



TO BE
GREATER AND
TO ASPIRE
FURTHER

KEY STAGE 3

BAY HOUSE
READING
CANON



Bay House
School & Sixth Form

Support

The library aims to promote reading for pleasure in a number of ways and to support students and pupils by providing a range of resources to facilitate learning. We host numerous events throughout the year including an author visit, the celebration of World Book Day and a number of themed reading weeks, alongside our weekly library lessons. The library promotes research and study skills and works closely with pupils requiring reading support and intervention.

Social Media

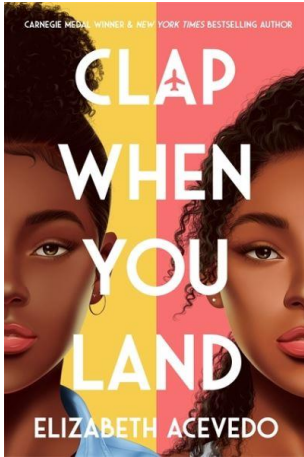
The library actively uses social media to communicate with the school community on:

- Engaging 'Reading for Pleasure'.
- News and events.
- Promotion of books, films and other media.
- Information on study and research skills.

To keep up-to-date with all the latest information, please visit, follow and like:



Fiction

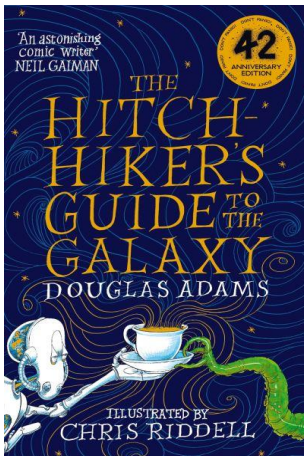


Clap When You Land by Elizabeth Acevedo

Year 8/9

Camino Rios lives for the summers when her father visits her in the Dominican Republic. But this time, on the day when his plane is supposed to land, Camino arrives at the airport to see crowds of crying people... In New York City, Yahaira Rios is called to the principal's office, where her mother is waiting to tell her that her father, her hero, has died in a plane crash. Separated by distance - and Papi's secrets - the two girls are forced to face a new reality in which their father is dead and their lives are forever altered.

Themes: Family, Identity, BAME, Poetry, Culture, Grief, Siblings

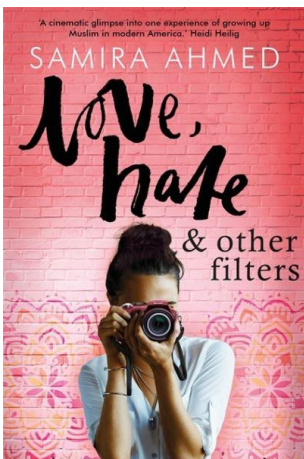


Hitch Hiker's Guide to the Galaxy by Douglas Adams

Year 9

It's an ordinary Thursday lunchtime for Arthur Dent until his house gets demolished. The Earth follows shortly afterwards to make way for a new hyperspace express route, and Arthur's best friend has just announced that he's an alien. At this moment, they're hurtling through space with nothing but their towels and a book inscribed in large, friendly letters: DON'T PANIC.

Themes: Science, Space, Exploration, Politics, Pop Culture, Humour

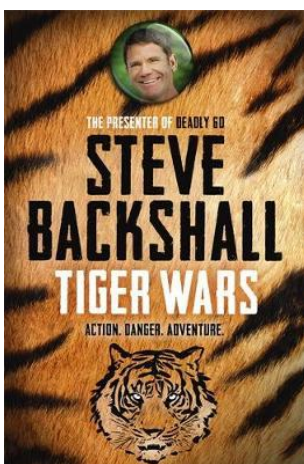


Love, Hate & Other Filters by Samira Ahmed

Year 7/8/9

Maya Aziz dreams of being a film maker in New York. Her family have other ideas. They want her to be a dutiful daughter who wears gold jewellery and high heels and trains to be a doctor. She's also caught between the guy she SHOULD like and the guy she DOES like. But she doesn't want to let Kareem down and things with Phil would never work out anyway. Would they? Then a suicide bomber who shares her last name strikes in a city hundreds of miles away and everything changes.

Themes: Terrorism, Racism, Muslims, BAME, Family, Culture, Relationships

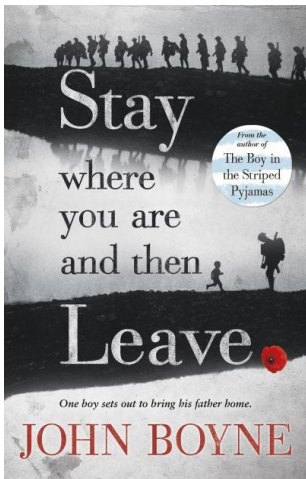


Tiger Wars by Steve Backshall

Year 7/8/9

Saker is on the run from the only life he knows. From India to the Himalayas and China he'll be pursued by hunting dogs, mercenaries, spies, thieves and assassins in his quest to set free the most majestic, lethal and valuable of all the predators - the tiger. With him, on every dangerous step of the adventure, is Sinter, a girl who has her own reasons for running away. Filled with intrigue, adventure, exotic wildlife and dramatic locations, Saker and Sinter come face to face with the world's most fascinating, majestic and lethal creatures.

Themes: Adventure, Gangs, Crime, India, China, Hunting, Wildlife, Conservation

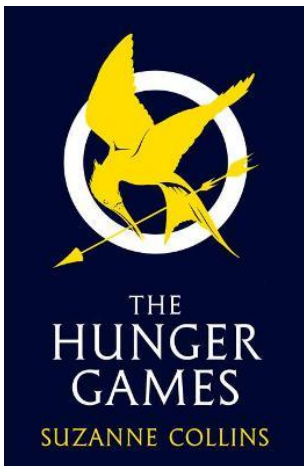


Stay Where You Are and Then Leave by John Boyne

Year 7

The day the First World War broke out, Alfie Summerfield's father promised he wouldn't go away to fight - but he broke that promise the following day. Four years later, Alfie doesn't know where his father might be, other than that he's away on a special, secret mission. Then, while shining shoes at King's Cross Station, Alfie unexpectedly sees his father's name - on a sheaf of papers belonging to a military doctor. Bewildered and confused, Alfie realises his father is in a hospital close by - a hospital treating soldiers with shellshock.

Themes: Historical, First World War, Loss, Mental Illness, Survival, Family

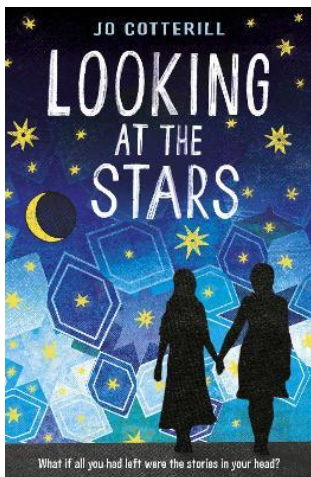


The Hunger Games by Suzanne Collins

Year 7/8/9

Winning will make you famous. Losing means certain death. Set in a dark vision of the near future, a terrifying reality TV show is taking place. Twelve boys and twelve girls are forced to appear in a live event called The Hunger Games. There is only one rule: kill or be killed. When sixteen-year-old Katniss Everdeen steps forward to take her younger sister's place in the games, she sees it as a death sentence. But Katniss has been close to death before. For her, survival is second nature.

Themes: Dystopia, Oppression, Dictatorship, Rebellion, Survival, Family, Friendship

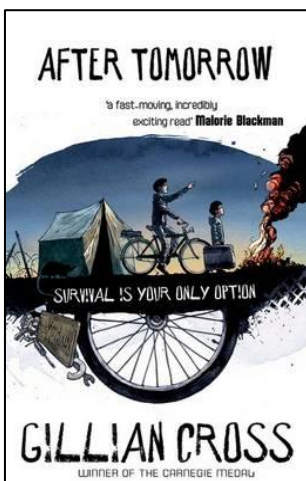


Looking at the Stars by Jo Cotterill

Year 8/9

Amina's homeland has been ravaged by war for many months, but so far, she and her family are safe, together. When a so-called liberating force arrives in the country, the family think their prayers for peace will soon be answered, but they are horribly wrong... The country is thrown into yet further turmoil and Amina's family is devastated... Through it all, Amina has her imagination to fall back on - of a better place and time. But can her stories get her through this?

Themes: Family, War, Survival, Dictatorship, Refugees, Class Division, Culture

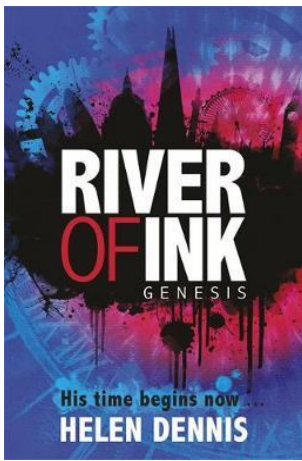


After Tomorrow by Gillian Cross

Year 8/9

Armageddon Monday was the day that five banks crashed simultaneously, changed everything. Now there's no food in the supermarkets, Matt's mum is growing or bartering what they need to stay alive, and armed gangs are hunting down hoarders. After their house is raided twice, mum decides enough is enough: her friend Bob can smuggle them to France, where life may be better. But the plan goes wrong when they are forced to leave their mum behind. In France, they find themselves living in a refugee camp, with no home, no money, and no mum.

Themes: Dystopia, Anarchy, Survival, Refugees, Migration, Camps, Gangs

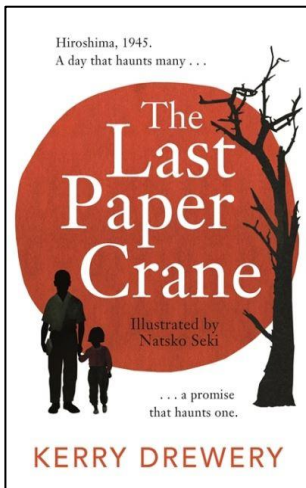


River of Ink by Helen Dennis

Year 7/8/9

When a mystery teenage boy is found wandering outside St Paul's Cathedral, drenched, distressed and unable to remember anything about himself, he becomes the focus of worldwide media speculation. Unable to communicate, the River Boy is given paper and a pencil and begins to scribble. Soon a symbol emerges, but the boy has no idea why he has drawn it. But this symbol is the only clue to the mystery of his identity...

Themes: Mystery, Magic, Alchemy, Symbolism, Foster Care, Mental Illness

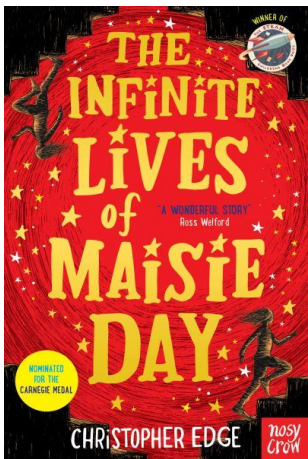


The Last Paper Crane by Kerry Drewery

Year 7/8/9

A Japanese teenager, Mizuki, is worried about her grandfather who is clearly desperately upset about something. He says that he has never got over something that happened in his past and gently Mizuki persuades him to tell her what it is. We are taken to 1945, Hiroshima, and Mizuki's grandfather as a teenage boy chatting at home with his friend Hiro. Moments later the horrific nuclear bomb is dropped on Hiroshima. What follows is a searing account of the blinding flash, the harrowing search for family and the devastation both human and physical.

Themes: Hiroshima, Japan, World War 2, Survival, Courage, Empathy, Family, Grief



The Infinite Lives of Maisie Day by Christopher Edge

Year 7/8

How do you know you really exist? It's Maisie's birthday and she can't wait to open her presents. She's hoping for the things she needs to build her own nuclear reactor. But she wakes to an empty house and outside the front door is nothing but a terrifying, all-consuming blackness. Trapped in an ever-shifting reality, Maisie knows that she will have to use the laws of the universe and the love of her family to survive. And even that might not be enough.

Themes: Science, Space, Universe, Parallel Worlds, Technology, Physics, Death

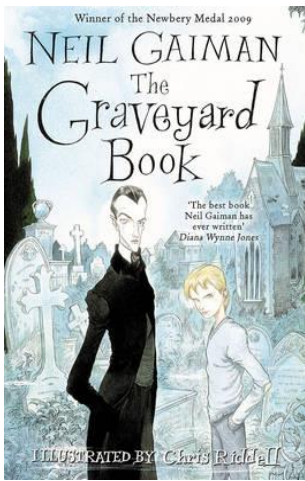


Wrinkle in Time by Madeleine L'Engle

Year 7

When Charles Wallace Murry goes searching through a 'wrinkle in time' for his lost father, he finds himself on an evil planet where all life is enslaved by a huge pulsating brain known as 'It'. How Charles, his sister Meg and friend Calvin find and free his father makes this a very special and exciting mixture of fantasy and science fiction, which all the way through is dominated by the funny and mysterious trio of guardian angels known as Mrs Whatsit, Mrs Who and Mrs Which.

Themes: Science, Time Travel, Parallel Words, Fantasy, Family, Loss

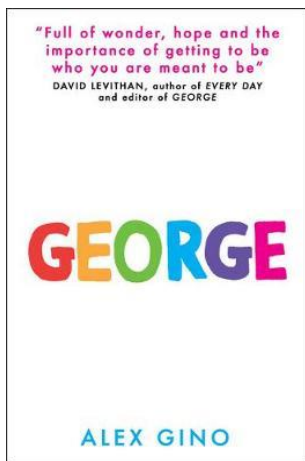


The Graveyard Book by Neil Gaiman

Year 7/8/9

Nobody Owens, known to his friends as 'Bod', is a perfectly normal boy. Well, he would be perfectly normal if he didn't live in a graveyard, being raised, and educated by ghosts, with a solitary guardian who belongs to neither the world of the living nor the world of the dead. There are dangers and adventures for Bod in the graveyard: the strange and terrible menace of the Sleer; a gravestone that leads to the city of ghouls and friendship with a witch. But it is in the land of the living that real danger lurks, for it is there that the man Jack lives, and he has already killed Bod's family.

Themes: Ghosts, Supernatural, Friendship, Murder, Danger

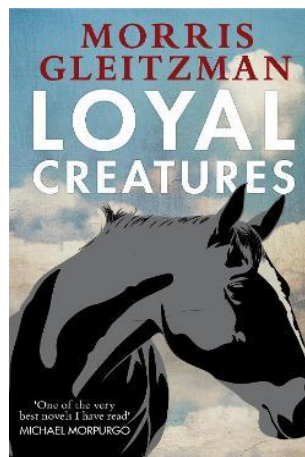


George by Alex Gino

Year 7/8

When people look at George, they think they see a boy. But she knows she's not a boy. She knows she's a girl. George thinks she'll have to keep this a secret forever. Then her teacher announces that their class play is going to be Charlotte's Web. George really, really, REALLY wants to play Charlotte. But the teacher says she can't even try out for the part... because she's a boy.

Themes: LGBTQ+, Gender Identity, Adolescence, Friendship, Bullying, Family, School, Theatre

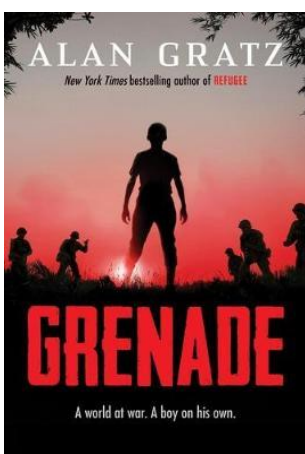


Loyal Creatures by Morris Gleitzman

Year 7/8/9

The deeply moving story of war horse Daisy and her 16-year-old owner Will, sent from the Australian outback to the gruelling Middle Eastern campaign of the First World War. Their skill in finding water is vital to their regiment in the desert, but their devotion to each other is what keeps them alive in an overwhelmingly hostile environment. Is their unwavering loyalty enough to determine their destiny?

Themes: First World War, Survival, Courage, Loyalty, Friendship, Sacrifice, Death

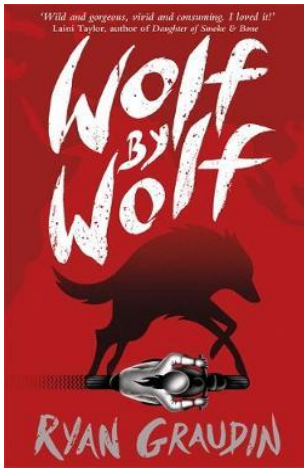


Grenade by Alan Gratz

Year 7

Hideki lives with his family on the island of Okinawa, near Japan. When the Second World War crashes onto his shores, Hideki is drafted to fight for the Japanese army. He is handed a grenade and a set of instructions: Don't come back until you've killed an American soldier. Ray, a young American Marine, has just landed on Okinawa. This is Ray's first-ever battle, and he doesn't know what to expect - or if he'll make it out alive. All he knows that the enemy is everywhere.

Themes: Second World War, Japan, Culture, Bravery, Survival, Friendship, Death

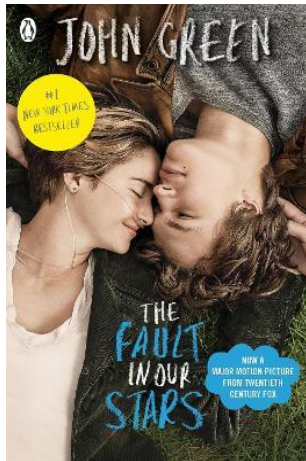


Wolf by Wolf by Ryan Graudin

Year 9

Having survived experimentation during her time at Auschwitz, Yael has the unique ability to change her appearance at will. The only part of her which always remains are the five tattooed wolves on her arm; one for each of the people she's lost. Using her abilities, she must transform into Adele Wolfe, Germany's most famous female rider and winner of the legendary Axis Tour; an epic long distance motorcycle race from Berlin to Tokyo, where only the strongest (and wildest) riders survive. If she can win this, she'll be able to get close enough to kill the Fuhrer and change history forever.

Themes: Alternate History, Dystopia, Germany, Holocaust, Survival, Rebellion

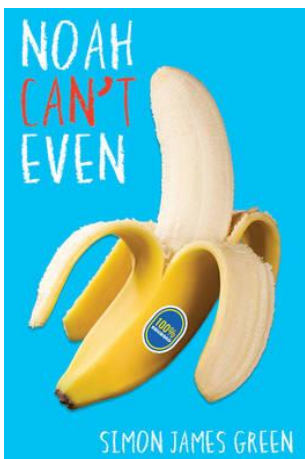


The Fault in Our Stars by John Green

Year 9

Diagnosed with thyroid cancer at 12, Hazel was prepared to die until, at 14, a medical miracle shrunk the tumours in her lungs. And even though she could live for a long time Hazel lives tethered to an oxygen tank; the tumours kept at bay with a constant chemical assault. Enter Augustus Waters. Augustus is gorgeous, in remission, and shockingly, interested in Hazel. Being with Augustus is both an unexpected destination and a long-needed journey, pushing Hazel to re-examine how sickness and health, life, and death, will define her and the legacy that everyone leaves behind.

Themes: Cancer, Death, Grief, Family, Emotions, Relationships, Romance

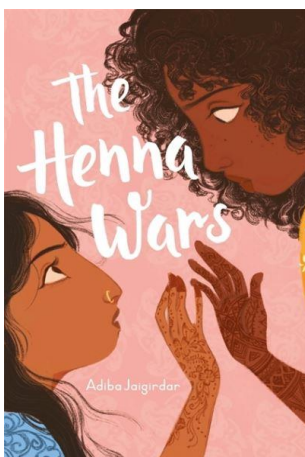


Noah Can't Even by Simon James Green

Year 9

Poor Noah Grimes! His father disappeared years ago, his mother's Beyonce tribute act is an unacceptable embarrassment, and his beloved gran is no longer herself. He only has one friend, Harry, and school is... Well, it's pure hell. Why can't Noah be normal, like everyone else at school? Maybe if he struck up a romantic relationship with someone - maybe Sophie, who is perfect and lovely - he'd be seen in a different light? But Noah's plans are derailed when Harry kisses him at a party. That's when things go from bad to utter chaos.

Themes: LGBTQ+, Relationships, Family Break-up, Friendship, Romance, Humour

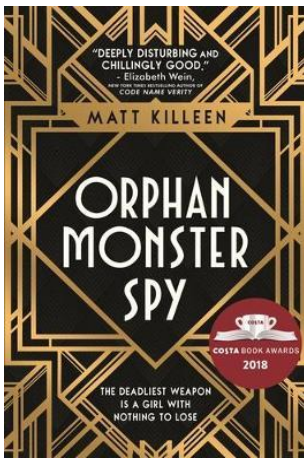


The Henna Wars by Adiba Jaigirdar

Year 7/8/9

When Nishat comes out to her parents, they say she can be anyone she wants - as long as she isn't herself. Because Muslim girls aren't lesbians. Nishat doesn't want to lose her family, but she also doesn't want to hide who she is, which only gets harder once Flávia walks into her life. Beautiful and charismatic, Flávia takes Nishat's breath away. But as their lives become tangled, they're caught up in a rivalry that gets in the way of any feelings they might have for each other. Can Nishat find a way to be true to herself... and find love too?

Themes: LGBTQ+, BAME, Culture, Racism, Homophobia, Relationships, Family



Orphan Monster Spy by Matt Killeen

Year 9

Sarah has played many roles. Dutiful daughter. Talented gymnast. Persecuted Jew. Lost orphan. But now she faces her most challenging role of all. Now she must become the very thing she hates. For the only way she can survive as a spy at a boarding school for the cream of Nazi society is to become a monster like them. A monster who can destroy them.

Themes: Second World War, German Society, Thriller, Spies, Holocaust, Bullying



Skulduggery Pleasant by Derek Landy

Year 7/8/9

Pursued by evil forces intent on recovering a mysterious key, Stephanie finds help from an unusual source - the wisecracking skeleton of a dead wizard. When all hell breaks loose, it's lucky for Skulduggery that he's already dead. Though he's about to discover that being a skeleton doesn't stop you from being tortured if the torturer is determined enough. And if there's anything Skulduggery hates, it's torture! Will evil win the day? Will Stephanie and Skulduggery stop bickering long enough to stop it? One thing's for sure: evil won't know what's hit it.

Themes: Horror, Fantasy, Detective, Magic, Family, Death, Relationships



The Giver by Lois Lowry

Year 7/8/9

Twelve-year old Jonas has never thought there was anything wrong with his world. But from the moment he is selected as the Receiver of Memory, Jonas discovers that their community is not as perfect as it seems. It is only with the help of the Giver, that Jonas can find what has been lost. And it is only through his personal courage that Jonas finds the strength to do what is right...

Themes: Utopia, Oppression, Individuality, Freedom, Society, Emotions, Death, Rebellion, Friendship, Family

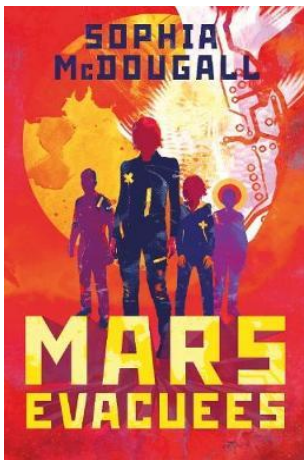


Legend by Marie Lu

Year 7/8/9

The United States is gone, along with its flooded coasts. North America's two warring nations, the western Republic, and the eastern Colonies, have reached a breaking point. In the midst of this broken continent and dark new world are two teenagers who will go down in history... He is Day. the boy who walks in the light. She is June, the girl who seeks her brother's killer. On the run and undercover, they meet by chance. Irresistibly drawn together. Neither knows the other's past. But Day murdered June's brother. And she has sworn to avenge his death...

Themes: Dystopian, Class, Law, Crime, Violence, Rebellion, Revenge, Family

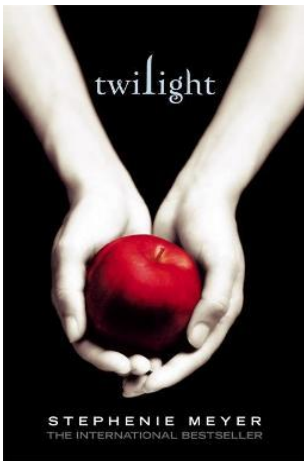


Mars Evacuees by Sophia McDougall

Year 7/8/9

The fact that someone had decided I'd be safer on Mars, where you could still only sort of breathe the air and sort of not get sunburned to death, was a sign that the war with the aliens was not going fantastically well. So, when I found out that I was being evacuated to Mars, I was pretty calm. And, despite everything that happened to me and my friends afterwards, I'd do it all again. Because until you have been shot at, pursued by terrifying aliens, taught maths by a laser-shooting robot goldfish, and tried to save the galaxy, I don't think you can say that you've really lived.

Themes: Science Fiction, Aliens, Space, Invasion, War, Friendship, Humour

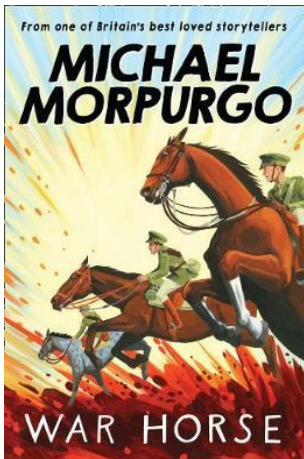


Twilight by Stephenie Meyer

Year 8/9

When Isabella Swan moves to the gloomy town of Forks and meets the mysterious, alluring Edward Cullen, her life takes a thrilling and terrifying turn. With this porcelain skin, golden eyes, mesmerizing voice, and supernatural gifts, Edward is both irresistible and impenetrable. Up until now, he has managed to keep his identity hidden, but Bella is determined to uncover his dark secret. What Bella doesn't realize is that the closer she gets to him, the more she is putting herself and those around her at risk. And it might be too late to turn back...

Themes: Supernatural, Vampires, Werewolves, Romance, Relationships, Family

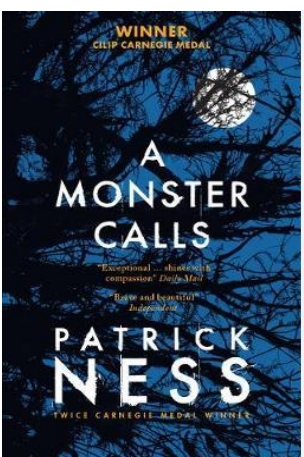


War Horse by Michael Morpurgo

Year 7/8/9

At the outbreak of World War One, Joey, young Albert's beloved horse, is sold to the cavalry and shipped to France. He's soon caught up in enemy fire, and fate takes him on an extraordinary odyssey, serving on both sides before finding himself alone in no man's land. But Albert cannot forget Joey and, still not old enough to enlist, he embarks on a treacherous mission to the trenches to find him and bring him home.

Themes: First World War, Warfare, Horses, Death, Loss, Friendship, Bravery, Family

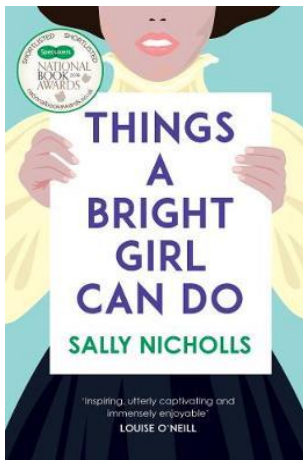


A Monster Calls by Patrick Ness

Year 7/8/9

Conor has the same dream every night, ever since his mother first fell ill, ever since she started the treatments that don't quite seem to be working. But tonight, is different. Tonight, when he wakes, there's a visitor at his window. It's ancient, elemental, a force of nature. And it wants the most dangerous thing of all from Conor. It wants the truth.

Themes: Family, Relationships, Cancer, Death, Emotions, Grief, Isolation, Acceptance, Bullying

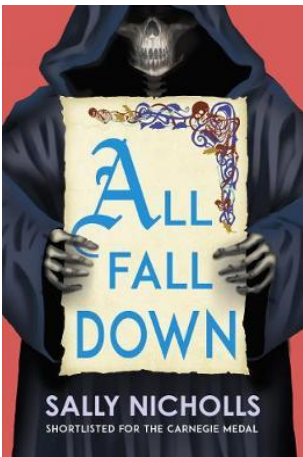


Things a Bright Girl Can Do by Sally Nicholls

Year 9

Evelyn is seventeen, and though she is rich and clever, she may never be allowed to follow her older brother to university. Enraged that she is expected to marry her childhood sweetheart rather than be educated, she joins the Suffragettes, and vows to pay the ultimate price for women's freedom. May is fifteen, and already sworn to the cause, though she and her fellow Suffragists refuse violence. When she meets Nell, a girl who's grown up in hardship, she sees a kindred spirit. Together and in love, the two girls start to dream of a world where all kinds of women have their place.

Themes: Suffragettes, Feminism, Equality, Social Class, LGBTQ+, Relationships



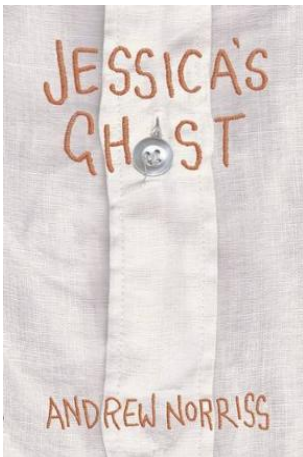
All Fall Down by Sally Nicholls

Year 7/8

A deadly contagion races through England...

Isabel and her family have nowhere to run from a disease that has killed half of Europe. When the world she knows and loves ends forever, her only weapon is courage. The Black Death of 1349 was the deadliest plague in human history. All Fall Down is a powerful and inspiring story of survival in the face of real-life horror.

Themes: Historical, Disease, Death, Family, Bereavement, Survival, Courage

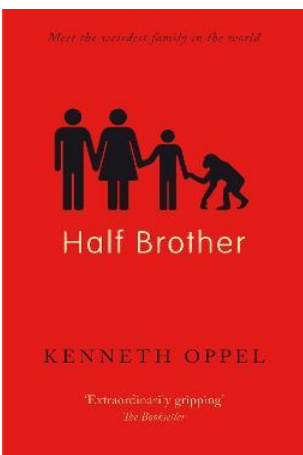


Jessica's Ghost by Andrew Norris

Year 7/8/9

Francis doesn't have many friends. But one day Jessica sits down next to him. Jessica is a ghost, and Francis is the first person who has actually seen her since she died. Neither have anyone else to talk to, so immediately become best friends. Not long after they meet Andi, and she can see Jessica too. Then they meet Ronald, who can also see Jessica. They soon try to work out why only the three of them can see Jessica, as well as determining how Jessica died and why she is still here.

Themes: Loneliness, Bullying, Death, Ghosts, Mental Health, Suicide, Friendship

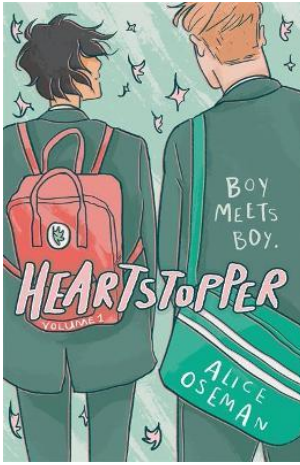


Half Brother by Kenneth Oppel

Year 7/8/9

Ben Tomlin has been an only child for thirteen years. So, when his research-scientist parents bring home a baby chimp to raise as a human child, Ben's life is turned upside-down. Teaching a baby chimp how to understand language is not his idea of fun, especially when he's trying to settle in at his new school. Boy and chimp quickly grow closer, but soon his animal instincts and rapidly growing strength begin to cause trouble. And as the media circus descends and the experiment spins out of control, only Ben can save him.

Themes: Science, Experimentation, Animal Rights, Relationships, Family



Heartstopper by Alice Oseman

Year 9

Boy meets boy. Boys become friends. Boys fall in love.

Charlie and Nick are at the same school, but they've never met ... until one day when they're made to sit together. They quickly become friends, and soon Charlie is falling hard for Nick, even though he doesn't think he has a chance. But love works in surprising ways, and Nick is more interested in Charlie than either of them realised.

Themes: LGBTQ+, Romance, School, Friendships, Relationships, Family, Mental Health, Homophobia, Graphic Novel

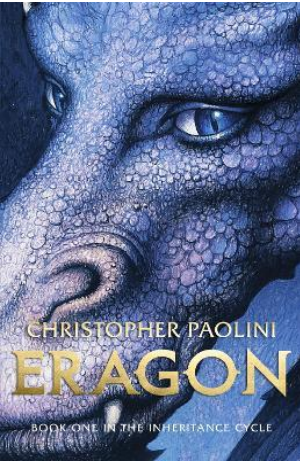


Wonder by R.J. Palacio

Year 7/8/9

Pullman is an ordinary boy with an extraordinary face. Born with a terrible abnormality, he has been home-schooled and protected by his loving family from the cruel stares of the outside world. Now he must attend school with other students for the first time - but can he get his classmates to see that he's just like them, underneath it all? This warm, funny, and wonderfully written story, told in the voices of Auggie, his sister, and his new friends, will move and engage students from the first page to the last.

Themes: Bullying, Isolation, Kindness, Empathy, Acceptance, Friendship, Family

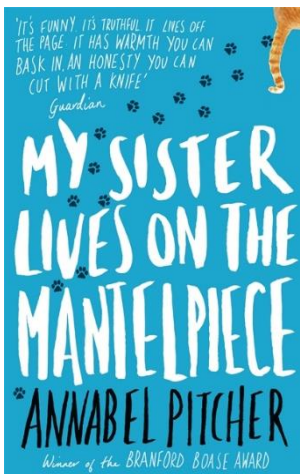


Eragon by Christopher Paolini

Year 7/8/9

When Eragon finds a polished blue stone in the forest, he thinks it is the lucky discovery of a poor farm boy; perhaps it will buy his family meat for the winter. But when the stone brings a dragon hatchling, Eragon soon realizes he has stumbled upon a legacy nearly as old as the Empire itself. Overnight his simple life is shattered, and he is thrust into a perilous new world of destiny, magic, and power. Can Eragon take up the mantle of the legendary Dragon Riders? The fate of the Empire may rest in his hands...

Themes: Fantasy, Myths and Legends, Dragons, Magic, Friendship

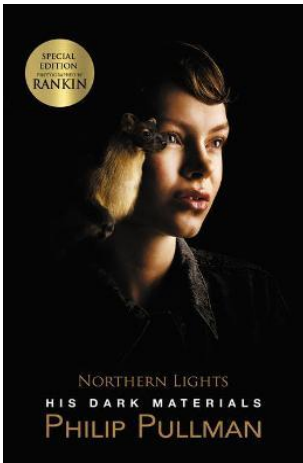


My Sister Lives on the Mantelpiece by Annabel Pitcher

Year 7/8/9

Ten-year-old Jamie Matthews has just moved to the Lake District with his dad and his teenage sister, Jasmine for a 'Fresh New Start'. Five years ago, his sister's twin, Rose, was blown up by a terrorist bomb. His parents are wrecked by their grief, Jasmine turns to piercing, pink hair and stops eating. The family falls apart. To him Rose is just a distant memory. Jamie is far more interested in his cat, Roger, his birthday Spiderman T-shirt, and in keeping his new friend Sunya a secret from his dad.

Themes: Grief, Loss, Death, Terrorism, Separation, Family, Growing up, Emotions

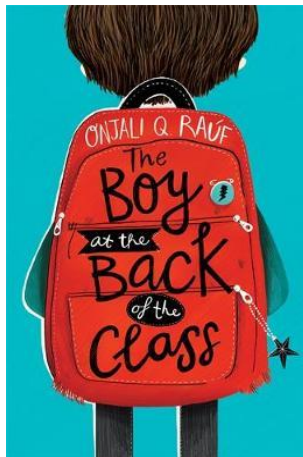


Northern Lights by Philip Pullman

Year 7/8/9

When Lyra's friend Roger disappears, she and her daemon, Pantalaimon, set out to find him. Their quest is more dangerous than they can possibly imagine, but they will be helped by the mysterious device that Lyra carries - if she can learn its secrets. They travel to the ice kingdoms of the North, where armoured bears rule, and witch-queens fly through the frozen skies. And where a team of scientists are conducting experiments of unspeakable terror.

Themes: Fantasy, Science, Religion, Politics, Social Class, Experimentation, Grief, Friendship, Betrayal, Family

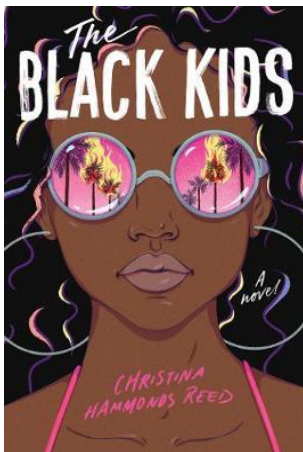


The Boy at the Back of the Class by Onjali Q Rauf

Year 7

There used to be an empty chair at the back of my class, but now a new boy called Ahmet is sitting in it. He's nine years old (just like me), but he's very strange. He never talks and never smiles and doesn't like sweets - not even lemon sherbets, which are my favourite! But then I learned the truth: Ahmet really isn't very strange at all. He's a refugee who's run away from a War. A real one. With bombs and fires and bullies that hurt people. And the more I find out about him, the more I want to help.

Themes: Immigration, Refugees, Displacement, BAME, Racism, School, Friendship, Kindness, Empathy

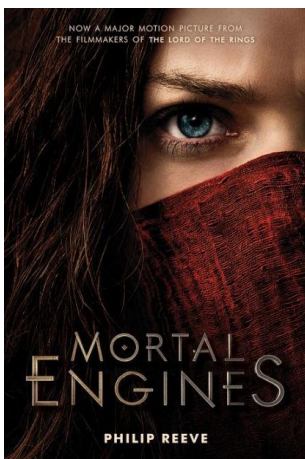


The Black Kids by Christina Hammond Reed

Year 7/8/9

Ashley Bennett and her friends are living the charmed life. It's the end of high school and they're spending more time at the beach than in the classroom. They can already feel the sunny days and endless possibilities of summer. But everything changes one afternoon in April, when four police officers are acquitted after beating a black man named Rodney King half to death. Suddenly, Ashley's not just one of the girls. She's one of the black kids.

Themes: Historical, BAME, Riots, Racism, Social Class, Violence, Activism, Family, Friendship

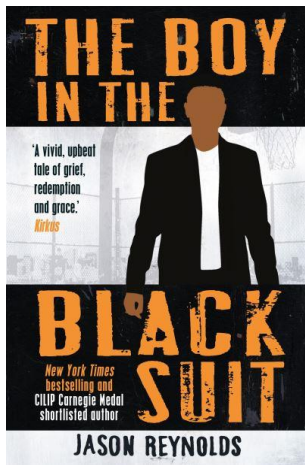


Mortal Engines by Philip Reeve

Year 7/8/9

London is on the move again. The city has been lying low, skulking in the hills to avoid the bigger, faster, hungrier cities loose in the Great Hunting Ground. The great town moves off after its quarry as events within the walls begin to take a sinister turn... A young assassin is stalking her own prey through the city. Hester Shaw's plot is foiled by a young apprentice who has finally stumbled into a real-life adventure. Tom's blundering intervention leaves the pair stranded in the Out-Country; a sea of mud scored by the tracks of cities like the one steaming off over the horizon.

Themes: Dystopia, Steampunk, Science, Technology, Rebellion, Survival, Friendship

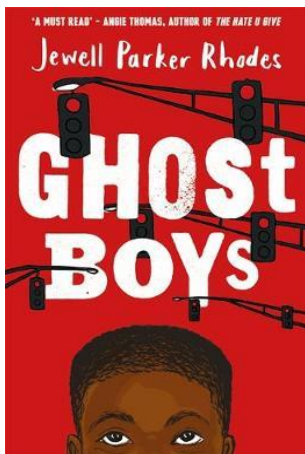


The Boy in the Black Suit by Jason Reynolds

Year 7/8

Matt wears a black suit every day. No, not because his mom died - although she did, and it sucks. But he wears the suit for his gig at the local funeral home, which pays way better than the Cluck Bucket, and he needs the income since his dad can't handle the bills (or anything, really) on his own. So, while Dad's snagging bottles of whiskey, Matt's snagging fifteen bucks an hour. Not bad. But everything else? Not good.

Themes: Family, Relationships, Death, Cancer, Grief, Loss, BAME, Romance

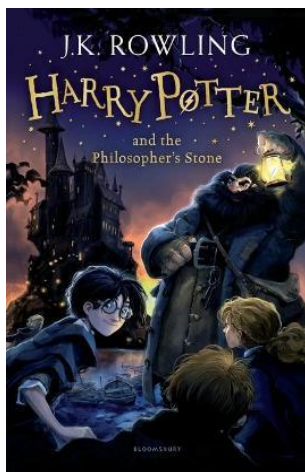


Ghost Boys by Jewell Parker Rhodes

Year 7/8/9

Twelve-year-old Jerome doesn't get into trouble. He goes to school. He does his homework. He takes care of his little sister. Then Jerome is shot by a police officer who mistakes his toy gun for a real threat. As a ghost, watching his family trying to cope with his death, Jerome begins to notice other ghost boys. Each boy has a story, and they all have something in common. Bit by bit, Jerome begins to understand what really happened - not just to him, but to all of the ghost boys.

Themes: Historical, Family, Ghosts, BAME, Racism, Violence, Prejudice, Civil Rights

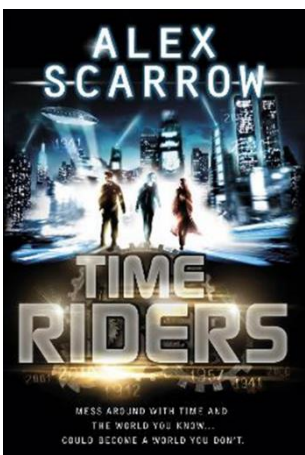


Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone by J.K. Rowling

Year 7/8/9

When a letter arrives for unhappy but ordinary Harry Potter, a decade-old secret is revealed to him that apparently, he's the last to know. His parents were wizards, killed by a Dark Lord's curse when Harry was just a baby, and which he somehow survived. Leaving his unsympathetic aunt and uncle for Hogwarts, a wizarding school brimming with ghosts and enchantments, Harry stumbles upon a sinister mystery involving a missing stone with astonishing powers which could be valuable, dangerous - or both.

Themes: Fantasy, Magic, Wizards, School, Friendship, Family, Bravery



Time Riders by Alex Scarrow

Year 7/8/9

Liam O'Connor should have died at sea in 1912. Maddy Carter should have died on a plane in 2010. Sal Vikram should have died in a fire in 2029. Yet moments before death, someone mysteriously appeared and said, 'Take my hand'. But Liam, Maddy and Sal aren't rescued. They have been recruited by an agency that no one knows exists, with only one purpose - to fix broken history. Because time travel is here, and there are those who would go back in time and change the past. That's why the Timeriders exist to protect us. To stop time travel from destroying the world...

Themes: Science Fiction, Thriller, Time Travel, Technology, Alternate History, Friendship



How to Save the World with a Chicken and an Egg by Emma Shivah

Year 7

High-spirited Ivy believes she can talk to animals, while Nathaniel, a boarding schoolboy, 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 that's one animal at a time.

Themes: Nature, Environment, Animals, Friendship, Mystery, BAME

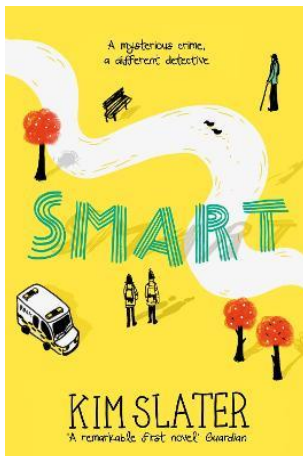


Scythe by Neal Shusterman

Year 9

In a world where disease, war and crime have been eliminated, the only way to die is to be randomly killed ("gleaned") by professional scythes. Citra and Rowan are teenagers who have been selected to be scythes' apprentices, and despite wanting nothing to do with the vocation, they must learn the art of killing and understand the necessity of what they do. Only one of them will be chosen as a scythe's apprentice and as Citra and Rowan come up against a terrifyingly corrupt Scythedom, it becomes clear that the winning apprentice's first task will be to glean the loser.

Themes: Dystopia, Science Fiction, Artificial Intelligence, Death, Corruption, Crime



Smart by Kim Slater

Year 7/8/9

There's been a murder, but the police don't care. It was only a homeless old man after all. Kieran cares. He's made a promise, and when you say something out loud, that means you're going to do it, for real. He's going to find out what really happened. To Colin. It's a good job Kieran's a master of observation and knows all the detective tricks of the trade. But being a detective is difficult when you're Kieran Woods. When you're amazing at drawing but terrible at fitting in. And when there are dangerous secrets everywhere, not just outside, but under your own roof.

Themes: Detective, Crime, Homelessness, Poverty, Domestic Violence, Neglect, Drugs

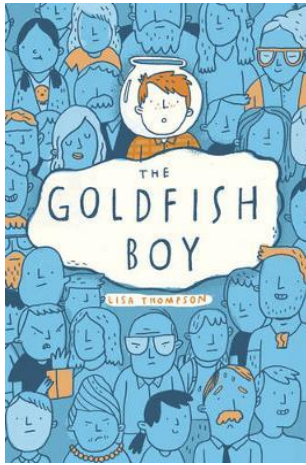


Stargirl by Jerry Springer

Year 7/8/9

Leo Borlock follows the unspoken rule at Mica Area High School: don't stand out - under any circumstances! Then Stargirl arrives at Mica High and everything changes for Leo and for the entire school. After 15 years of home schooling, Stargirl bursts into tenth grade in an explosion of colour and a clatter of ukulele music, enchanting the Mica student body. But the delicate scales of popularity suddenly shift, and Stargirl is shunned for everything that makes her different. Somewhere in the midst of Stargirl's arrival and rise and fall, normal Leo Borlock has tumbled into love with her.

Themes: School, Individuality, Conformity, Social Pressure, Friendship, Romance

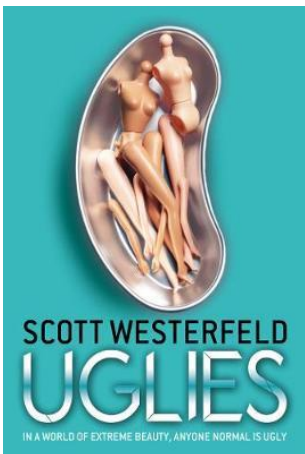


The Goldfish Boy by Lisa Thompson

Year 7

Twelve-year-old Matthew is trapped in his bedroom by crippling OCD, spending most of his time staring out of his window as the inhabitants of Chestnut Close go about their business. Until the day he is the last person to see his next-door neighbour's toddler, Teddy, before he goes missing. Matthew must turn detective and unravel the mystery of Teddy's disappearance - with the help of a brilliant cast of supporting characters.

Themes: Detective, Mystery, Mental Health, Obsessive Compulsive Disorder, Death, Loss, Grief, Family

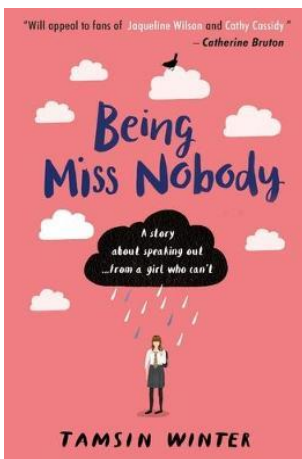


Uglies by Scott Westerfeld

Year 7/8/9

Tally lives in a world where your 16th birthday brings aesthetic perfection: an operation which erases your flaws, transforming you from an 'Ugly' into a 'Pretty'. She is on the eve of this important event and cannot wait for her life to change. But then she meets Shay, and her whole outlook is different. Everybody gets to be supermodel gorgeous. What could be wrong with that? But Tally's new friend Shay isn't sure she wants to be Pretty. She'd rather risk life on the outside. When Shay runs away, Tally learns about a whole new side of the Pretty world - and it isn't very pretty.

Themes: Dystopia, Conformity, Beauty, Science, Technology, Freedom, Friendship

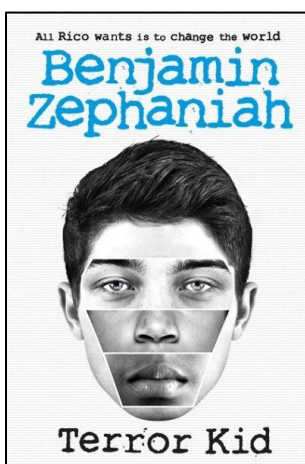


Being Miss Nobody by Tamsin Winter

Year 7/8

Rosalind hates her new secondary school. She's the weird girl who doesn't talk. The Mute-ant. And it's easy to pick on someone who can't fight back. So, Rosalind starts a blog - Miss Nobody; a place to speak up, a place where she has a voice. But there's a problem... Is Miss Nobody becoming a bully herself?

Themes: Bullying, Internet, Cyber-bullying, Social Media, Anxiety, Mental Health, Selective Mutism, Social Pressure, Family, Friendship



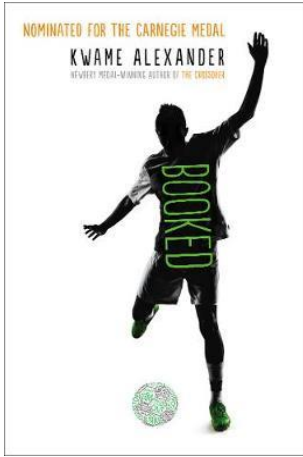
Terror Kid by Benjamin Zephaniah

Year 7/8/9

Rico knows trouble. He knows the look of it and the sound of it. He also knows to stay away from it as best he can. Because if there's one thing his Romany background has taught him, it's that he will always be a suspect. Despite his efforts to stay on the right side of the law, Rico is angry and frustrated at the injustices he sees happening at home and around the world. He wants to do something - but what? When he is approached by Speech, a mysterious man who shares Rico's hacktivist interests, Rico is given the perfect opportunity to speak out.

Themes: Thriller, Cyber Terrorism, Social Issues, Riots, Politics, Prejudice, BAME

Poetry

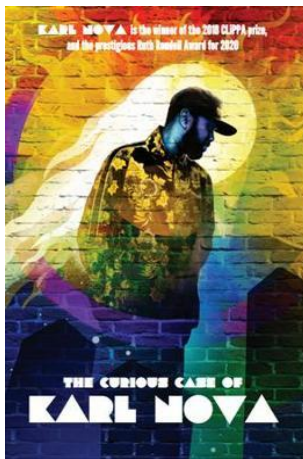


Booked by Kwame Alexander

Year 7/8/9

Twelve-year-old Nick is a football-mad boy who absolutely hates books. Football, family, love, and friendship take centre stage as Nick tries to figure out how to navigate his parents' break-up, stand up to bullies, and impress the girl of his dreams. These challenges - which seem even harder than scoring a tie-breaking, game-winning goal - change his life, as well as his best friend's. This energetic novel-in-verse by the poet Kwame Alexander captures all the thrills and setbacks, the action and emotion of a World Cup match.

Themes: Football, Sport, Family Break-Up, Bullying, Friendship, BAME, Poetry

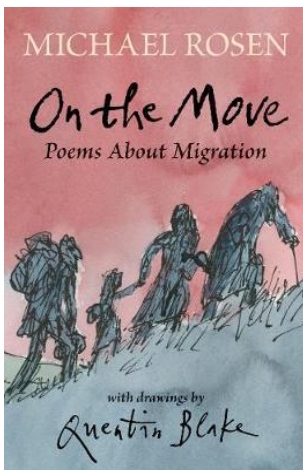


The Curious Case of Karl Nova by Karl Nova

Year 7/8/9

From the UK to Nigeria, and back again, Karl seeks to share his life journey, and explain how it has shaped who he has become today. What would you do and how would you feel if you were suddenly taken away from all that you know? Read on, and you will find out how Karl responded, in this very particular and curious case....

Theme: Autobiographical, Poetry, Rap, Hip-Hop, BAME

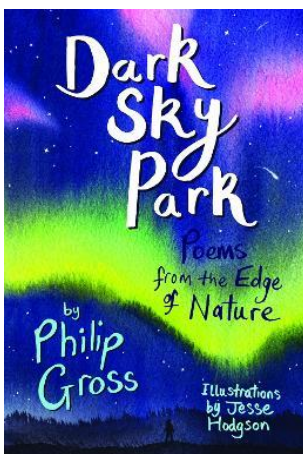


On the Move: Poems About Migration by Michael Rosen

Year 7/8

Michael Rosen and Sir Quentin Blake join forces for a landmark new collection, focusing on migration and displacement. Michael's poems are divided into four: in the first series, he draws on his childhood as part of a first-generation Polish family living in London; in the second, on his perception of the War as a young boy; in the third, on his "missing" relatives and the Holocaust; and in the fourth, and final, on global experiences of migration.

Themes: Immigration, Emigration, Displacement, Refugees, Holocaust, War, Poetry



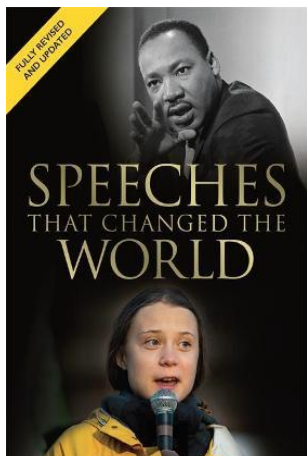
Dark Sky Park by Philip Gross

Year 7/8

Discover boiling black smokers, icy glacier worms and microscopic 'moss piglets'. Imagine living in the deep abyss or on a vertical cliff ledge. Then marvel at blue-green colours fraying into space - the Northern Lights in our dark sky park. An exciting and thought-provoking celebration of all that is extraordinary in the natural world. Includes fascinating info-tweets about the creatures and the science depicted.

Themes: Animals, Nature, Habitats, Conservation, Science, Wildlife, Poetry

Non-Fiction

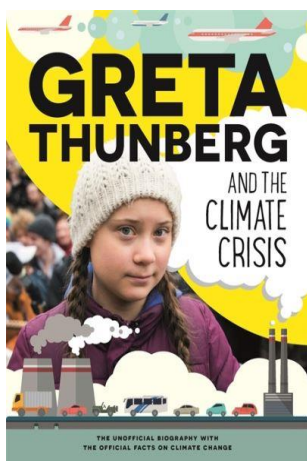


Speeches That Changed the World by Quercus

Year 7/8/9

Speeches by those that have truly shaped the modern world: from Greta Thunberg to Donald Trump, and from Nadia Murad to Oprah Winfrey. A biography of each speaker reveals how they came to stand at the crossroads of history, and each speech is accompanied by an introduction explaining its historical context and how it influenced the momentous events of the day - as well as those that followed.

Themes: Biography, Freedom of Speech, Religion, Politics, Civil Rights, Education, Historical, Monarchy

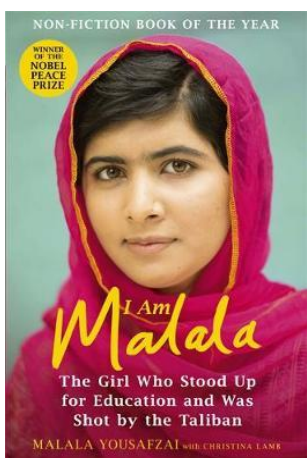


Greta Thunberg and the Climate Crisis by Amy Chapman

Year 7/8

Discover the story of Greta, from her decision to skip school in favour of her one-person strike outside Swedish parliament, to her current role as a spearhead of an international movement. Follow her carbon-free journey across the world, where she met world leaders, addressed the UN and called out trolls. As well as this, understand her perspective on difference, such as her Asperger's being a superpower.

Themes: Environment, Pollution, Climate Change, Campaigning, Politics, Biography

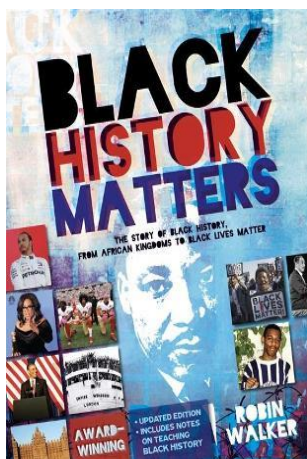


I am Malala by Malala Yousafzai

Year 8/9

When the Taliban took control of the Swat Valley, one girl spoke out. Malala Yousafzai refused to be silenced and fought for her right to an education. On Tuesday 9 October 2012, she almost paid the ultimate price. Shot in the head at point blank range while riding the bus home from school, few expected her to survive. Instead, Malala's miraculous recovery has taken her on an extraordinary journey from a remote valley in Northern Pakistan to the halls of the United Nations in New York.

Themes: Biography, Women's Rights, Taliban, Terrorism, Freedom, Survival, Protest, Campaigning, Education, Family



Black History Matters by Robin Walker

Year 7/8/9

Black history is an integral part of world history. From the injustices of the past and present, we can learn and be inspired to make the world we live in more fair, equal, and just. Black contributions to world culture today, from literature and music to sport. Along the way, biographies shine a light on inspiring black figures, from the poet and freed slave Phillis Wheatley to the peaceful reformer Dr Martin Luther King and the journalist and activist Claudia Jones, whose words and achievements live on today.

Themes: History, Slavery, Civil Rights, Apartheid, Segregation, Colonisation, Windrush, BAME, Biographies

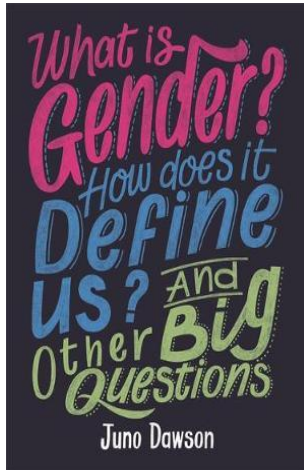


Silence is Not an Option by Stuart Lawrence

Year 7/8/9

In this book, Stuart Lawrence talks about what he has learned from life - the tools that have helped him live positively and kept him moving forwards when times have been tough. "We all want to be successful in life and to be remembered for our achievements - but how can we do that, when the world can seem so big and sometimes scary?" From role models to self-control, failure to imagination, Stuart's aim with this book is to use his own experience to help young people - to help all people - harness the good in themselves and in the world around them.

Themes: Racism, Positivity, Imagination, Aspirations, Tolerance, Diversity, BAME



What is Gender? How Does it Define Us? And Other Big Questions by Juno Dawson

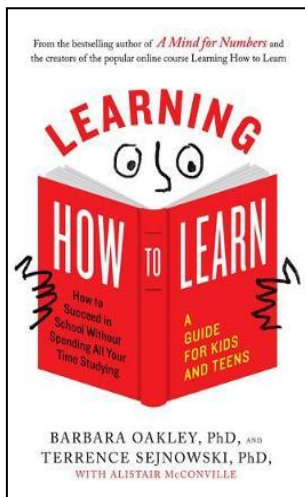
Year 7/8/9

What's the difference between sex and gender?

What does it mean to be defined by your gender?

This informative book helps kids to explore these questions and more, explaining that there are differences of opinion and that answers are not always straightforward. A range of views are on hand from people who have thoughtfully considered the concept of gender in their own lives.

Themes: LGBTQ+, Gender, Sexuality, Transgender, Stereotypes, Feminism



Learning How to Learn by Barbara Oakley

Year 7/8/9

We all have the tools to learn what might not seem to come naturally to us at first. The secret is to understand how the brain works so we can unlock its power. This book explains:

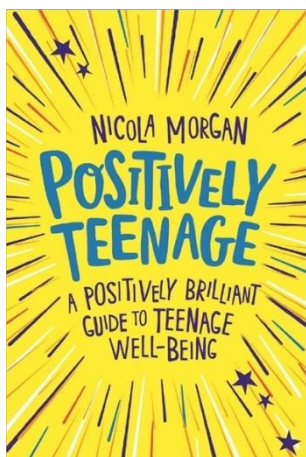
Why sometimes letting your mind wander is an important part of the learning process

Why having a poor memory can be a good thing

The value of metaphors in developing understanding

Filled with illustrations and exercises, this book makes learning easy and fun.

Themes: Learning Techniques, Study Skills, Revision, Problem Solving



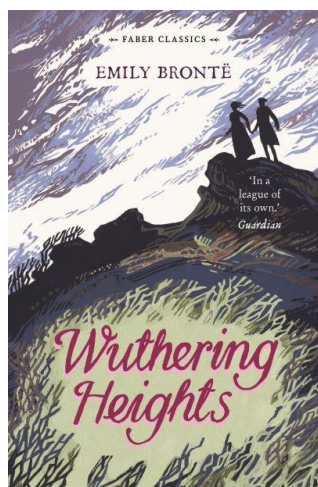
Positively Teenage by Nicola Morgan

Year 7/8/9

Positively Teenage gives you tools to approach your teenage years with optimism and understanding and to develop real wellbeing for life. Full of practical, proven strategies for physical and mental health, Positively Teenage will show you lots of ways to flourish physically and mentally - from doing things you enjoy to learning new skills; looking after your diet, exercise, and attitude to being healthy online; getting great sleep to understanding your personality - allowing you to take control of many areas of your life.

Themes: Confidence, Body Image, Well Being, Emotions, Hormones, Mindfulness

KS3 recommended literature – English



Wuthering Heights by Emily Brontë

Year 7/8/9

The classic romantic tragedy of two doomed lovers.

One of the masterpieces of classic literature, Wuthering Heights is both the story of a wild, obsessive love and a terrible revenge. Rich and beautiful Cathy says she loves poor and orphaned Heathcliff, but it does not stop her from marrying someone else. Then the spurned Heathcliff returns to Yorkshire, having claimed an education and a fortune, and Cathy's betrayal leaves him vengeful. Soon, Heathcliff's passion becomes frightening, threatening to destroy everything.

Themes: Love, Religion, Feminism, Gender Roles, Supernatural

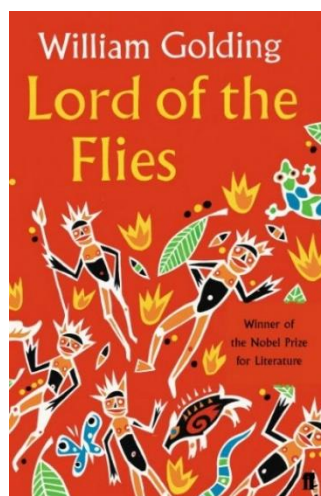


The Hound of the Baskervilles

Year 7/8/9

Sherlock and Watson investigate the connection between a murder and the sighting of a large dog. The terrible spectacle of the beast, the fog of the moor, the discovery of a body: this classic horror story pits detective against dog, rationalism against the supernatural, good against evil. When Sir Charles Baskerville is found dead on the wild Devon moorland with the footprints of a giant hound nearby, the blame is placed on a family curse. It is left to Sherlock Holmes and Doctor Watson to solve the mystery of the legend of the phantom hound before Sir Charles' heir comes to an equally gruesome end.

Themes: Crime, Supernatural, Rationalism, Justice, Science, Reasoning



Lord of the Flies by William Golding

Year 7/8/9

Golding's best-known novel is the story of a group of boys who, after a plane crash, set up a fragile community on a previously uninhabited island. As memories of home recede and the blood from frenzied pig-hunts arouses them, the boys' childish fear turns into something deeper and more primitive.

Themes: Identity, Civilisation, Savagery, Humanity, Spirituality, Evil, Nature v Nurture, Rules, Order