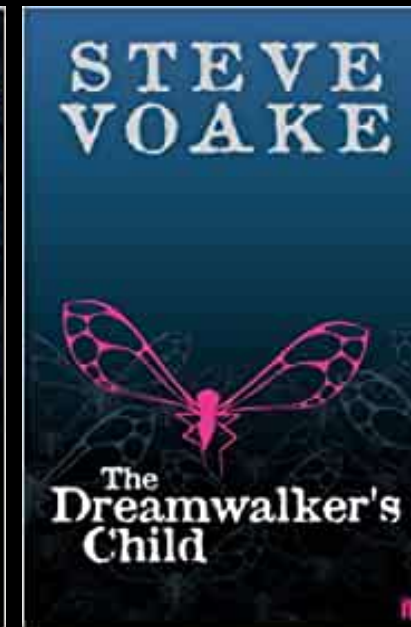
**The Lord of the Rings (series) by J.R.R. Tolkien (the fantasy classic)**

The Dreamwalker's Child by Steve Voake (a parallel world with giant insects!)

**Mirror Dreams by Catherine Webb (magic and wizards - a 14 year old author!)**

Tailchaser's Song by Tad Williams (epic fantasy featuring cats)

The Broken King (series) by Phillip Womack





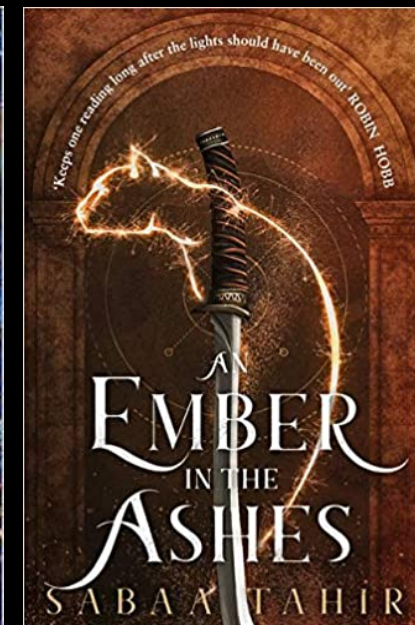
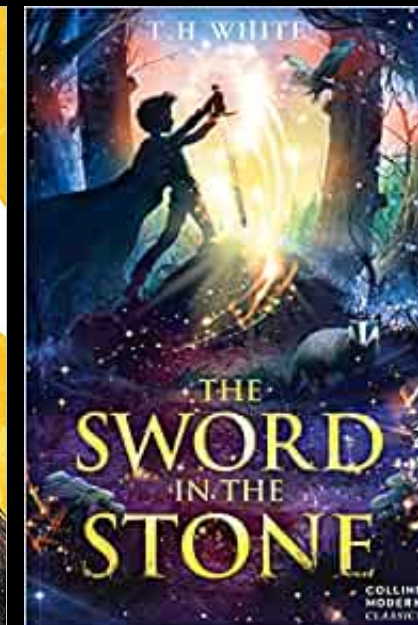
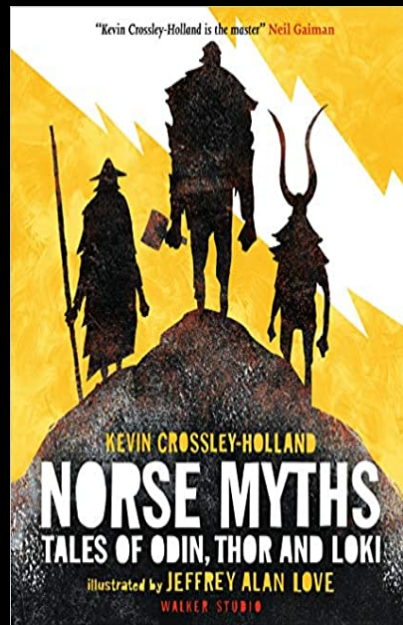
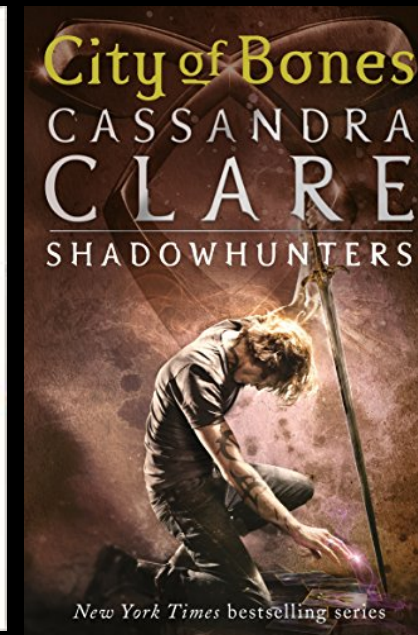
## Magic and Fantasy (continued):

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Children of Blood and Bone by Tomi Adeyemi  
The Wrath and the Dawn (Series) by Renee Ahdieh  
This Poison Heart by Kalynn Bayron  
Mortal Instruments (series) by Cassandra Clare  
The Belgariad (series) and The Malloreon (series) by David Eddings  
Magician (Riftwar Saga) by Raymond E. Feist  
Angelfall (series) by Susan Ee  
The Call by Peadar O' Guilin  
Gormenghast (trilogy) by Mervyn Peake  
Wrath of Thieves (series) by Mary E. Pearson  
Discworld (series) by Terry Pratchett  
An Ember in the Ashes (Ember Quartet) by Sabaa Tahir  
Memory, Sorrow and Thorn (series) by Tad Williams – highly recommended!!!

## Myths and Legends:

Norse Myths by Kevin Crossley-Holland  
The Seeing Stone by Kevin Crossley-Holland (young King Arthur)  
Myths and Legends retold by Anthony Horowitz  
Here Lies Arthur by Philip Reeve  
The Sword in the Stone and The Once and Future King by T.H. White (King Arthur)





## Mystery/Thriller/Crime:

The Printer's Devil by Paul Bajoria

**Cinderella is Dead by Kalynn Bayron**

Hacker by Malorie Blackman

Storm Catchers by Tim Bowler (kidnapping and revenge)

Millions by Frank Cottrell Boyce

**The Body in the Library by Agatha Christie**

**The Moonstone by Wilkie Collins**

Wolf by Gillian Cross

**Bog Child by Siobhan Dowd**

The London Eye Mystery by Siobhan Dowd

**The Hound of the Baskervilles by Arthur Conan Doyle**

**The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time by Mark Haddon (mature)**

**The Lie Tree by Frances Hardinge (Victorian set supernatural mystery)**

Survivor by Tom Hoyle

Thirteen by Tom Hoyle (a young boy is hunted by a crazed cult)

**Young Sherlock Holmes by Andrew Lane**

Thunder and Lightnings by Jan Mark (an adventure mystery all about planes!)

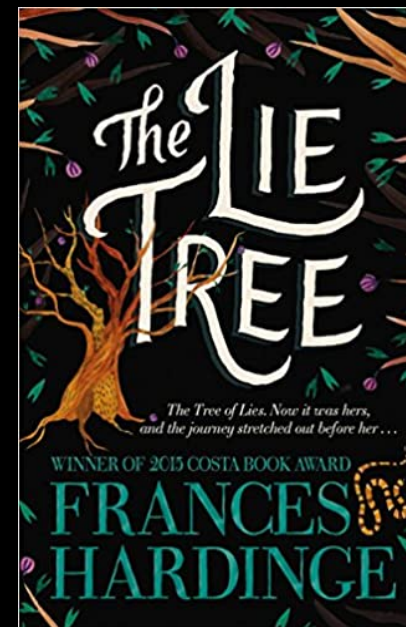
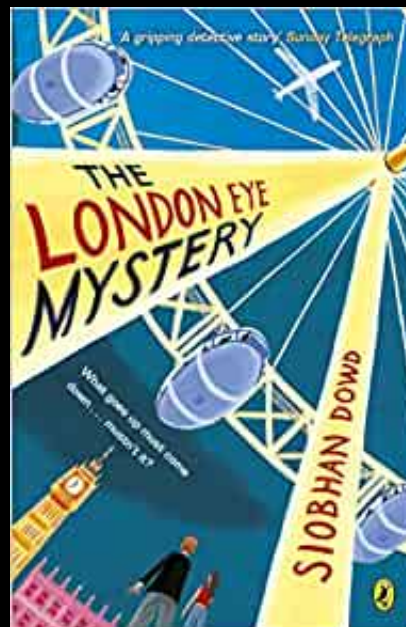
**Girl, Missing and Sister, Missing by Sophie McKenzie**

**Five Little Liars by Amanda K. Morgan**

Underworld by Catherine McPhail (a school trip goes horribly wrong...)

**Trash by Andy Mulligan (three young friends are hunted without mercy)**

**The Ruby in the Smoke (Sally Lockhart Mysteries) by Philip Pullman**





## Mystery/Thriller/Crime:

Revolver by Marcus Sedgwick

She is Not Invisible by Marcus Sedgwick

Feather Boy by Nicky Singer

Liar & Spy by Rebecca Stead

Stone Cold by Robert Swindells (a serial killer on the loose)

13+

The Colour of the Sun by David Almond (real and imaginary merge)

Brighton Rock by Graham Greene (a gang war rages in 1930s Brighton)

A Good Girl's Guide to Murder by Holly Jackson

The Ninth Life of Louis Drax by Liz Jensen

Truly Devious (series) by Maureen Johnson

Running Girl (The Garvie Smith mysteries) by Simon Mason

One of Us is Lying by Karen M. McManus

This Lie Will Kill You by Chelsea Pitcher

The Amnesia Clinic by James Scudamore

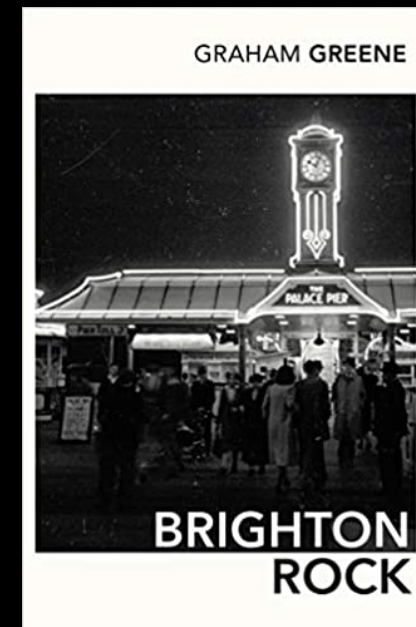
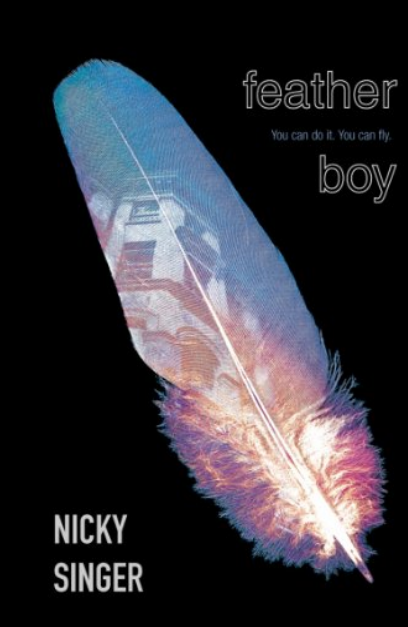
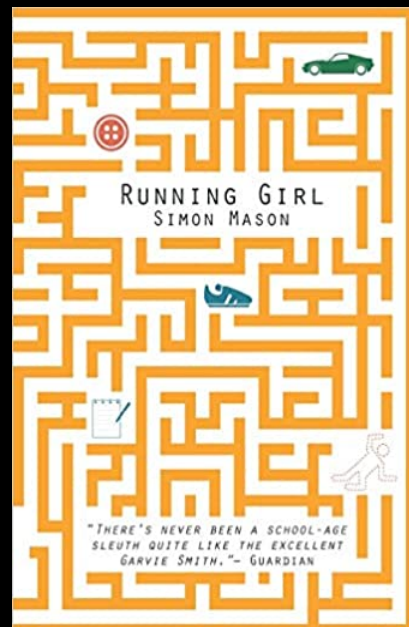
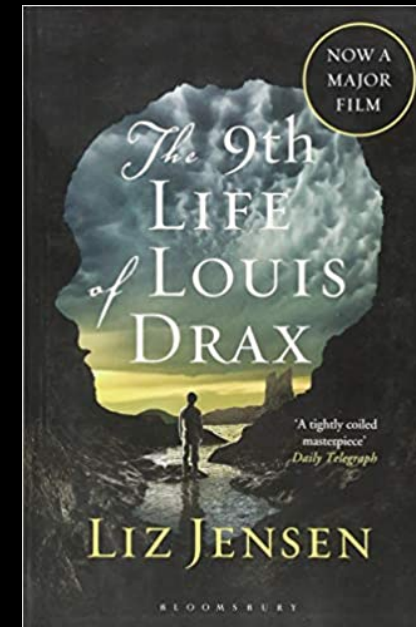
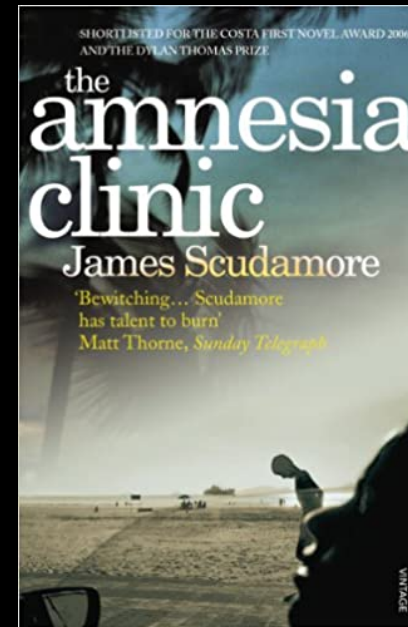
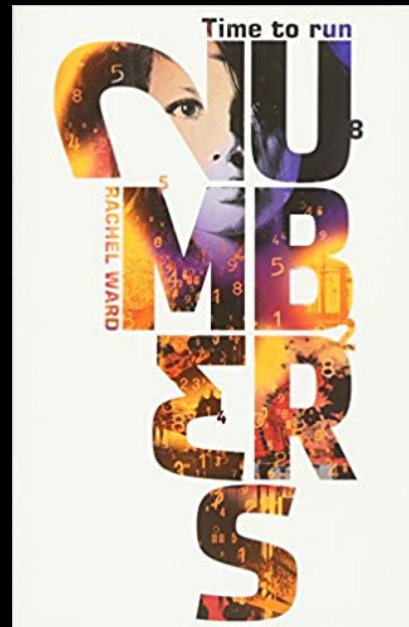
The Girls I've Been by Tess Sharpe

Pretty Little Liars by Sara Shepard

The Island by C.L. Taylor

The Cheerleaders by Kara Thomas

Numbers (series) by Rachel Ward





## Real life issues:

### Booked by Kwame Alexander

The Crossover by Kwame Alexander

### Kit's Wilderness by David Almond

Boy Under Water by Adam Baron

### Joby by Stan Barstow (a young boy grows up in 1939)

Anything But Typical by Nora Raleigh Baskin (life as an autistic boy)

Soundtrack by Julie Bertagna (grief and loss)

Tell Me No Lies by Malorie Blackman

Artichoke Hearts by Sita Brahmachari (death and dying)

### Walking Naked by Alyssa Brugman (bullying and peer pressure)

See You in the Cosmos by Jack Cheng

### The Chocolate War by Robert Cormier (the power of gangs)

New Kid by Jerry Craft

### Ruby Holler by Sharon Creech

### Toffee by Sarah Crossan

The Disconnect by Keren David (could you survive without your phone?)

Dear Nobody by Berlie Doherty (teenage pregnancy)

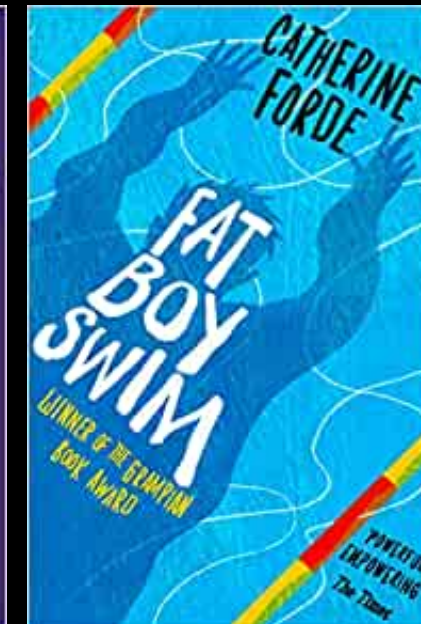
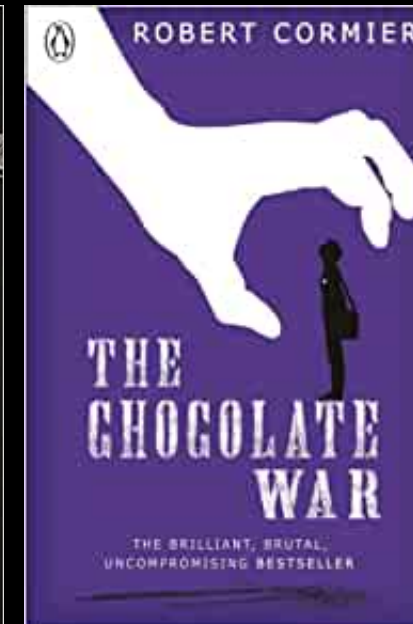
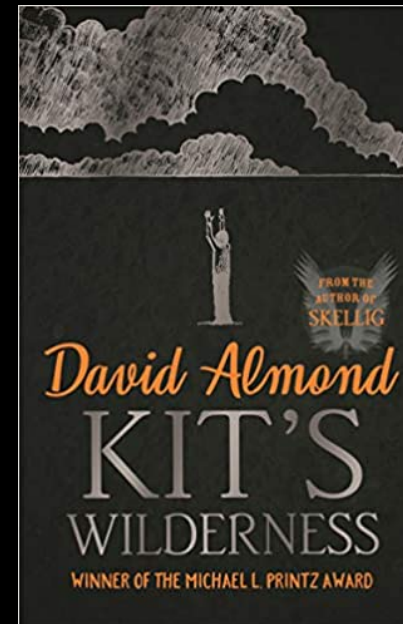
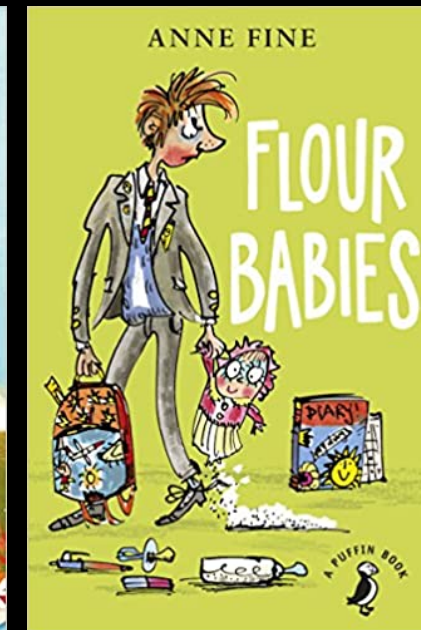
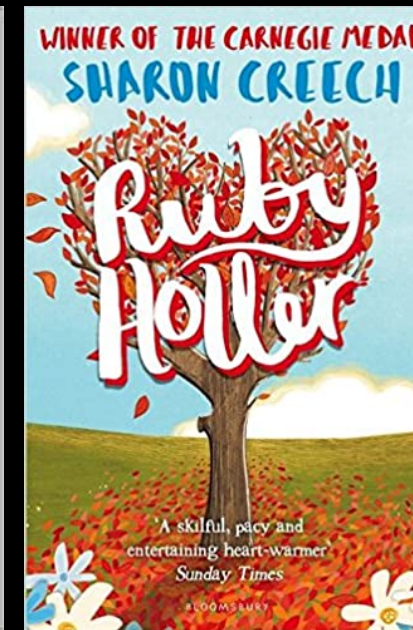
Love Aubrey by Suzanne LaFleur (grief)

Fat Boy Swim by Catherine Forde (a bullied misfit will do anything to fit in)

Tug of War by Catherine Forde

### Blood Family by Anne Fine

Flour Babies by Anne Fine (parenting and family values)





## Real life issues (continued):

Goggle Eyes by Anne Fine (living with separated parents/divorce)

Madame Doubtfire by Anne Fine

**The Tulip Touch by Anne Fine**

**The Bone Sparrow by Zana Fraillon (life in an Australian refugee centre)**

**Boy 87 by Ele Fountain (refugees)**

Mister God, This is Anna by Fynn

**Sweet Pizza by G.R. Gemin**

**Inventing Elliott by Graham Gardner (bullying)**

The Edge by Alan Gibbons (escaping an abusive family relationship)

**Bumface by Morris Gleitzman**

**The Smell of Other People's Houses by Bonnie-Mae Hitchcock**

**I'm the King of the Castle by Susan Hill**

**A Kestrel for a Knave by Barry Hines**

**A Different Boy by Paul Jennings**

Jake's Tower by Elizabeth Laird (step-families, abuse)

A House Without Walls by Elizabeth Laird (Syrian refugees)

Red Sky in the Morning by Elizabeth Laird (the impact of a disabled baby brother)

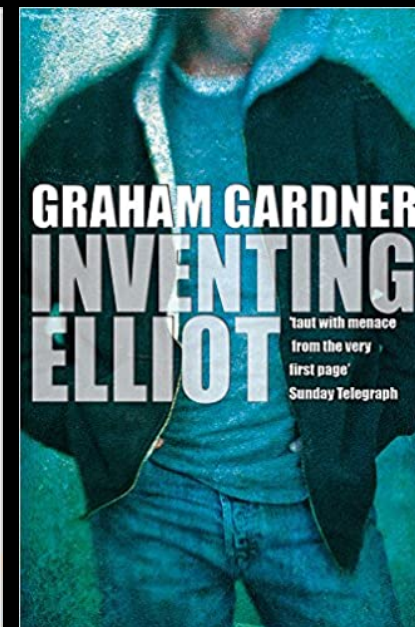
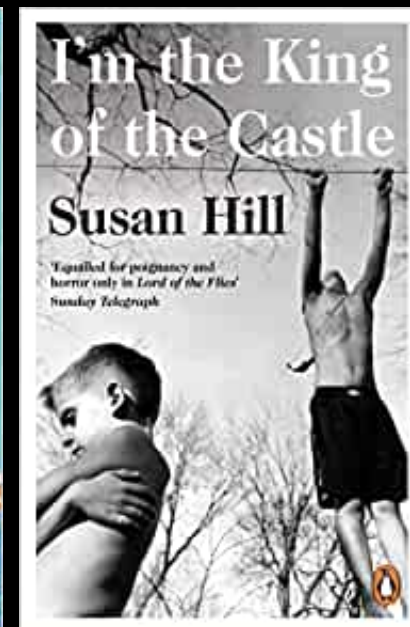
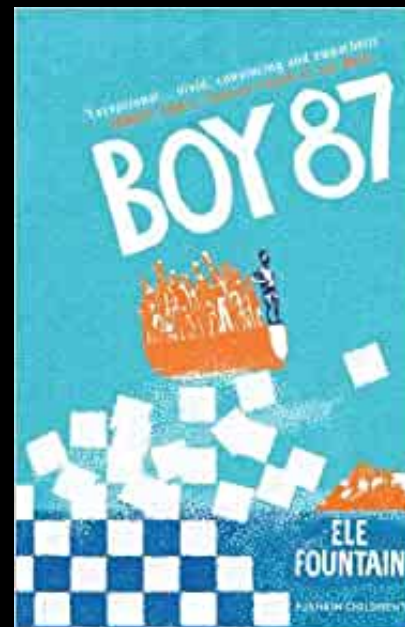
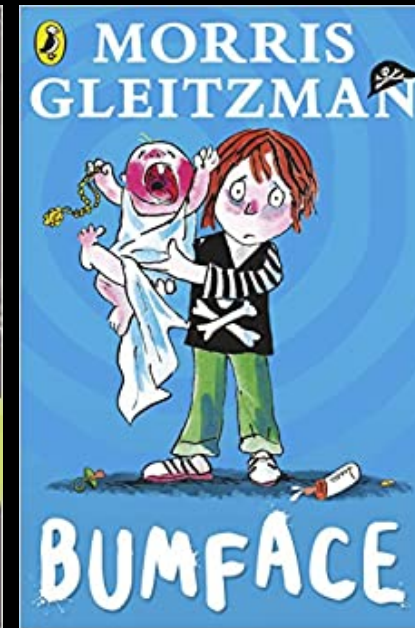
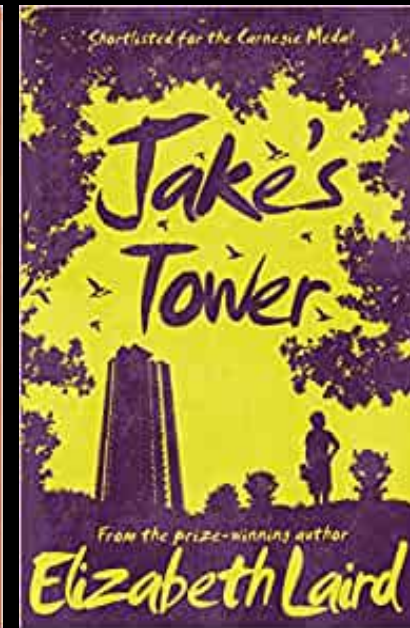
**Welcome to Nowhere by Elizabeth Laird**

**Rose, Interrupted by Patric Lawrence**

The Closest Thing to Flying by Gill Lewis

Across the Barricades by Joan Lingard (**religious divide in Northern Ireland**)

Socks Are Not Enough by Mark Lowery





## Real life issues (continued):

The Middle of Nowhere by Geraldine McCaughrean

Double Image by Pat Moon (coping with loss and mental health issues)

**Daughter by Ishbel L. Moore (a girl cares for her mother with Alzheimer's)**

The War of Jenkins' Ear by Michael Morpurgo (acceptance and belief)

When the Whales Came by Michael Morpurgo (death, separation and prejudice)

**Joe All Alone by Joanna Nadin**

**No Fixed Address by Susin Nielsen**

**Sisterland by Linda Newbery (a parallel story between WW2 and the present)**

**My Sister Lives on the Mantelpiece by Annabel Pitcher (loss of a twin)**

**Angus, Thongs and Full Frontal Snogging (series) by Louise Rennison**

**The Cardturner by Louis Sachar**

**Small Steps by Louis Sachar (a pseudo-sequel to Holes)**

**Orbiting Jupiter by Gary B. Schmidt**

Pay Attention, Carter Jones by Gary B. Schmidt

**Confessions of a Teenage Drama Queen by Dyan Sheldon**

Counting by 7s by Holly Goldberg Sloan

**Geek Girl by Holly Smale**

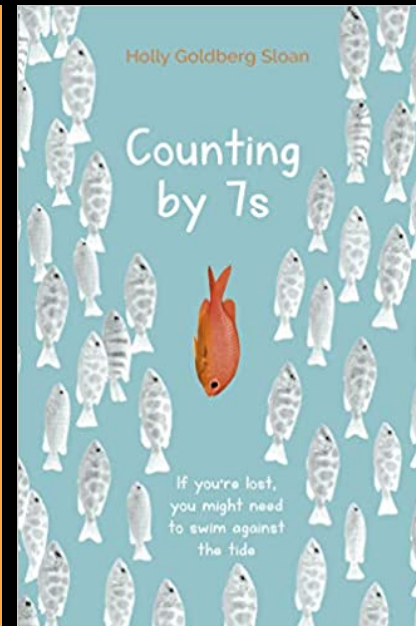
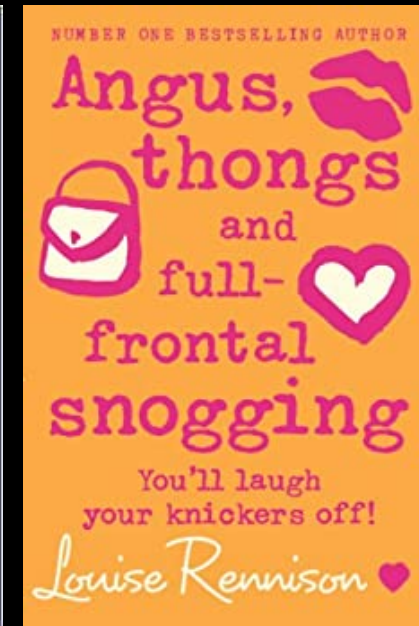
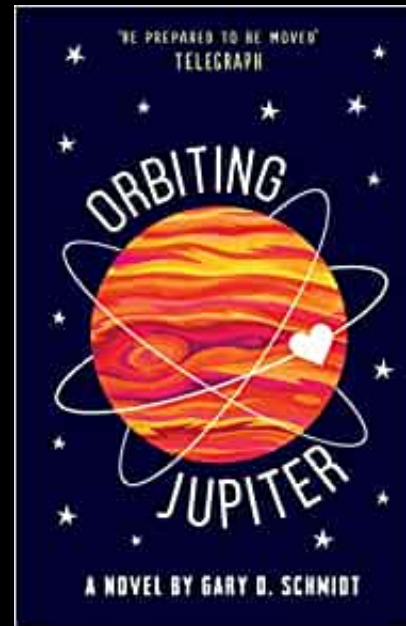
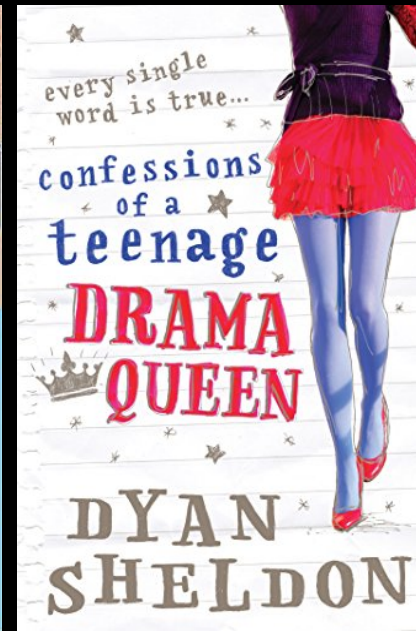
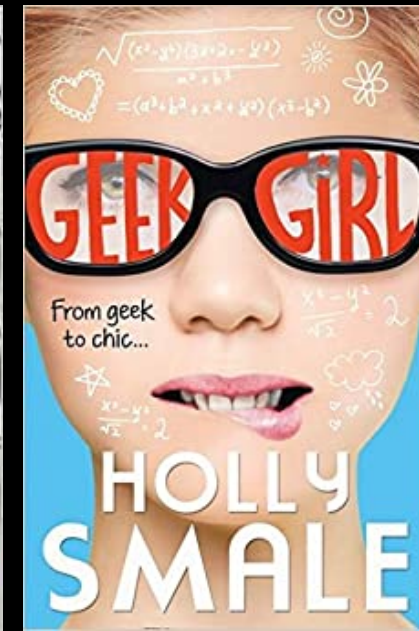
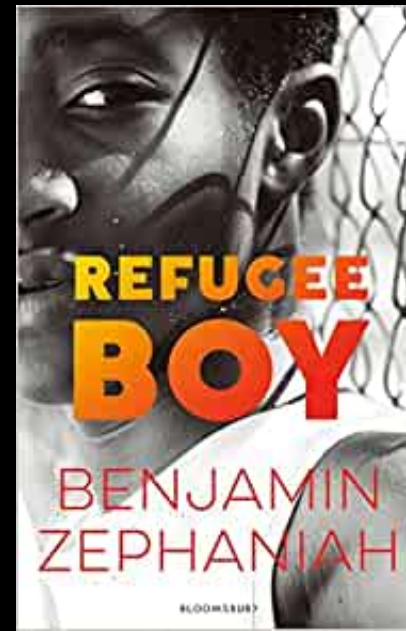
**The Secret Diary of Adrian Mole Aged 13 ¾ by Sue Townsend**

**Mud by Emily Thomas**

Lemonade Sky by Jean Ure

Head Over Heart by Collette Victor (a British Muslim teen girl's coming of age)

Violet Ink by Rebecca Westcott





## Real life issues (continued):

A Boy Called Hope by Lara Williamson

Talking to Alaska by Anna Woltz

Crongton Knights by Alex Wheatle

Jemima Small Versus the Universe by Tamsin Winter

Refugee Boy by Benjamin Zephaniah

13+

The Poet X by Elizabeth Alvedo

Are You There, God? It's Me, Margaret by Judy Blume

Forever by Judy Blume

Junk by Melvyn Burgess (heroin addiction amongst teens)

Looking for JJ by Anne Cassidy (mature content)

Paddy Clarke Ha, Ha, Ha by Roddy Doyle

The Boy Who Steals Houses by C.G. Drews

29 Locks by Nicola Garrard

Ruby Red by Linzi Glass

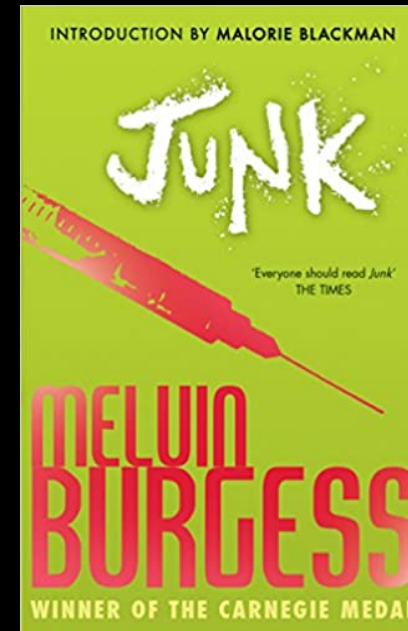
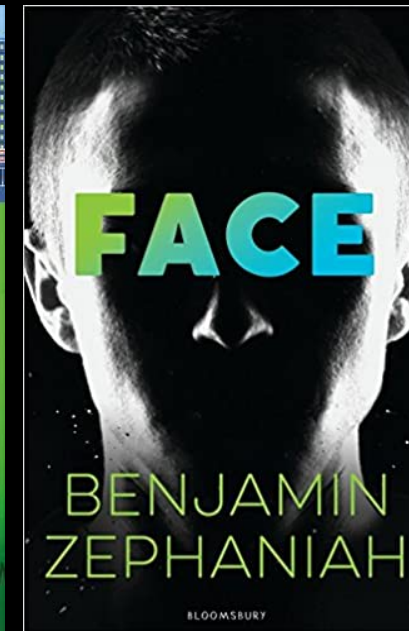
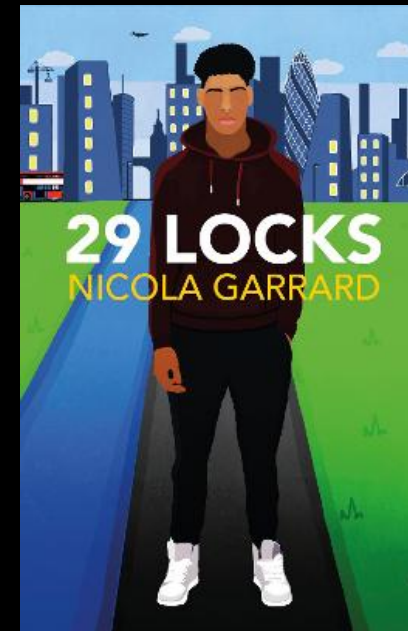
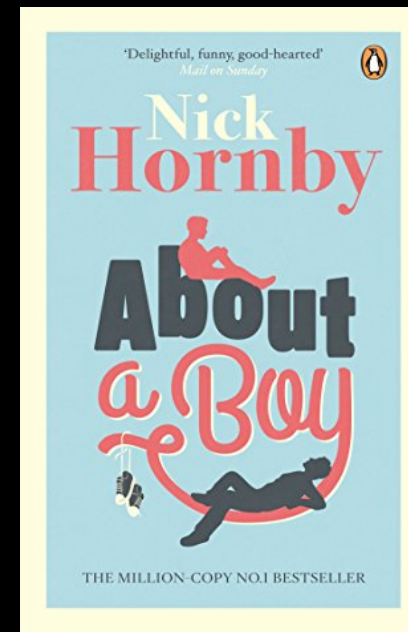
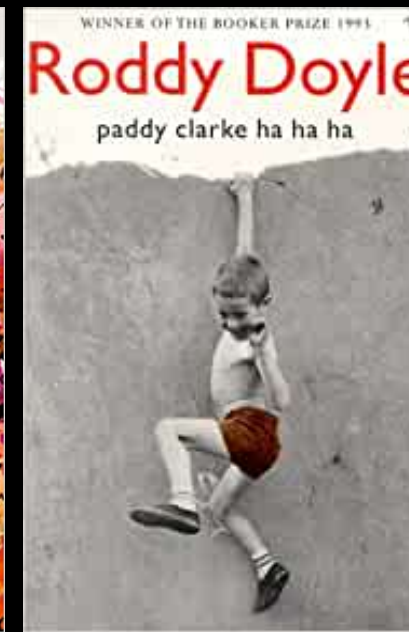
About a Boy by Nick Hornby

One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest by Ken Kesey

A Child Called It by David Pelzer

Face by Benjamin Zephaniah (a boy is hideously disfigured in a car crash)

Burning Secret by Stefan Zweig





## Romance:

All American Girl by Meg Cabot

Carwash by Lesley Howarth

Bookish Boyfriends (series) by Tiffany Schmidt

Midwinterblood by Marcus Sedgwick (a love story of two souls across time)

Stargirl (series) by Jerry Spinelli

Drama by Raina Telgemeier

Girls in Love by Jacqueline Wilson (mature content)

13+

A Quiet Kind of Thunder by Sara Bernard (a mute girl falls for a deaf boy)

Boy Proof by Cecil Castellucci

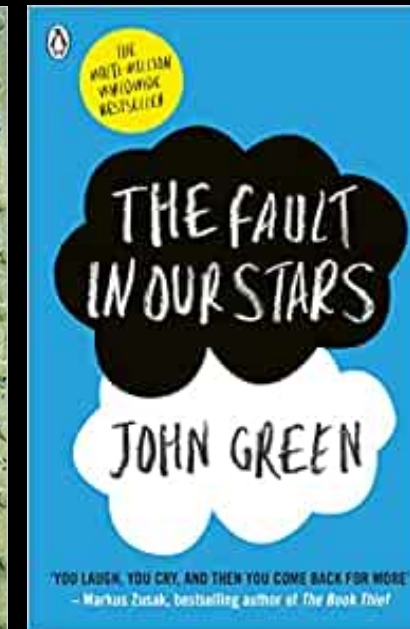
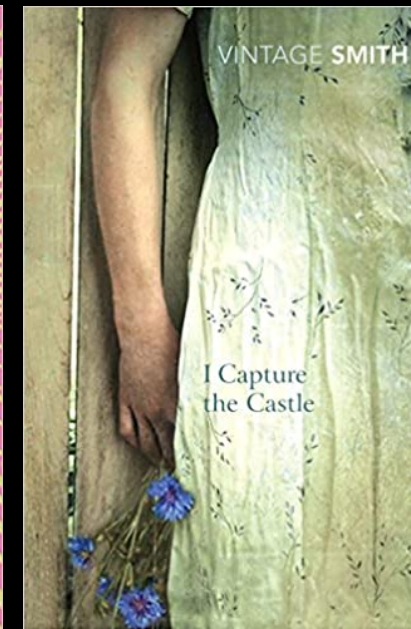
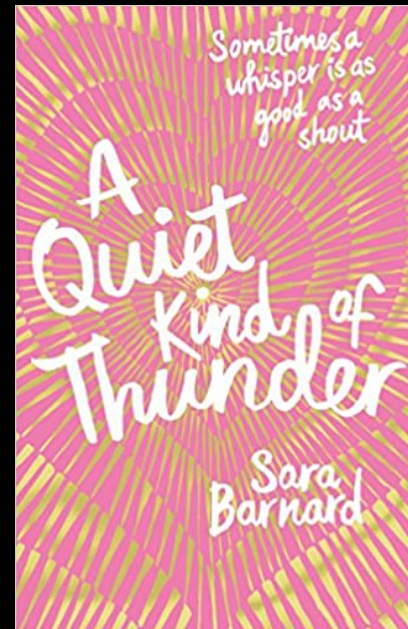
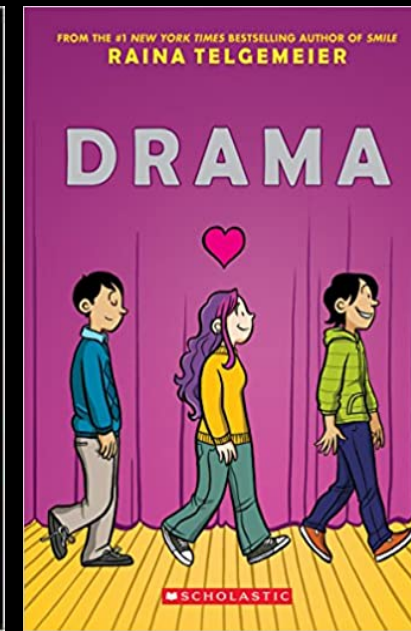
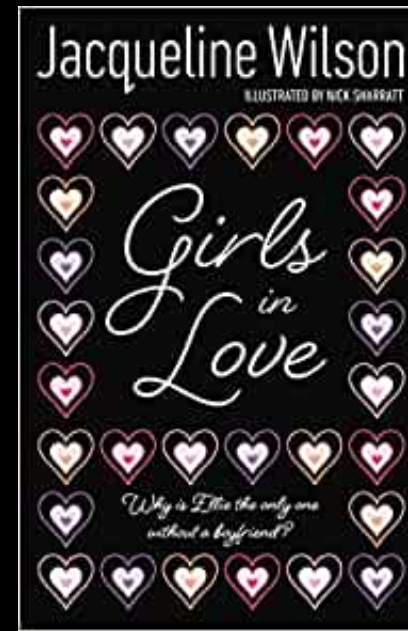
Looking for Alaska by John Green (mature content)

The Fault in Our Stars by John Green

Life: An Exploded Diagram by Mal Peet (a 20<sup>th</sup> Century coming of age tale)

I Capture the Castle by Dodie Smith

The Raven Boys (The Raven Cycle) by Maggie Stiefvater (Romantic fantasy)



“In the end, we all become stories.”

Margaret Atwood



## LGBTQ+:

**Boy2Girl by Terence Blacker (transgender comedy drama)**

King and the Dragonflies by Kacen Callender (coming of age)

George by Alex Gino (transgender coming of age)

**Only Mostly Devastated by Sophie Gonzales**

**Wilder Girls by Rory Power (sci-fi/horror)**

The List of Things that Will Not Change by Rebecca Stead (girls with gay Dads)

**From Prejudice to Pride by Amy Lamé (history of the LGBTQ+ movement)**

**Running With Lions by Julian Winters (football themed)**

**13+ (mature content)**

**Ace of Spades by Faridah Abike-Iyimide (also tackling racism)**

**Some Girls Do by Jennifer Dugan (romance drama)**

**We Hunt the Flame (Sands of Arawiya series) by Hafsa Faizal (epic fantasy)**

**Perfect On Paper by Sophie Gonzales (bi-female main character)**

**Alex in Wonderland by Simon James Green**

**Noah Can't Even by Simon James Green (coming of age comedy)**

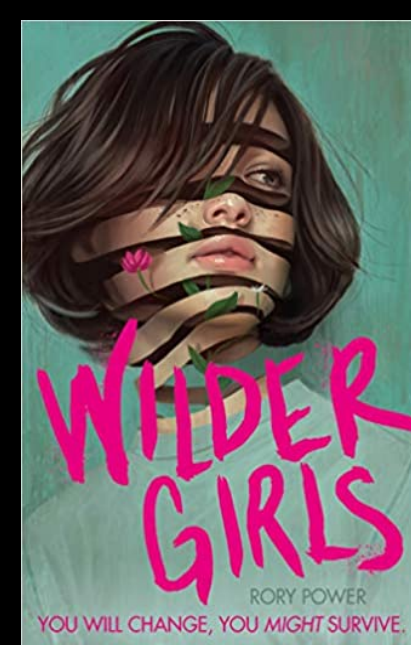
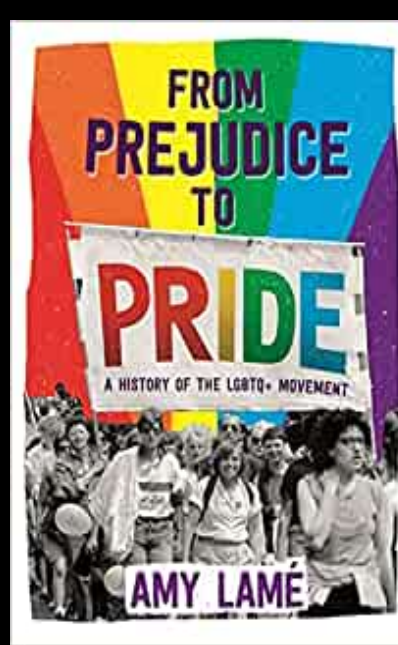
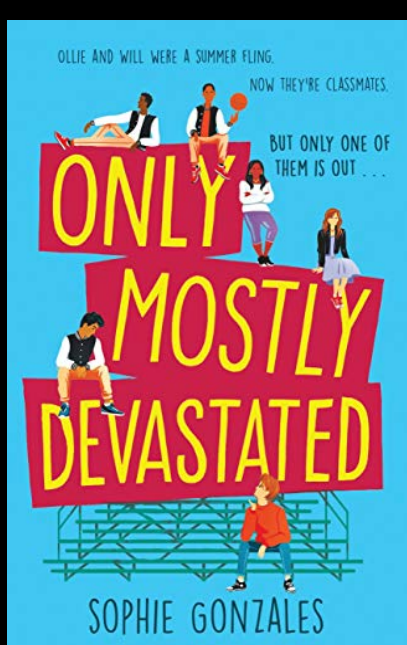
**Hani and Ishu's Guide to Fake Dating by Adiba Jaigura (bi-female romance)**

**Boy Meets Boy by David Levithan**

**The Song of Achilles by Madeline Miller (ancient Greeks)**

**Lies Like Poison by Chelsea Pitcher (thriller)**

**They Both Die at the End by Adam Silvera (dystopian sci-fi)**





## Science Fiction and Superheroes

**The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy (series) by Douglas Adams**

Troofriend by Kirsty Appelbaum

The Wild Robot by Peter Brown

**Ender's Game by Orson Scott Card**

Orion Lost by Alistair Chisholm (for fans of Mortal Engines and Star Wars)

A Rag, a Bone and a Hank of Hair by Nicholas Fisk

Gone (series) by Michael Grant

**Monster (series) by Michael Grant**

**The Dream Merchant by Isabel Hoving**

**Defender of the Realm by Mark Huckerby and Nick Ostler**

**The Starlight Watchmaker by Lauren James**

**Contender (series) by Taran Matharu**

**Itch by Simon Mayo (a boy discovers a new element)**

**Show Us Who You Are by Elle McNicoll**

The Portal by Andrew Norriss

**Time Riders (series) by Alex Scarrow**

**Who Framed Klaris Cliff? by Nikki Sheehan**

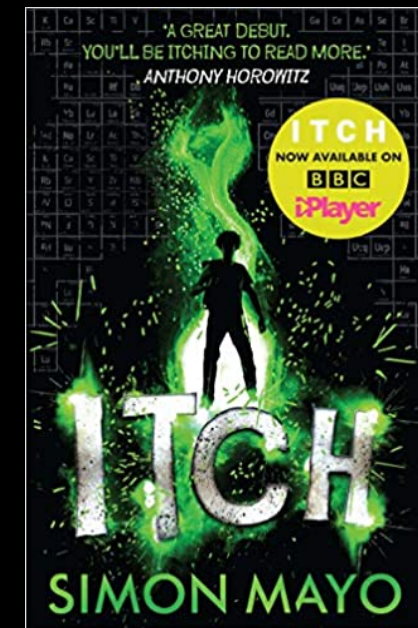
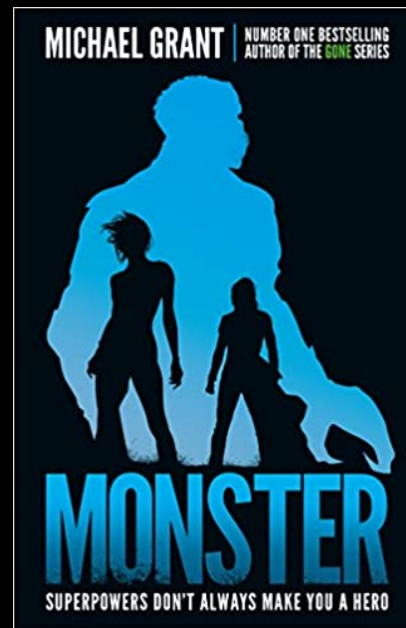
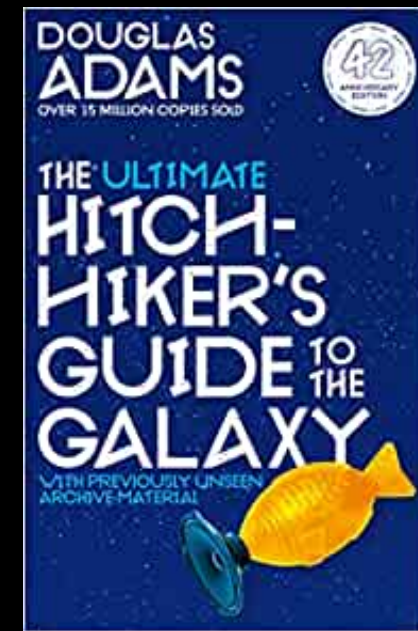
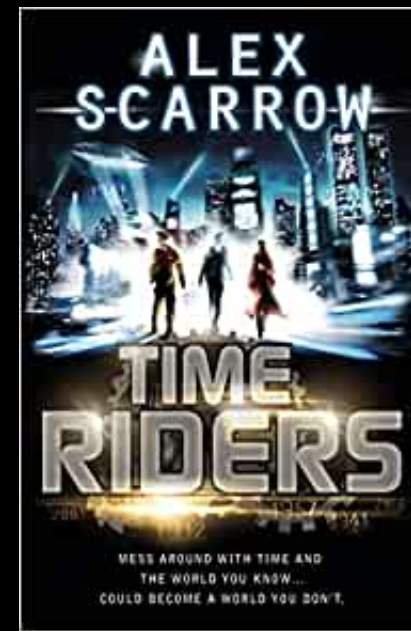
**Unwind (series) by Neil Shusterman**

The Astonishing Future of Alex Nobody by Kate Gilby Smith

Finding the Fox (The Shapeshifter series) by Ali Sparkes (similar to X-Men)

**When You Reach Me by Rebecca Stead**

**Hybrids by David Thorpe**





## Science Fiction and Superheroes

Uglies (series) by Scott Westerfield

20,000 Leagues Under the Sea by Jules Verne (classic sci-fi)

The War of the Worlds by H.G. Wells (classic Martian invasion)

Chocky by John Wyndham

The Day of the Triffids by John Wyndham (killer plant classic)

Hexwood by Diana Wynne Jones

Raptor by Paul Zindel (mutant dinosaurs!)

13+

I, Robot by Isaac Asimov

Thief by Malorie Blackman

Ready Player One by Ernest Cline

Jurassic Park by Michael Crichton

Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep? by Philip K. Dick

Girl of Flesh and Metal by Alicia Ellis

Eve of Man (trilogy) by Tom Fletcher and Giovanna Fletcher

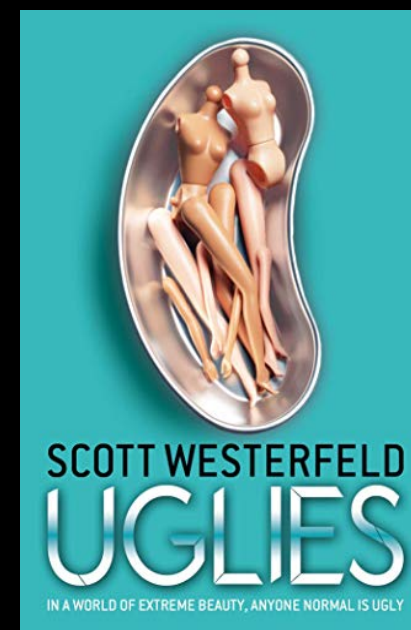
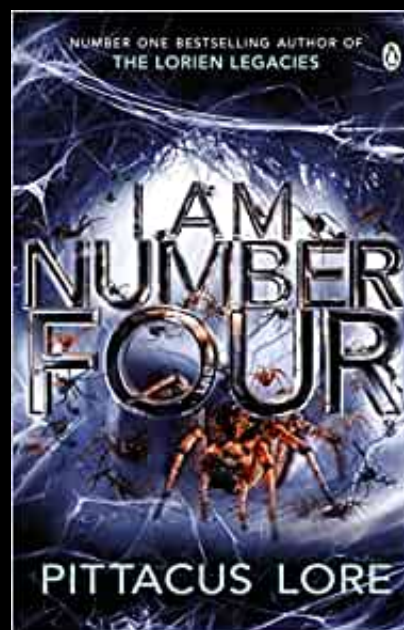
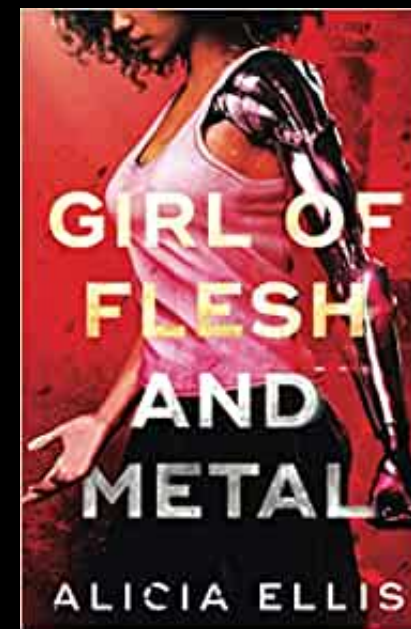
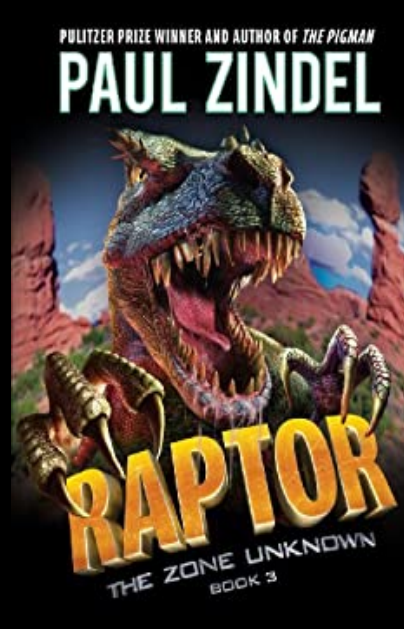
Dune (series) by Frank Herbert

I Am Number Four by Pittacus Lore

Shatter Me (series) by Tahere Mafi

Skyward by Brandon Sanderson

Timebound (The Chronos Files series) by Rysa Walker





## Spies and Secret Agents:

Crime Travelers (series) by Paul Aertker

Operation Sabre: A Paul Fox Spy Adventure by Glenn Carter

Look Into My Eyes (Ruby Redfort series) by Lauren Child

The Greatest Spy Who Never Was (Hugo Dare) by David Codd

Young James Bond (series) by Charlie Higson

Agent Z (series) by Mark Haddon

Alex Rider (series) by Anthony Horowitz

AWOL (series) by Andrew Lane

**The Medusa Project (series) by Sophie McKenzie**

**Boy Soldier (series) by Any McNab**

**The Recruit (CHERUB series) by Robert Muchamore**

Puzzled (The Puzzled Mystery Adventure Series) by P.J. Nichols

Zeke Bartholomew: Superspy! By Jason Pinter

**Agent 21 (series) by Chris Ryan**

**Special Forces Cadets (series) by Chris Ryan**

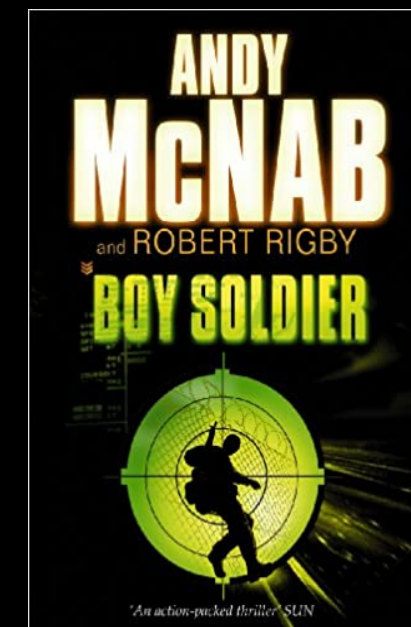
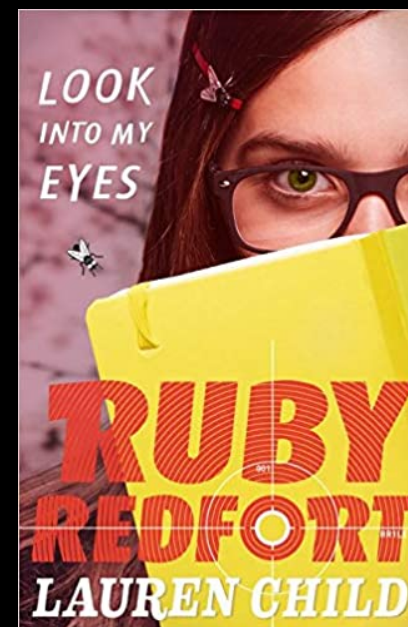
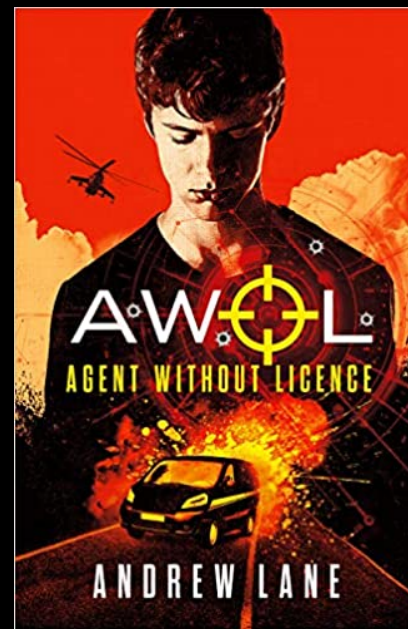
Independence Hall (I, Q series) by Roland Smith

H.I.V.E. (series) by Mark Walden

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**Casino Royale (James Bond series) by Ian Fleming (mature content)**

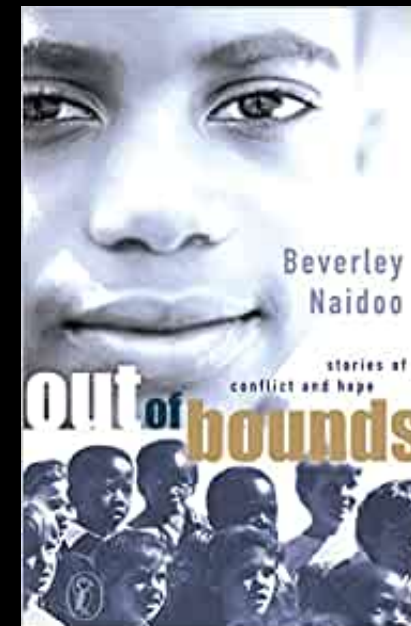
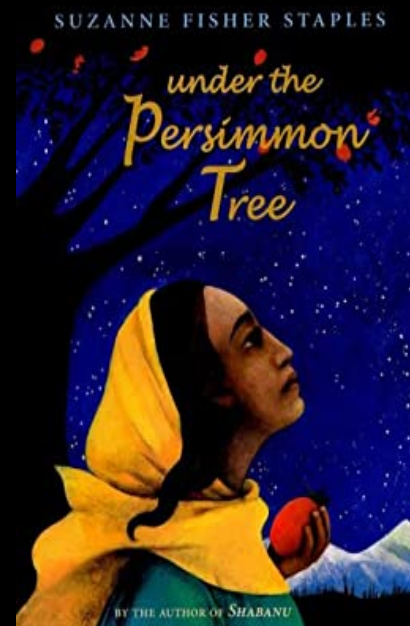
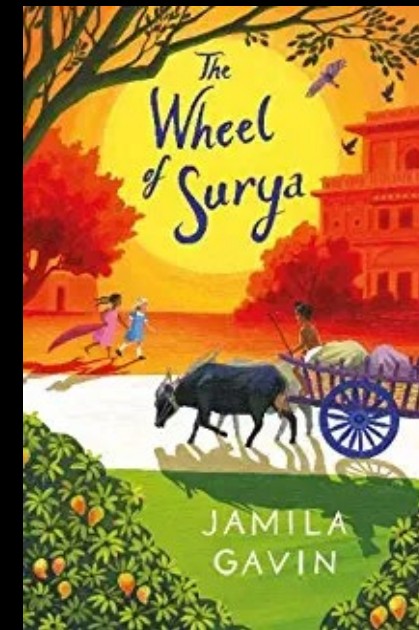
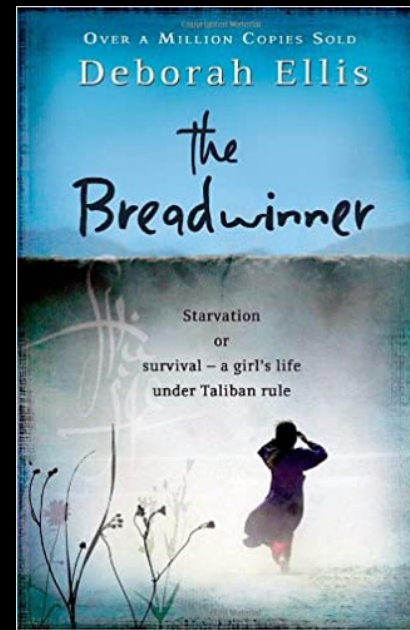
**Boy Soldier (series) by Andy McNab and Robert Rigby (SAS Thriller)**





## Stories from the Wider World:

**Walking a Tightrope: New Writing from Asian Britain** by Rehana Ahmed  
**Little Soldier** by Bernard Ashley (an African boy soldier moves to London)  
**Surprising Joy** by Valerie Bloom (a girl moves from Jamaica to London)  
**The Alchemist** by Paul Coelho (an Andalucian boy follows his dreams)  
**The Village by the Sea** by Anita Desai (growing up in poverty in Bombay)  
**AK** by Peter Dickinson (child soldiers in Africa)  
**The Breadwinner** by Deborah Ellis (a girl's life in Afghanistan under the Taliban)  
**Zlata's Diary: A Child's Life in Sarajevo** by Zlata Filipovic  
**White Stranger** by Susan Gates (a white girl at school in Africa)  
**The Wheel of Surya** (trilogy) by Jamilla Gavin (civil war in India)  
**Lost for Words** by Elizabeth Lutzeier (Indian girl finds herself in a strange land)  
**No Turning Back** by Beverley Naidoo (South African street kids)  
**Out of Bounds** by Beverley Naidoo (apartheid in South Africa)  
**The Other Side of Truth and Web of Lies** by Beverley Naidoo  
**Daughter of the Wind** by Suzanne Fisher Staples  
**Under the Persimmon Tree** by Suzanne Fisher Staples  
**Motherland** by Vineeta Vijayaraghavan (Indian girl visits her home country)  
**Thura's Diary: My Life in Wartime Iraq** by Thura Al-Windawi



**“Once you learn to read you will be forever free.”**

**Frederick Douglass**



## World War 1 and World War 2:

Carrie's War by Nina Bawden (WW2)

**The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas by John Boyne (WW2)**

**Remembrance by Theresa Breslin (WW1)**

**I Am David by Anne Holm (WW2)**

When Hitler Stole Pink Rabbit by Judith Kerr (WW2, semi-autobiographical)

Number the Stars by Lois Lowry (**Jewish persecution in WW2**)

The Skylarks' War by Hilary McKay (growing up before and after WW1)

War Horse by Michael Morpurgo (WW1)

Five Children on the Western Front by Kate Saunders

The Silver Sword by Ian Serraillier (escape from WW2 Poland)

**Salt to the Sea by Ruta Sepetys (WW2 – based on a true story)**

**Milkweed by Jerry Spinelli (WW2)**

The Cay by Theodore Taylor (WW2)

Hitler's Canary by Sandi Toksvig (WW2)

The Machine Gunners by Robert Westall (WW2)

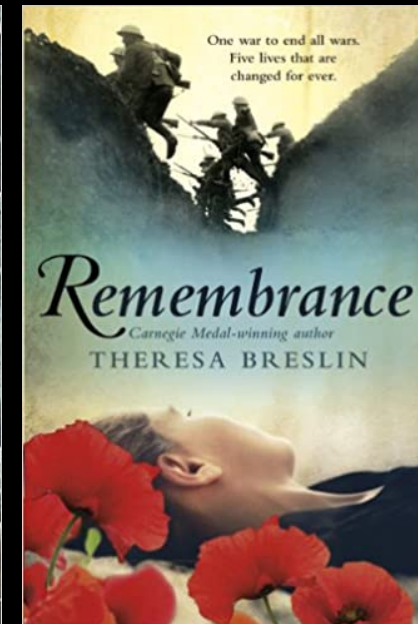
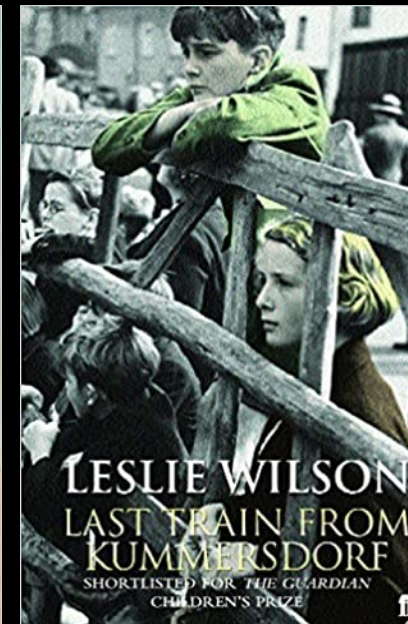
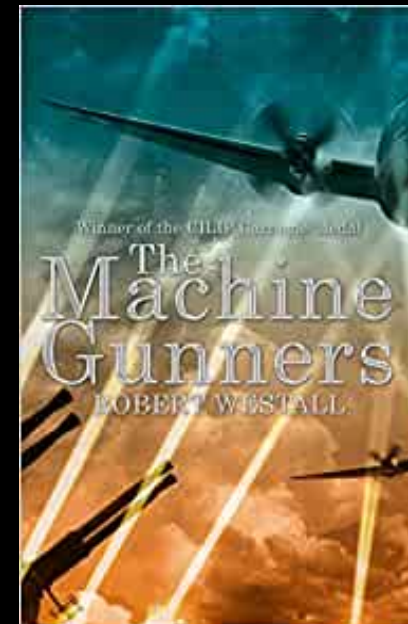
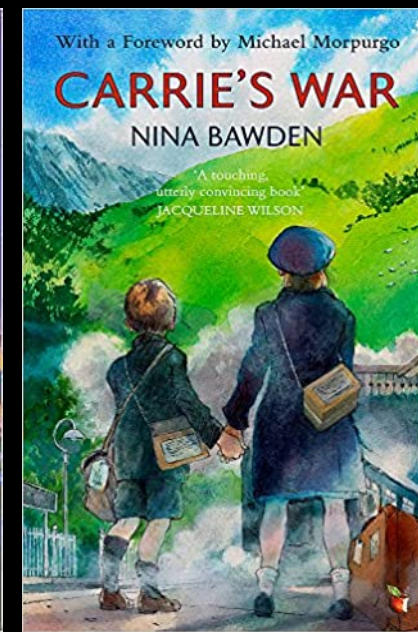
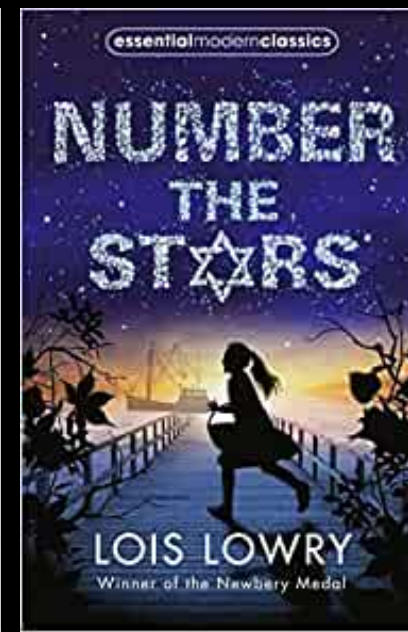
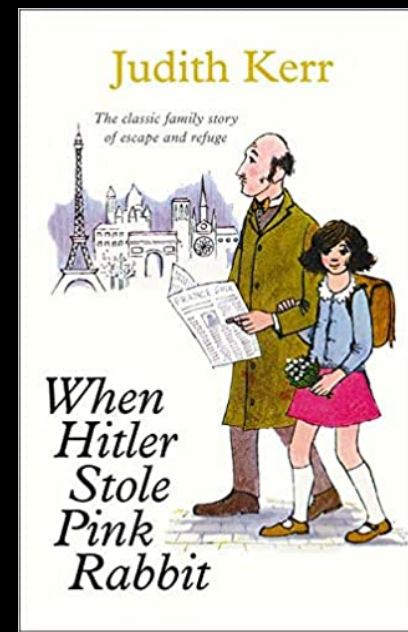
Last Train from Kummersdorf by Leslie Wilson (WW2 from a German perspective)

13+

**Empire of the Sun by J.G. Ballard (English boy in WW2 Japan)**

**Catch-22 by Joseph Heller**

**The Remains of the Day by Kazuo Ishiguro (1920s and 1930s England)**





## For a more challenging read:

Little Women by Louisa May Alcott

Jane Eyre by Charlotte Brontë

David Copperfield by Charles Dickens

**The Old Man and the Sea by Ernest Hemingway**

**The Outsiders by S.E. Hinton**

**Three Men in a Boat by Jerome K. Jerome (a Victorian boat trip)**

Anne of Green Gables by L.M Montgomery

**Animal Farm by George Orwell (political allegory)**

13 +

**Rebecca by Daphne De Maurier (psychological thriller)**

**The Count of Monte Cristo by Alexandre Dumas (historical adventure)**

**To Kill a Mockingbird by Harper Lee**

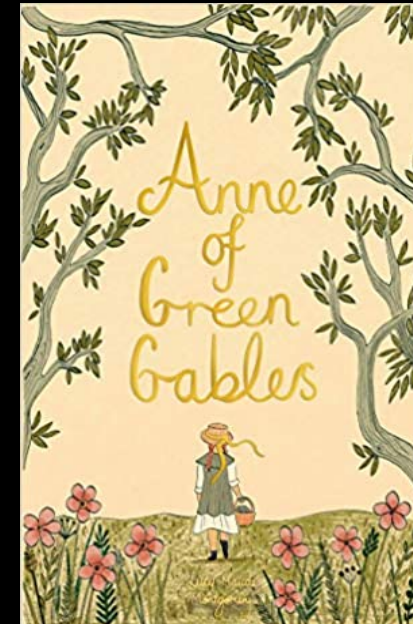
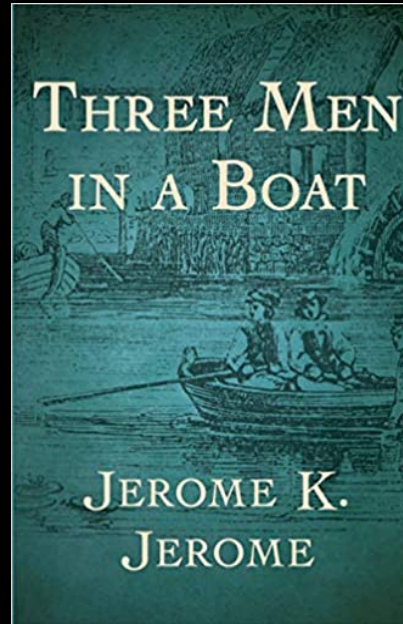
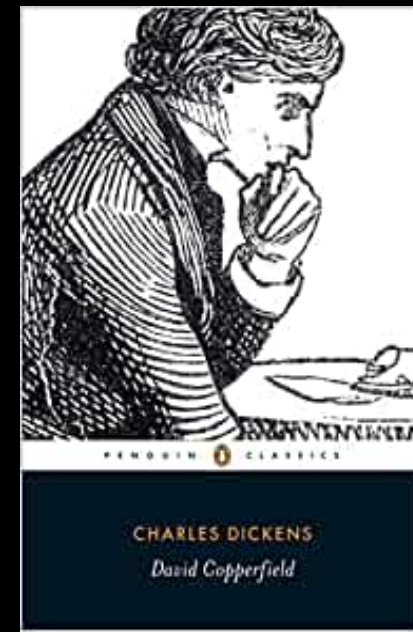
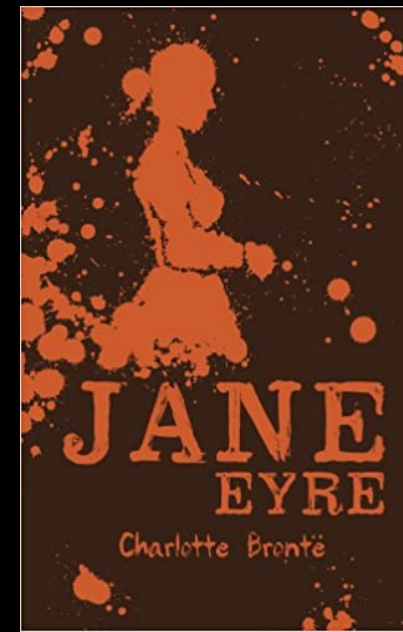
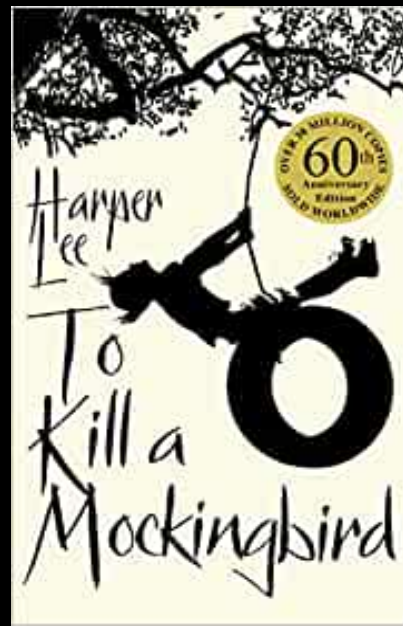
**The Catcher in the Rye by J.D. Salinger**

**One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich by Alexander Solzhenitsyen**

**The Grapes of Wrath by John Steinbeck**

**The Mosquito Coast by Paul Theroux**

**Scoop by Evelyn Waugh**





## Favourites you might have missed (from Year 5 and Year 6):

Watership Down by Richard Adams

The Wolves of Willoughby Chase by Joan Aiken

Pig Heart Boy by Malorie Blackman (transplant, animal rights, life and death)

Cogheart by Peter Bunzl (Victorian set Sci-Fi)

Artemis Fowl (series) by Eoin Colfer

Gone by Morris Gleitzman (a Jewish boy's WW2 drama)

Brightstorm (series) by Vashti Hardy (airships and steampunk!)

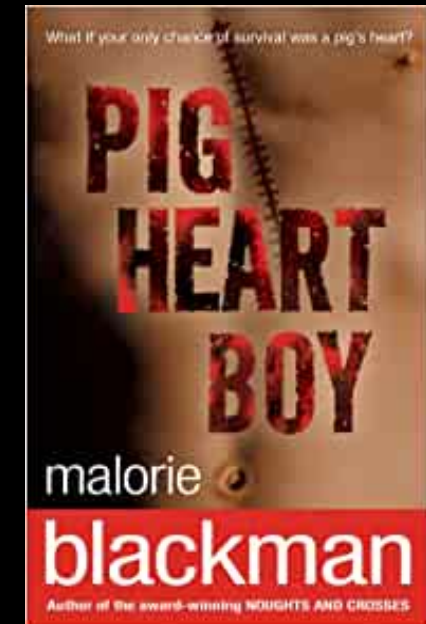
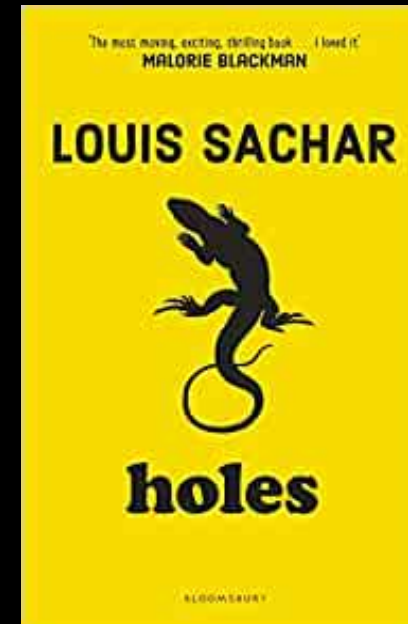
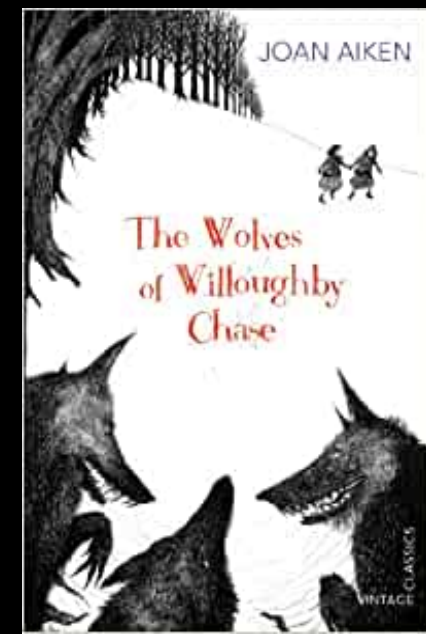
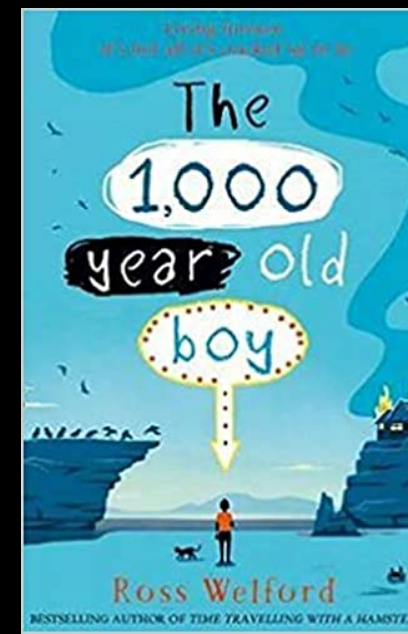
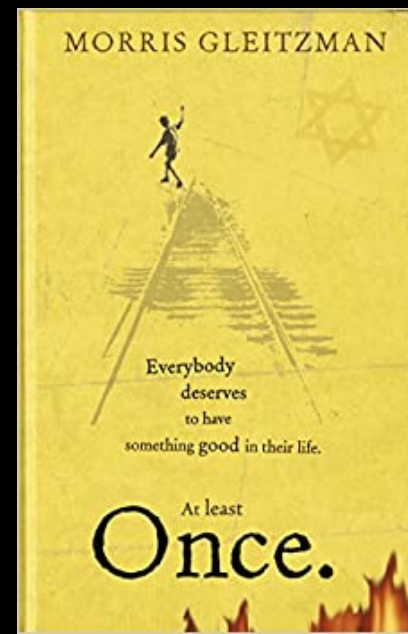
Raven's Gate (series) by Anthony Horowitz

Wonder by R.J. Palacio

Holes by Louis Sachar

The 1000 Year-Old Boy by Ross Welford

The Boy Who Sailed the Ocean in an Armchair by Lara Williamson



**“A writer only begins a book. A reader finishes it.”**

**Samuel Johnson**



## Modern Poets:

John Agard (Flag, Put the Kettle On)

Simon Armitage (Kid, Clown Punk)

Malorie Blackman (Cloud Busting)

Gillian Clarke (Catrin, Cold Knap Lake)

Imtiaz Dharker (Blessing)

Carol Ann Duffy (Valentine, Before You Were Mine, Stealing, War Photographer)

Seamus Heaney (Follower)

Tony Harrison (Long Distance II)

Grace Nichols (Hurricane Hits England)

**13+**

**Phillip Larkin – Collected Poems**

## Poetry – Literary Greats:

William Blake (Tyger, Tyger, The Lamb)

Robert Browning (My Last Duchess, Porphyria's Lover)

Walter De La Mare (The Listeners)

Emily Dickinson (Sonnet 43)

Thomas Hardy (The Ruined Maid)

Rudyard Kipling (If)

Christina Rossetti (Remember, Cousin Kate)

William Shakespeare (Sonnet 116, Sonnet 130)

Samuel Taylor Coleridge (Rime of the Ancient Mariner)

Dylan Thomas (The Hunchback in the Park)

Alfred, Lord Tennyson (The Charge of the Light Brigade)

William Wordsworth (Daffodils, Upon Westminster Bridge)

## War Poetry:

Rupert Brooke (The Soldier)

Wilfred Owen (Futility, Anthem for Doomed Youth, Dulce et Decorum Est)

Jessie Pope (The Call, Who's for the Game?)

Isaac Rosenburg (In the Trenches)

Siegfried Sassoon (Suicide in the Trenches)

## Poetry Collections:

**Everything All At Once by Steven Camden**

**Overheard in a Tower Block by Joseph Coelho (gritty urban poems)**

The Girl Who Became a Tree by Joseph Coelho

**Dizzy in Your Eyes by Pat Mora (love poems for teens)**

Stop Pretending by Sonya Sones (poems exploring mental illness)



## Current Class Reading Books:

### Year 7

The Graveyard Book by Neil Gaiman (fantasy)

The Garbage King by Elizabeth Laird (street kids in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia)

Some Places More than Others by Renee Watson (a girl explores her heritage)

Blitzcat by Robert Westall (a cat's adventures in WW2)

The Book Thief by Markus Zusak (a girl grows up in WW2)

### Year 8

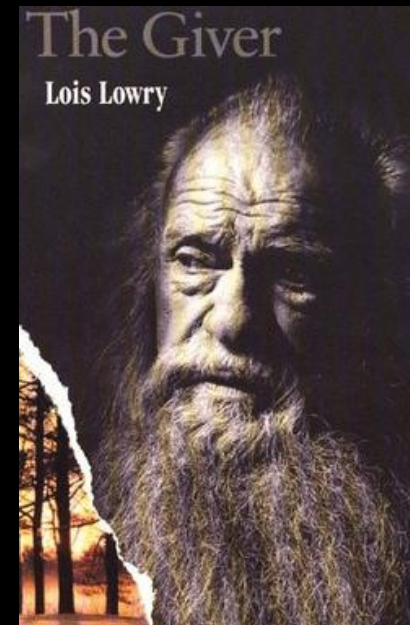
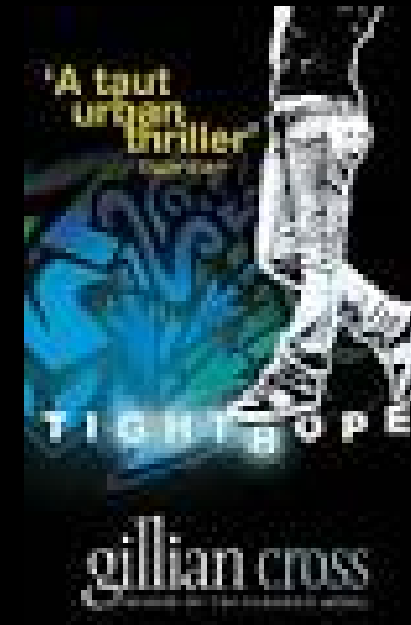
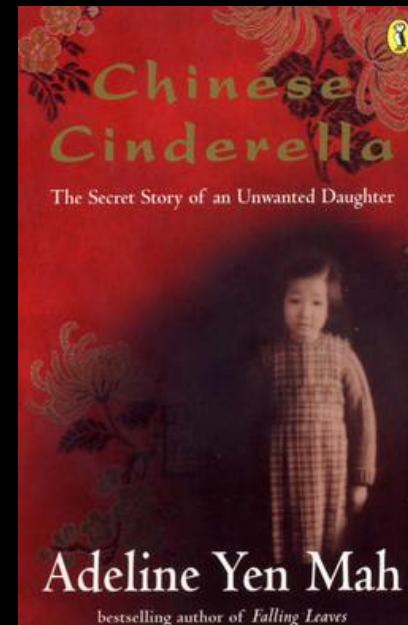
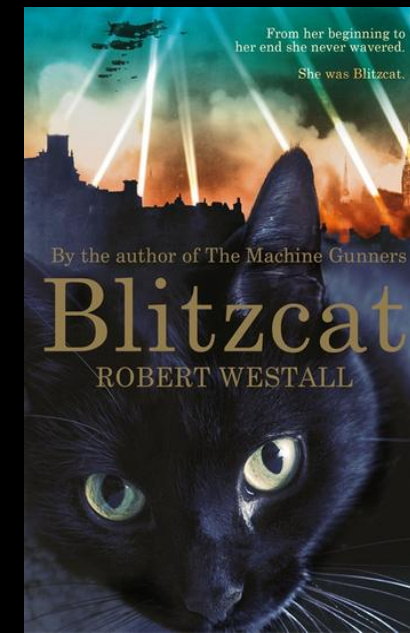
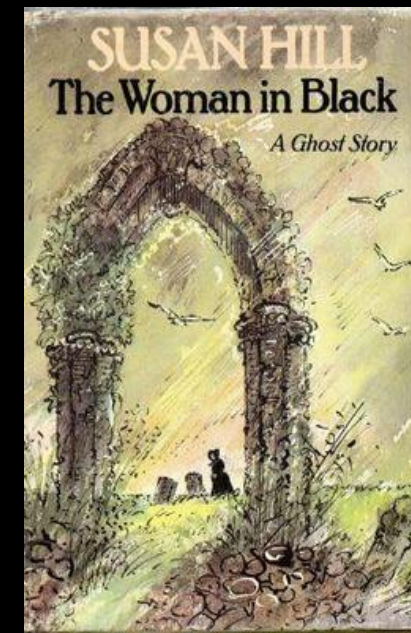
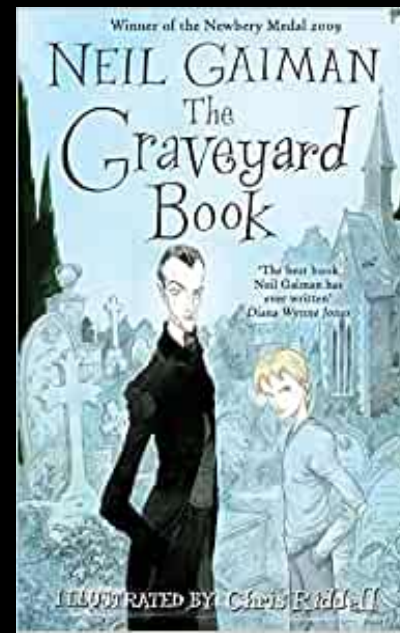
Tightrope by Gillian Cross (contemporary thriller)

The Woman in Black by Susan Hill (horror)

Unbelievable! by Paul Jennings (a collection of short stories)

The Giver by Lois Lowry (dystopian sci-fi)

Chinese Cinderella by Adeline Yen Mah (biographical)



**“When I think of all the books still left for me to read, I am filled with happiness.”**

**Jules Renard**