

The KLA Canon



*Our top 100 recommendations of
stories to read before you leave!*

The Bad Beginning

Author: **Lemony Snicket**

Genre: **Mystery & Adventure**

Recommended: **KS3**

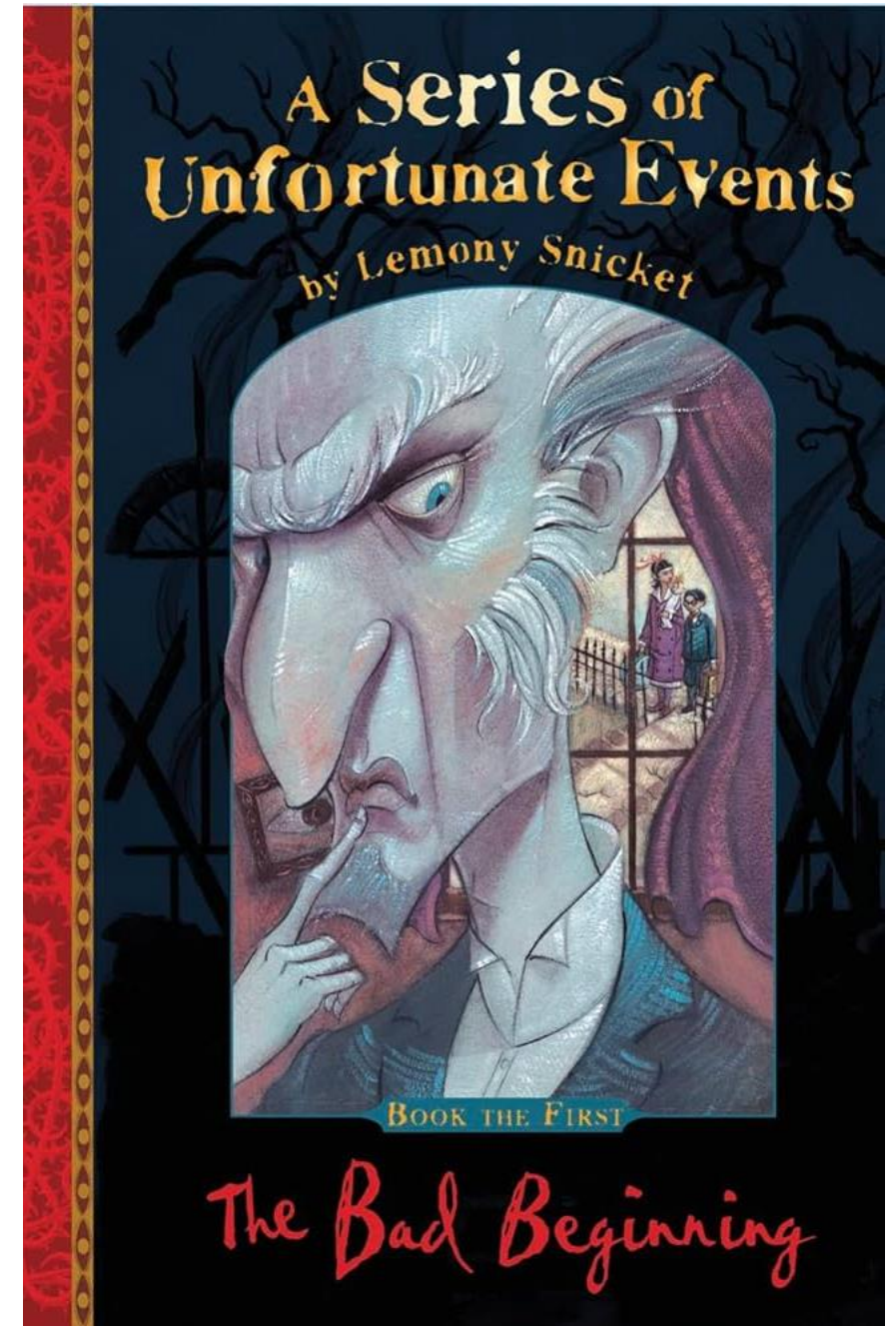
Age Range: **10-12**

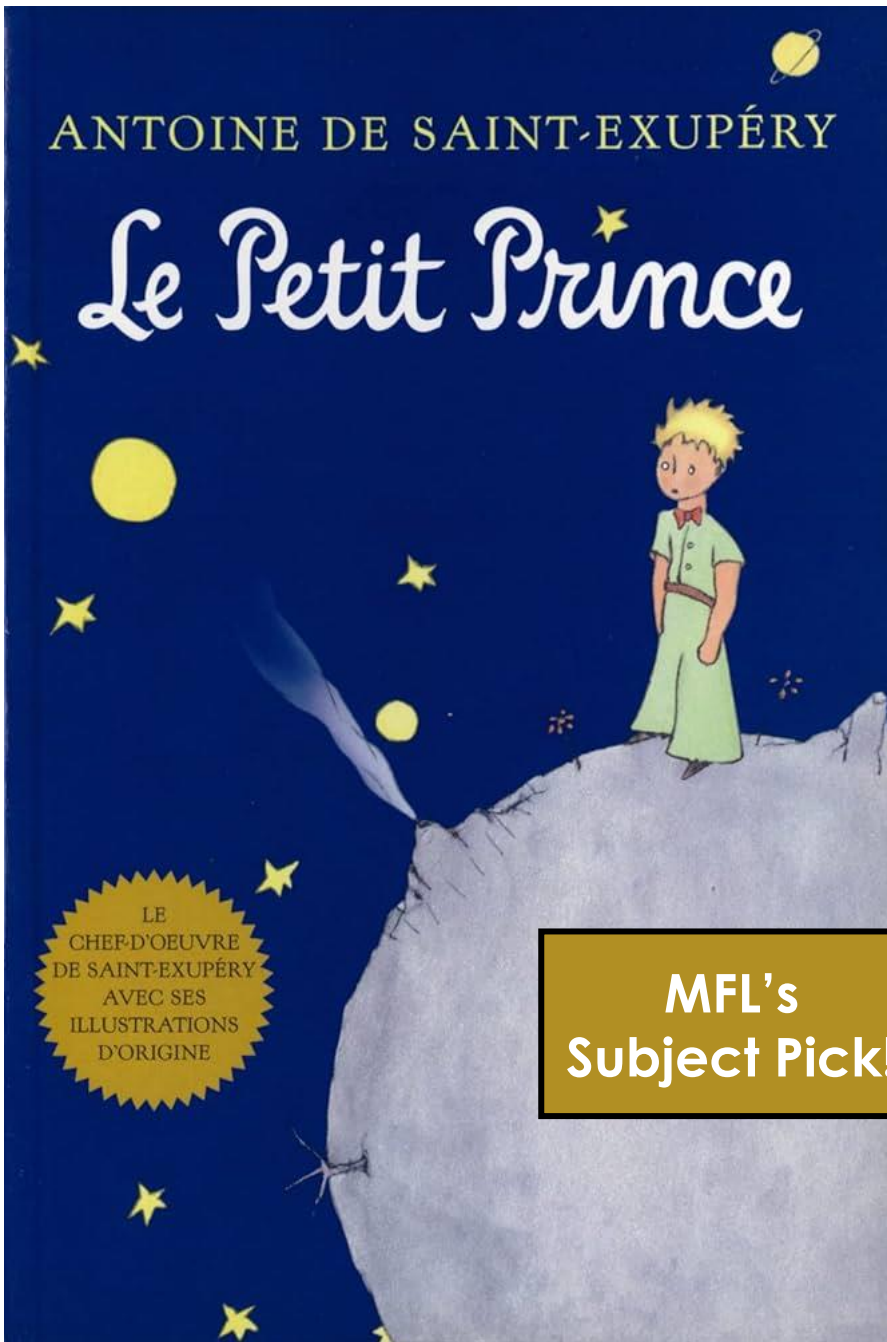
Summary:

“If you’re interested in reading stories with happy outcomes, you’re better off reading another book.” This is *not* one of those stories. Instead, it is a tale of three talented children, Violet, Claus and Sunny, whose parents die unexpectedly in a suspicious fire. They are taken in by a distant relative, Count Olaf, whose run-down mansion and failing acting career would certainly benefit from their family’s fortune...

Soon, the siblings realise they must stick together and hatch a plan to break free from Olaf. Follow their thrilling teenage journey, as they try to solve the mystery of their parents’ sudden deaths and try to escape the Count’s evil plans.

Contains: death





Le Petit Prince

Author: **William Goldman**

Genre: **Growing Up & Fantasy**

Recommended: **KS3**

Age Range: **10-12**

Summary:

An air pilot makes a forced landing deep in the Sahara Desert. There, he meets a mysterious Little Prince, who has come to Earth in search of answers and friendship. He has left the safety of a world that he is familiar with and now finds himself in one he does not fully understand. The boy shares with his new companion his observations, which are spun into a series of wise, amusing and enchanting stories.

This simple, beautifully-written fable has captured the imaginations of both children and adults ever since it was first published in the 1940s! Now considered a classic, it is a book to share and treasure.

Contains: the world through the eyes of a child!

Black Beauty

Author: **Anna Sewell**

Genre: **Growing Up & Animals**

Recommended: **KS3**

Age Range: **10-12**

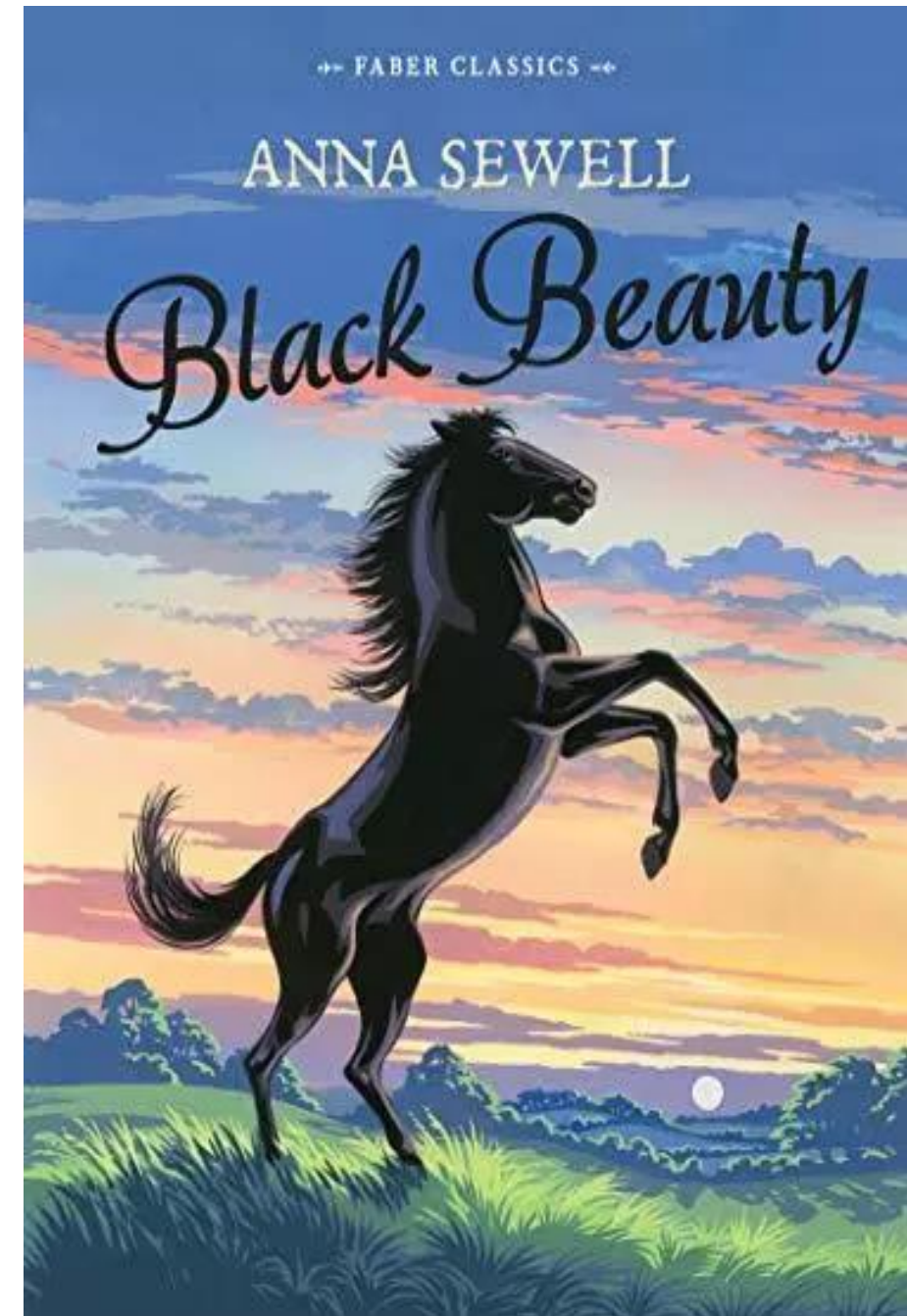
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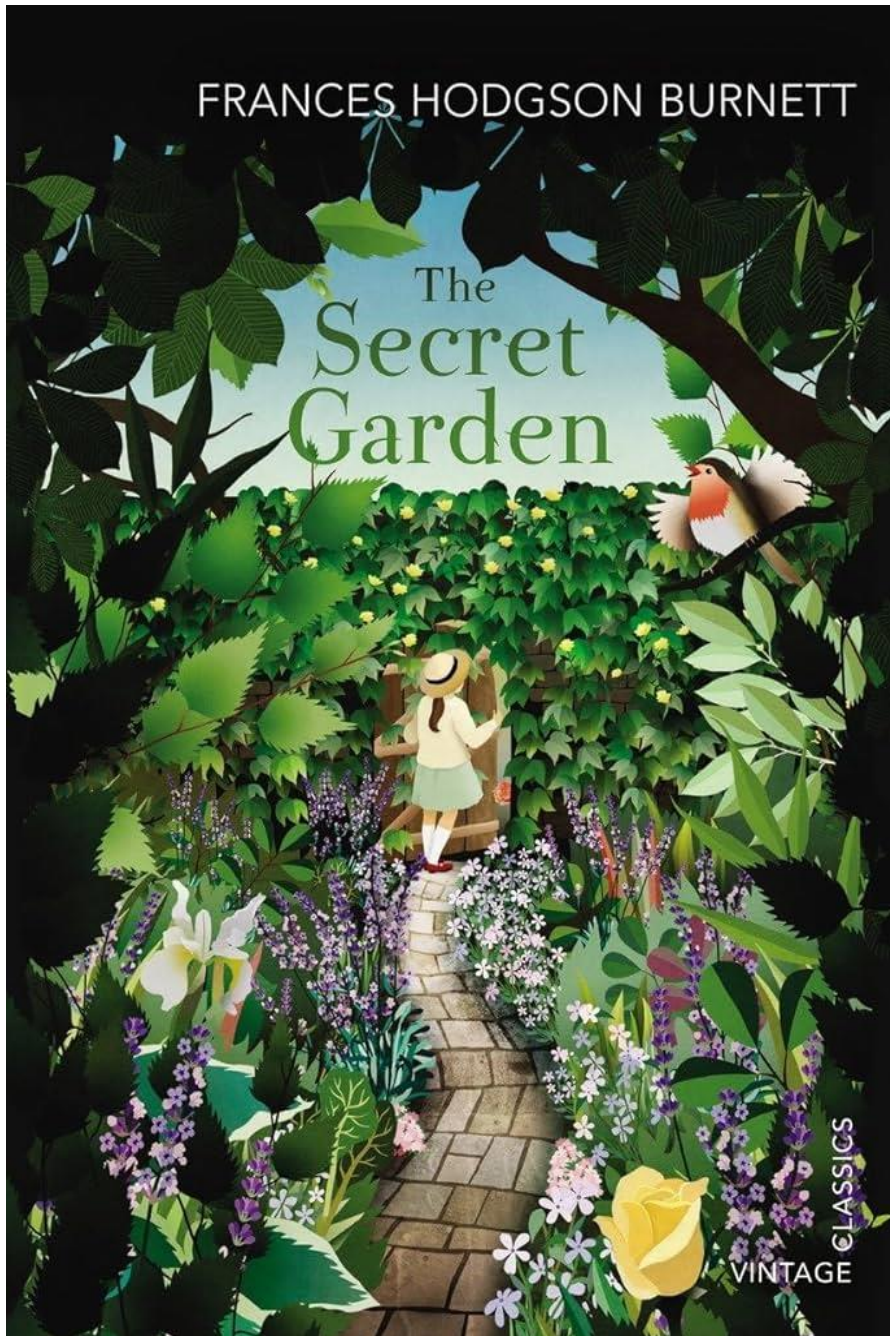
The story is narrated in the first person as an autobiographical memoir told by a horse named Black Beauty.

As a young horse, Black Beauty is well-loved and happy. But when his owner is forced to sell him, his life changes drastically. He has many new owners — some of them cruel and some of them kind. All he needs is someone to love him again.

Whether pulling an elegant carriage or a ramshackle cab, Black Beauty tries to live as best he can. This is his amazing story, told as only he could tell it.

Contains: animal cruelty, family relationships, slavery





The Secret Garden

Author: **Frances Hodgson Burnett**

Genre: **Growing Up & Fantasy**

Recommended: **KS3**

Age Range: **10-12**

Summary:

The novel centres on Mary Lennox, who is living in India with her wealthy British family. She is a selfish and disagreeable 10-year-old girl, who has been spoiled by her servants and neglected by her unloving parents.

When a cholera epidemic kills her parents and the servants, Mary is orphaned and so is sent to live with her uncle. She must discover the secrets of his estate and bring a garden back to life, in order to gain her own happiness and save the life of her cousin.

Contains: Yorkshire dialect, death, class, family relationships.

War Horse

Author: **Michael Morpurgo**

Genre: **Adventure, History, War**

Recommended: **KS3**

Age Range: **10-12**

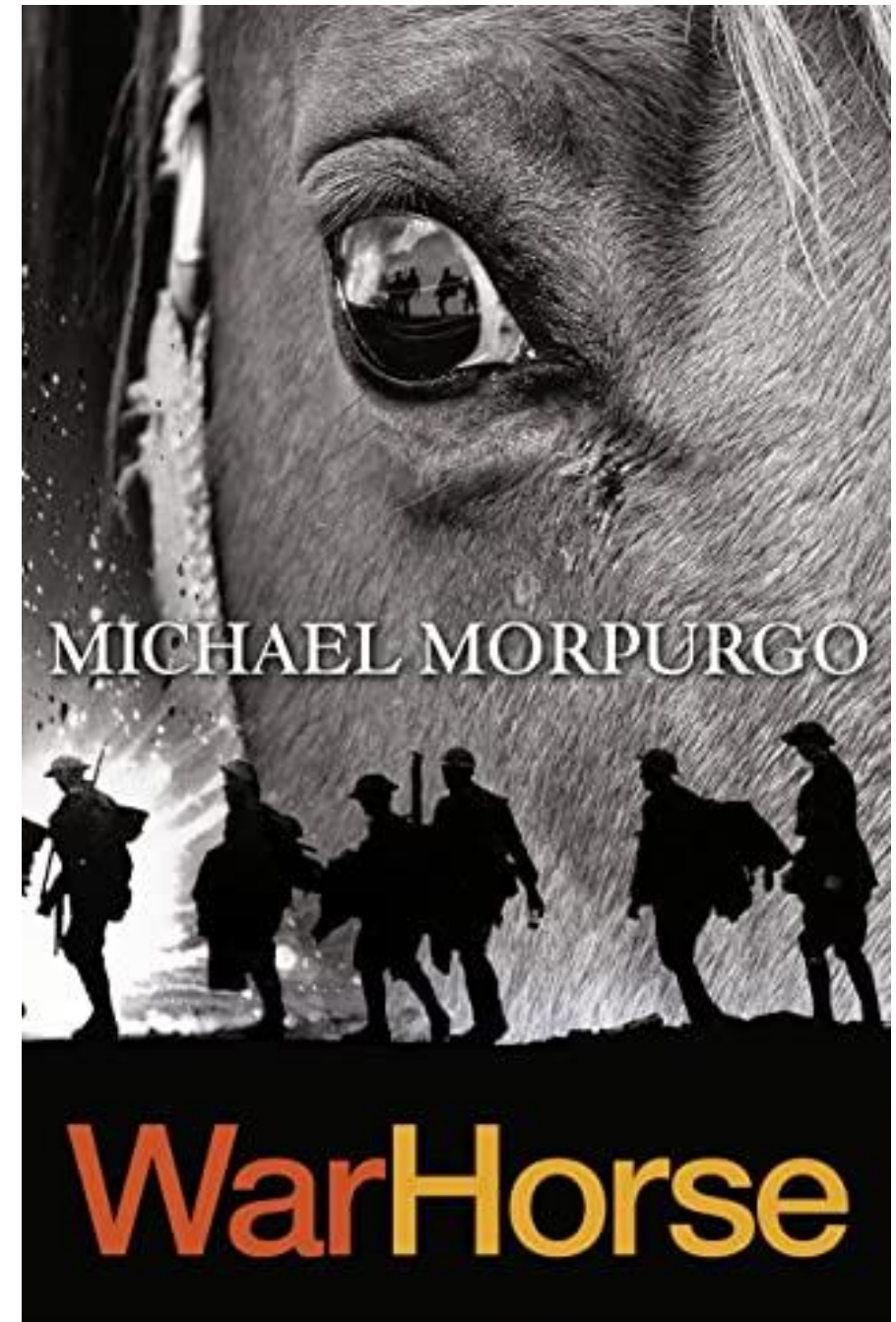
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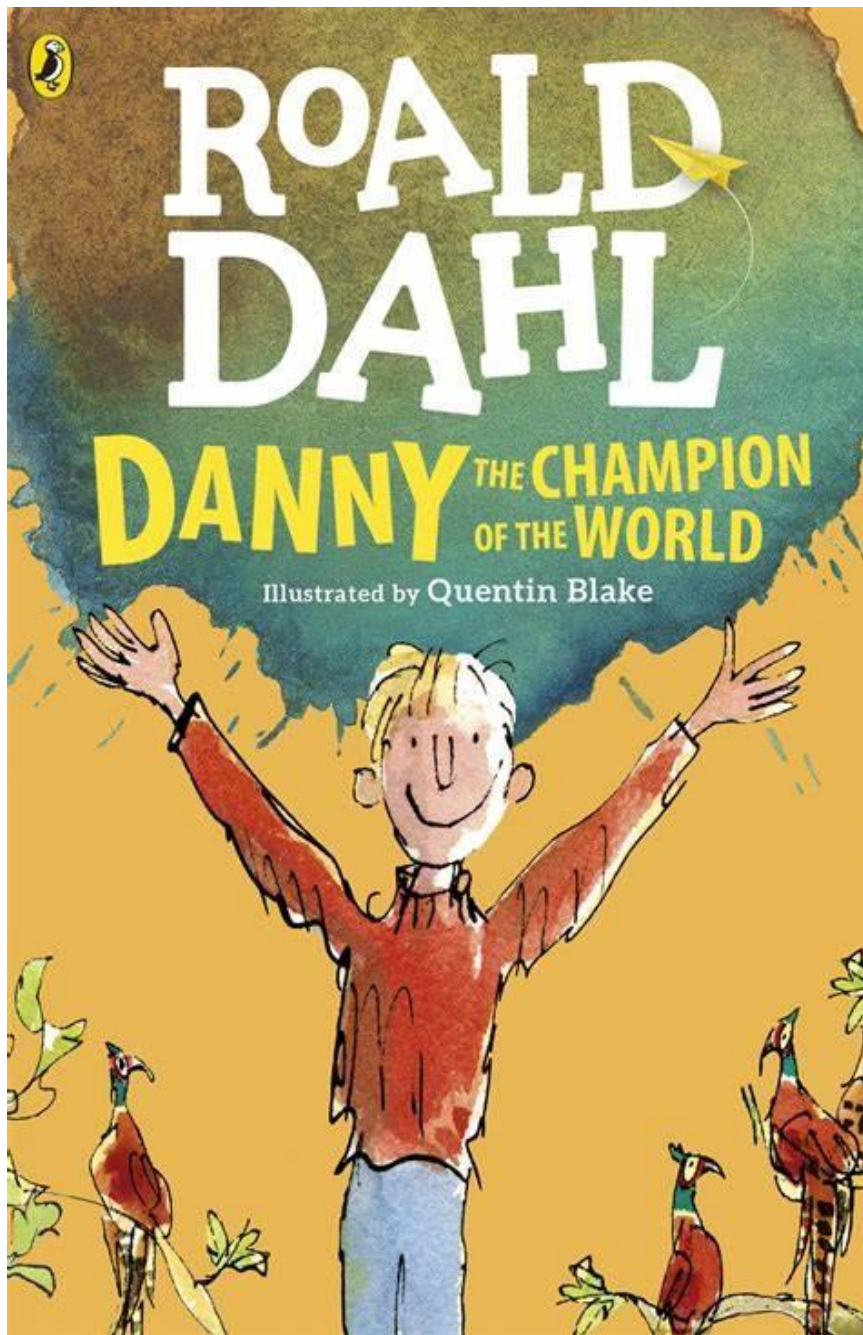
The story recounts the experiences of Joey, a horse bought by the Army for service in World War I in France, and the attempts of 15-year-old Albert – his previous owner – to bring him safely home.

From his capture by the Germans and his entrapment in No Man's Land, Joey's tremendous courage touches soldiers of both armies; in turn he experiences warmth and kindness amid the carnage of war and homesickness for his old life on the farm.

Will Joey ever go back home to the farm and his companion Albert?

Contains: animal cruelty, war, death, the First World War.





Danny, the Champion of the World

Author: **Roald Dahl**

Genre: **Adventure**

Recommended: **KS3**

Age Range: **10-12**

Summary:

Danny's life seems perfect: his home is a caravan, he's the youngest car mechanic around, and his best friend is his dad, who never runs out of wonderful stories to tell. And when Danny discovers his father's secret, he's off on the adventure of a lifetime.

Here's Roald Dahl's famous story about a 9-year-old boy, his dad, and a daring and hilarious pheasant-snatching expedition. Just as important, it's the story of the love between a boy and his father who, in Danny's own words, is "the most marvellous and exciting father a boy ever had."

Contains: family relationships, a shocking secret!

The Boy Who Biked the World

Author: **Alistair Humphreys**

Genre: **Adventure**

Recommended: **KS3**

Age Range: **10-12**

Summary:

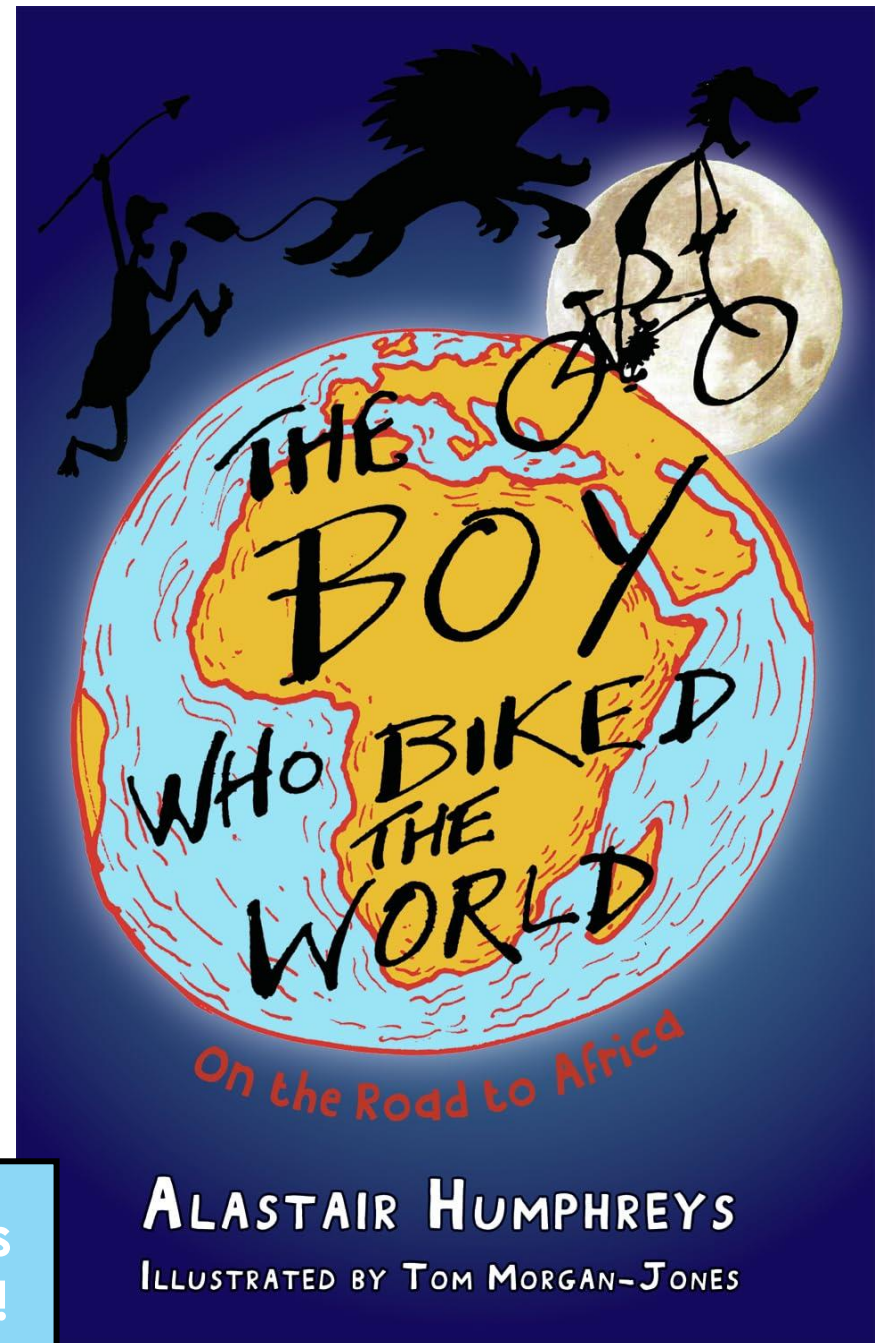
Tom is an adventurous and daring young boy, who believes there must be more to the life than school. He decides that the biggest thrill beyond his daily routine will be seeing the world... and what better way to explore than on his bike?

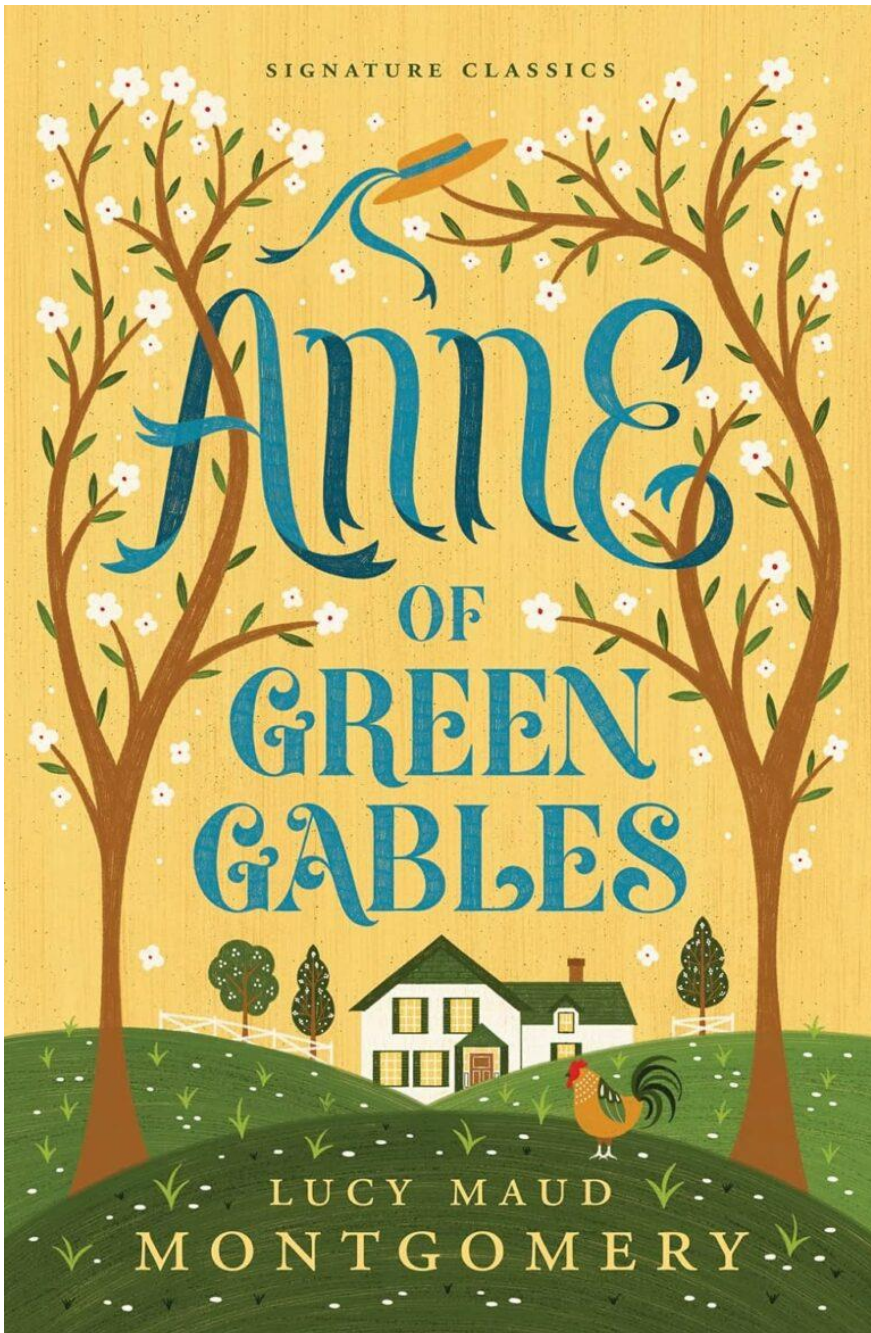
In this first part of Tom's journey, he cycles through Europe and all the way to the tip of South Africa. Along the way, he witnesses and describes the most fascinating sights, as well as the equally fascinating people that embrace and support him.

The book is complete with illustrations, postcards and journal entries, making it an immersive experience for an inquisitive and adventurous reader to share.

Contains: a long and thrilling journey!

**Geography's
Subject Pick!**





Anne of Green Gables

Author: **Lucy Maud Montgomery**

Genre: **Growing Up & Historical**

Recommended: **KS3**

Age Range: **10-12**

Summary:

Set in the late 19th century, the novel recounts the adventures of an 11-year-old orphan girl, Anne Shirley. She is sent by mistake to two middle-aged siblings, Matthew and Marilla Cuthbert, who had originally intended to adopt a boy to help them on their farm, in the fictional town Avonlea of Prince Edward Island, Canada.

Anne is a talkative and happy girl but lacks social graces and education. She has a rich and sophisticated fantasy life and an optimistic and generous spirit.

Although a rocky start, a strong bond is created with both Matthew and Marilla, and Anne becomes a central part of the family.

Contains: historical coming-of age.

The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe

Author: **C. S. Lewis**

Genre: **Adventure & Fantasy**

Recommended: **KS3**

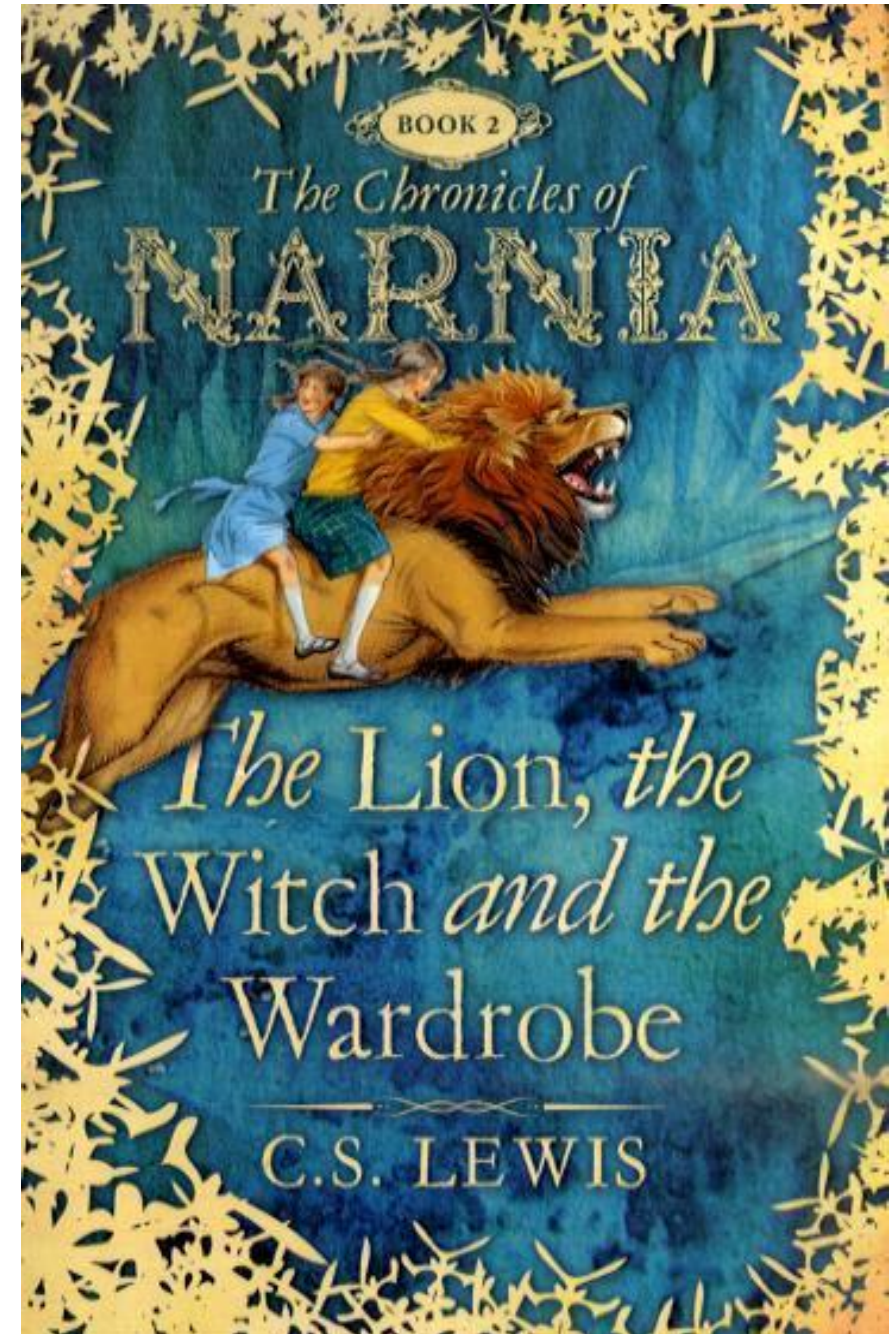
Age Range: **10-12**

Summary:

When the Pevensie children - Peter, Susan, Edmund and Lucy - step through a wardrobe door in the strange country house where they are staying, they find themselves in the land of Narnia. Frozen in eternal winter, Narnia is a land of snow and pine forests, and its creatures are enslaved by the terrible White Witch.

Tempted by the promise of endless Turkish Delight, Edmund becomes the White Witch's servant - and it's up to his brother and sisters to release him from his enchantment and to rid Narnia of the witch. But just when it seems that all hope is lost, the Great Lion Aslan returns to help the children to save Narnia.

Contains: violence, death.



The International Bestseller

The Number Devil



**Maths'
Subject
Pick!**

A Mathematical Adventure

Hans Magnus Enzensberger

With Illustrations by Rotraut Susanne Berner

The Number Devil

Author: **Hans Magnus Enzensberger**

Genre: Curriculum **Maths**

Recommended: **KS3**

Age Range: **10-12**

Summary:

Twelve-year-old Robert hates his Maths teacher: he sets his class boring problems and won't let them use their calculators. Then Robert, in his dreams, meets the Number Devil, who brings Maths magically to life. The 'Number Devil' is funny and tells Robert stories to show a world in which numbers can amaze and fascinate. Reading and interacting with the stories enables Robert to see how interesting and essential 'Maths' is to everyday life.

This book explains mathematical concepts in a clear and highly original way. No-one should be bored by or scared by numbers just because they have not got a calculator!

Contains: numbers!

Inkheart

Author: **Cornelia Funke**

Genre: **Fantasy & Myth**

Recommended: **KS3**

Age Range: **10-12**

Summary:

"Why do grown-ups think it's easier for children to bear secrets than the truth? Don't they know about the horror stories we imagine to explain the secrets?"

Meggie loves stories, but her father, Mo, hasn't read to her since her mother disappeared.

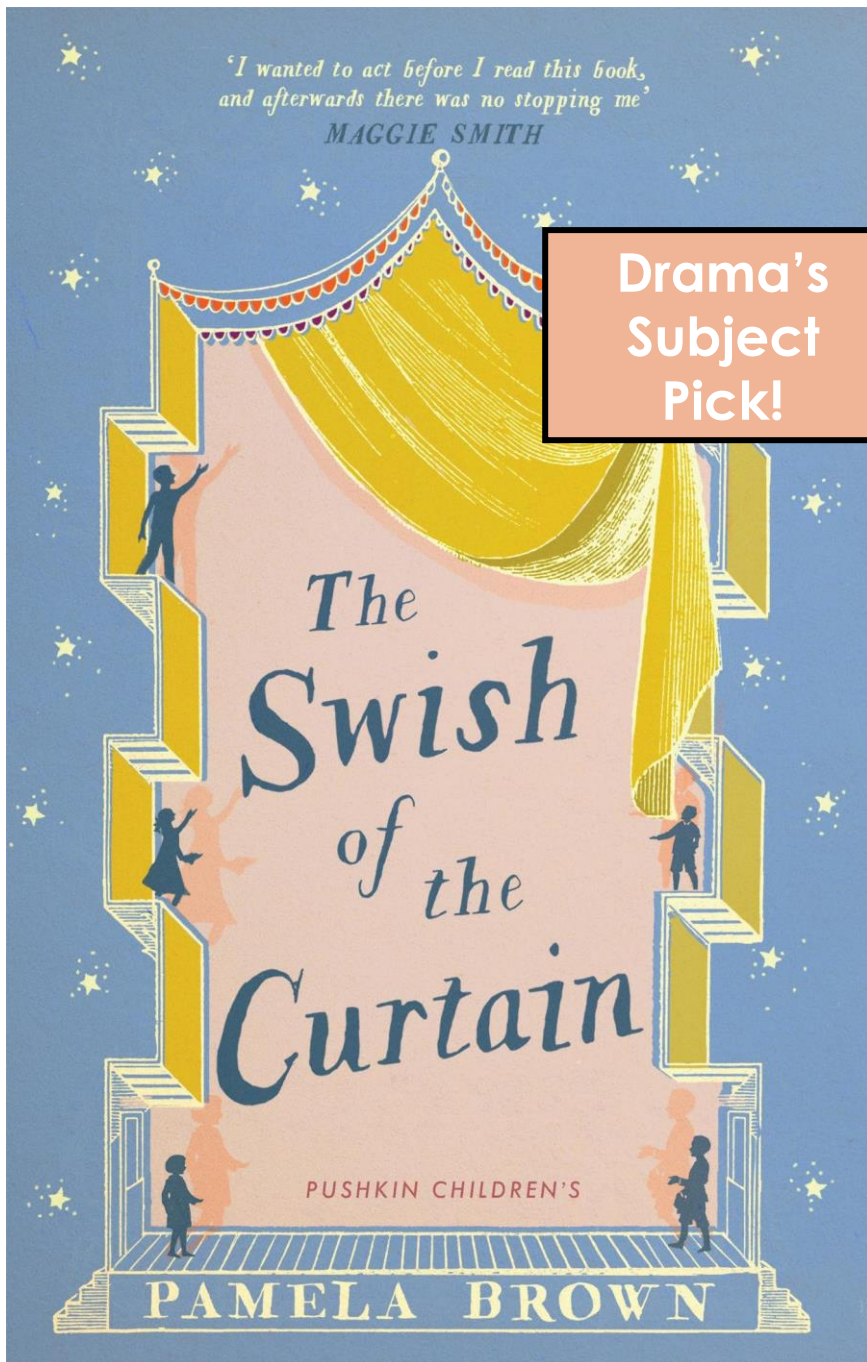
When a stranger knocks at their door, Mo is forced to reveal an extraordinary secret – when he reads aloud, words come alive, and dangerous characters step out of the pages.

Suddenly Meggie is living the kind of adventure she has only ever read about in books, but this one will change her life forever.

A thrilling and magical adventure about stories and the imagination they inspire.

Contains: loss, death, grief





Drama's
Subject
Pick!

The Swish of the Curtain

Author: Pamela Brown	Genre: Growing Up & Theatre
Recommended: KS3	Age Range: 10-12

Summary:

This is a story about a group of young people putting on a play. It has been the inspiration for many to become actors, including Maggie Smith of *Harry Potter* and *Downton Abbey* fame.

What starts as a game during the Easter holidays, transforms the four girls – Lyn, Sandra, Vicky and Maddy – and three boys – Bulldog, Nigel and Jeremy – into the Blue Door Theatre Company, producing everything from scripts and sets to music and costumes. They are also learning that the show must go on, even in the face of their arch-enemy, Mrs Potter-Smith, a local critic and leader of the Ladies' Institute.

The book was first published in 1941 when the author, Pamela Brown, was only sixteen years old.

Contains: drama!

How To Be More Hedgehog

Author: **Anne-Marie Conway**

Genre: **Growing Up**

Recommended: **KS3**

Age Range: **10-12**

Summary:

This is a story about how Lily copes with life and her stammer. Lily knows what letter sounds are difficult for her, so she tries to prepare. When a video of her practising her class presentation is uploaded onto YouTube - head thrust forward, eyelids fluttering, lips stretched wide - Lily's nightmare begins.

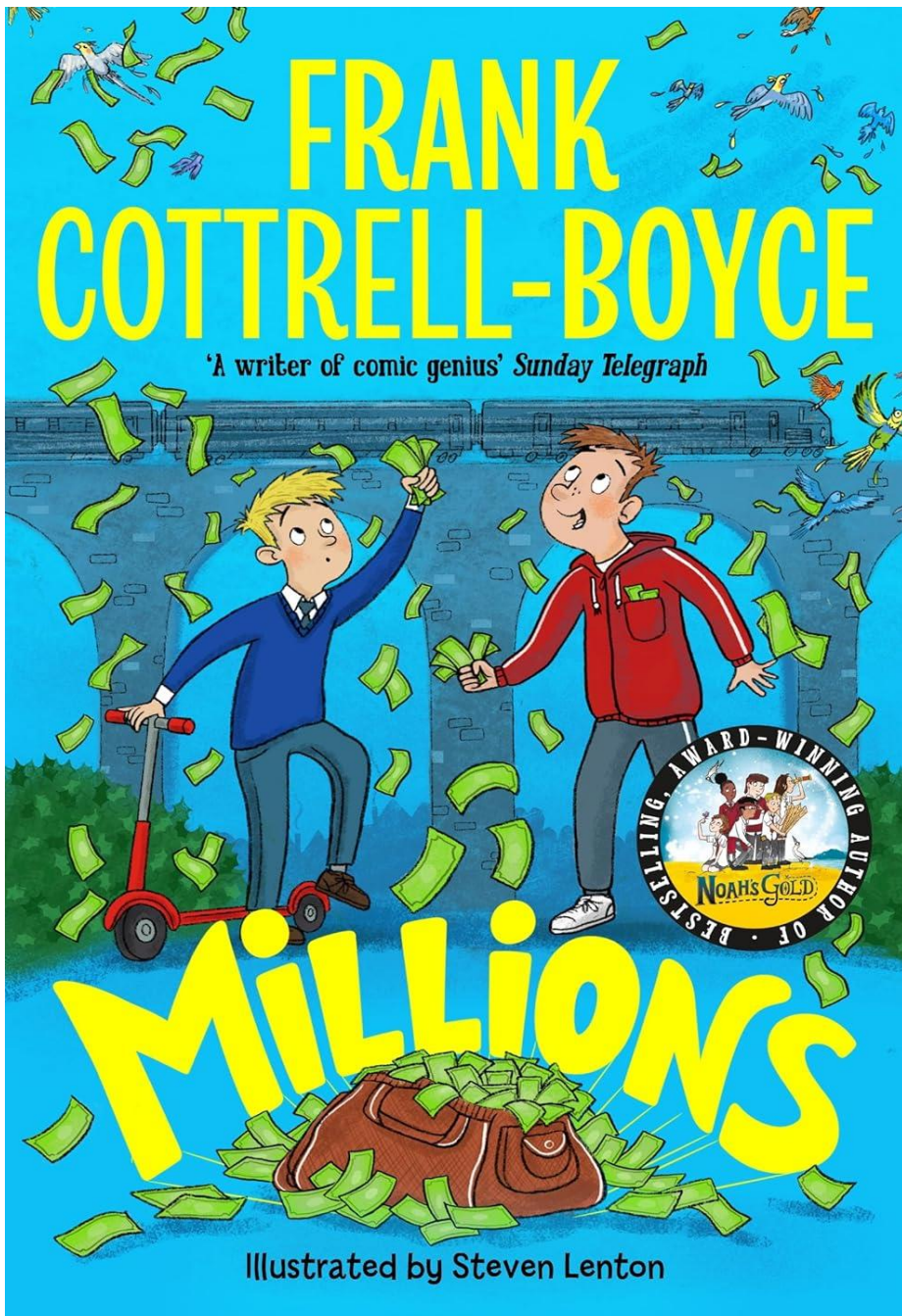
Cyberbullying, kids at school whispering, even best friend Mia laughing behind her back. Lily wants to run away to her Dad in Scotland, but then she realises her stammer will still be with her. She cannot run away from who she is.

This tale is about friendship, family and finding the courage to be yourself.

Contains: bullying, cyberbullying, disability, ableism

**ICT's Subject
Pick!**





Millions

Author: **Frank Cottrell-Boyce**

Genre: **Adventure**

Recommended: **KS3**

Age Range: **10-12**

Summary:

This gorgeously heartwarming story follows two brothers, Damian and Anthony, who find a bag of money and have to decide between them what to do with it; do they hand it back, spend it or use it for good deeds?

The plot is thrilling and humorous in equal measure and the characters are very entertaining, especially Damian who is unnaturally enamoured with the stories of saints. This book explores themes of morality, family and the nature of doing good deeds. It will certainly make you question your own values and actions.

Contains: grief

A Little Princess

Author: **Frances Hodgson Burnett**

Genre: **Growing Up**

Recommended: **KS3**

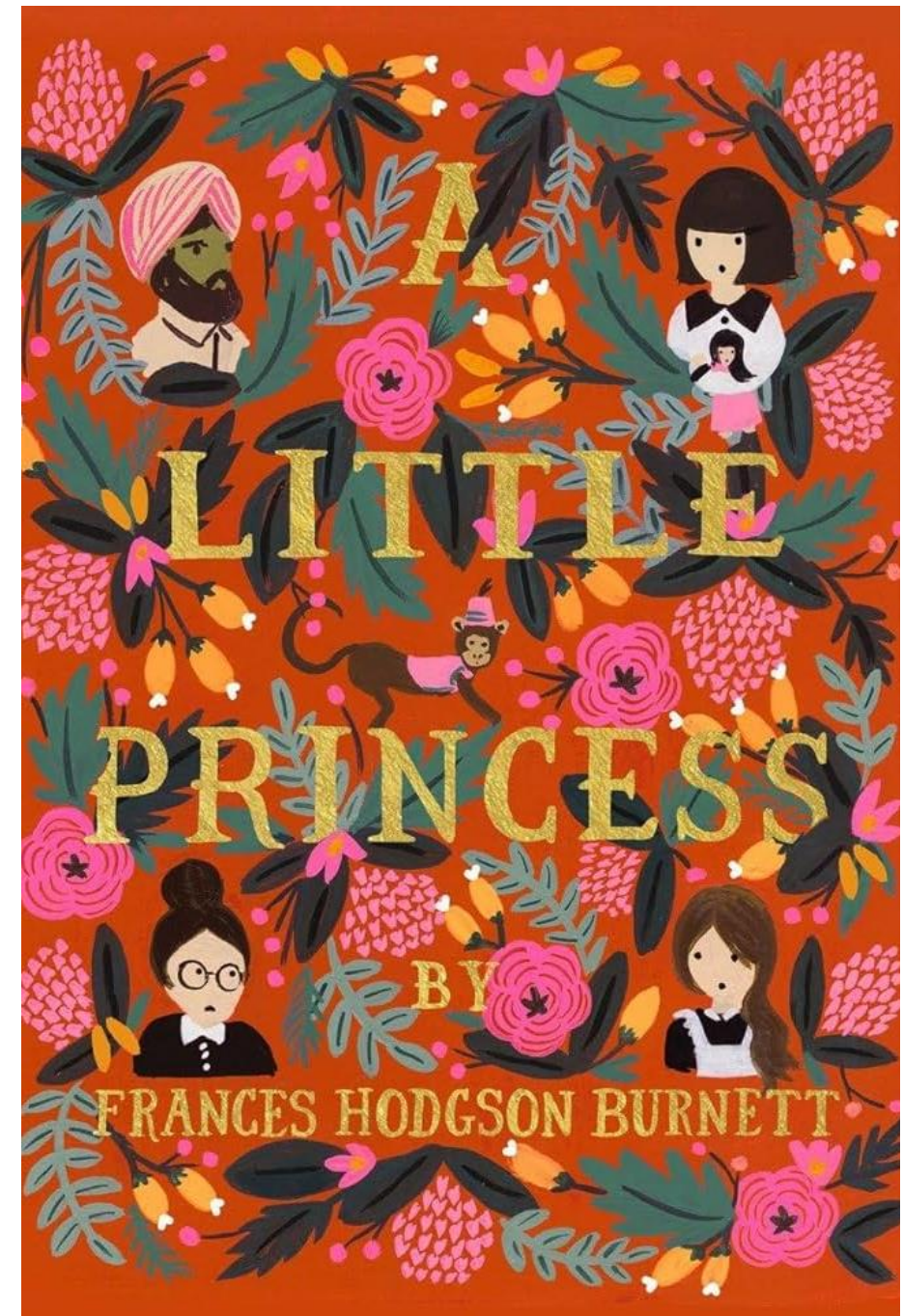
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Summary:

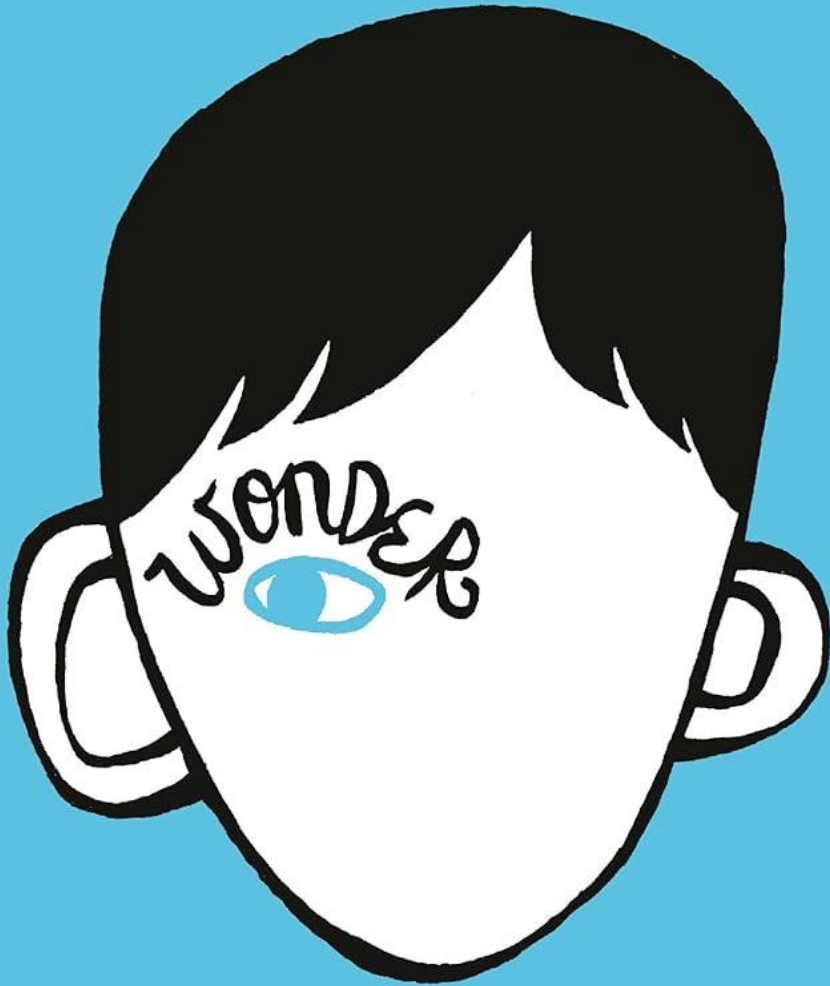
Sara Crewe is a wealthy young girl, sent to live with the Head Mistress Miss Minchin in the Boarding house, due to her father – a Captain – sending her there. Sara lives in luxury, because her father is very wealthy, and he calls her his 'little princess'. Miss Minchin is very jealous and does not like Sara. Unfortunately, Sara is informed that her father will not be returning.

Sara is forced to live in the attic and become a servant in the boarding house. Throughout the story, you will read how Sara, the 'little princess', overcomes hardship and tragedy, and is triumphant in her strength and kindness.

Contains: bullying, child cruelty, war, violence



"A beautiful, funny and sometimes sob-making story of quiet transformation."
—*The Wall Street Journal*



R.J. PALACIO

#1 NEW YORK TIMES Bestseller

Wonder

Author: **R. J. Palacio**

Genre: **Growing Up**

Recommended: **KS3**

Age Range: **10-12**

Summary:

Auggie wants to be an ordinary ten-year-old. He does ordinary things - eating ice cream, playing on his Xbox. He *feels* ordinary - inside. But ordinary kids don't make other ordinary kids run away screaming in playgrounds. Ordinary kids aren't stared at wherever they go.

Born with a terrible facial abnormality, Auggie has been home-schooled by his parents his whole life. Now, for the first time, he's being sent to a real school - and he's dreading it. All he wants is to be accepted, but can he convince his new classmates that he's just like them, underneath it all?

Contains: facial disfigurement; bullying

Alice's Adventures in Wonderland

Author: **Lewis Carroll**

Genre: **Fantasy & Adventure**

Recommended: **KS3**

Age Range: **10-12**

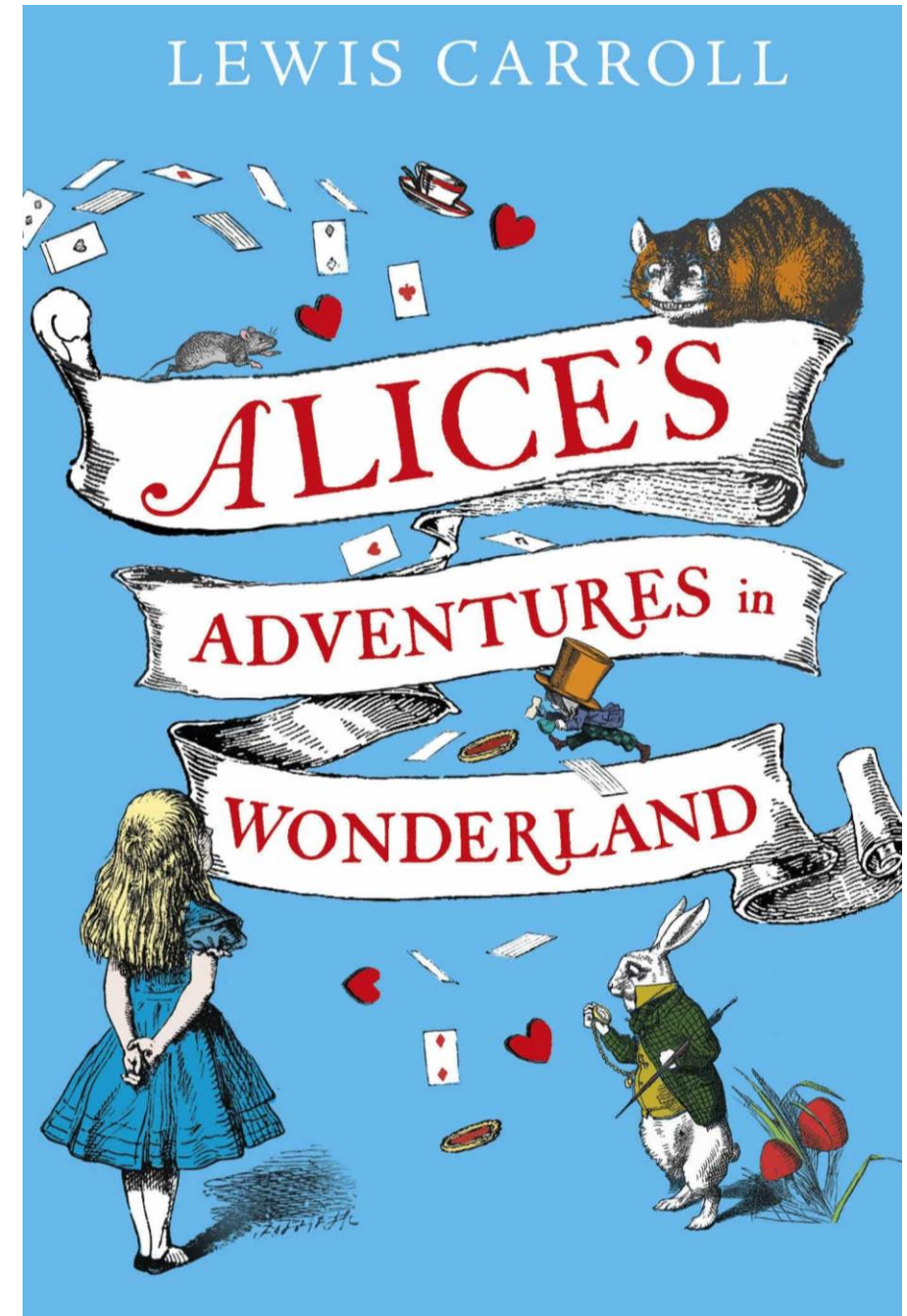
Summary:

This enchanting tale follows the young and curious Alice, who falls down a rabbit hole into a world of fantasy, where the impossible becomes the everyday.

Here, she encounters a series of peculiar characters, from the frantic White Rabbit and the mysterious Cheshire Cat, to the Mad Hatter and the tyrannical Queen of Hearts.

This is not just a children's book; it's a journey into the heart of the absurd. Its bizarre story, riddled with riddles, puns, and impossibilities, will spark the reader's imagination and transport them into a magical land.

Contains: the unexpected!





**DT's Subject
Pick!**

Tesla's Attic

Authors: **Neal Shusterman & Eric Elfman**

Genre: **Fantasy & Sci-Fi**

Recommended: **KS3**

Age Range: **10-12**

Summary:

Fourteen-year-old Nick, his younger brother and their father move into a Victorian house they've inherited. When Nick opens the door to his attic room, he is hit on the head by a toaster! This is just the beginning of his weird experiences with the old stuff stored in the attic.

Nick makes friends with three local teenagers, Mitch, Caitlin and Vincent. Together they discover that all the objects, not just the toaster, have extraordinary properties. For example, the friends find a tape recorder that records people's thoughts and feelings and not what they say! What's more, Nick figures out that the attic is a strange magnetic vortex, which attracts all sorts of trouble. It's as if the attic itself has an intelligence... and a purpose.

Contains: danger

Northern Lights

from His Dark Materials Trilogy

Author: **Philip Pulman**

Genre: **Dystopia & Fantasy**

Recommended: **KS3**

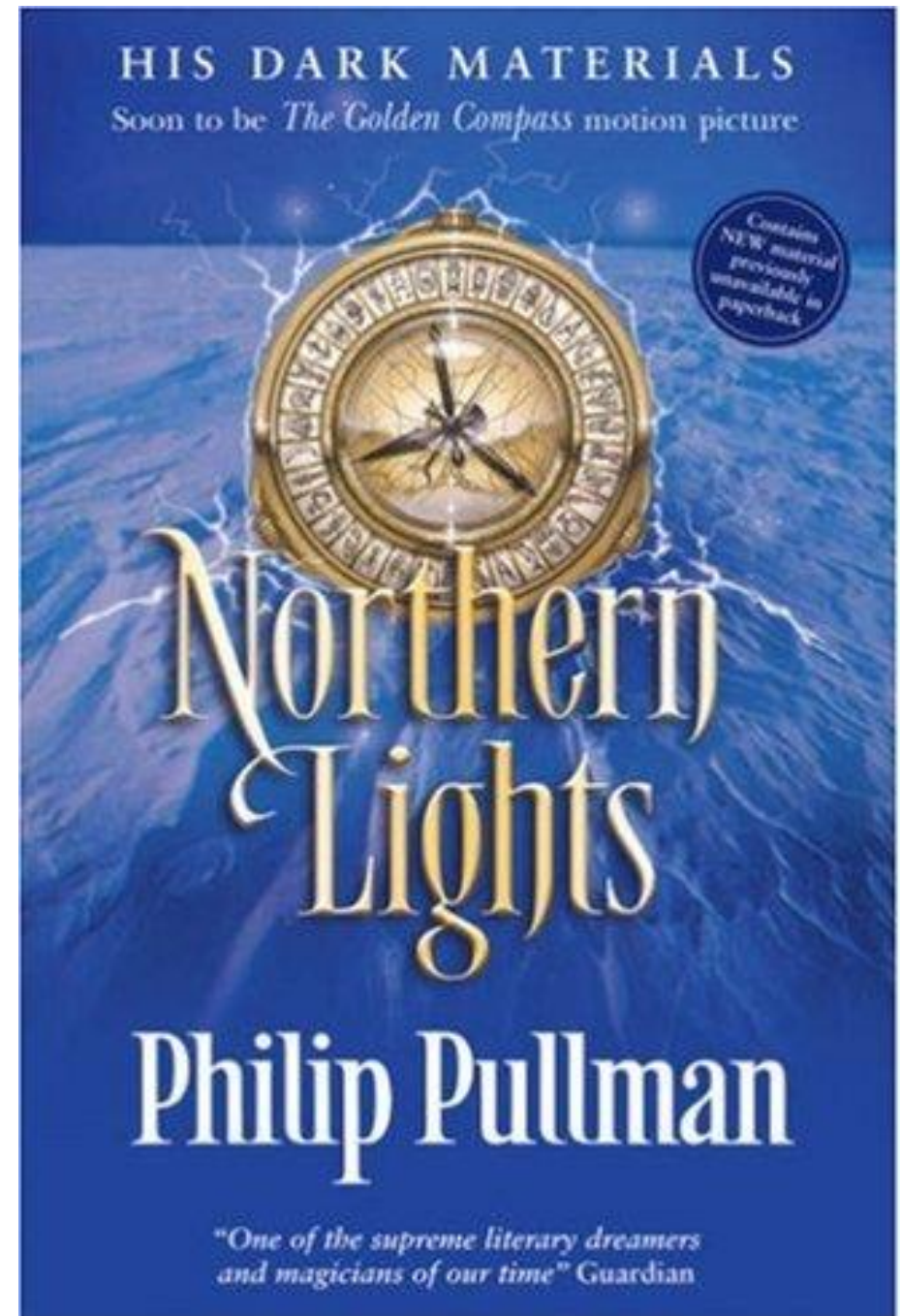
Age Range: **10-12**

Summary: "Without this child, we shall die."

Lyra Belacqua and her animal daemon live a half-wild and carefree among scholars of Jordan College, Oxford. The destiny that awaits her will take her to the frozen lands of the Arctic, where witch-clans reign and ice-bears fight. Her extraordinary journey will have immeasurable consequences far beyond her own world.

A wonderful adventure by a master storyteller. Escape into Lyra's unique world. The messiness of real life underpins a tale that expands at a graceful pace, broadening from a young girl's secrets to a fully-realised and fascinating world.

Contains: violence, death, religion.





Alone

Author: **Megan E. Freeman**

Genre: **Dystopia & Growing Up**

Recommended: **KS3**

Age Range: **11-13**

Summary:

When Maddie wakes up, no one is waking around her. The town is empty – evacuated, the electricity is not working, and she is utterly alone. Except, of course, for George the dog, who makes a loyal companion.

Maddie has no adult or adviser to help her navigate this crisis. She must overcome her fears, rely on her instincts and find a way to survive. She must do it all, alone.

This excellent novel is one of the most popular new reads amongst teenagers. It is a story written in verse – a fast-paced and creative style of writing – where Maddie shares her tale personally with us, as if she is not *completely* alone.

Contains: Harm to animals

Holes

Author: **Louis Sachar**

Genre: **Action & Adventure**

Recommended: **KS3**

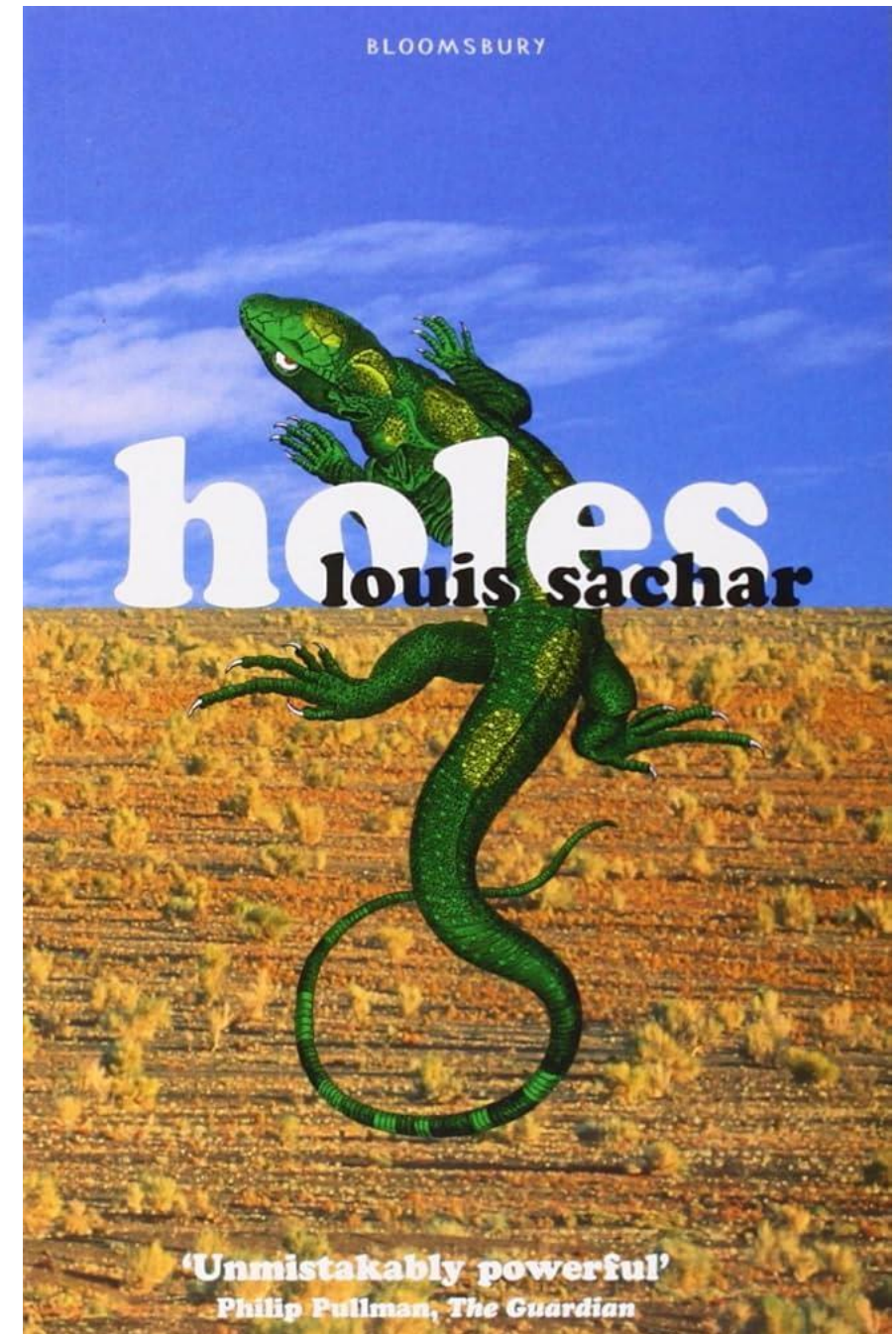
Age Range: **11-13**

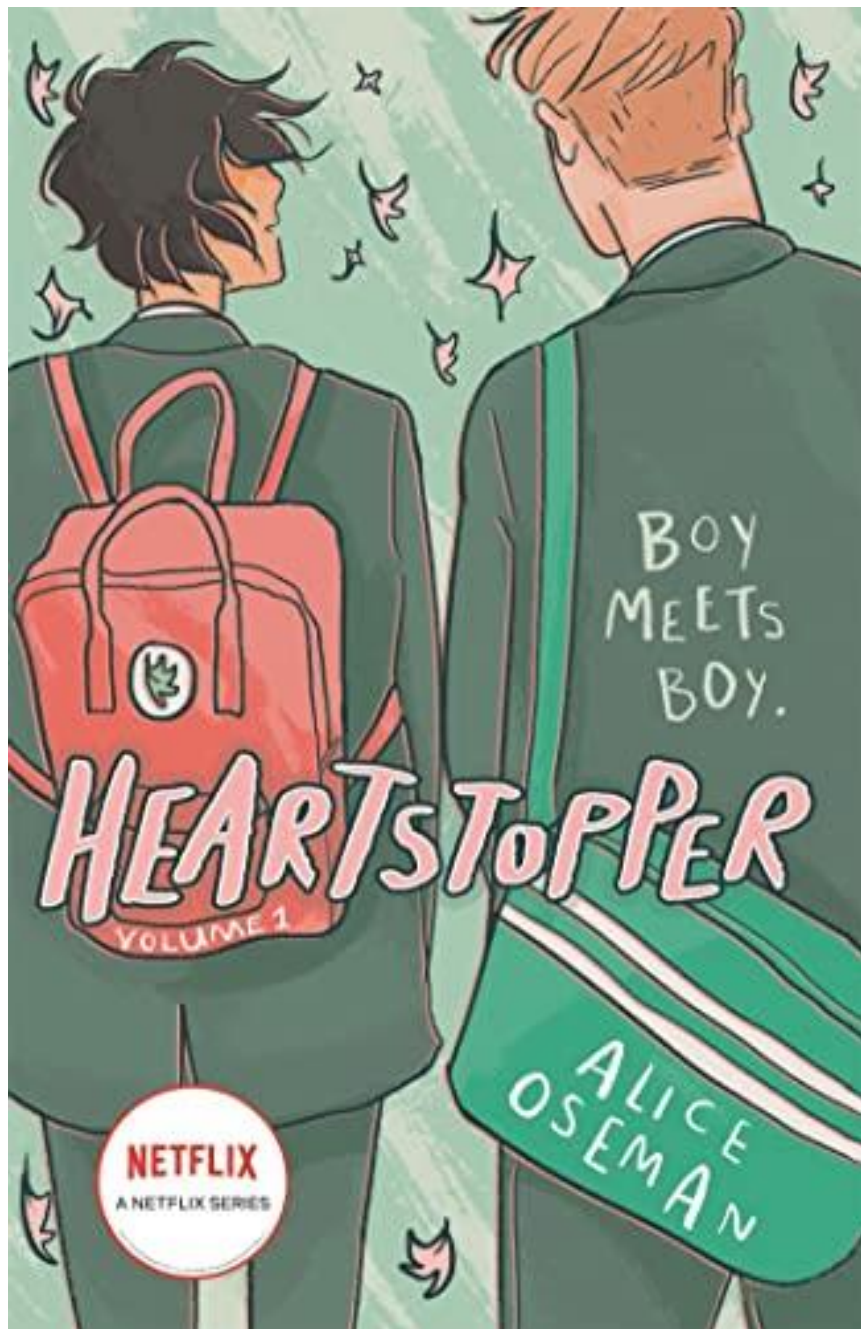
Summary:

I cannot praise this book highly enough! Although on the surface, a simple and funny 'rags to riches' tale of Stanley Yelnats, (yes that's right, his name is the same spelled forwards/ backwards!) possibly the unluckiest boy ever, sent to Camp Green Lake for a crime he didn't commit. The way Sachar interweaves the poignant and dark past of Camp Green Lake with Stanley's present circumstances (digging a 5 feet by 5 feet hole every day in the hot Texan sun) is a wonder of fairy tale and magic realism, with a punch of some terrible modern-day issues.

This is a heart-warming tale that will stay with you forever. If you've already read it, read it again! Then go on to the less famous sequel, Small Steps.

Contains: racism, murder, sexism and alcohol.





Heartstopper

Author: **Alice Oseman**

Genre: **LGBTQ+ & Graphic novel**

Recommended: **KS3**

Age Range: **11-13**

Summary:

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.

By Alice Oseman, winner of the YA Book Prize, Heartstopper is about love, friendship, loyalty and mental illness. It encompasses all the small moments of Nick and Charlie's lives that together make up something larger, which speaks to all of us.

Contains: homosexual and lesbian relationships; homophobia; bullying; mental illness

Stormbreaker

Author: **Anthony Horowitz**

Genre: **Action & Thriller**

Recommended: **KS3**

Age Range: **11-13**

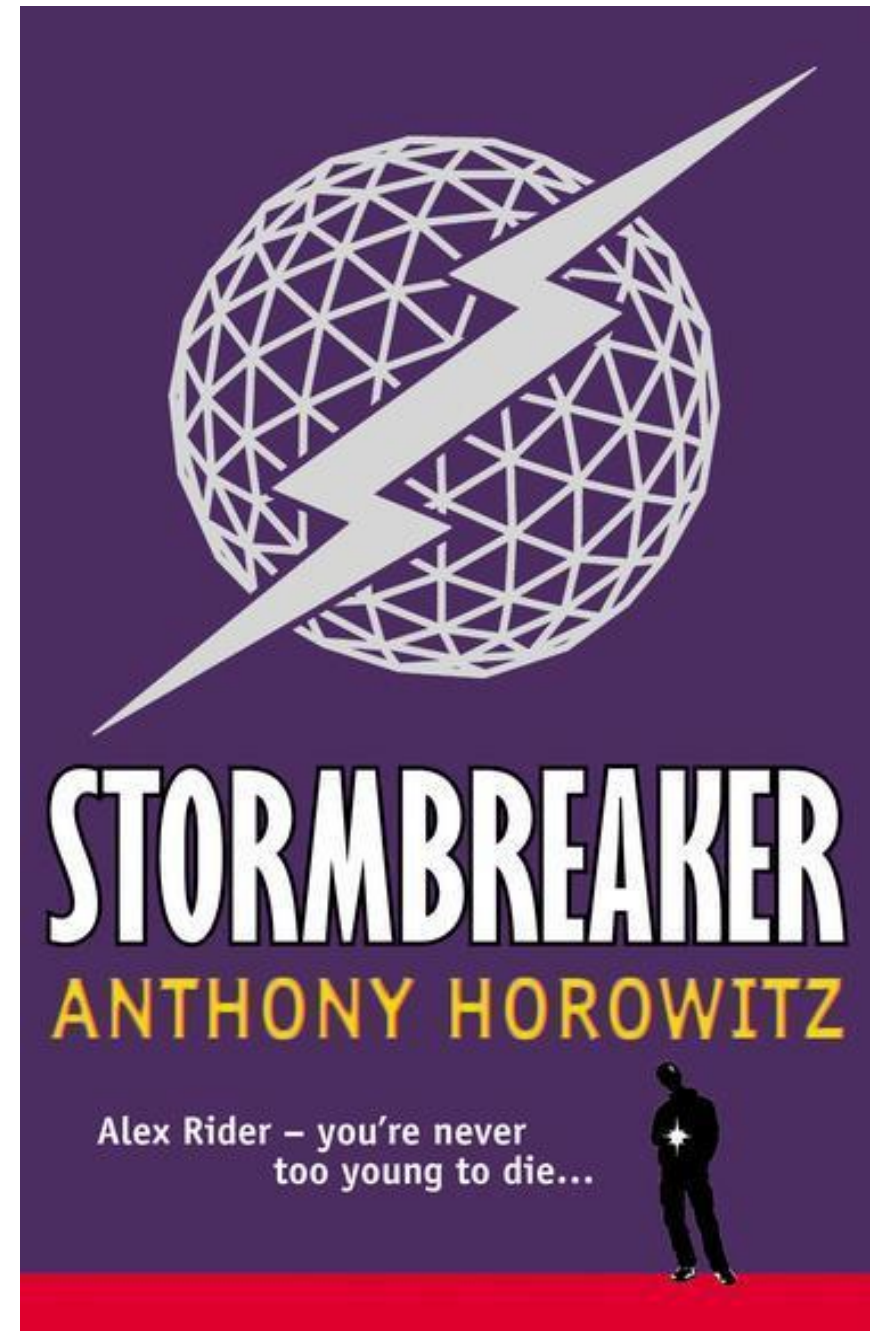
Summary:

They told him his uncle was a banker. They told him he died in an accident. They told him there was nothing else he needed to know. But 14-year-old Alex Rider is not someone who gives up easily.

Suddenly, he finds himself caught up in a world of fast cars, secret identities and spying. Sent to Cornwall on a mission of his own, Alex is the only one who can save the world from an evil genius' plot to turn all technology into a lethal weapon.

An action-packed story with danger on every page, this is a book that you will not be able to put down!

Contains: death, violence



JOHN MASEFIELD

The BOX OF
DELIGHTS



illustrated by Quentin Blake

The Box of Delights

Author: **John Masefield**

Genre: **Fantasy**

Recommended: **KS3**

Age Range: **11-13**

Summary:

The book features Kay Harker, who is asked by an old man to protect the mysterious 'Box of Delights'. But this challenge places him in danger, as there are others who want to get their hands on this treasured item.

On this mission, Kay is joined by the old man, Herne the Hunter, the Lady of the Oak Tree, lions, unicorns, and talking animals. He goes on many adventures, including navigating a paper boat through rapids, finding a fairy door, and being trapped behind a waterfall.

John Masefield's classic children's book is considered to be one of the great works of all time. Magical, fantastical and filled with vivid, rich characters.

Contains: Loss, kidnapping

Freak the Mighty

Author: **Roman Philbrick**

Genre: **Adventure**

Recommended: **KS3/4**

Age Range: **11-13**

Summary:

Max

He is unusually large for his age and is often bullied by his classmates. He has a tragic past and spends a lot of time in his basement bedroom, which he calls "down under"

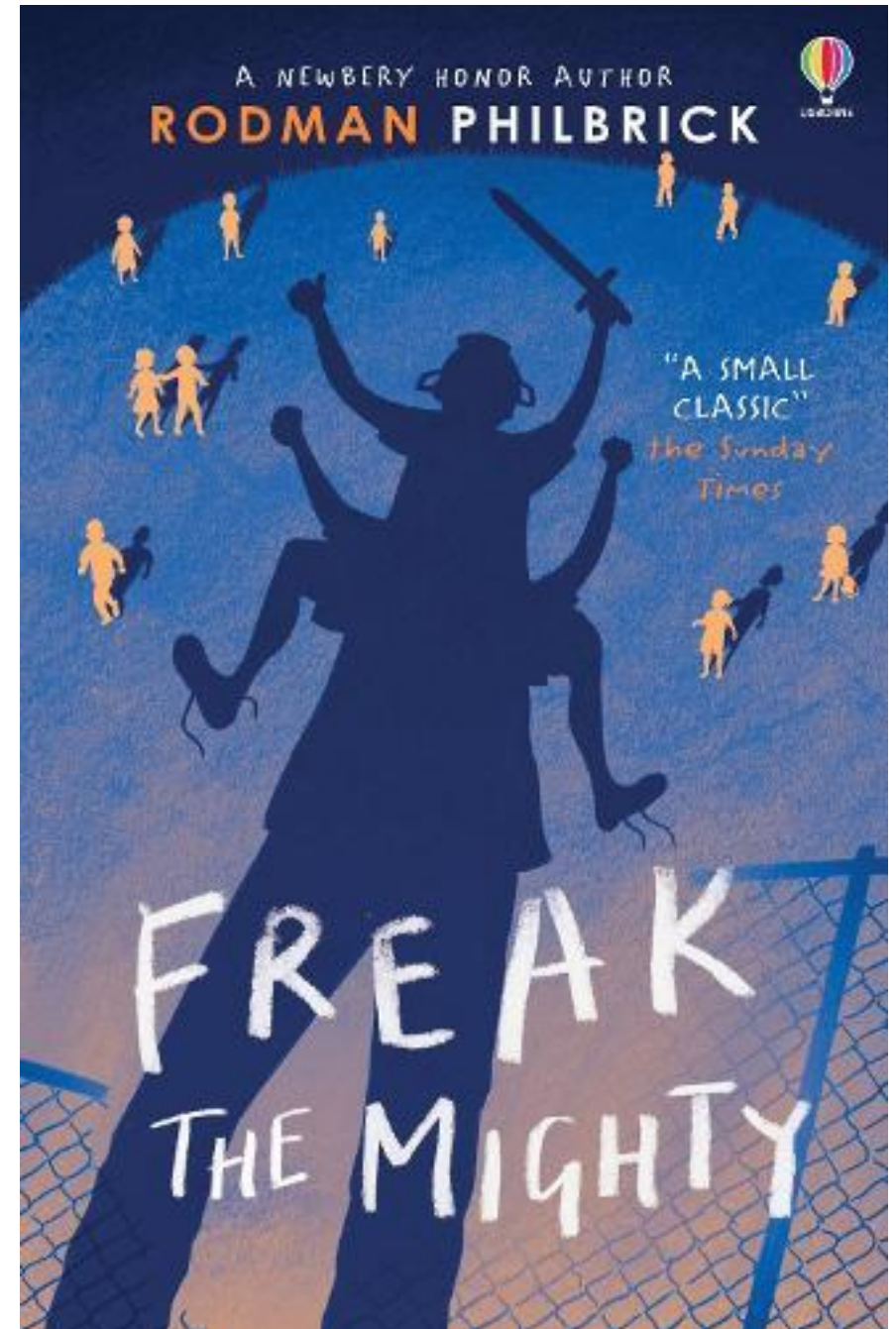
Kevin

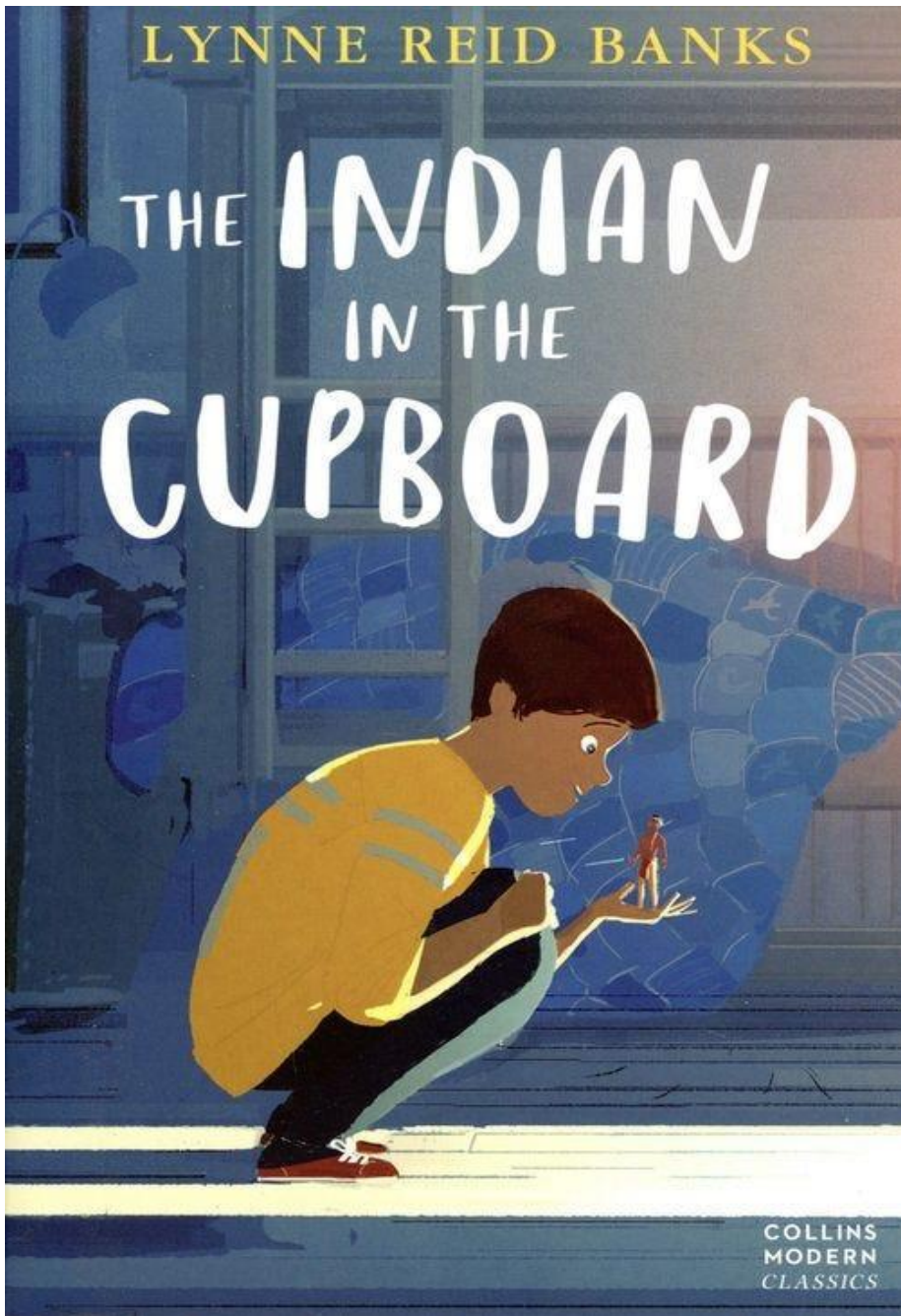
Also known as Freak. He is very short and has several health issues, but he has a huge intellect. He uses crutches and calls himself "Robot Man".

Friendship

Max and Freak become Freak the Mighty together and accomplish seemingly impossible things on their adventures.

Contains: bullying, isolation, disability





The Indian in the Cupboard

Author: **Lynne Reid Banks**

Genre: **Fantasy**

Recommended: **KS3**

Age Range: **11-13**

Summary:

The Indian in the Cupboard is a captivating children's fantasy novel that sparks imagination and explores themes of responsibility and empathy. The story revolves around Omri, a young boy who discovers a magical antique cupboard that brings toy figures to life.

When Omri places a tiny plastic figurine of a Native American warrior inside the cupboard, it magically comes to life, shrinking the boy and his surroundings to the size of the miniature figure. This fantastical storyline leads to a series of adventures and challenges as Omri navigates his new, miniature world and learns to care for the tiny people he has brought to life.

Contains: culturally sensitive issues

The Summer We Turned Green

Author: **William Sutcliffe**

Genre: **Growing Up & Protest**

Recommended: **KS3**

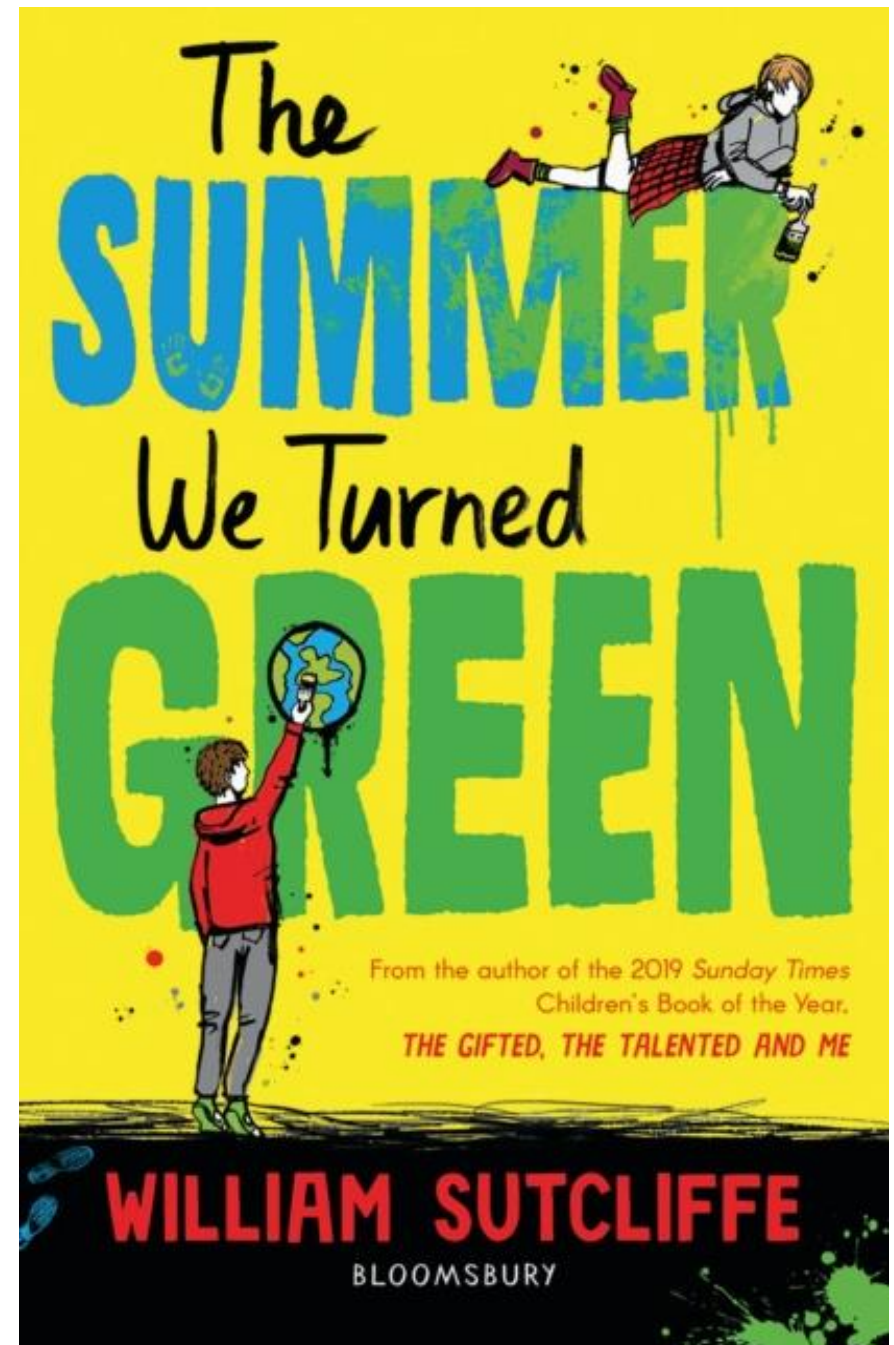
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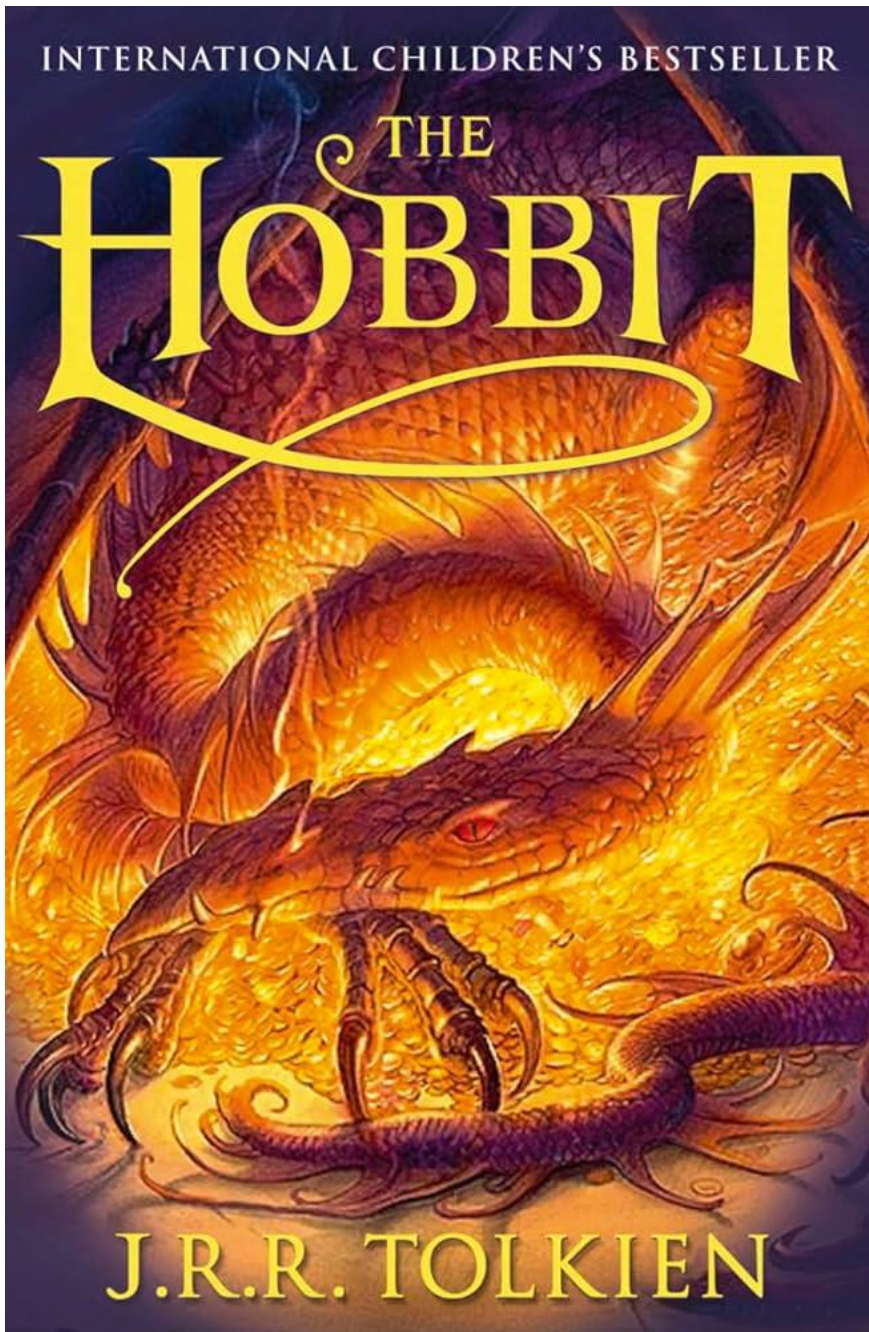
Summary:

The book is about a 13-year-old boy named Luke, whose life is turned upside down when his sister moves across the road to join a group of climate protestors. Luke's dad also goes to the commune to get her back... but ends up joining the protestors himself.

Luke is an ordinary teenage boy, who experiences a range of emotions, yet finds them difficult to communicate. When he finds himself caught in the middle of this conflict, he faces the challenge of picking which side of the fence (quite literally) to sit on. This amusing and unique story will have you turning its recyclable pages.

Contains: family breakups, personal growth, friendship





The Hobbit

Author: **J.R.R Tolkien**

Genre: **Fantasy & Adventure**

Recommended: **KS3**

Age Range: **11-13**

Summary:

Long ago, in the mysterious lands of Middle Earth, lived a hobbit. Bilbo Baggins had a quiet, peaceful and *perfectly ordinary* life. Until, that is, he received some unexpected visitors. Gandalf, a wise and talented wizard, alongside a band of foolish yet charming dwarves, encourage Bilbo to go on an almighty adventure.

Their journey takes them through the most incredible places, which Bilbo never knew existed. But danger lurks behind every corner... Can he find the courage to battle great beasts, endure the deadliest conditions and help return his new friends to their former kingdom?

Contains: violence

The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas

Author: **John Boyne**

Genre: **War & Tragedy**

Recommended: **KS3**

Age Range: **11-13**

Summary:

Bruno lives comfortably in Berlin, with an ordinary family and great friends, who love to explore. However, unbeknown to Bruno, the world beyond his own is changing. His father, a senior figure in the military, is appointed to an important new job, which Bruno does not understand and cannot ask about. All he knows is that they must move to the countryside.

While there, Bruno makes a new friend. They are separated by a fence, and apparently much more. This emotional and thought-provoking tale is about a young boy's innocence, as he is caught up in disastrous events much bigger than him, as the horrors of the Holocaust unfold.

Contains: war, violence, death, holocaust

'A small wonder of a book' GUARDIAN

The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas

JOHN BOYNE

THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY EDITION

NOMINATED FOR THE CARNEGIE MEDAL

KWAME ALEXANDER

NEWBERY MEDAL-WINNING AUTHOR OF *THE CROSSOVER*



PE's Subject
Pick!

Booked

Author: **Kwame Alexander**

Genre: **Growing Up & Sport**

Recommended: **KS3**

Age Range: **11-13**

Summary:

Nick's absolute love for football is matched only by his hatred for reading. He is desperate and determined to turn his teenage passion into a successful sporting career, yet must battle against his father's expectations for him to study and go to college.

Off the pitch and outside the classroom, Nick gets up to no good with his closest friends; constantly struggles to speak to the girl he's attracted to; and must find the courage stand up for his friend, Coby, who is the target of racist bullies.

This is an entertaining tale of a teenager growing up, following his football dream and discovering who he really is.

Contains: family relationships, racism, slurs, bullying

The Graveyard Book

Author: **Neil Gaiman**

Genre: **Fantasy & Gothic**

Recommended: **KS3**

Age Range: **11-13**

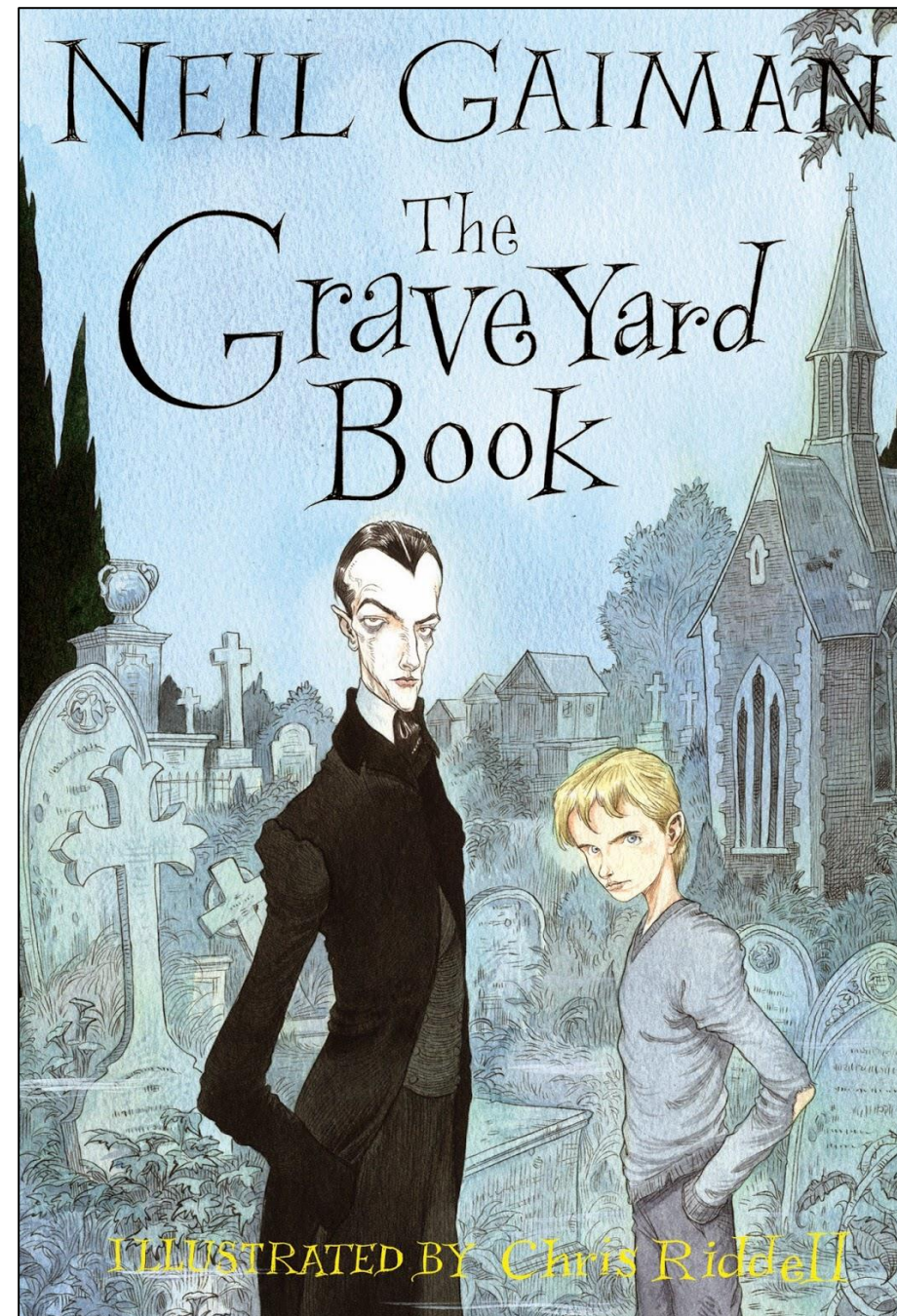
Summary:

The Graveyard Book will transport you into an imaginative world of fantasy, adventure and spookiness. Nobody Owens (or Bod for short) has a tragic start to his life. One foggy and sinister night, baby Bod escapes the clutches of the murderous 'Jack' and makes his way to an old graveyard where the ghostly inhabitants of this most unusual location agree to raise the orphaned boy and protect him as one of their own.

As he grows, Bod encounters a myriad of supernatural figures and he journeys into worlds of the unknown.

The shadow of 'Jack' is an ever-present risk to Bod and as the pages turn, the tension builds as threats to Bod's safety grow. Will good or evil triumph in this beautifully written novel?

Contains: death, supernatural themes





PENGUIN  CLASSICS

JACK LONDON

**THE CALL OF THE WILD, WHITE FANG,
AND OTHER STORIES**

INTRODUCTION BY EARLE LABOR

The Call of the Wild and White Fang

Author: **Jack London**

Genre: **Classics & Animals**

Recommended: **KS3**

Age Range: **11-13**

Summary:

Buck is a kidnapped St Bernard/collie cross, who becomes the toughest sled dog in the Yukton. Yet he awards his final loyalty not to fickle men, but to the wolf pack.

In the great tradition of classic animal stories, this is a heart-wrenching story. From the peril Buck the sled dog faces in the Arctic, to the suffering he endures under brutal masters, listening to his adventure is no tame experience. Roberts has a voice that sounds like a grizzled man who would never display emotion, but who, nonetheless, can tell a captivating tale. London's writing – especially the passages about the mysterious, enchanting call of the wild – ring with startling beauty.

Contains: violence, kidnapping, guns

Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone

Author: **J K Rowling**

Genre: **Fantasy & Adventure**

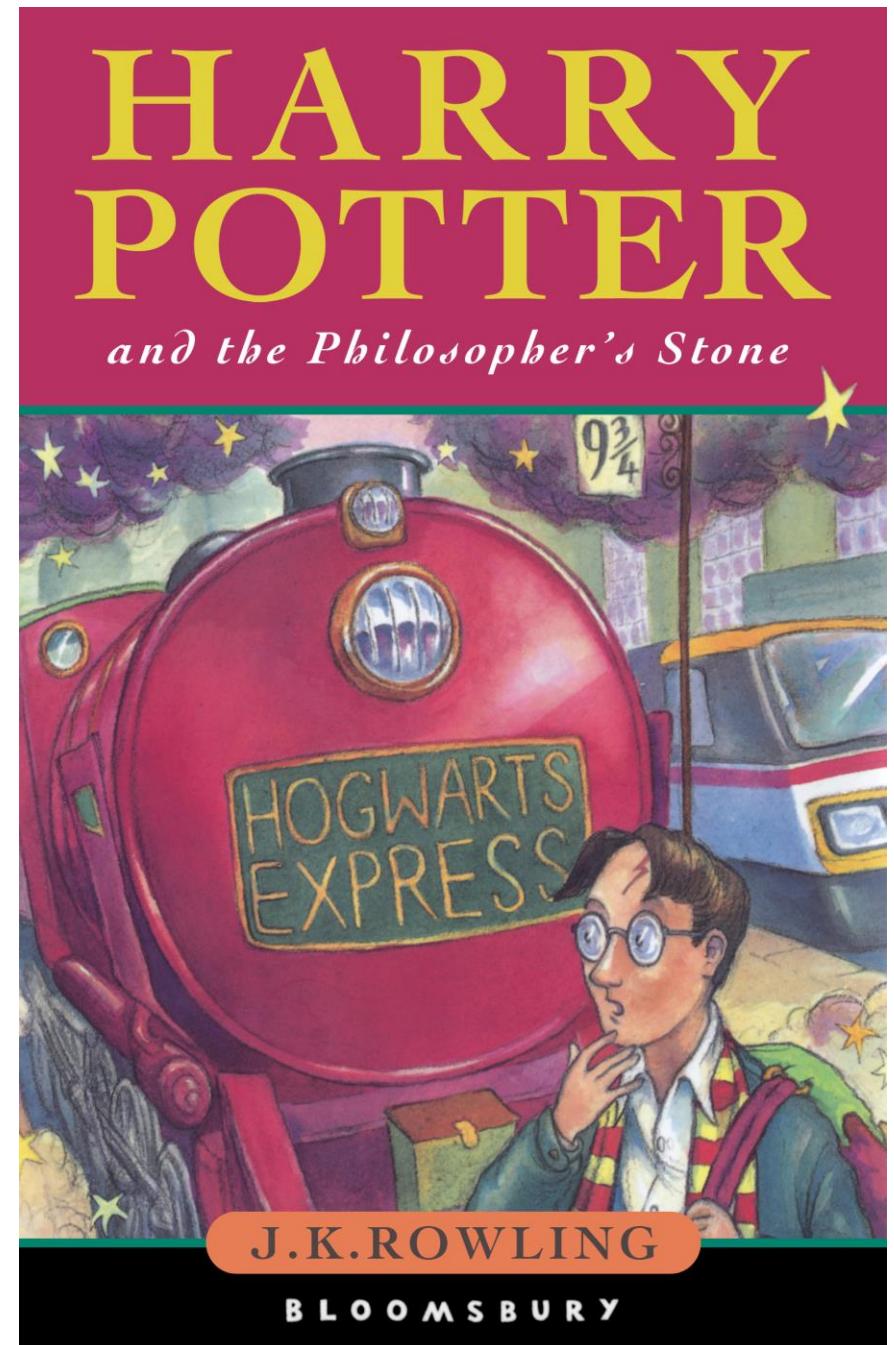
Recommended: **KS3**

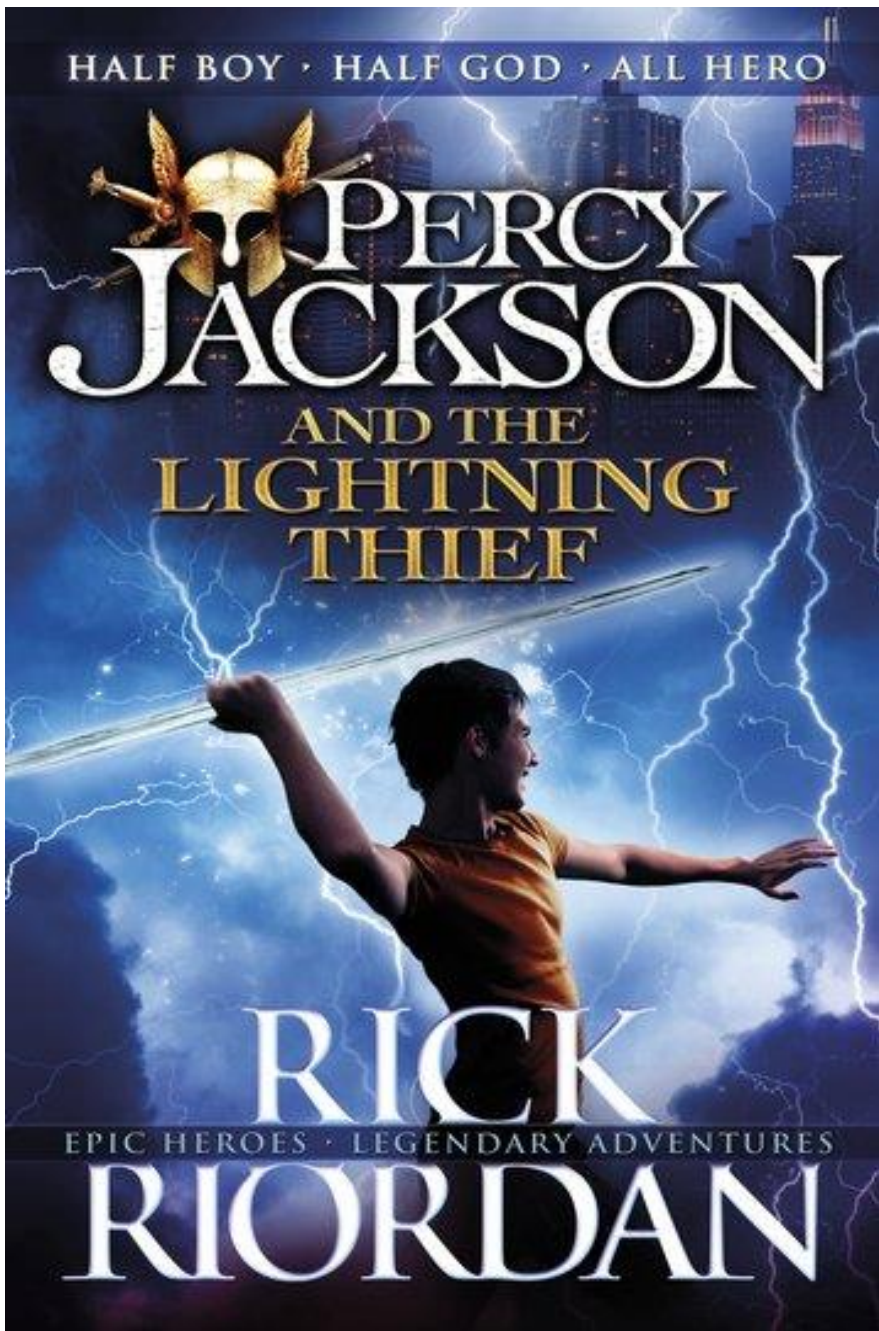
Age Range: **11-13**

Summary:

This first book in the Harry Potter series introduces you to the compelling world of Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry. Harry, an orphan, is an extraordinary boy with unique 'talents', who lives in a cupboard under the stairs with his cruel Aunt, Uncle and cousin. He finds that his life changes on his 11th birthday when he receives a flurry of letters informing him of his magical birthright. These letters change his life completely and are effectively his ticket to board the Hogwarts express, as he journeys into friendship, peril and adventure. The characters are gorgeously rich and the constant battle between good and evil will keep readers on the edge of their seats.

Contains: violence, peril





Percy Jackson and the Lightning Thief

Author: **Rick Riordan**

Genre: **Fantasy & Action**

Recommended: **KS3**

Age Range: **11-13**

Summary:

Percy Jackson is a troubled 12-year-old boy, who discovers he is the son of Poseidon, the Greek God of the sea. This makes Percy a demigod, and he has been given a quest to help find Zeus's stolen lightning bolt to prevent the wars between the Gods.

Throughout the story, Percy must face mythological enemies, solve many riddles in a hope of retrieving the lightning bolt and return it to Zeus.

Follow the adventures of the hero Percy Jackson, and join him on his journey.

Contains: violence, racism, alcohol, religion, mild swearing

Mortal Engines

Author: **Philip Reeve**

Genre: **Dystopia & Steampunk**

Recommended: **KS3**

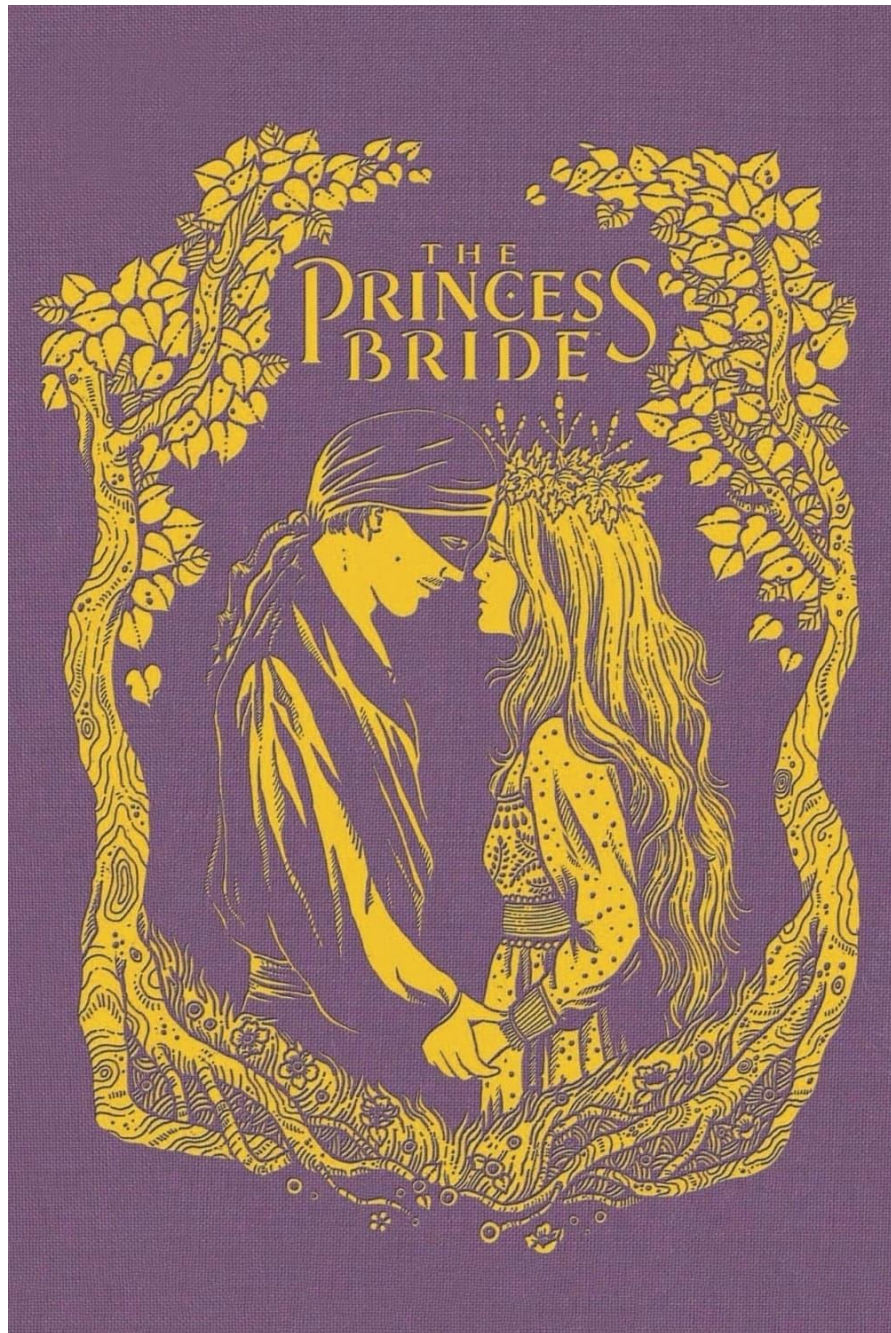
Age Range: **11-13**

Summary:

"It was a dark, blustery afternoon in spring, and the city of London was chasing a small mining town across the dried-out bed of the old North Sea." The great traction city London has been skulking in the hills to avoid the bigger, faster, hungrier cities loose in the Great Hunting Ground. But now, the sinister plans of the Lord Mayor Mangus Crome can finally unfold. Thaddeus Valentine, London's Head Historian and adored famous archaeologist, and his lovely daughter Katherine, are down in The Gut when the young assassin with the black scarf strikes toward his heart, saved by the quick intervention of Tom, a lowly third-class apprentice. Racing after the fleeing girl, Tom suddenly glimpses her hideous face: scarred from forehead to jaw, nose a smashed stump, a single eye glaring back at him. "Look at what your Valentine did to me!" She screams. "Ask him! Ask him what he did to Hester Shaw!" And with that she jumps down the waste chute to her death. A dangerous and unforgettable adventure story of surprises, set in a dark and utterly original world.

Contains: violence, disfigurement, loss





The Princess Bride

Author: **William Goldman**

Genre: **Fantasy & Fairytale**

Recommended: **KS3**

Age Range: **12-14**

Summary:

In a magical land of fantasy and good fortune, a beautiful princess has fallen in love with the local farm boy. When he departs on a personal quest, she vows never to love another. So, when she hears that his ship has been captured by the Dread Pirate Roberts, leaving no survivors, her heart is broken. But her charms draw the attention of the relentless Prince Humperdinck, who wants a wife and will go to any lengths to win her affections. So starts a fairytale like no other, of true love, hate, revenge, giants, good versus evil, snakes, chases and escapes, lies, truths, passion and miracles, and – altogether – an entertaining story of warmth and wonder.

Contains: fighting, death

The Breadwinner

Author: **Deborah Ellis**

Genre: **War & Conflict**

Recommended: **KS3**

Age Range: **12-14**

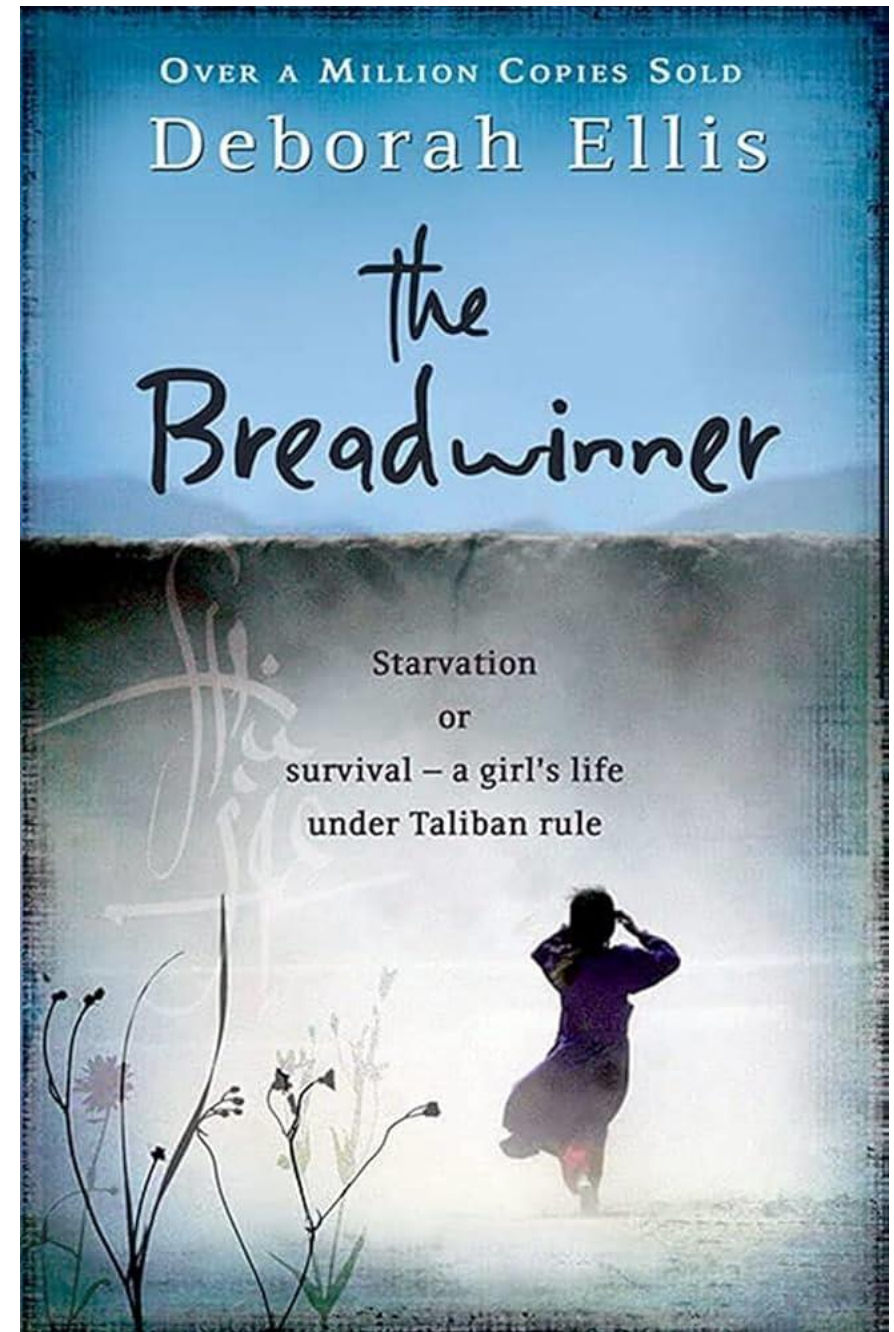
Summary:

After growing up surrounded by bombed-out buildings and avoiding live land mines in Afghanistan, Parvana is no stranger to struggle and hardship. But when the Taliban decree that women must give up their jobs and endure serious restrictions upon their freedom, she feels hopeless about her future.

She decides not to cower in her home. Instead, she will challenge the authorities, fighting back in her own small form of deceit and rebellion.

This is a tale of incredible courage in the face of uncompromising power. Parvana is a formidable heroine, who throws caution to the wind and takes on the role of the 'breadwinner' when her troubled family need her most.

Contains: assault, violence, gore, sexism, cultural references



TERRY PRATCHETT



DODGER



Dodger

Author: **Terry Pratchett**

Genre: **Fantasy & Historical Fiction**

Recommended: **KS3**

Age Range: **12-14**

Summary:

'*Dodger*' by Terry Pratchett is a highly entertaining novel that blends historical fiction with a touch of fantasy. The story follows the adventures of a young street urchin named Dodger, who strives to survive the mean streets of Victorian London. This plucky protagonist rescues a mysterious girl called 'Simp' and, as a consequence, becomes entangled with historical figures like Charles Dickens and Sweeney Todd – The Demon Barber of Fleet Street. For those of you who loved the world of *Oliver Twist* in Year 7, this is an amusing take on the Dickens classic.

Contains: mild violence

The Cherub Series: the New Recruit

Author: **Robert Muchamore**

Genre: **Action**

Recommended: **KS3**

Age Range: **12-14**

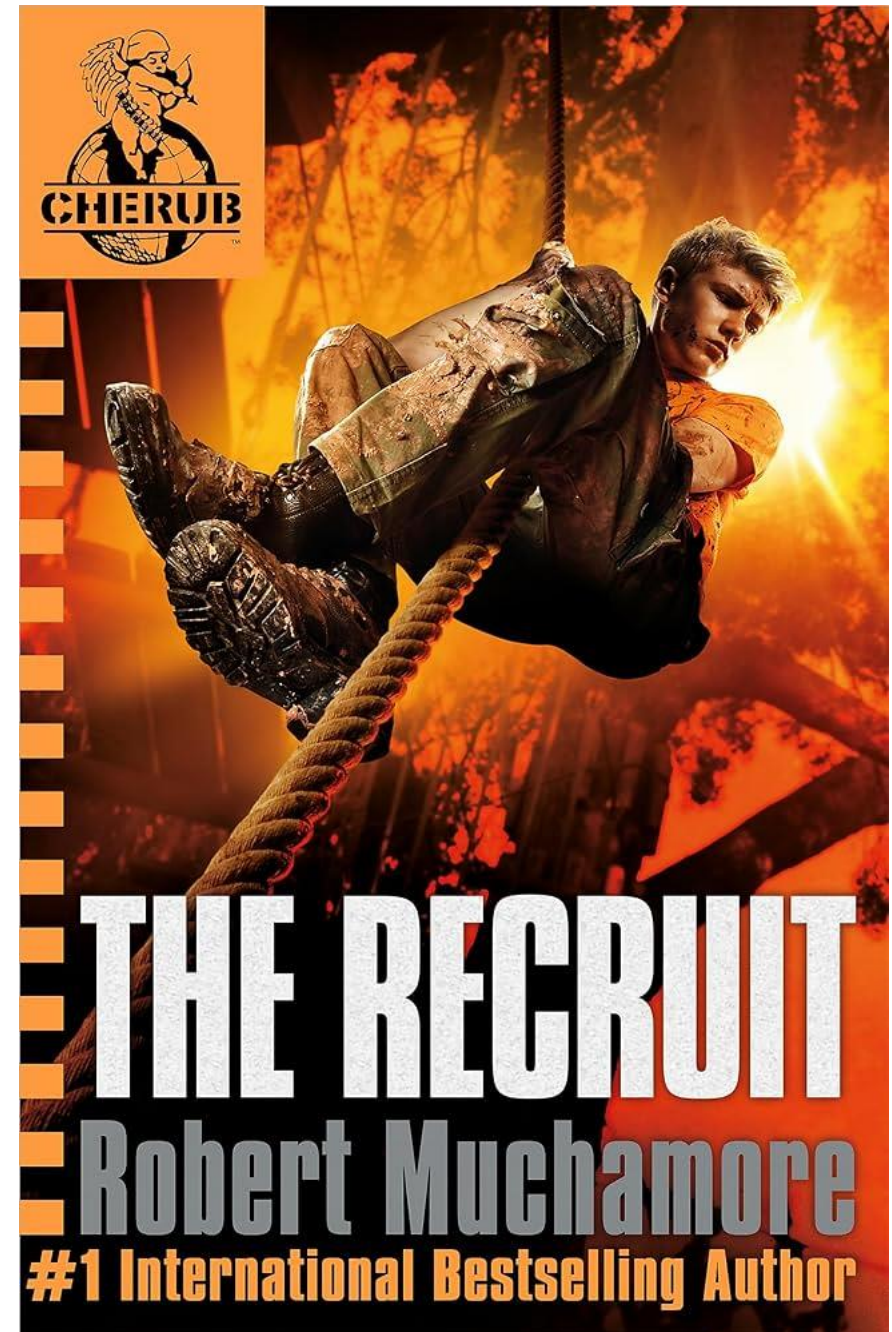
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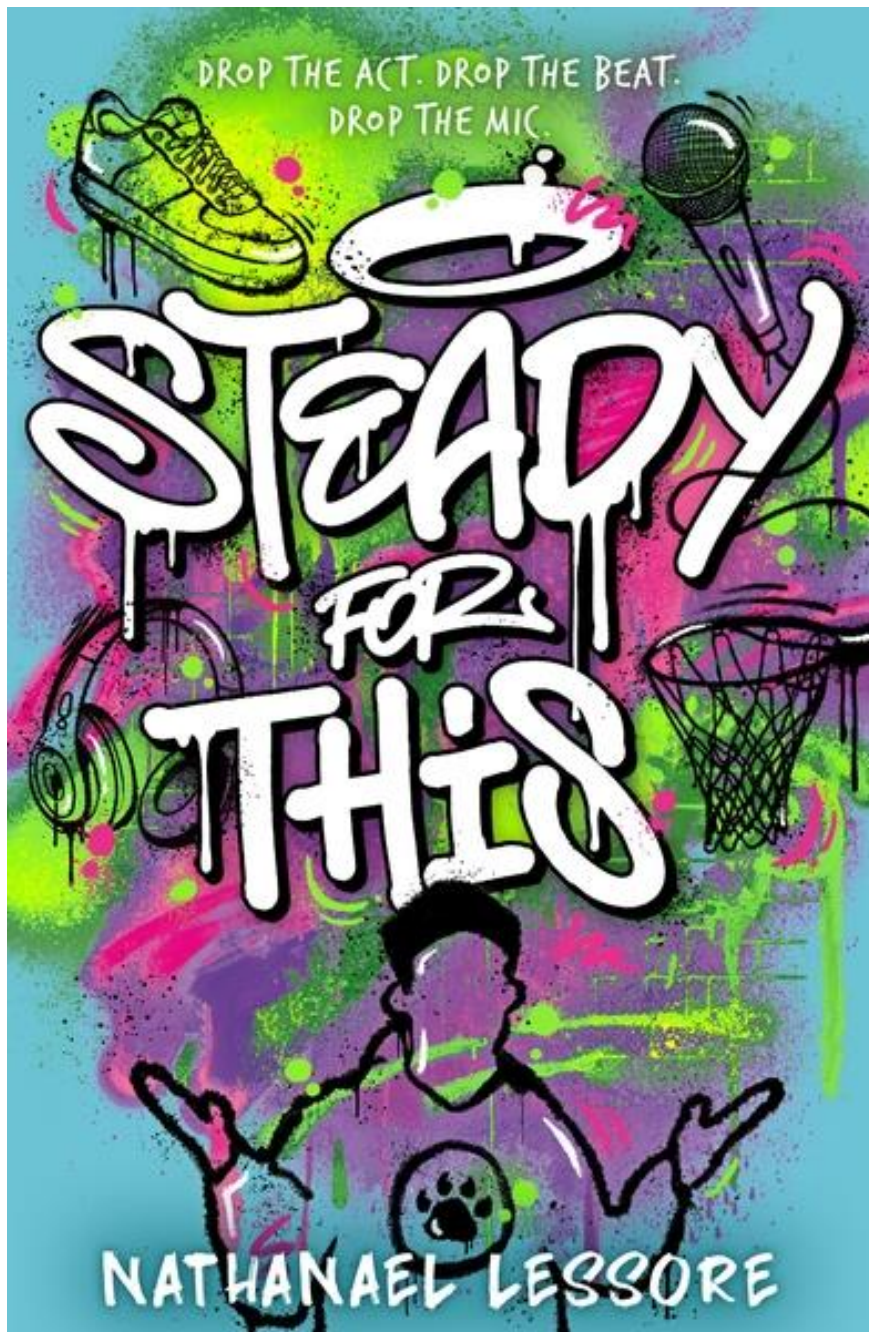
When eleven-year-old James lands himself in serious trouble and on the verge of prison, he is offered a lifeline: to join a secret organisation of teenage spies, called the Cherub.

He must undergo intense training, strengthen his body and control his instincts if he is to succeed. Can he survive training and transform himself into a promising young agent, who can hike through snake-infested waters, tackle his deepest fears and take down a group of radicals, trying to cause havoc?

This fast-paced, action-packed story will keep you on the edge of your seat, wondering whether James can survive.

Contains: violence, swearing, slurs, alcohol





Steady for This

Author: **Nathanael Lessore**

Genre: **Comedy & Growing Up**

Recommended: **KS3**

Age Range: **12-14**

Summary:

Shaun (aka MC Growls), a wannabe rapper and hilarious teen, is the star of this laugh-out-loud story. He is determined to win a rap competition to achieve fame and impress his crush.

Before the show, a livestream practice goes terribly wrong and he achieves his dream of going viral... but for all the wrong reasons! Shaun is humiliated, lost and convinced he can no longer compete, until someone new enters his life.

Can the so-called comeback king stumble across one more stroke of luck and restore his reputation? This unique and entertaining book will make you eager to find out.

Contains: mental health, poverty, cyber bullying, caring responsibilities

The Secret Diary of Adrian Mole Aged 13 ³/₄

Author: **Sue Townsend**

Genre: **Comedy & Growing Up**

Recommended: **KS3**

Age Range: **12-14**

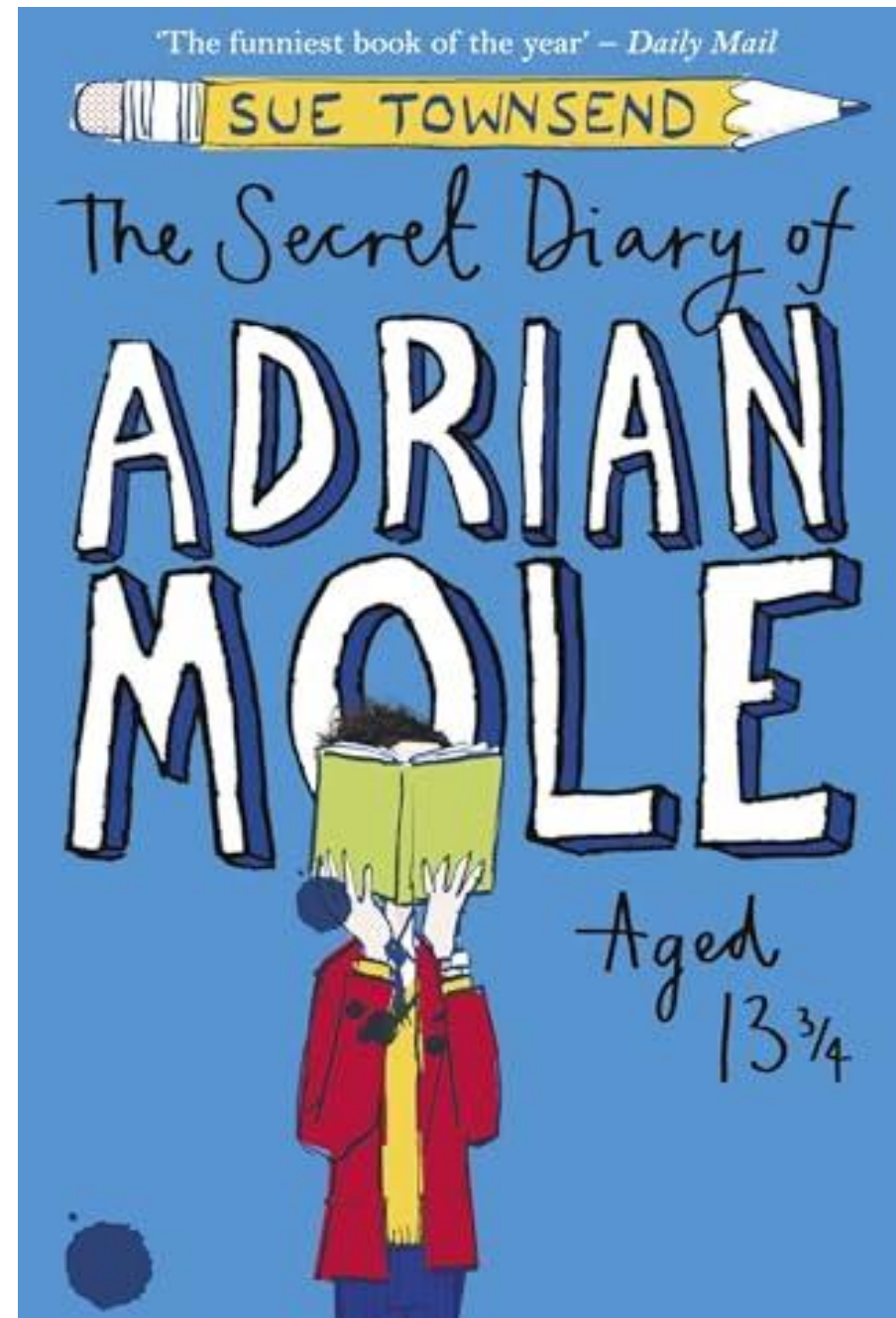
Summary:

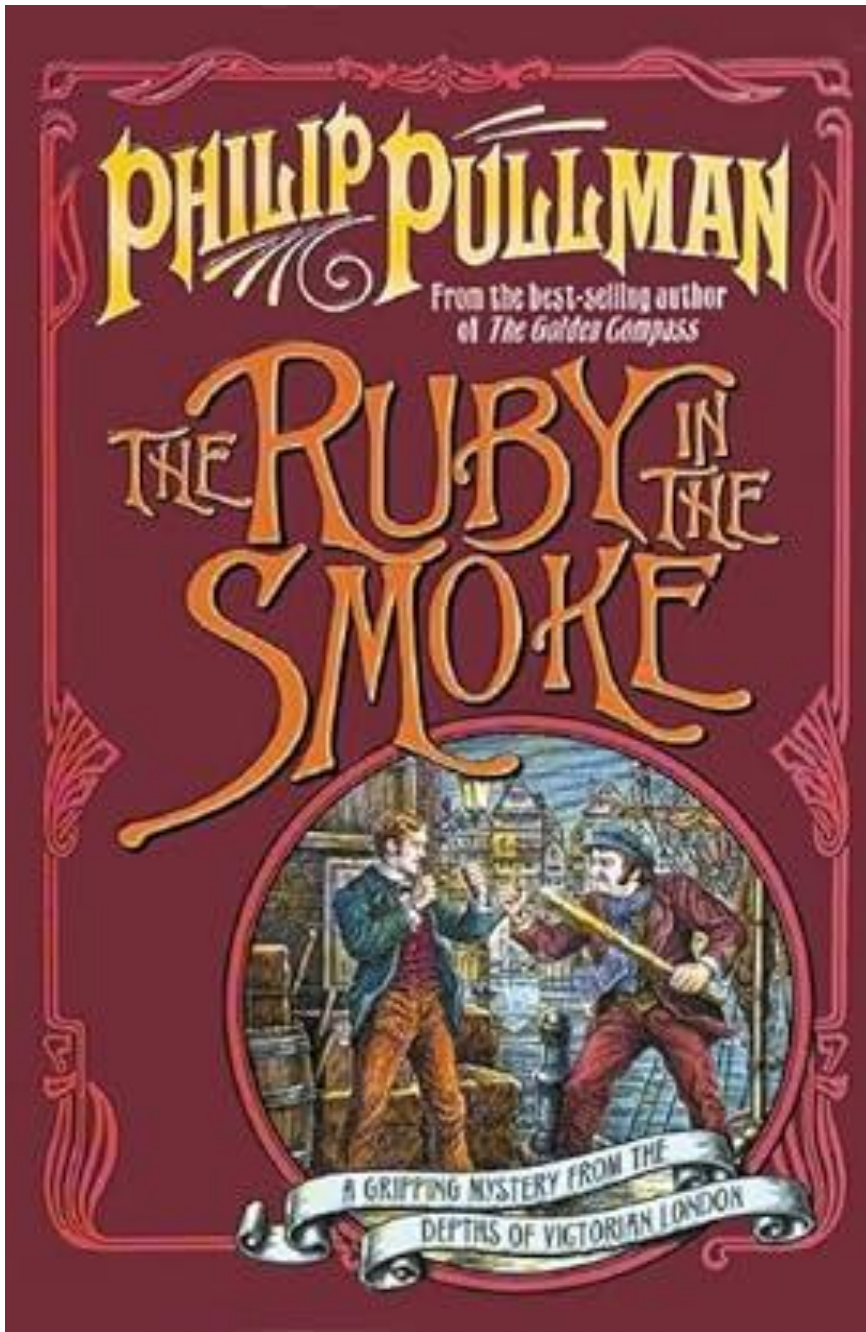
Meet Adrian Mole, a hapless teenager providing an unabashed, pimples-and-all glimpse into adolescent life.

Writing honestly about his parents' marital troubles, the dog, his experience as a tortured poet and that he is intellectually misunderstood. He describes the ordinary days and emotional difficulties faced by someone who is no longer child, but is not yet an adult.

Adrian's painfully honest diary is still hilarious and compelling reading thirty years after it first appeared.

Contains: teen angst, family relationships, acne!





The Ruby in the Smoke

Author: **Phillip Pullman**

Genre: **Historical Mystery**

Recommended: **KS3**

Age Range: **12-14**

Summary:

The Ruby in the Smoke is a captivating historical mystery novel that transports readers to the gritty, gaslit streets of Victorian London. It is filled with colourful characters who keep readers entertained!

The story follows Sally Lockhart, a young woman who, after the tragic loss of her father, becomes caught up in a dangerous quest to uncover the truth behind his mysterious death.

This is fast-paced read and will hit all the right notes if you loved the Victorian world of *Oliver Twist* and *Sherlock Holmes*.

Contains: death, drug-taking

The Diary of a Young Girl

Author: **Anne Frank**

Genre: **History & Autobiography**

Recommended: **KS3**

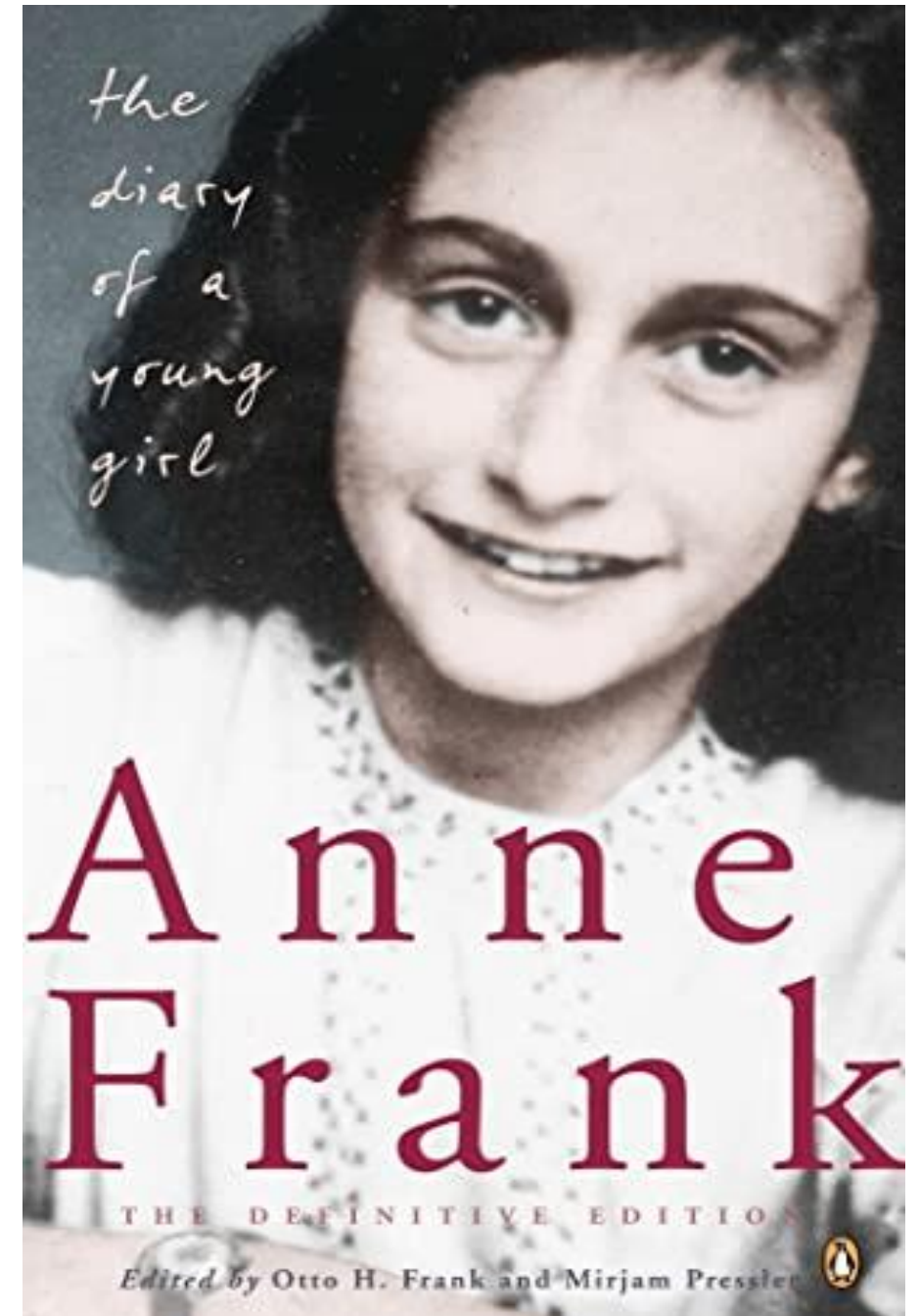
Age Range: **12-14**

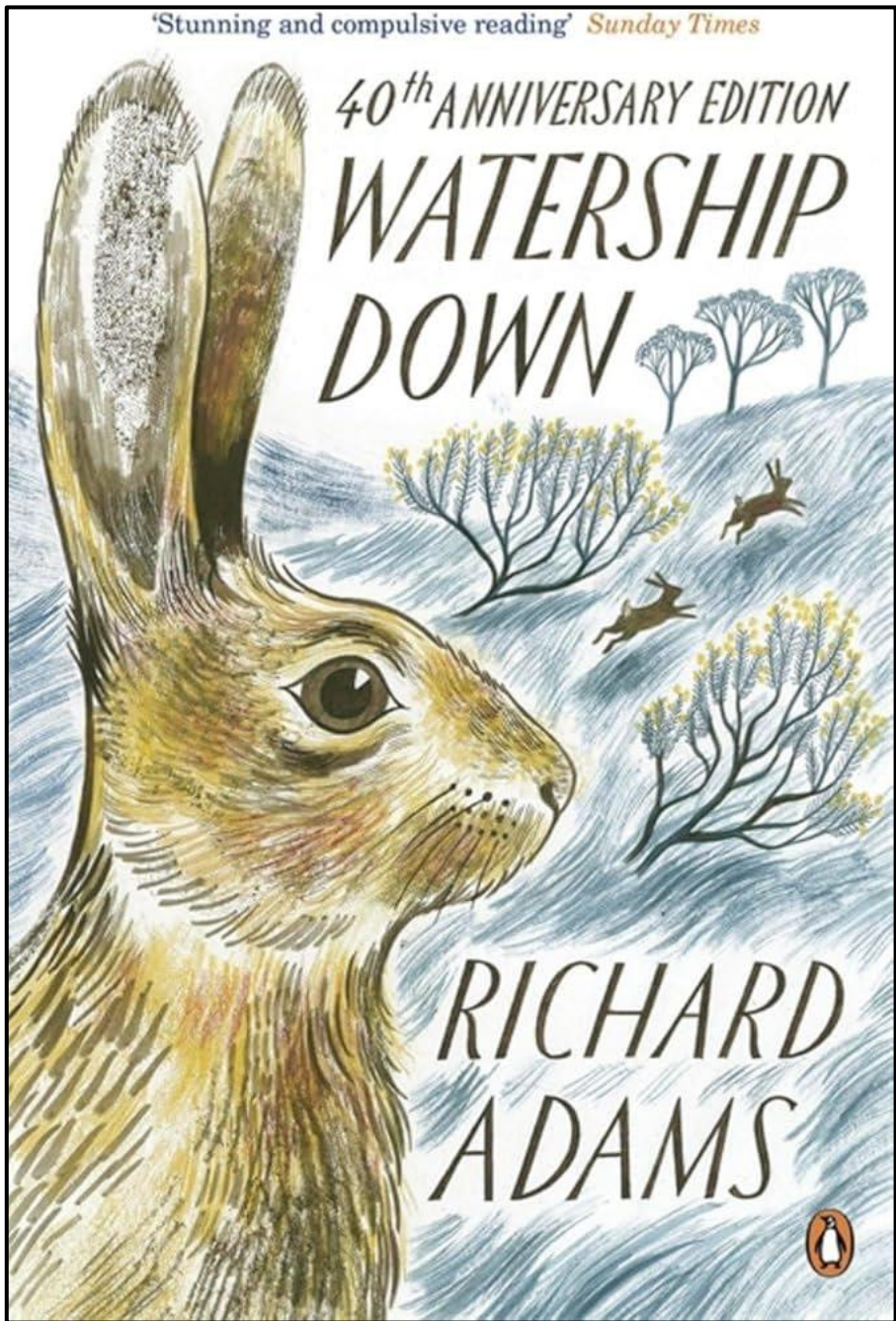
Summary:

Anne's diary covers a period of two years, beginning on her 13th birthday in 1942 and ending on August 1, 1944. This diary includes Anne's experience of living in an Amsterdam warehouse with her family, and her observations of the people around her. Anne's diary also includes her thoughts on the Holocaust, her identity, and her feelings of solidarity with the Jewish people.

Anne Frank's deeply personal thoughts and feelings about WWII demonstrate many crucial messages, including how war can lead to unnecessary destruction and devastation.

Contains: violence, sexual content.





Watership Down

Author: **Richard Adams**

Genre: **Fantasy & Animals**

Recommended: **KS3**

Age Range: **12-14**

Summary:

Watership Down is the tale of a group of rabbits in search of a home. Fiver, a small, young rabbit, has a gift: he can tell when good or bad things are going to happen.

The family of rabbits decide to leave their warren to find a new home after humans destroy it. Along the way, the rabbits face many challenges, including predators and environmental dangers.

Despite the animal characters, there is nothing fluffy or gentle about this gripping and intense tale of perilous adventure.

Contains: violence, death, dark themes, tyranny, rebellion

Time Riders

Author: **Alex Scarrow**

Genre: **Sci-Fi & History**

Recommended: **KS3**

Age Range: **12-14**

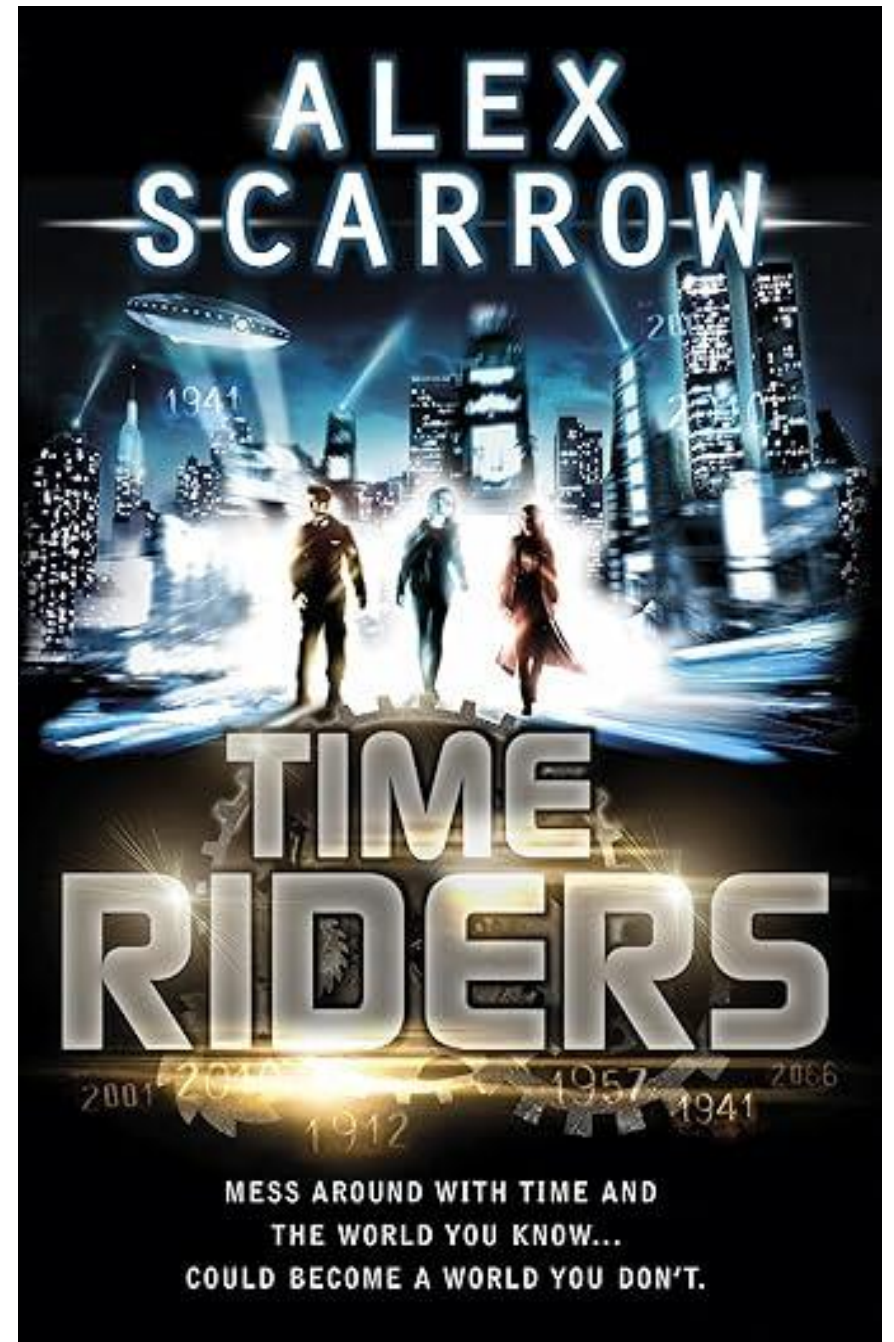
Summary:

Maddy, Liam and Sal all have a second chance at life. When faced with disaster, a mysterious figure came to their rescue.

The trio soon learn that time travel is not a distant hope or invention for the future: it is already possible. Their survival was no accident – they were deliberately chosen and saved: to join the Time Riders.

Their mission is to go back in time and stop terrible events from taking place, and the world falling into the wrong hands. But this challenge is far from safe! They must avoid getting trapped in the past, being discovered and even caught up in the horrors of Nazi Germany. Can they succeed?

Contains: gore, violence, death





Cinderella is Dead

Author: **Kalynn Bayron**

Genre: **Dystopia & Fantasy**

Recommended: **KS3**

Age Range: **12-14**

Summary:

200 years after Cinderella's death, the kingdom that she had once lived in has become a dystopia.

Cinderella Is Dead, Sophia knows the story, off by heart. Because every girl had to recite it, daily – from when she is tiny, until the night she is sent to the royal ball for choosing. And every girl knows that she has only one chance. For the lives of those not chosen by a man at the ball ... are forfeit. Anyone who is forfeit is taken away, never to be seen again.

"Do not be silent. Raise your voice. Be a light in the dark."

Contains: misogyny, sexism, homophobia

Lord of the Flies

Author: **William Golding**

Genre: **Dystopia & Allegory**

Recommended: **KS3**

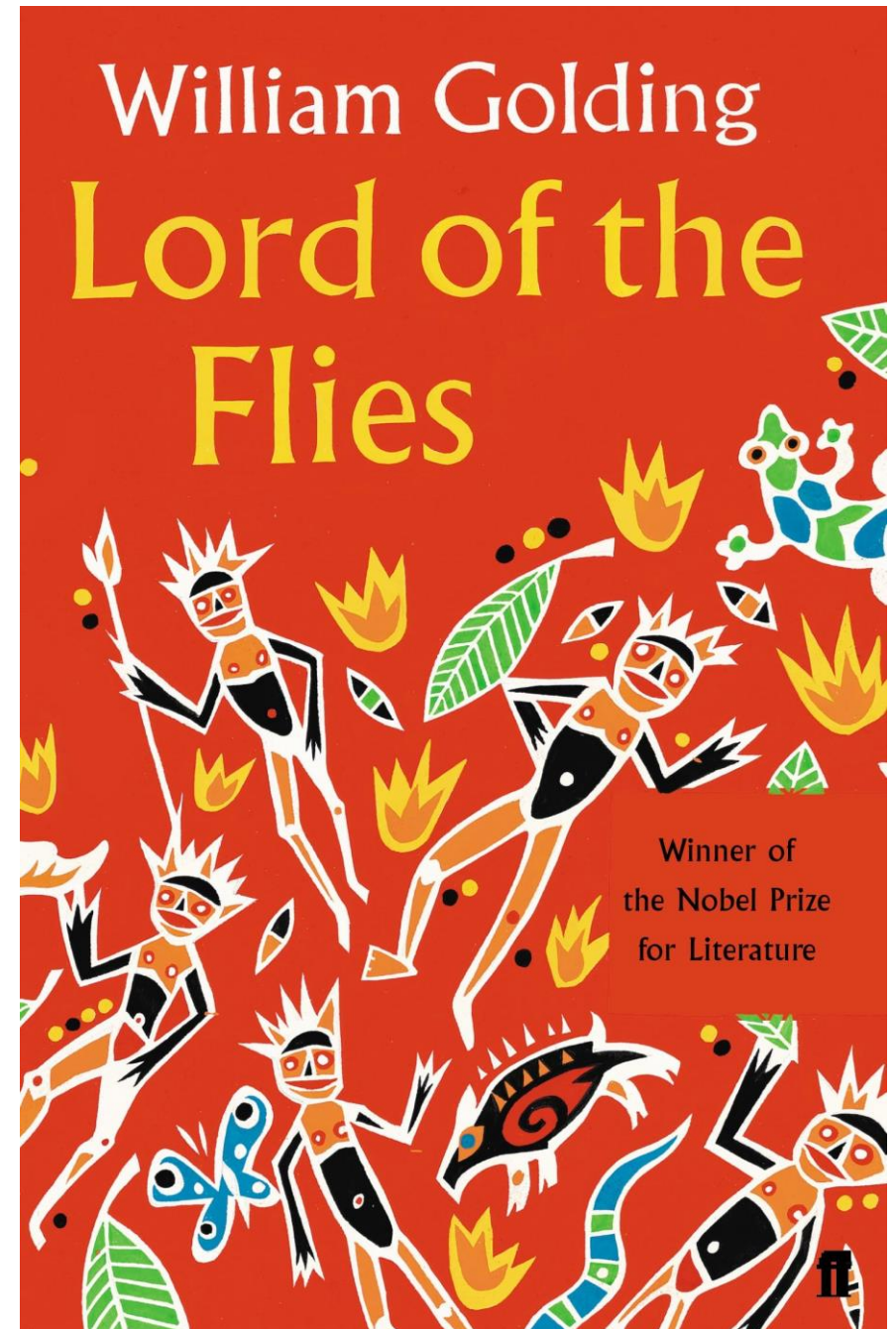
Age Range: **12-14**

Summary:

At the dawn of the next world war, a plane crashes on an uncharted island, stranding a group of schoolboys. At first, with no adult supervision, their freedom is something to celebrate; this is far from civilisation the boys can do anything they want. Anything. They attempt to forge their own society, failing, however, in the face of terror, sin and evil. And as order collapses, as strange howls echo in the night, as terror begins its reign, the hope of adventure seems as far from reality as the hope of being rescued.

Labelled a parable, an allegory, a myth, a morality tale, a parody, a political treatise, even a vision of the apocalypse, Lord of the Flies is perhaps our most memorable novel about "the end of innocence, the darkness of man's heart."

Contains: violence, death



'IT'S FUNNY. IT'S TRUTHFUL. IT LIVES OFF THE PAGE. IT HAS WARMTH YOU CAN BASK IN, AN HONESTY YOU CAN CUT WITH A KNIFE'

Guardian

MY SISTER LIVES ON THE MANTELPIECE

ANNABEL PITCHER

Winner of the BRANFORD BOASE AWARD

My Sister Lives on the Mantelpiece

Author: **Annabel Pitcher**

Genre: **Growing Up**

Recommended: **KS3**

Age Range: **12-15**

Summary:

The story of 10-year-old Jamie, told through his innocent view of an adult world in which terrible things happen.

Jamie -and his family- struggle to come to terms with his sister's death, after a London bomb attack. The book looks at the emotional chaos and fallout of her death and their dad's subsequent Islamophobia and alcoholism- in addition to the more ordinary childhood problems of friendship and family.

Despite some heavyweight and serious topics, this book is also heartwarming and funny. It's an absolute tear-jerker- so get your tissues at the ready! But it's also a real page-turner- you'll be desperately wanting to know what happens to Jamie and how things turn out for his family.

Contains: death of a sibling, islamophobia, racial slurs, terrorism, alcoholism, family break-up

Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children

Author: **Ransom Riggs**

Genre: **Fantasy**

Recommended: **KS3**

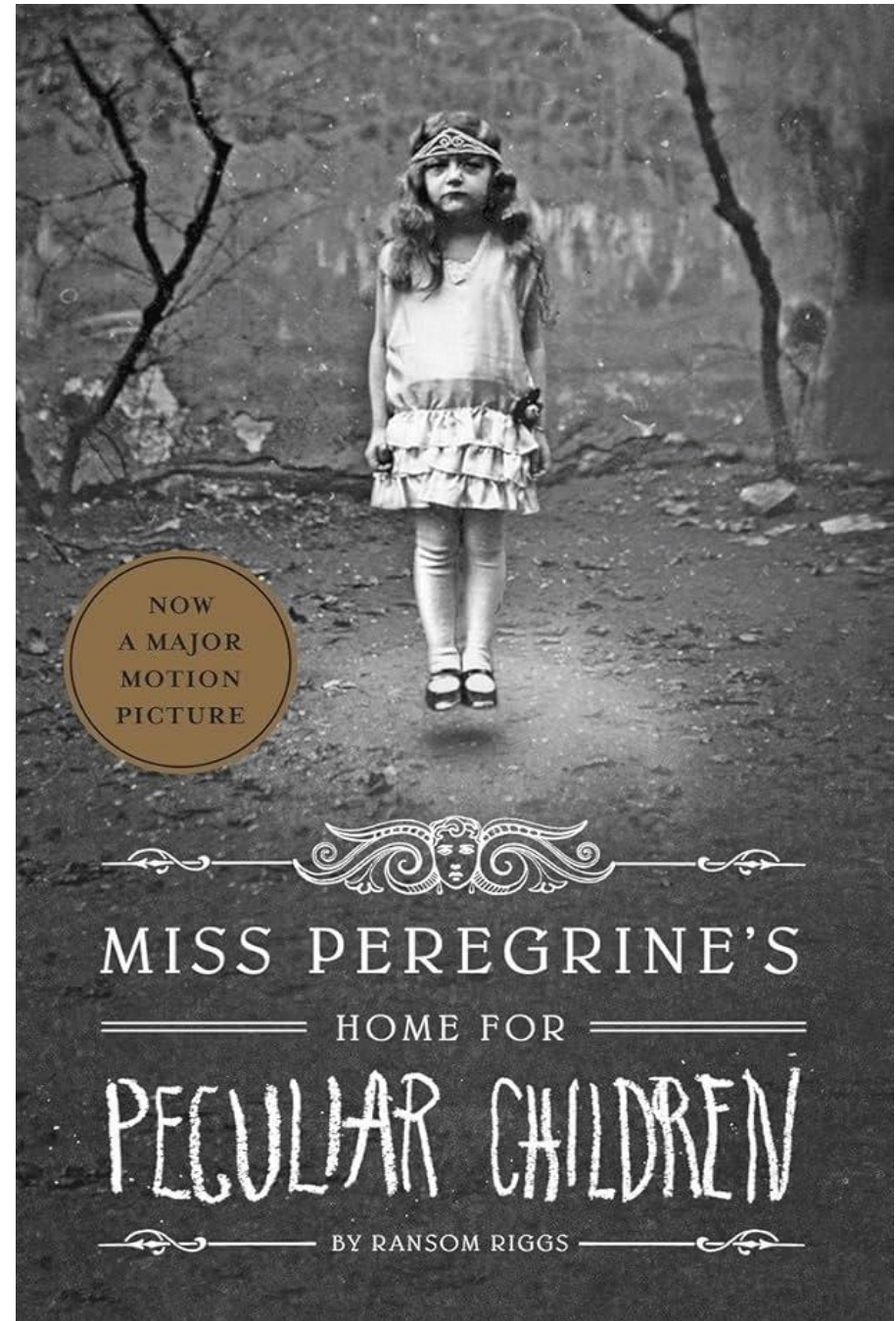
Age Range: **12-15**

Summary:

A horrific family tragedy sets sixteen-year-old Jacob journeying to a remote island off the coast of Wales, where he discovers the crumbling ruins of Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children. As Jacob explores its abandoned bedrooms and hallways, it becomes clear that the children were more than just peculiar. They may have been dangerous. They may have been quarantined on a deserted island for good reason. And somehow—impossible though it seems—they may still be alive.

A spine-tingling fantasy illustrated with haunting vintage photography, *Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children* will delight anyone who relishes an adventure in the shadows.

Contains: references to war; death of grandparent; mental illness; bullying.



'... A MUST FOR FANS OF THE HUNGER GAMES'

READ THE
BOOK.
SEE THE
FILM.

THE MAZE RUNNER

THE NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER

JAMES DASHNER

The Maze Runner

Author: **James Dashner**

Genre: **Dystopia**

Recommended: **KS3**

Age Range: **12-15**

Summary:

Thomas does not live in a village, like you and me. Nor does he live in a bigger town, a bustling city or even a remote island. Thomas lives in the glade. There is a community of other boys, although none chose to be there or can remember anything from before they woke up in the metal box that lifted them into their new life.

The only exit is through the maze beyond the glade's walls. Each day, the Runners try to escape through it. It's difficult, dangerous and, for some, deadly. Can Thomas be the first to make it out of those walls? Or can the boys survive this strange world on their own, if they stay within them?

Contains: violence, death

The Book Thief

Author: **Markus Zusak**

Genre: **Historical Fiction**

Recommended: **Upper KS3/4**

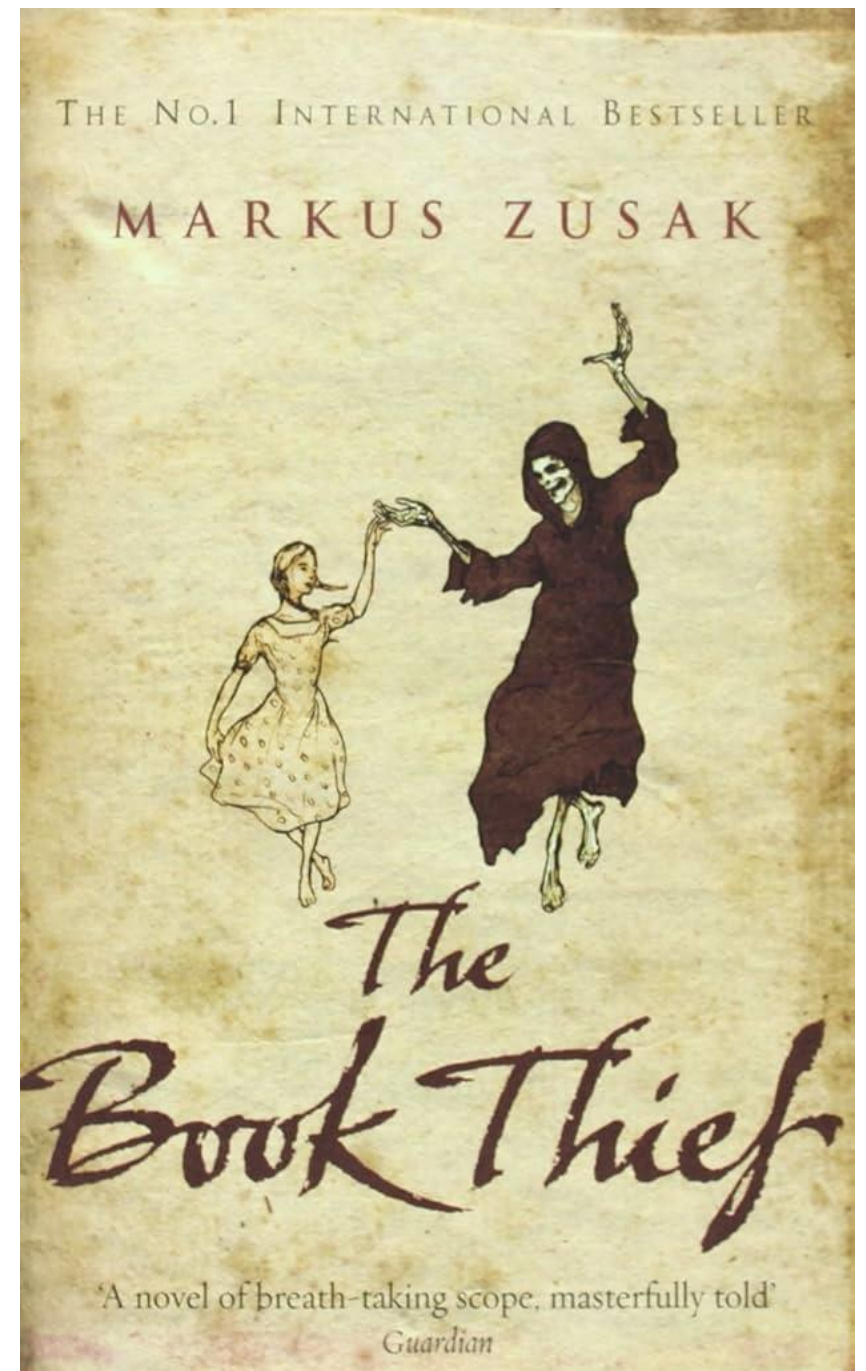
Age Range: **13-15**

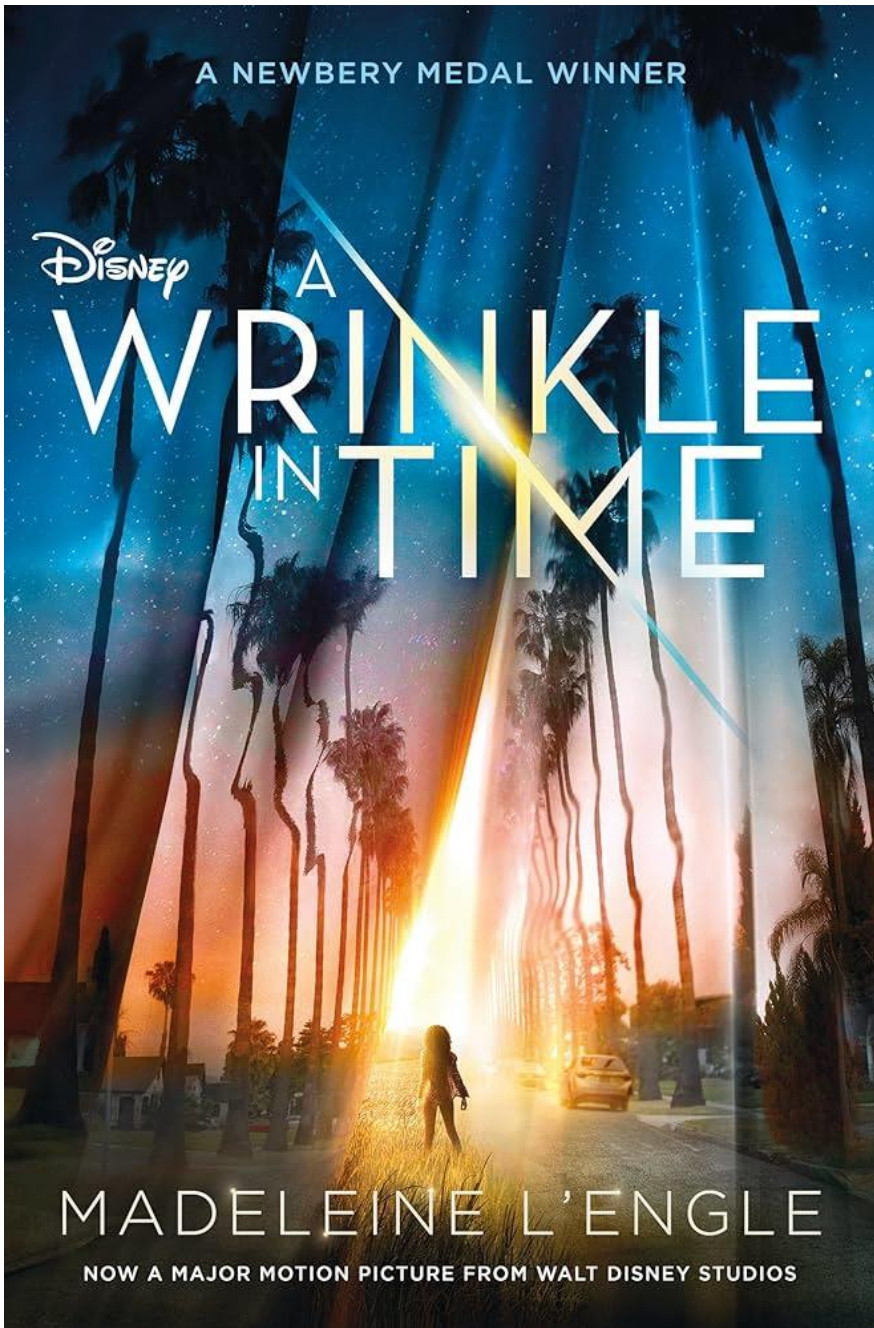
Summary:

Imagine if death could tell a story... The Book Thief is set in Nazi Germany during World War II. Narrated by Death, the story follows Liesel Meminger, a young girl who finds solace and escape in books stolen from a Nazi book-burning. The novel explores themes of loss, resilience, the power of words, and the enduring nature of the human spirit.

Liesel's journey, marked by hardship and tragedy, is interwoven with the stories of the people she encounters, including her foster parents Hans and Rosa Hubermann, her best friend Rudy Steiner, and the enigmatic Max Vandenburg. Through Liesel's eyes, we witness the horrors of war and the devastating impact it has on individuals and communities. The novel delves into the complexities of human nature, highlighting acts of courage, compassion, and resistance in the face of oppression.

Contains: death, war, violence, grief, holocaust





A Wrinkle in Time

Author: **Madeleine L'Engle**

Genre: **Sci-Fi & Fantasy**

Recommended: **Upper KS3/4**

Age Range: **13-15**

Summary:

Meg always felt she was different. And when she and her little brother Charles Murry go searching for their lost father, they find themselves travelling on a dangerous journey through a 'wrinkle in time'. Meg must overcome her insecurities and channel all her inner strengths – to save her family.

An exciting mixture of fantasy and science fiction, that is dominated by the funny and mysterious trio of guardian angels known as Mrs Whatsit, Mrs Who and Mrs Which, *A Wrinkle in Time* is an empowering story about the battle between good and evil and the power of love.

Contains: violence, sexual content, religion

Noughts and Crosses

Author: **Malorie Blackman**

Genre: **Dystopia & Romance**

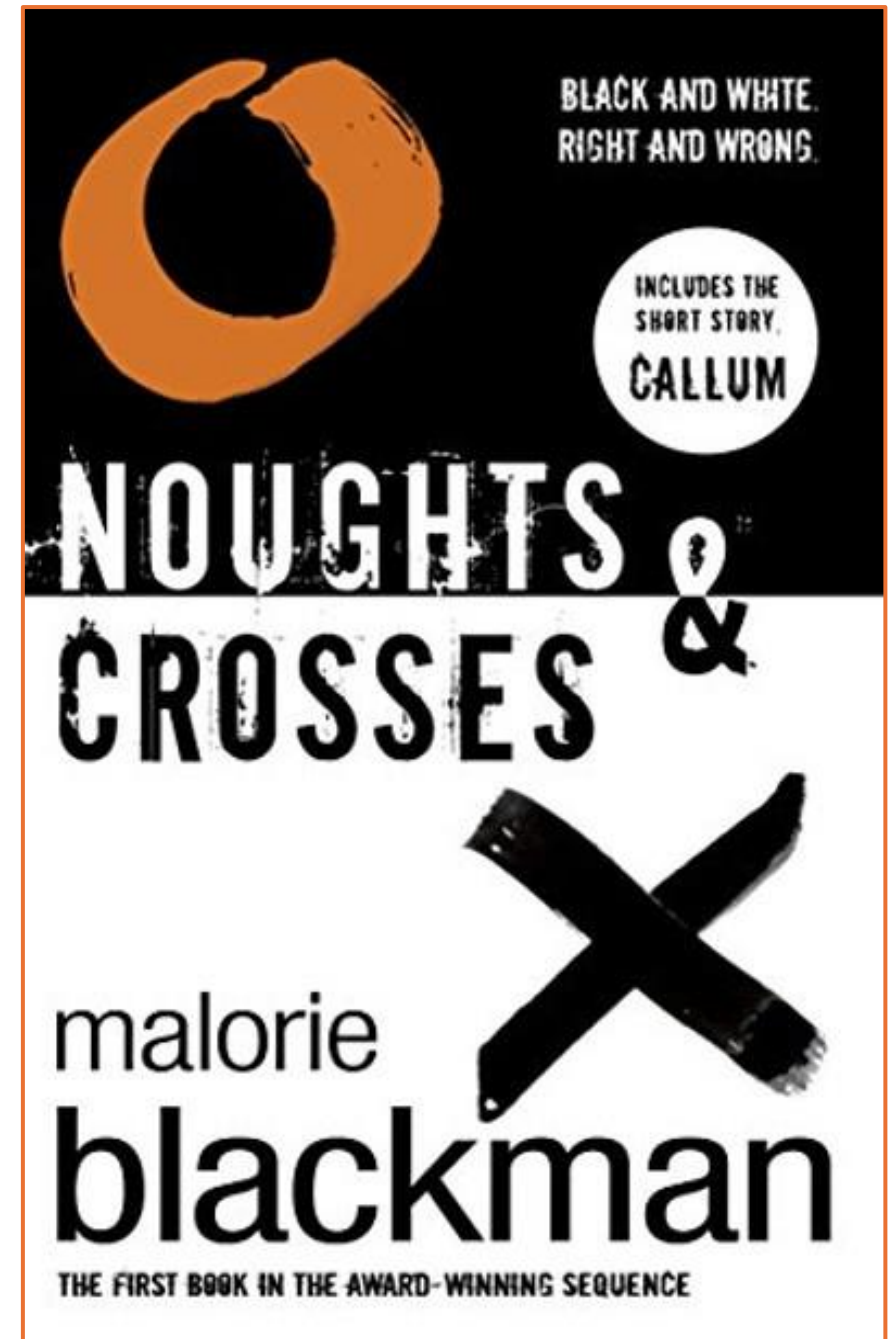
Recommended: **Upper KS3/4**

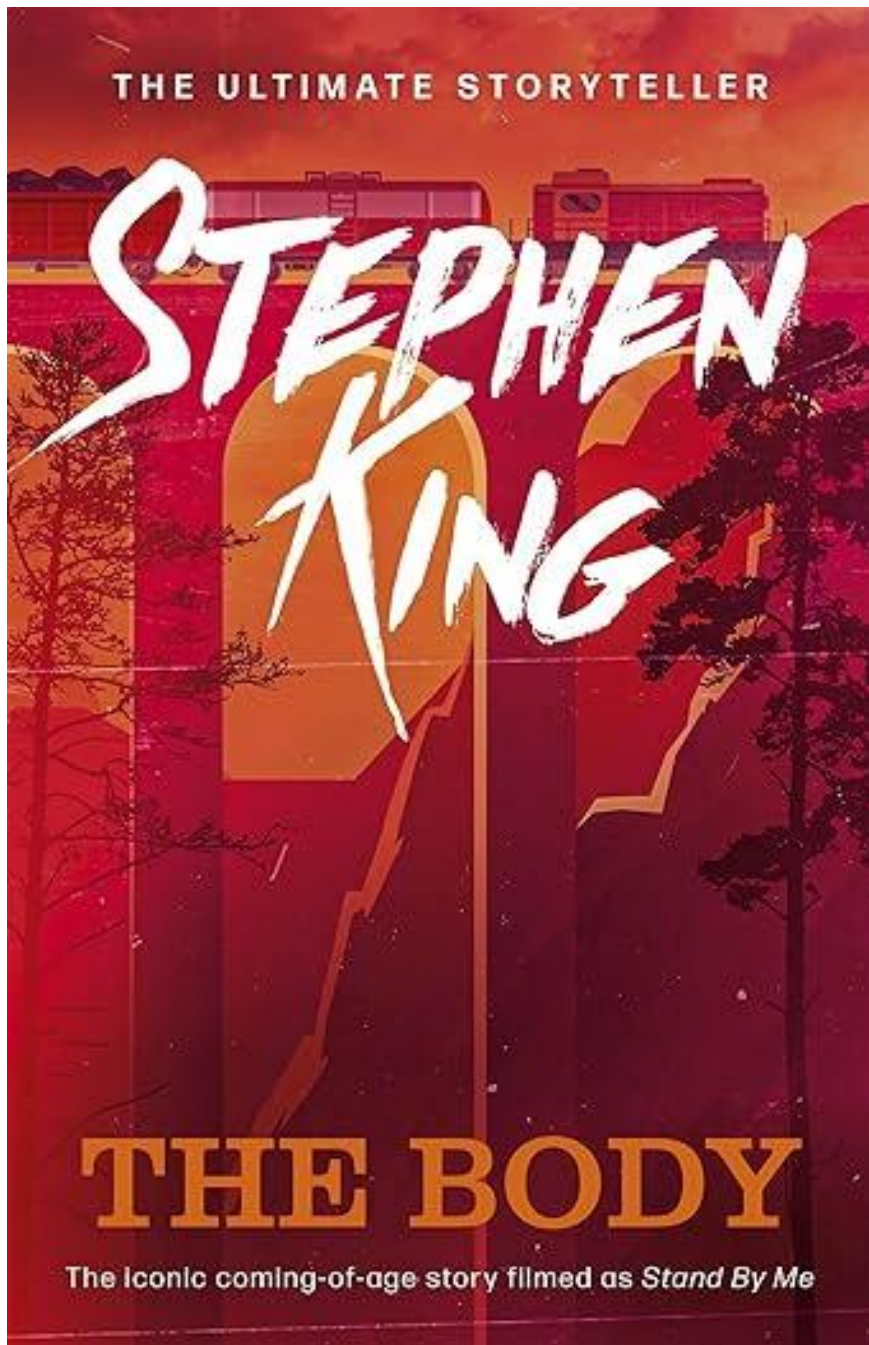
Age Range: **13-15**

Summary:

Sephy is a Cross: she lives a life of privilege and power. But she's lonely, and burns with injustice at the world she sees around her. Callum is a nought: he's considered to be less than nothing - a blanker, there to serve Crosses - but he dreams of a better life. They've been friends since they were children, and they both know that's as far as it can ever go. Noughts and Crosses are fated to be bitter enemies - love is out of the question. Then - in spite of a world that is fiercely against them - these star-crossed lovers choose each other. But this is love story that will lead both of them into terrible danger... and which will have shocking repercussions for generations to come.

Contains: political themes; racism; family relationships; suicide; violence; teen pregnancy





The Body

Author: **Stephen King**

Genre: **Mystery & Crime**

Recommended: **Upper KS3/4**

Age Range: **13-15**

Summary:

It's 1960 and the small town of Castle Rock is tuning in to the news of a young boy who has gone missing from a nearby town.

Gordie Lachance and his three friends set off along the railway tracks on a quest, determined to become famous by officially finding the boy's body. But their journey becomes a rite of passage, and as they cross the railway trestle and the tracks begin to hum, the boys are reminded of their own mortality.

Contains: dead body, bullying, strong language, sexual references.

The Outsiders

Author: **S. E. Hinton**

Genre: **Adventure & Real World**

Recommended: **Upper KS3/4**

Age Range: **13-15**

Summary:

Two weeks in the life of Ponyboy and his struggles with right and wrong in society, in which he believes that he is an outsider. According to Ponyboy, there are two kinds of people in the world: greasers and socs. A soc (short for "social") has money, can get just about anything, and has an attitude longer than a limousine. A greaser, on the other hand, always lives on the outside and needs to watch his back.

Ponyboy is a greaser, and he's always been proud of it, even willing to rumble against a gang of socs for the sake of his fellow greasers... until one terrible night when his friend Jonny kills a soc. The murder gets under Ponyboy's skin, causing his divided world to crumble and teaches him that pain feels the same whether you are a soc or a greaser.

Contains: teen pregnancy, holocaust, politics, war, violence.



S.E. Hinton



The Outsiders



Murder on the Orient Express

Author: Agatha Christie	Genre: Mystery & Detective
Recommended: KS4	Age Range: 13-15

Summary:

Hercule Poirot is – perhaps – the most talented detective of all time. He rivals Sherlock Holmes for his ability to draw incredible deductions and solve seemingly impossible crimes.

In this classic novel, he finds himself trapped on a train that is stopped in its tracks by the winter snow. It is surprisingly full for the time of year, but by the morning it is one passenger fewer. An American tycoon lies dead in his compartment, stabbed a dozen times, his door locked from the inside.

Isolated and with a killer in their midst, detective Hercule Poirot must identify the murderer – in case he or she decides to strike again.

Contains: violence, death

The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time

Author: **Mark Haddon**

Genre: **Mystery**

Recommended: **KS4**

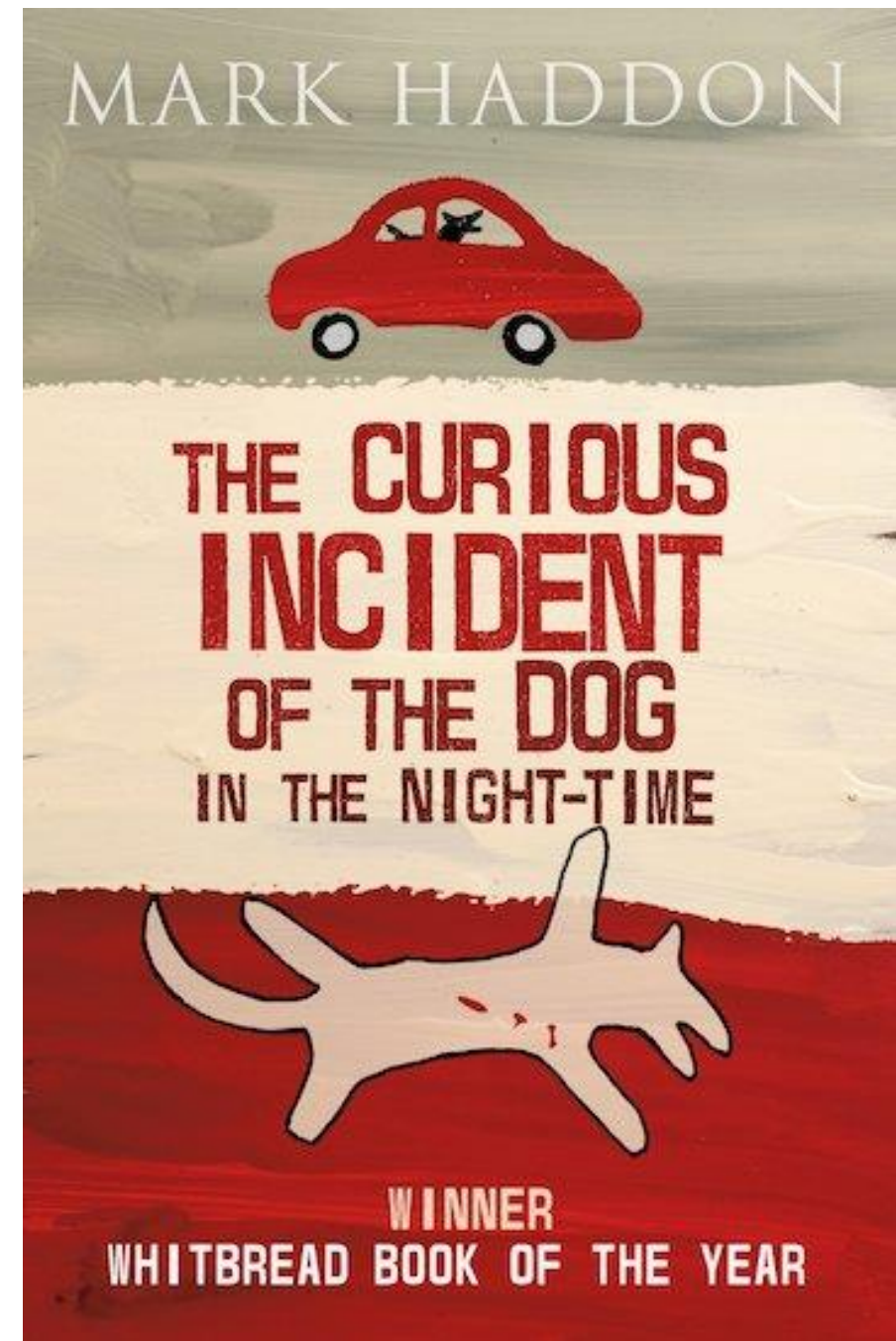
Age Range: **13-15**

Summary:

It was 7 minutes after midnight. The dog was lying on the grass in the middle of the lawn in front of Mrs Shears' house. Its eyes were closed. It looked as if it was running on its side, the way dogs run when they think they are chasing a cat in a dream. But the dog was not running or asleep. The dog was dead.

This is Christopher's murder mystery story. There are also no lies in this story because Christopher can't tell lies. Christopher does not like strangers or the colours yellow or brown or being touched. On the other hand, he knows all the countries in the world and every prime number up to 7507. When Christopher decides to find out who killed the neighbour's dog, his mystery becomes more complicated than he could have ever predicted.

Contains: swearing; animal cruelty; parental death; murder; mental illness



ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE



THE
HOUND
OF THE
BASKERVILLES

The Hound of the Baskervilles

Author: **Sir Arthur Conan Doyle**

Genre: **Mystery & Detective**

Recommended: **KS4**

Age Range: **13-15**

Summary:

If Sherlock Holmes' powers of deduction left you both enthused and confused in Year 8, look no further than *The Hound of the Baskervilles* for your next detective fix!

The story begins like any other: a reunion between Holmes and his loyal sidekick, Dr Watson. Together, they are confronted with the ancient legend of a fearsome and blood-thirsty hound, which is said to haunt the scene of an earlier crime.

In the desolate moors of Devonshire, more secrets and schemes begin to unravel. Holmes must use every trick up his sleeve to solve this seemingly impossible mystery, exposing each deception and conspiracy that attempts to stop him.

Contains: violence, death

The Hitch-Hiker's Guide to the Galaxy

Author: **Douglas Adams**

Genre: **Sci-Fi**

Recommended: **KS4**

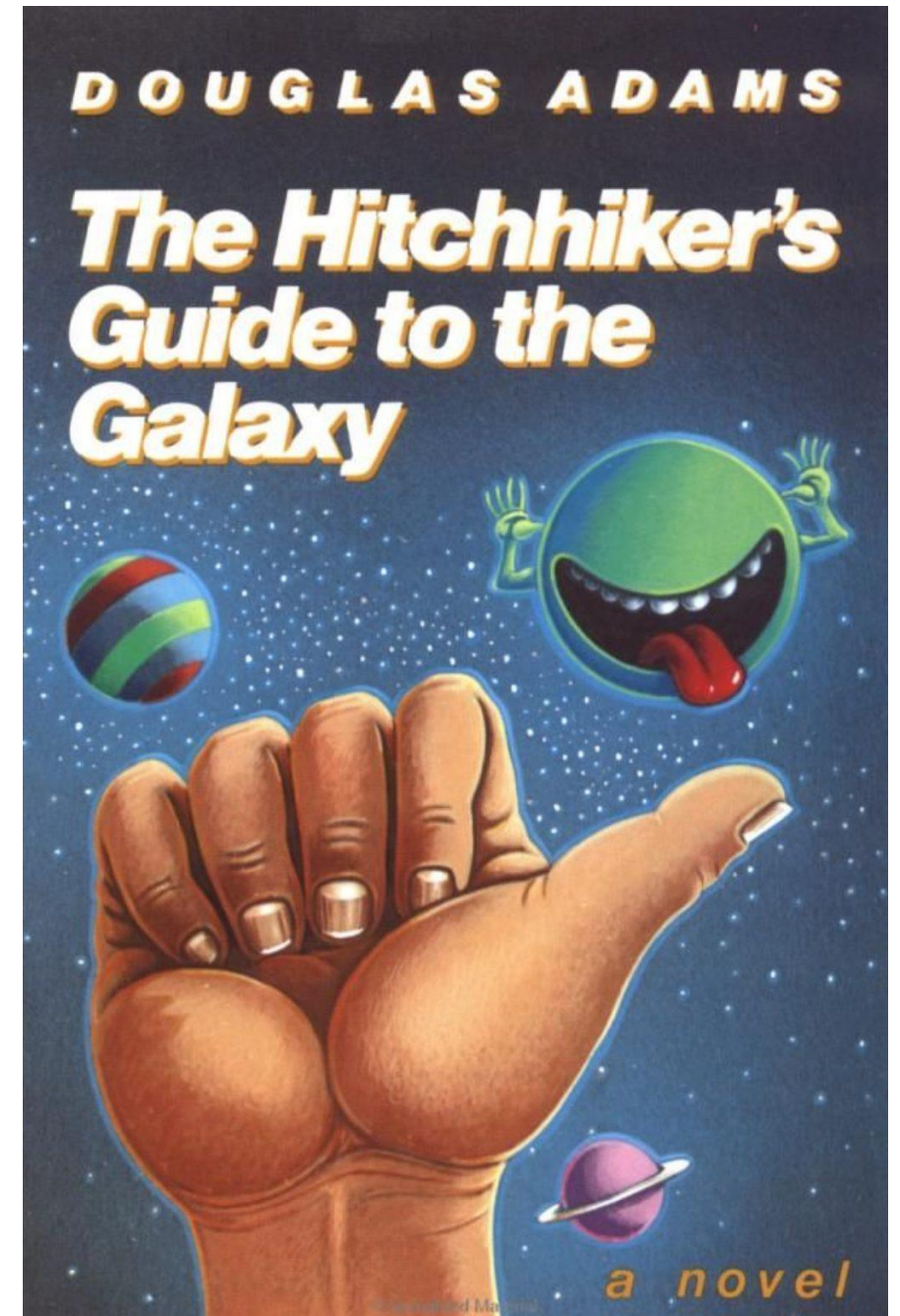
Age Range: **13-15**

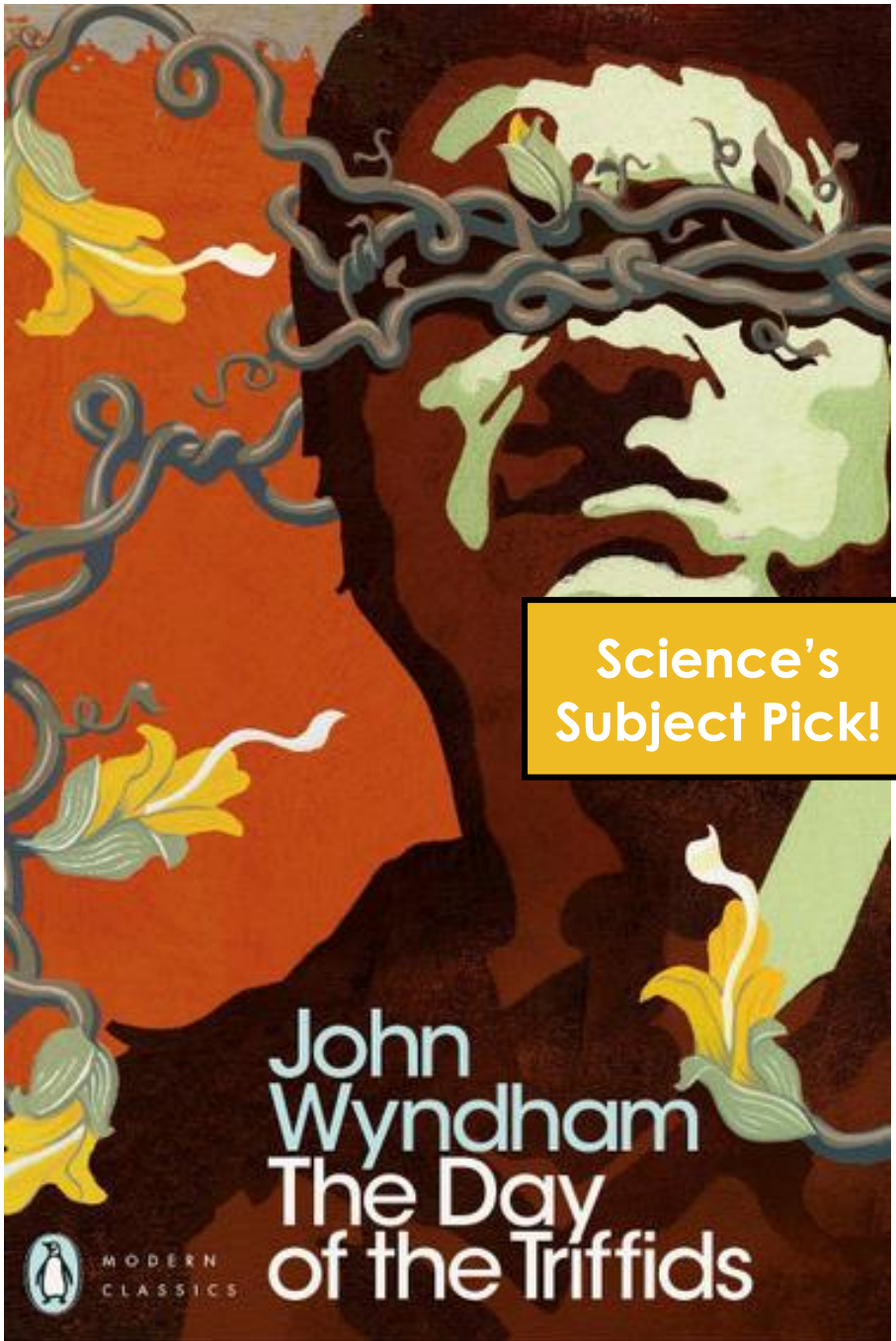
Summary:

The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy is a cleverly written masterpiece that has entertained and perplexed readers for decades.

This hilarious and thought-provoking novel follows the hapless Arthur Dent, as he navigates the vastness of the universe, often accompanied by his eccentric friend Ford Prefect, the two-headed, three-armed President of the Galaxy Zaphod Beeblebrox, the brilliant but depressed robot Marvin, and the character that is Trillian. This is a real 'must' if you have a great sense of humour and love quirky characters.

Contains: mild swearing





Science's
Subject Pick!

The Day of the Triffids

Author: **John Wyndham**

Genre: **Sci-Fi & Dystopia**

Recommended: **KS4**

Age Range: **13-15**

Summary:

Whilst Bill Masen is recovering from an operation – still bandaged and blindfolded in hospital – an unexpected and merciless meteor shower rains down upon Earth. Bill's unfortunate injury ironically saves him from further harm, as he soon discovers that anyone who could see this catastrophe has lost their sight.

In the ashes of disaster, a species of huge, venomous plants seize control of the world: the triffids. They feast upon human flesh to grow even more powerful and are a danger to Bill's survival.

Can he find others who can help him, destroy the almighty enemy and reclaim a broken world?

Contains: swearing, sexism

Divergent

Author: **Veronica Roth**

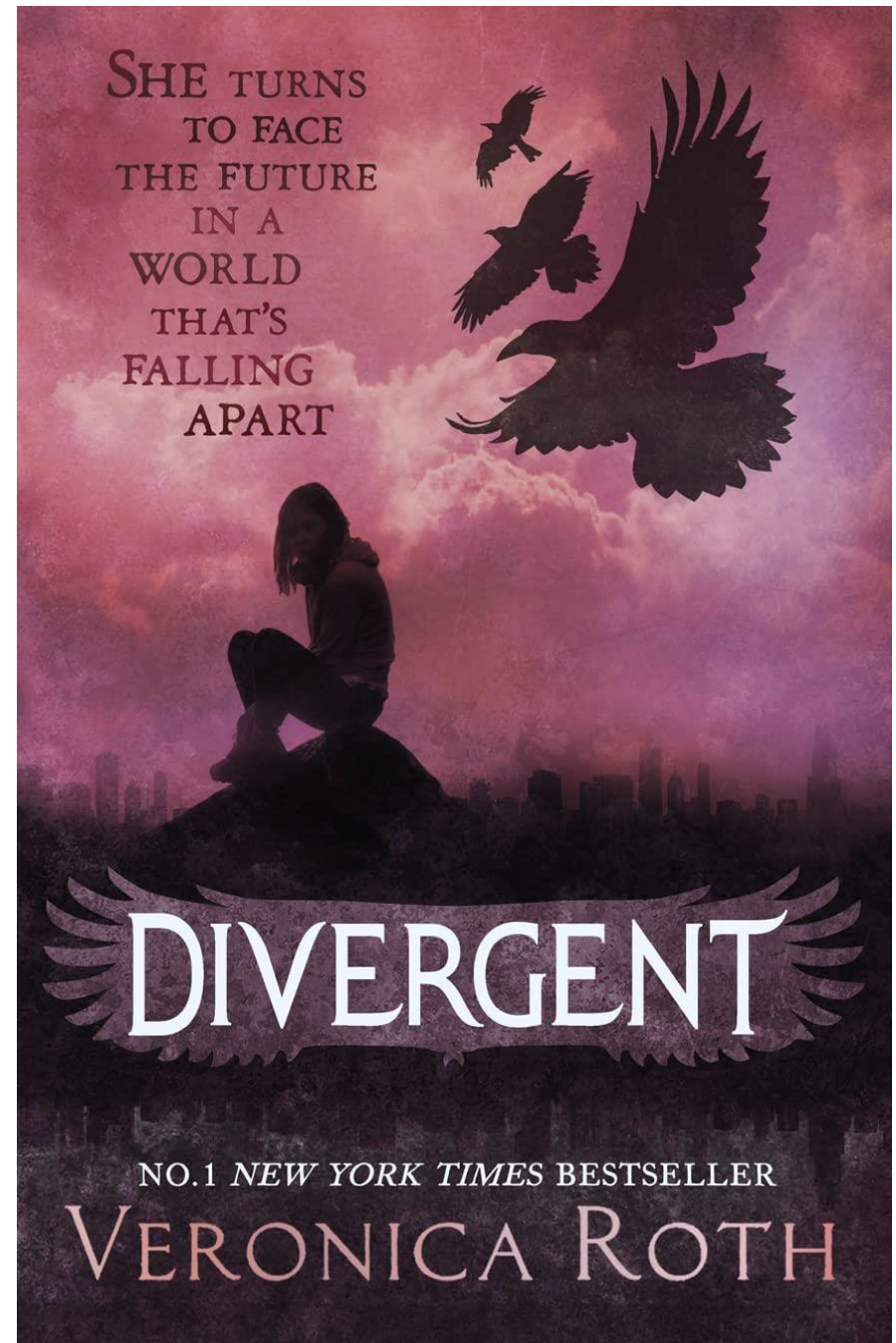
Genre: **Dystopia & Sci-Fi**

Recommended: **KS4**

Age Range: **13-15**

Summary: Roth's haunting vision of the future is shiveringly exciting, for its astonishing contemplation of living life based on matches to your personality, to be devoted to for the rest of your life. In Beatrice's dystopian Chicago world, society is divided into 5 fractions, each dedicated to the cultivation of a particular virtue. Every year all 16-year-olds must select a fraction, for Beatrice the choice is between staying with her family and being who she really is – she can't have both. She makes a choice which surprises everyone, including herself. She must endure a highly competitive initiation, undergo extreme physical tests of endurance, intense psychological stimulations, some with devastating consequences. She must determine who her friends are, where romance fits into the life she has chosen and keep a secret hidden, as she's been warned it can mean death. Unrest and conflict threaten to unravel her seemingly perfect society, her secret could save the ones she loves ...or it might destroy her.

Contains: violence, death, romance, action.





THE HUNGER GAMES

SUZANNE COLLINS

The Hunger Games

Author: **Suzanne Collins**

Genre: **Dystopia & Action**

Recommended: **KS4**

Age Range: **13-15**

Summary:

The story is set in the future in the post-apocalyptic nation of Panem, which is the remains of what was once the country that we called North America. Panem is controlled by The Capitol, an advanced city that dominates the twelve districts that it exerts complete and total authority over. There used to be thirteen districts, but District 13 was destroyed after a failed uprising, firstly to quell the uprising and secondly as a punishment and warning to the other districts. Born from this was The Hunger Games, an annual event to celebrate the crushing of the rebellion. Each year, one boy and one girl, known as Tributes, between the ages of 12 and 18 years old from each district are selected through a lottery to play The Hunger Games, a reality show where the 24 "contestants" must survive and fight each other to the death leaving only one winner. A game designed to punish the districts with the massacre of 23 of their children every year, whilst entertaining the people of The Capitol.

Contains: violence, death

The Knife of Never Letting Go

Author: **Patrick Ness**

Genre: **Sci-Fi & Dystopia**

Recommended: **KS4**

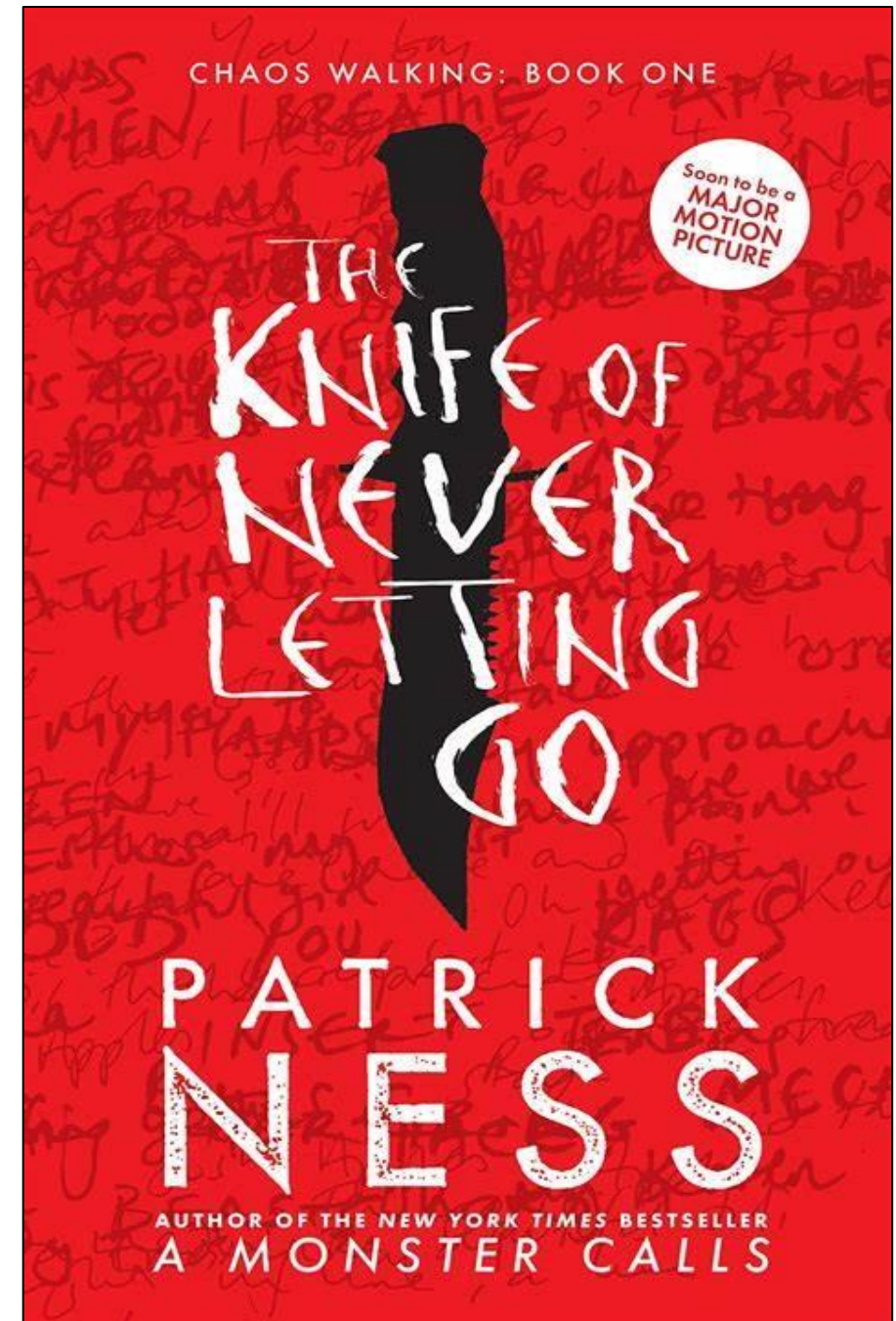
Age Range: **13-15**

Summary:

'The Knife of Never Letting Go' is the first novel in the hugely successful 'Chaos Walking' series. This gripping story follows Todd Hewitt, the last boy in a town of men in a world which has – in true dystopian style – gone horribly wrong. Todd and his faithful dog Manchee discover a 'girl' who is the catalyst for him to flee his home into a world of dark secrets and danger. In Todd's world, these secrets are hard to keep as it is possible to 'hear' one another's thoughts in what is known as the 'noise'.

This is such a tense and truly incredible story which explores key themes of freedom and truth and what it means to live in a world without both privacy and choice.

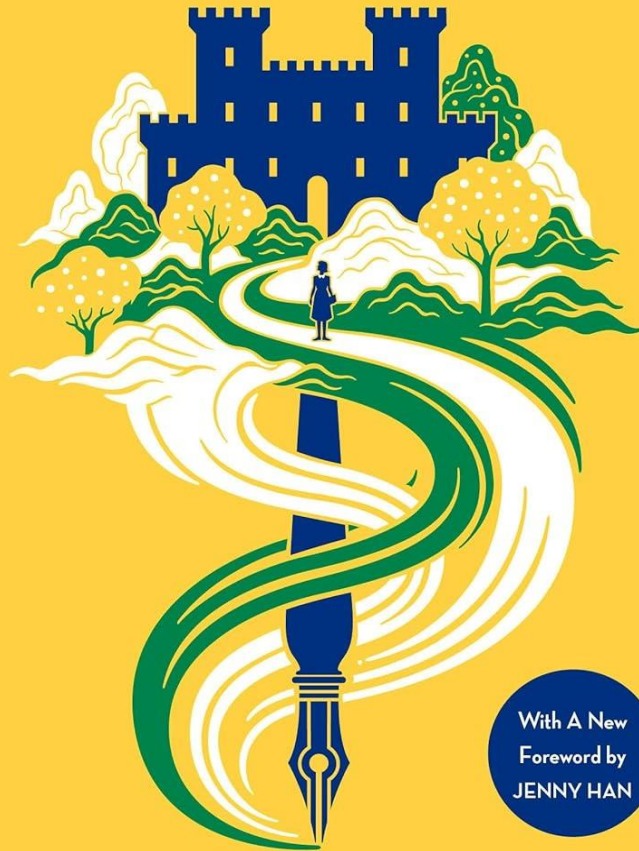
Contains: suicide references, prejudice, death, violence



"This book has one of the most charismatic narrators I've ever met."
—J.K. ROWLING, author of the Harry Potter series

I CAPTURE THE CASTLE

DODIE SMITH



With A New
Foreword by
JENNY HAN

I Capture the Castle

Author: **Dodie Smith**

Genre: **Growing Up**

Recommended: **KS4**

Age Range: **13-15**

Summary:

Through six turbulent months, 17-year-old Cassandra Mortmain keeps a journal, filling three notebooks with sharply funny yet poignant entries about her home, a ruined Suffolk castle, and her eccentric and penniless family. By the time the diary shuts, there have been changes in the Mortmain household, not the least of which is that Cassandra is hopelessly, in love.

Funny, with many clever lines, this is a classic. Cassandra grows up, dealing with love and old problems while living in a crumbling castle in England. A timeless coming of age tale that beautifully captures the trials and tribulations of love, family, and the pursuit of dreams.

Contains: romance, family

Life of Pi

Author: **Yann Martel**

Genre: **Adventure**

Recommended: **KS4**

Age Range: **13-15**

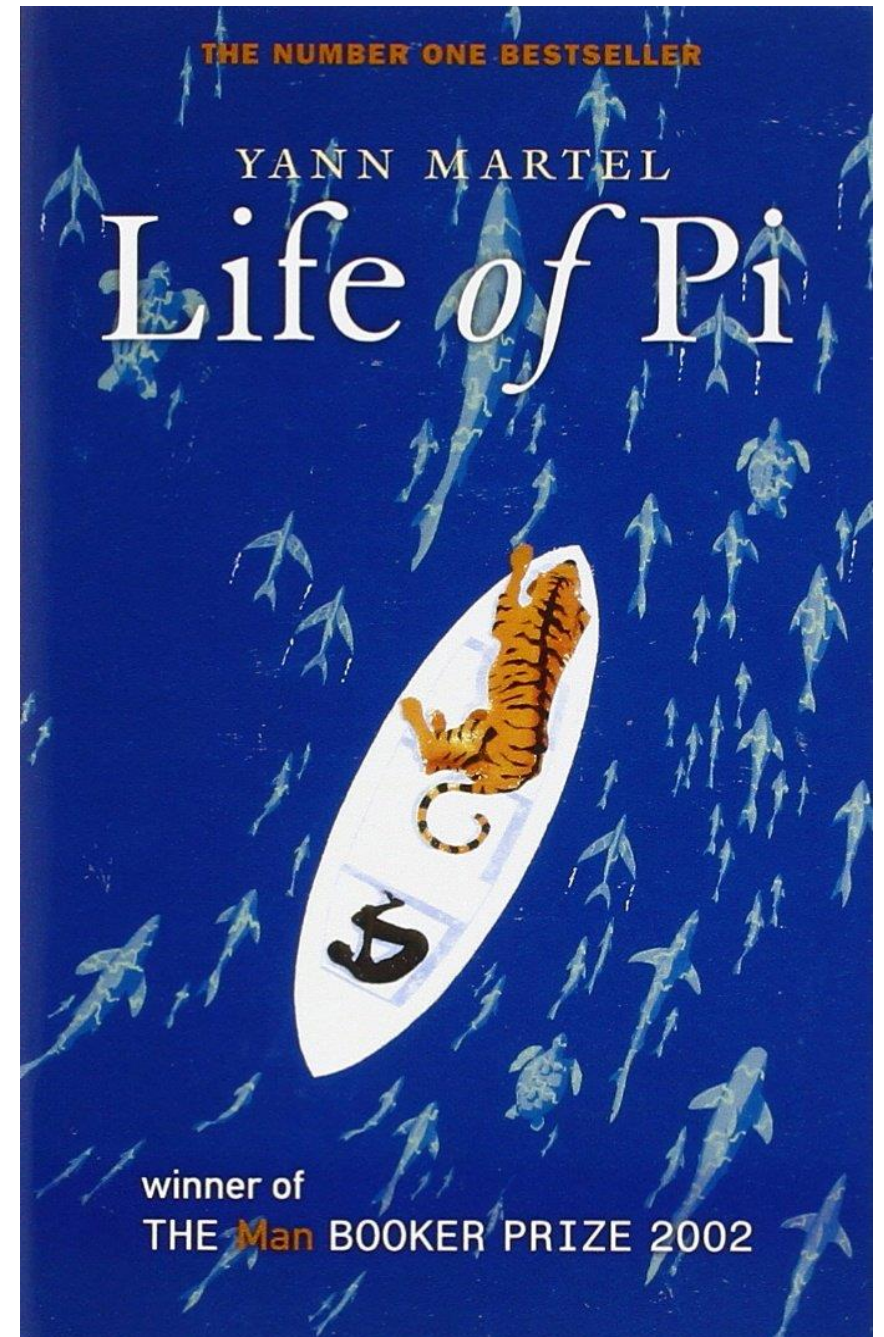
Summary:

This enchanting story follows Piscine Molitor Patel (Pi), a young Indian boy who survives a shipwreck and finds himself adrift in the Pacific Ocean... with a Bengal tiger named Richard Parker. An unlikely understanding emerges between the two in the strangest of circumstances.

As Pi endures unimaginable hardships, he grapples with questions of faith, survival, and the nature of reality.

This is a beautifully written book, full of gorgeous imagery and it is a masterclass in surviving in the face of adversity.

Contains: animal cruelty



FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY 1954 - 2004

THE LORD OF THE RINGS



J.R.R. TOLKIEN

HOUGHTON MIFFLIN COMPANY

The Fellowship of the Ring

Author: **J. R. R Tolkien**

Genre: **Fantasy & Adventure**

Recommended: **KS4**

Age Range: **13-15**

Summary:

If you enjoy being transported to different and fantastical worlds, this is definitely the book for you! The first book of three (a trilogy), this story follows the adventures of the captivating 'hobbit' Frodo Baggins as he embarks on a perilous quest to destroy the 'One Ring', a powerful token sought by the evil Sauron which threatens to plunge the richly imagined Middle-earth into darkness.

Tolkien's world, filled with diverse creatures such as terrifying Orcs and Goblins, is situated amongst breathtaking landscapes, and has captured the imaginations of readers since its publication. The novel explores timeless themes of courage, friendship, and the power of hope. A truly brilliant read!

Contains: war, death, violence

In the Sea *there are* Crocodiles

Author: **Fabio Geda**

Genre: **Biography & Adventure**

Recommended: **KS4**

Age Range: **13-15**

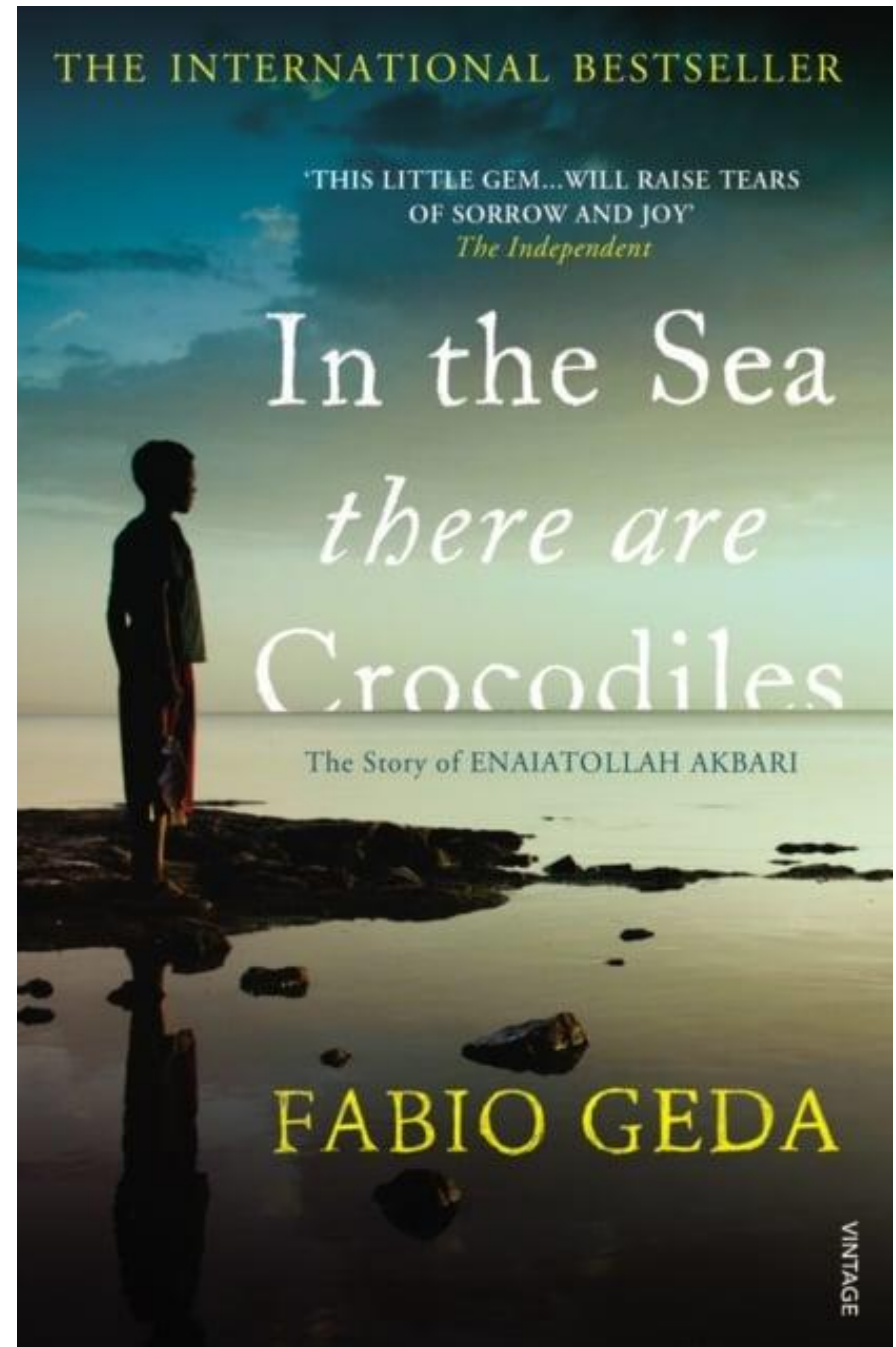
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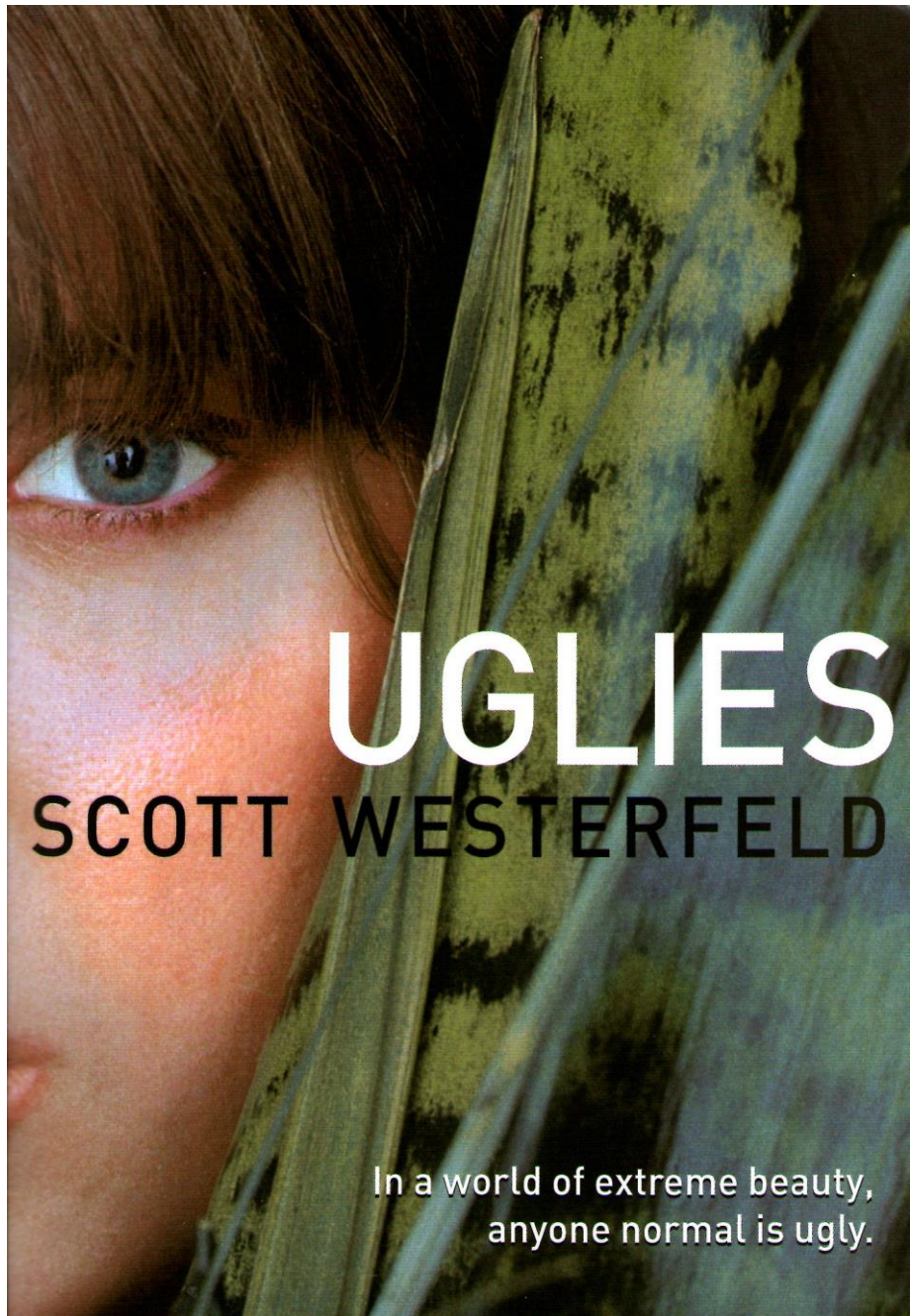
Enaiyatollah, first born in Afghanistan, tells us the story of his life: how he travelled across continents to escape immense and unimaginable dangers.

He is forced to sail across mighty oceans, scavenge for food and survive in the harshest of conditions, alone, at the age of ten. Every stranger poses a threat, but also a much-needed lifeline. And at every turn, he risks being caught, captured by the authorities, only to be sent back to where he started – a community that he does not recognise, and offers *no* safety.

This moving story follows one brave young boy, as he shares the remarkable experiences that made him into a man.

Contains: refugees, violence, death, racism, abuse





Uglies

Author: **Scott Westerfeld**

Genre: **Dystopia & Sci-Fi**

Recommended: **KS4**

Age Range: **13-15**

Summary:

Exploring the pressures of the beauty standards in society, this story follows Tally Youngblood. She is a teenager living in a futuristic world, where everyone undergoes compulsory cosmetic surgery at the age of sixteen to become "Pretty." However, Tally's world is turned upside down when she meets Shay, a girl who chooses to remain an "Ugly" and escape the confines of the Pretty society.

Tally is faced with a difficult choice: report Shay to the authorities and become Pretty herself, or join Shay on a dangerous journey to discover the truth behind the Pretty world.

Contains: violence, death, body issues

Gulliver's Travels

Author: **Jonathan Swift**

Genre: **Adventure & Fantasy**

Recommended: **KS4**

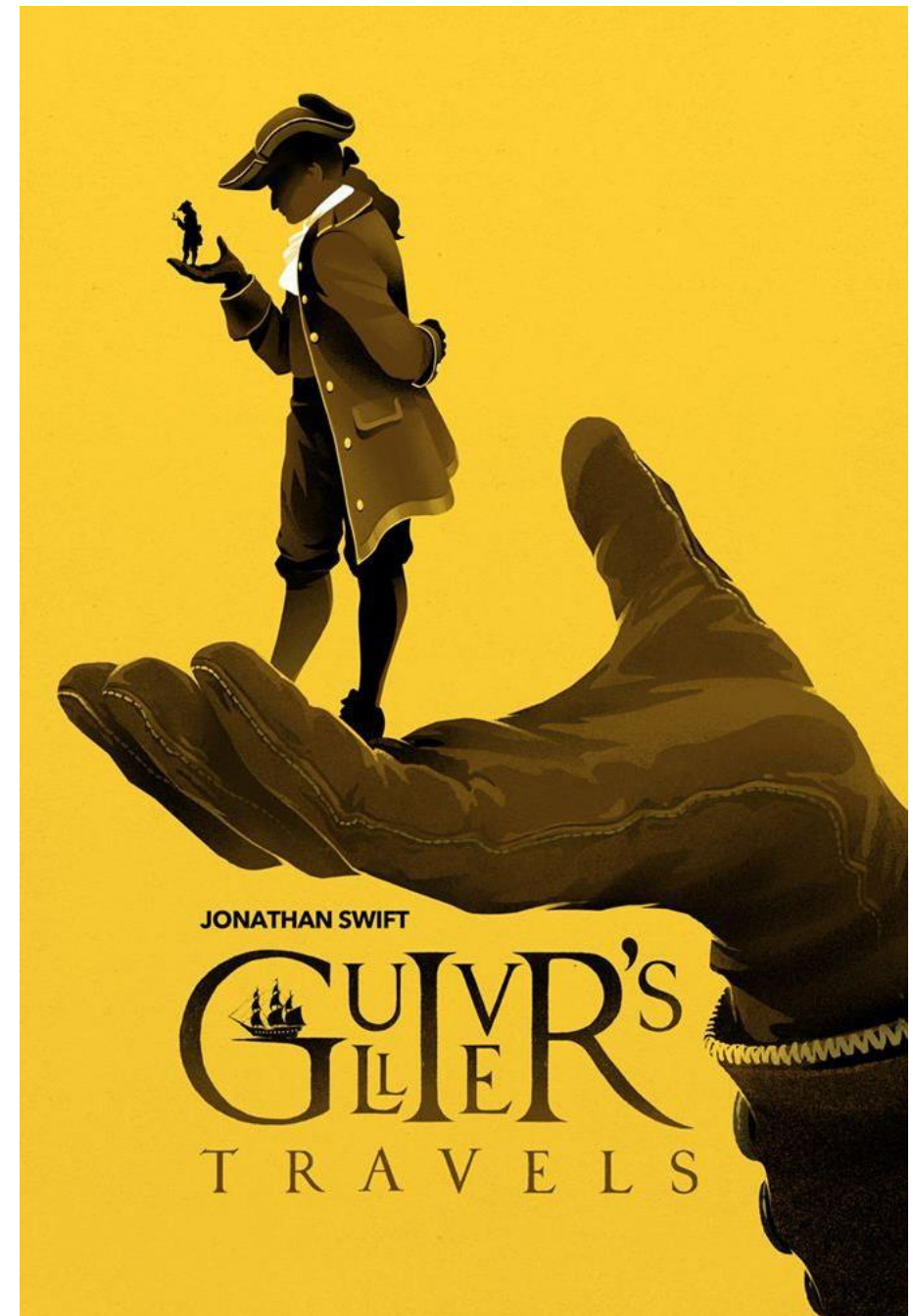
Age Range: **13-15**

Summary:

Gulliver's Travels is an adventurous classic that takes you on an unpredictable journey across strange and fascinating lands. Through the eyes of Lemuel Gulliver, we encounter Lilliputians (tiny people with enormous ambitions), Brobdingnagians (giants who see humans as curious little creatures), and strange islands with flying sorcerers and wise horses.

Swift crafts a humorous story that pokes fun at the society around us – reflecting the ridiculous and flawed parts of our real world in his bizarre and *almost* unbelievable creations.

Contains: violence, satire



GEORGE ORWELL



ILLUSTRATED BY :

ANDRIJA VUJOŠEVIĆ

1984

Author: **George Orwell**

Genre: **Dystopia**

Recommended: **KS4**

Age Range: **14-16**

Summary:

George Orwell's 1984 is a dystopian masterpiece that paints a haunting picture of a totalitarian society where individual thought and freedom are suppressed. Set in a future Oceania, the novel follows Winston Smith, a disillusioned government worker who dares to question the oppressive regime of Big Brother.

Orwell's masterful storytelling and vivid imagery create a world of constant surveillance, historical revisionism, and thought control. The novel explores themes of power, language, and the human spirit's capacity for resistance. Through Winston's desperate struggle for individuality and truth, Orwell exposes the dangers of unchecked authoritarianism.

Contains: government oppression and surveillance, violence, death, terror, sexual violence

Little Women

Author: **Louisa May Alcott**

Genre: **Coming of Age**

Recommended: **KS4**

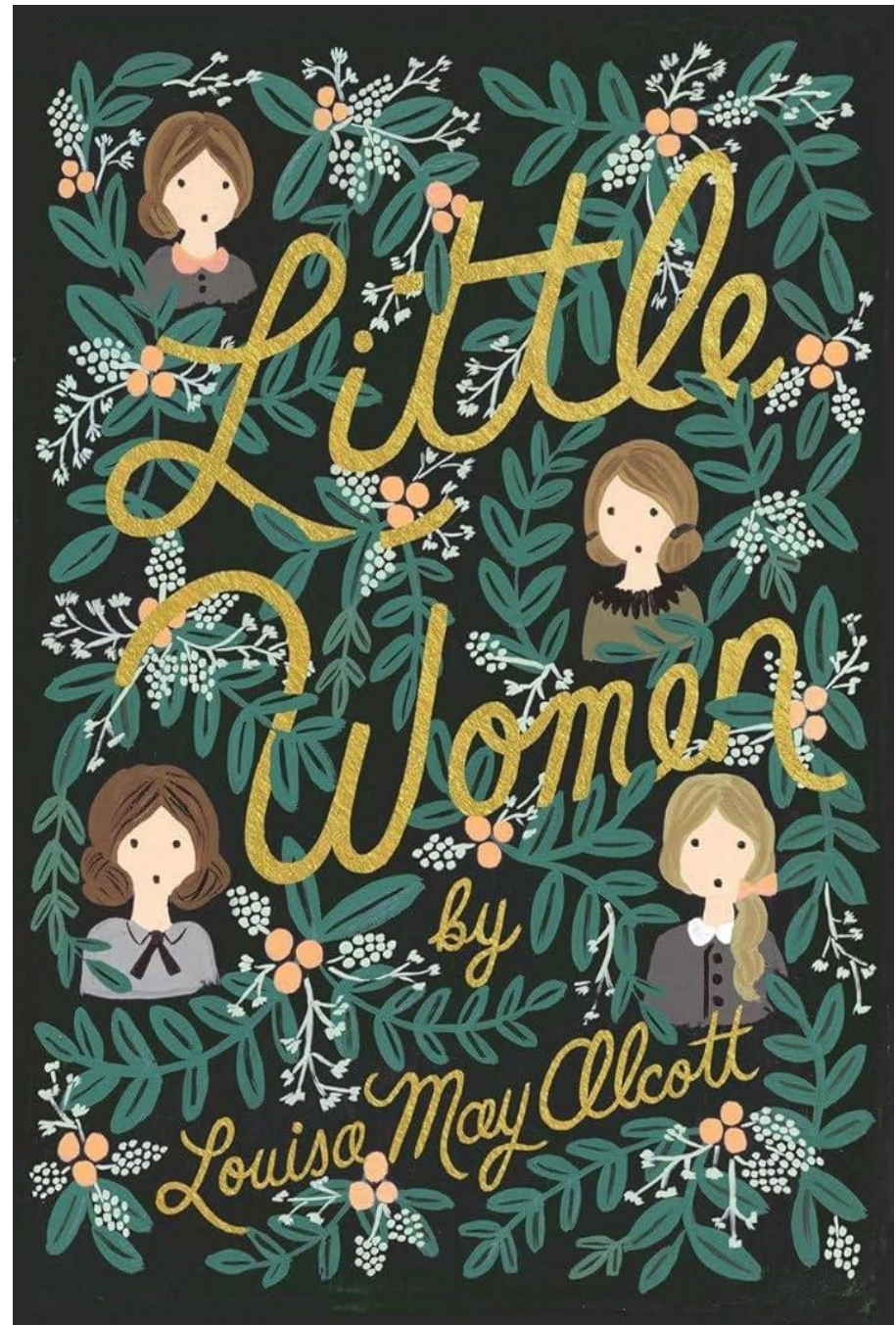
Age Range: **14-16**

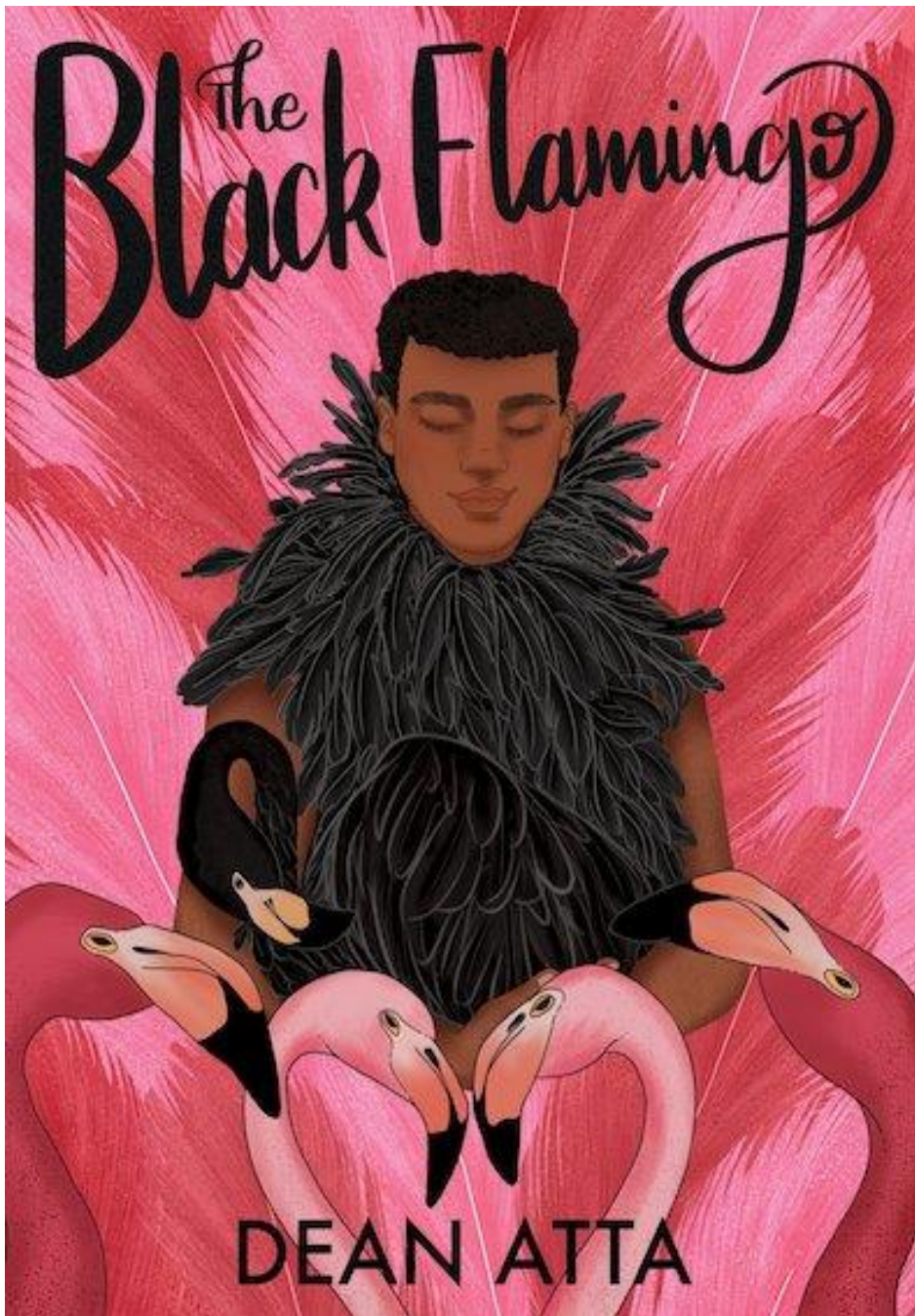
Summary:

Little Women centres on four sisters of the March family: Meg, Jo, Beth and Amy. The Marches are a poor but loving family. Without their father around, since he is serving in the war, it is up to the girls and their mother to learn about life. The book charts their journeys of love and loss, as they grow from childhood to adulthood, ultimately learning to be 'little women'.

Alcott writes in a moralistic way and at some points the girls are a little too perfect to be true. Overall, though, their sparky personalities and the insights into the characters' lives, as well as the world of 1800s America, have kept readers hooked for many years- an absolute classic! One that will continue to be shared for generations to come- ask your nan if she's read it! Or, ask her to read it with you!

Contains: some difficult, old-fashioned language





The Black Flamingo

Author: **Dean Atta**

Genre: **Growing Up & LGBTQ+**

Recommended: **KS4**

Age Range: **14-16**

Summary:

Written in verse, this is an enchanting story about a young man who is often uncertain about who he is. As a mixed-race teenager, with both Jamaican and Cypriot heritage, Michael's experience feels rather unique and far removed from that of his London classmates. The fact that he is gay only seems to make his identity more confused and complicated to understand.

Soon, he finds solace in the drag society and embraces the freedom it offers him to be proud of being his full, authentic self.

This book is raw and compelling in its honesty about how Michael determines who he truly is and how he must respond to the pressures, expectations and prejudices of the world around him. It tracks his journey from age 6 to university, and is a heartwarming tale of personal discovery.

Contains: homophobia, racism, sexism, violence

Noah Can't Even

Author: **Simon James Green**

Genre: **Comedy,
Romance & LGBTQ+**

Recommended: **KS4**

Age Range: **14-16**

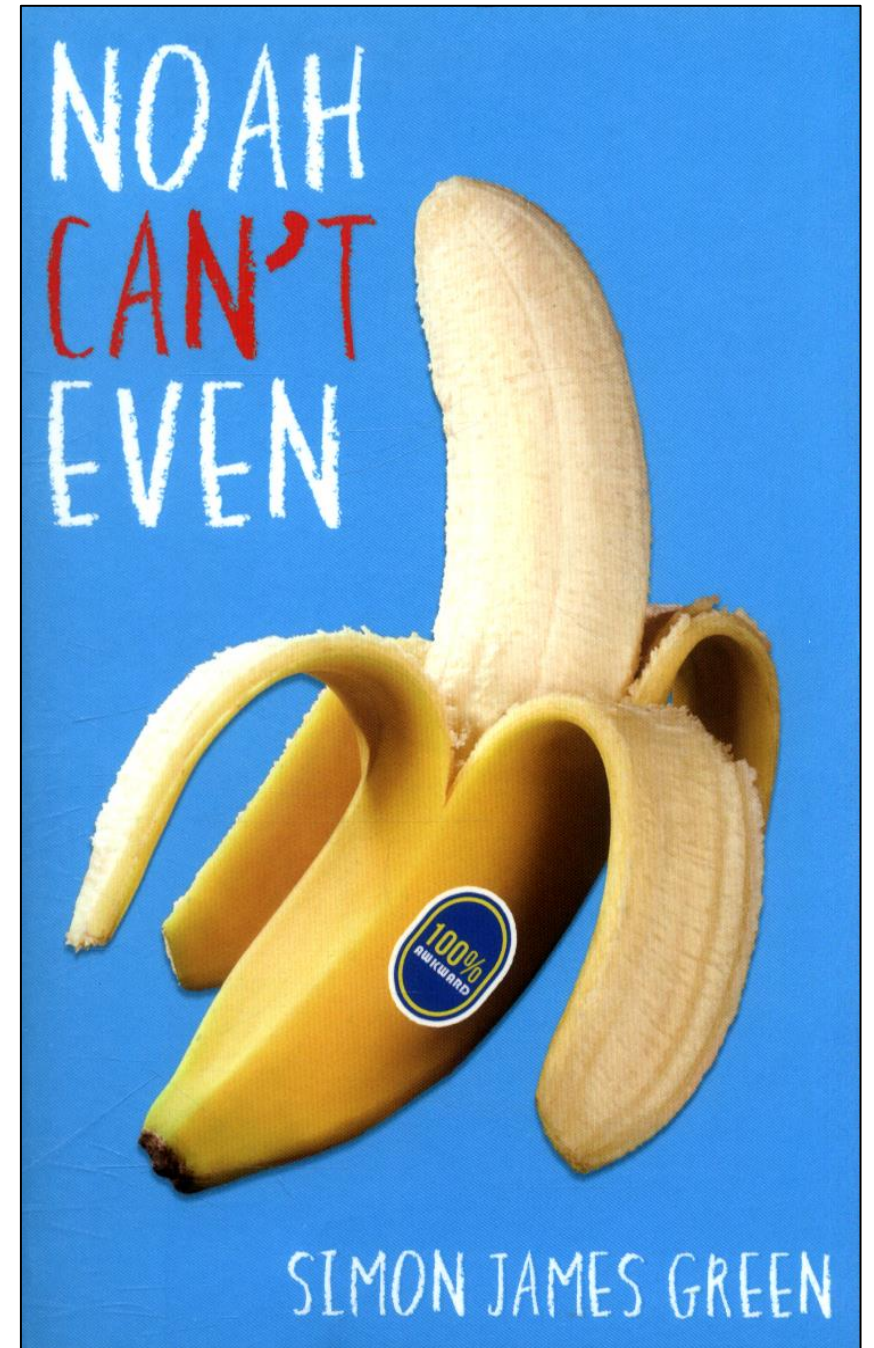
Summary:

This book, without doubt, is 'laugh out loud funny'! Quirky and heartwarming, the story focuses on a young man named Noah who struggles with social anxiety and finds himself in a series of unexpected-and often hilarious- situations.

Noah navigates the challenges of growing up and trying to fit in; his experiences are easy to relate to and we cringe, giggle and pity him as we join the rollercoaster which is his teenage life.

While the plot may seem simple at first, the novel offers a deeper exploration of themes such as friendship, family, and the importance of finding your own path in life. 'Noah Can't Even' is a delightful and uplifting read-it is impossible not to love this book!

Contains: sexual references, swearing, homophobia



KLARA AND THE SUN

A NOVEL



KAZUO ISHIGURO

WINNER OF THE NOBEL PRIZE
IN LITERATURE

Klara and the Sun

Author: Kazuo Ishiguro

Genre: **Dystopia & Sci-Fi**

Recommended: **KS4**

Age Range: **14-16**

Summary:

This beautifully written and thought-provoking novel is set in a future where artificial friends (AFs) are common companions for humans. The story follows Klara, an AF who is chosen by a young girl named Josie to be her friend. Klara is curious about the world around her and the people she interacts with, and she learns about the complexities of human relationships and the nature of love.

The story will make readers think about the world of technology that we live in today – the opportunities and the drawbacks...

Contains: illness, death

Sophie's World

Author: **Jostein Gaarder**

Genre: **Growing Up & Mystery**

Recommended: **KS4**

Age Range: **14-16**

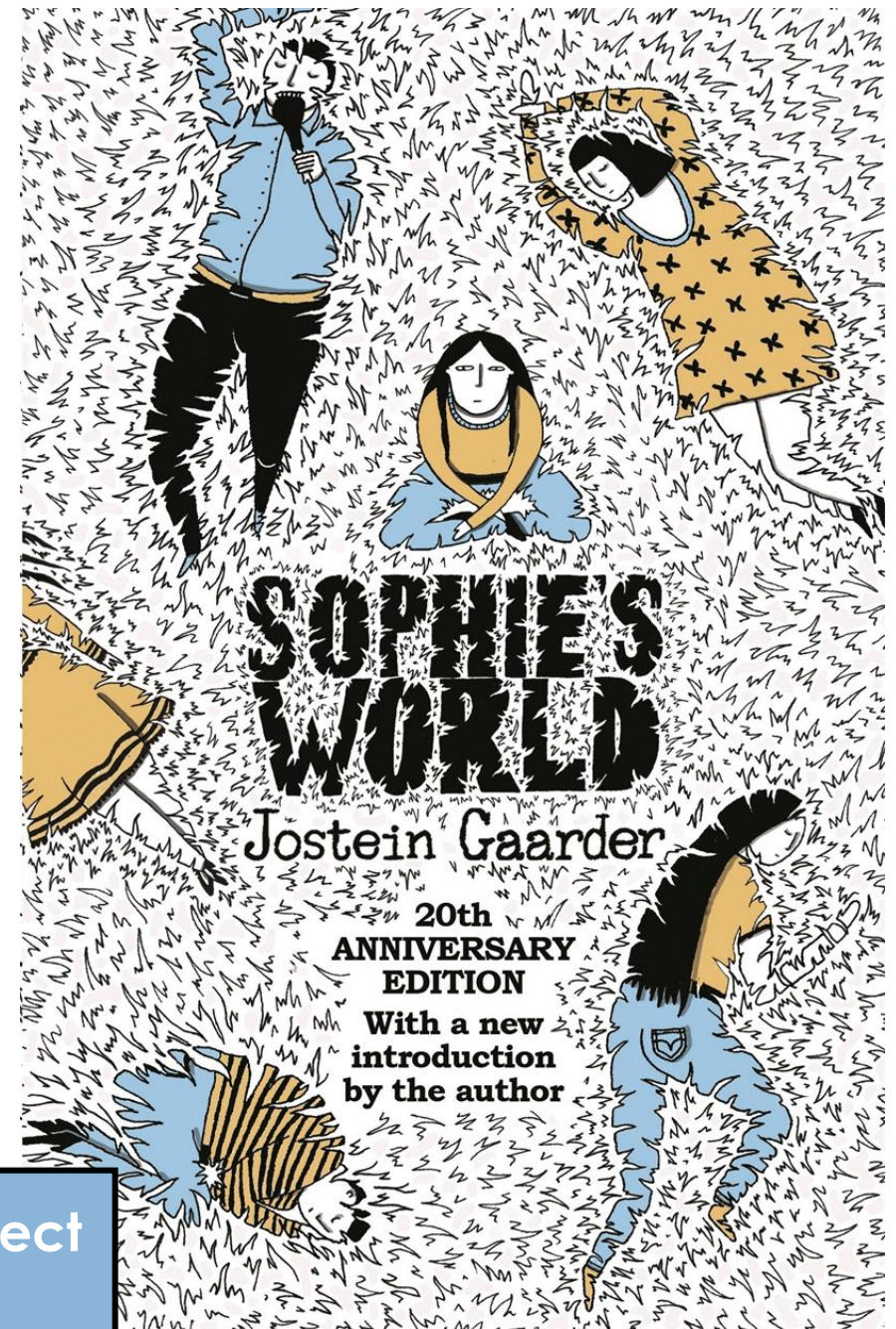
Summary:

When 14-year-old Sophie encounters an intriguing mentor who introduces her to philosophy, mysteries deepen in her own life. Why does she keep getting postcards addressed to another girl? Who is this other girl? And who, for that matter, is Sophie herself? To solve the riddle, she uses her new knowledge of philosophy, but the truth is far stranger than she could have imagined. With each passing chapter, Sophie grows in knowledge, confidence and curiosity about the world.

An addictive blend of mystery, philosophy and fantasy, Sophie's World has become an international phenomenon. Cleverly written with lots of ideas and plotlines for readers to explore, this is a highly recommended next read.

Contains: war, sexual references

**PD's Subject
Pick!**





Hidden Figures

Author: **Margot Lee Shetterly**

Genre: **Non-Fiction & Biography**

Recommended: **KS4**

Age Range: **14-16**

Summary:

Before Neil Armstrong walked on the moon, a group of professionals worked as 'Human Computers', calculating the flight paths that would enable these historic achievements. Among these were a collection of bright, talented African-American women. Segregated from their white counterparts, these 'colored computers' used pencil and paper to write the equations that would launch rockets, and astronauts, into space.

Moving from World War II through NASA's golden age, touching on the civil rights era, the Space Race, the Cold War, and the women's rights movement, *Hidden Figures* interweaves a rich history of mankind's greatest adventure with the intimate stories of five courageous women whose work forever changed the world.

Contains: descriptions of racist incidents; complex mathematical and scientific vocabulary

All Quiet on the Western Front

Author: **Erich Maria Remarque**

Genre: **History & War**

Recommended: **KS4**

Age Range: **14-16**

Summary:

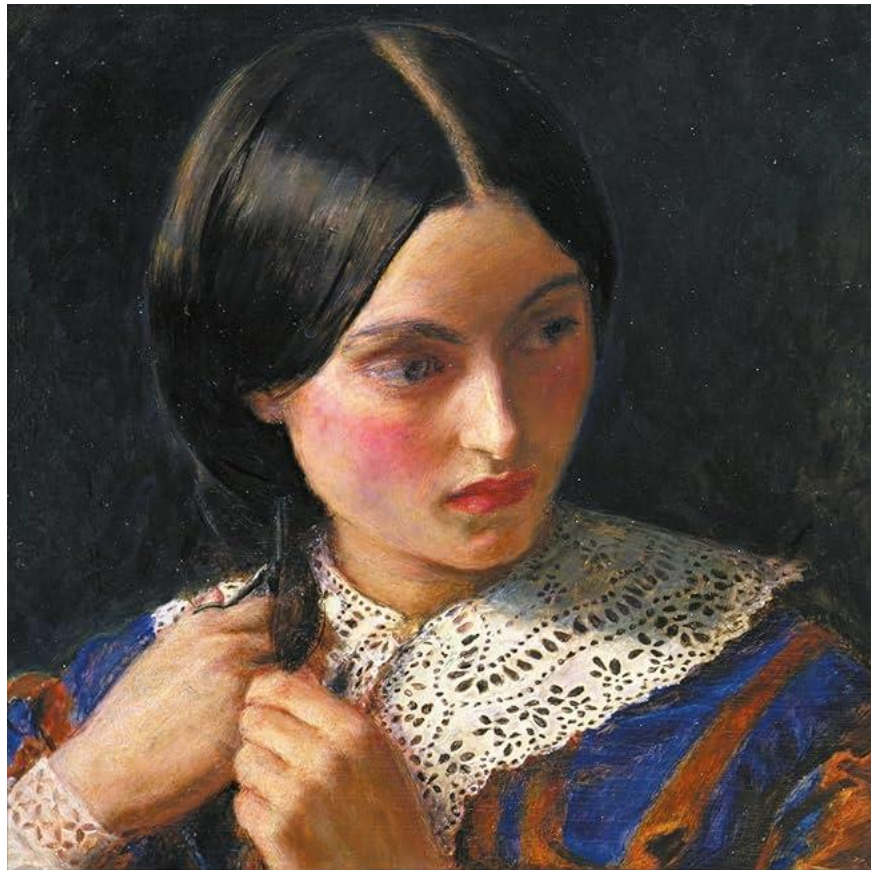
In 1914, a room full of German schoolboys, fresh-faced and idealistic, are goaded by their teacher to troop off to the 'glorious war'. With the fire and patriotism of youth they sign up. This is the fictional story of a young soldier experiencing the horror and disillusionment of life in the trenches during the First World War.

This book completely dispels the romanticism of war and shows its daily realities. The battles that went on for months, the new technologies (machine guns and poison gases) that made killing easier, and more impersonal than ever before.

Although this is a book of fiction, it is very much based on truth and Remarque's own experience of being a soldier in World War I.

Contains: war, violence, loss, despair, suicide, death





PENGUIN CLASSICS

CHARLOTTE BRONTË

JANE EYRE

Jane Eyre

Author: **Charlotte Bronte**

Genre: **Romance & Gothic**

Recommended: **KS4**

Age Range: **14-16**

Summary:

A novel of intense emotional power, heightened atmosphere and fierce intelligence, *Jane Eyre* dazzled and shocked readers with its passionate depiction of a woman's search for equality and freedom on her own terms.

Its heroine Jane endures loneliness and cruelty in the home of her heartless aunt and the cold charity of Lowood School. Her natural independence and spirit prove necessary when she takes a position as governess at Thornfield Hall. But when she finds love with her employer, Rochester, the discovery of a shameful secret forces her into making a terrible, almost impossible choice.

Contains: mental illness; child cruelty; death; arson

Dracula

Author: **Bram Stoker**

Genre: **Gothic & Fantasy**

Recommended: **KS4**

Age Range: **14+**

Summary:

This world-famous gothic novel is guaranteed to excite your senses. In a collection of letters, diary entries and newspaper articles, Jonathan Harker relays the story of his imprisonment in the remote and sinister lair of Count Dracula.

Having initially travelled into the wilderness of Transylvania to advise the Count about legal matters, Harker soon discovers that this new client is not what he seems. Before long, the doors are sealed and a pack of vicious wolves surround the castle, preventing his escape. He realises that his host-turned-captor sleeps in a coffin, keeps frightful friends and has a particular taste for human blood...

Contains: violence, death



PUFFIN CLASSICS

BRAM STOKER

Dracula

INTRODUCED BY **HOLLY BLACK**



Magic for Beginners

Author: **Kelly Link**

Genre: **Fantasy, Horror, Sci-Fi**

Recommended: **KS4**

Age Range: **14+**

Summary:

A dazzling collection of short stories. Taking the ordinary and making it strange – and taking the strange and making it ordinary. Engaging, funny, eerie and magical, original stories.

Taking themes from horror and fantasy, these stories transform them into the stuff of delicate lyrical fantasy, with a distinctive and effervescent blend of humour and pathos.

Bold, tender, mischievous and unsettling, Link's stories have the insistent quality of dreams and a writer at the height of her powers.

Contains: infatuation, self-harm

To Kill A Mockingbird

Author: **Harper Lee**

Genre: **American Gothic & Growing Up**

Recommended: **KS4**

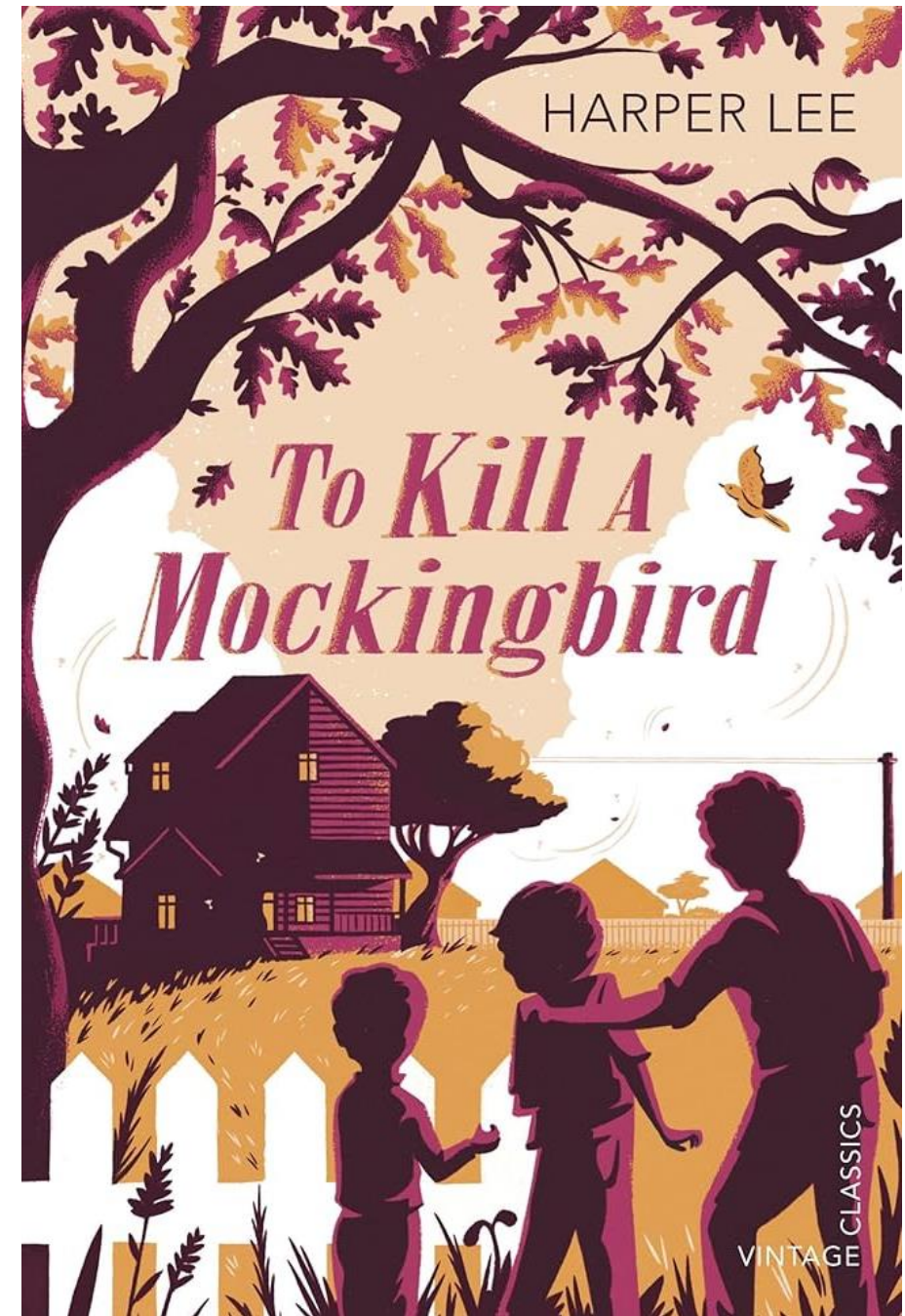
Age Range: **14+**

Summary:

Set in the fictional Southern town of Maycomb, Alabama, during the 1930s, the story is narrated by Scout Finch, a young girl growing up amidst prejudice and class division. Through Scout's eyes, we witness the trial of Tom Robinson, an innocent black man accused of a terrible crime.

The story explores racial inequality, the power of prejudice, and the importance of empathy and understanding. There is also a delicious gothic quality to this story, courtesy of the mysterious character Boo Radley who fascinates and terrifies the children in the text. This novel is a true classic and has the power to change the way you see the world.

Contains: racial slurs, assault, violence





And the Stars were Burning Brightly

Author: **Danielle Jawando**

Genre: **Loss & Romance**

Recommended: **KS4**

Age Range: **14+**

Summary:

Nathan is only fifteen when he must come to terms with *his* older brother's suicide. At first, he cannot make sense of it. His pain makes him angry, confused and aggressive, yet unable to communicate this surge of emotions.

In a separate house, not so far away, Megan is also struggling to process the loss of *her* friend. She is determined to remember him and find a suitable way of honouring his memory.

These two characters, who are nothing more than strangers at the start of the story, forge a heartfelt friendship from their shared experience of grief. Megan seeks to guide Nathan out of the darkness and into the light, in this moving tale of resilience.

Contains: grief, mental health, suicide, bullying, racism

Frankenstein

Author: **Mary Shelley**

Genre: **Gothic & Sci-Fi**

Recommended: **KS4**

Age Range: **14+**

Summary:

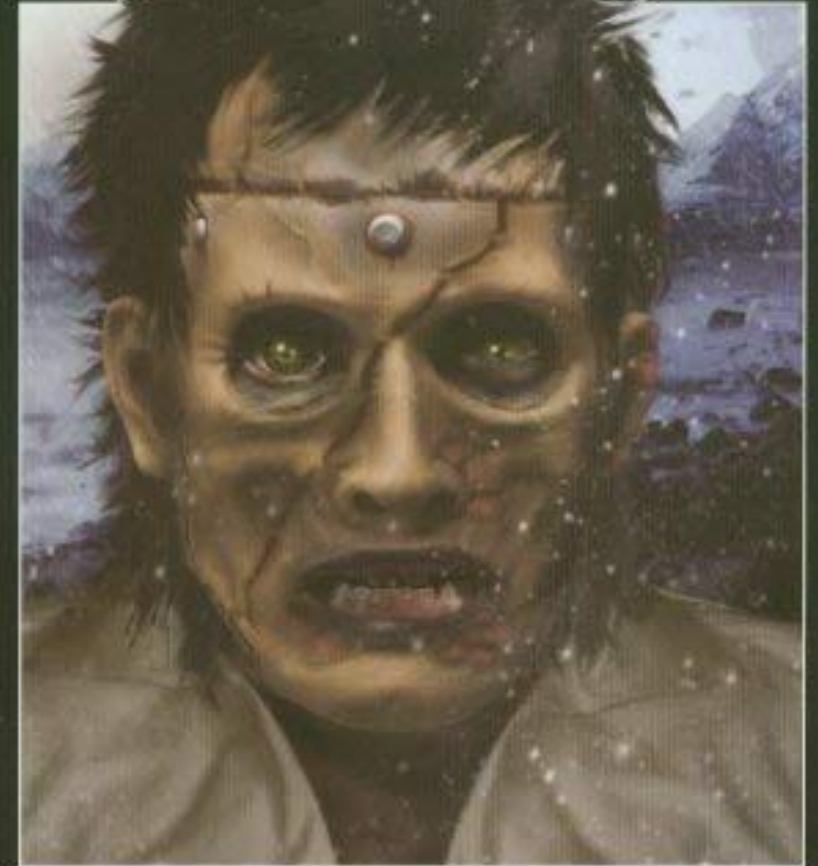
Frankenstein is a story which Mary Shelley intended would 'curdle the blood and quicken the beatings of the heart.' The tale is a superb blend of science fiction, mystery and thriller. Victor Frankenstein is driven by the mad dream of creating his own creature, experiments with alchemy and science to build a monster stitched together from dead remains. Once the creature becomes a living, breathing entity, it turns on its maker and the novel darkens into tragedy. The reader is very quickly swept along by the force of the elegant writing, the grotesque, surreal imagery, and the multi-layered themes in the novel.

Contains: violence; death; scientific experiments on humans

WORDSWORTH CLASSICS

Frankenstein

MARY SHELLEY



Wuthering Heights

Author: **Emily Bronte**

Genre: **Classic & Romance**

Recommended: **KS4**

Age Range: **14+**

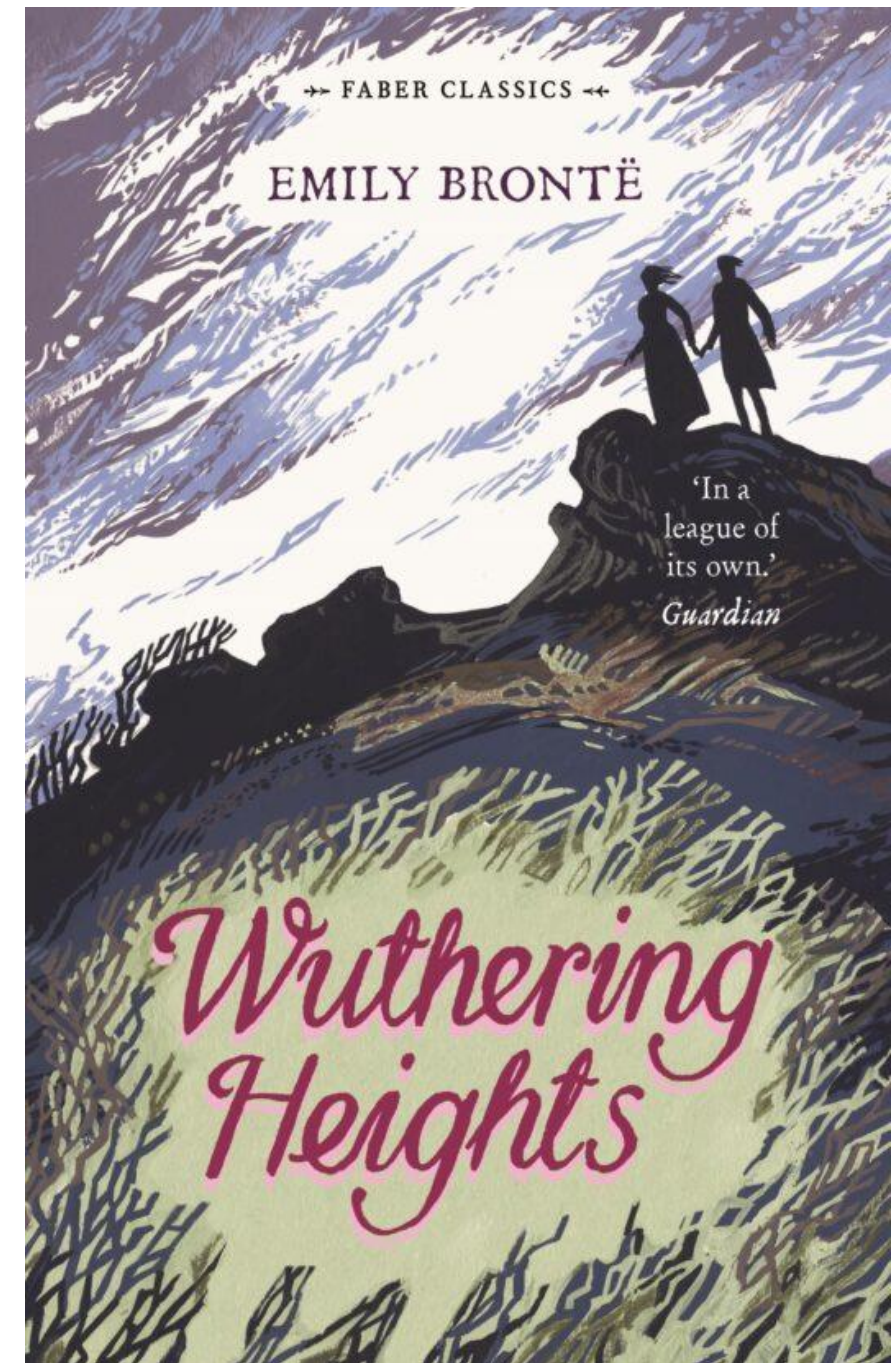
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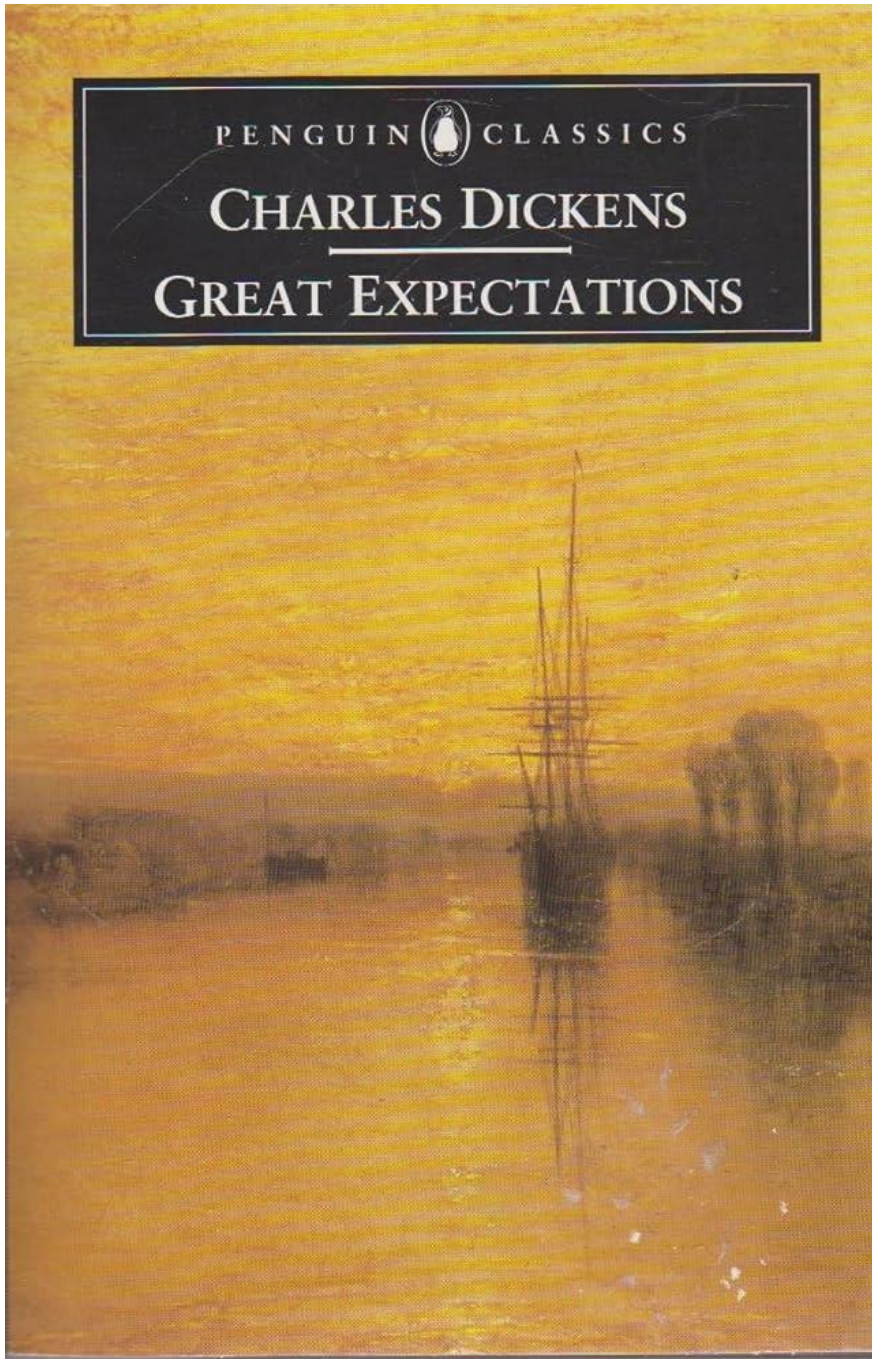
Wuthering Heights is a gothic novel renowned for its intense and often disturbing exploration of love, revenge, and the complexities of the human psyche. Set on the bleak and desolate Yorkshire Moors, the novel delves into the tumultuous relationship between Catherine Earnshaw and Heathcliff, two passionate and troubled souls.

Brontë's prose and vivid imagery bring the wild and unforgiving landscape to life, mirroring the raw emotions of her characters. The story unfolds over generations, revealing a web of interconnected lives marked by love, loss, and a relentless pursuit of vengeance.

While the novel's themes of obsession and revenge can be unsettling, its exploration of the depths of human emotion remains captivating.

Contains: abuse, violence, death, grief, toxic relationships





Great Expectations

Author: Charles Dickens	Genre: Coming of Age
Recommended: KS4	Age Range: 14+

Review:

Another Dickens classic, this one is often an A level text so read it to get ahead and be prepared! Great Expectations is a classic coming-of-age story that follows the life of protagonist Pip, who aspires to move beyond his status as a working-class lad in Victorian London. He wants to achieve 'great expectations' of himself, overcoming social restrictions and ultimately becoming a respectable gentleman. The novel explores the themes of social class and status, as well as love. It also has the remarkable and memorable character, Miss Havisham, a woman driven to extreme behaviour, after being left at the alter on her wedding day.

This captivating and thoughtful novel is a timeless classic.

Contains: death, violence, class prejudice & mental health issues.

The Sun is Also a Star

Author: **Nicola Yoon**

Genre: **Romance**

Recommended: **KS4**

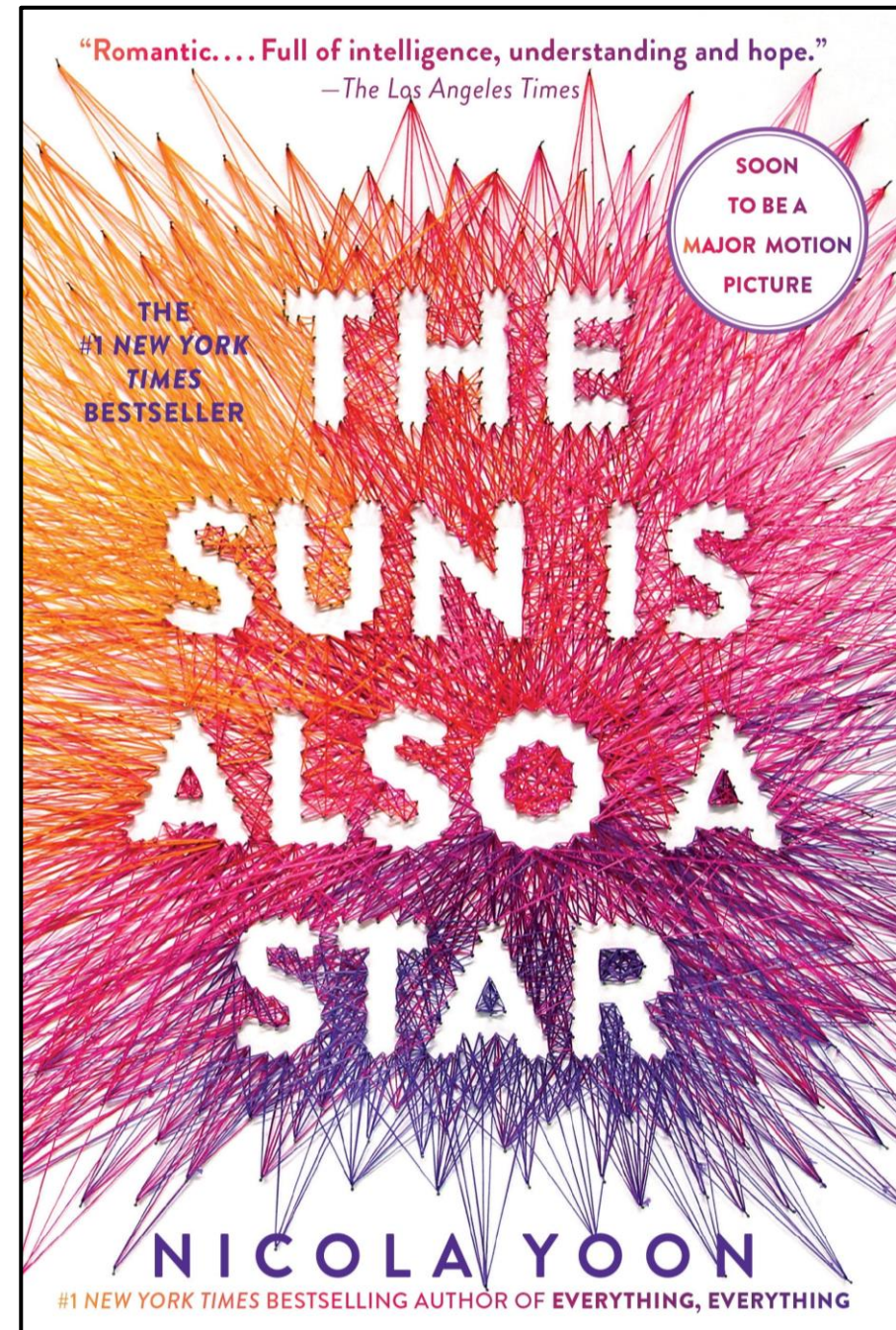
Age Range: **14+**

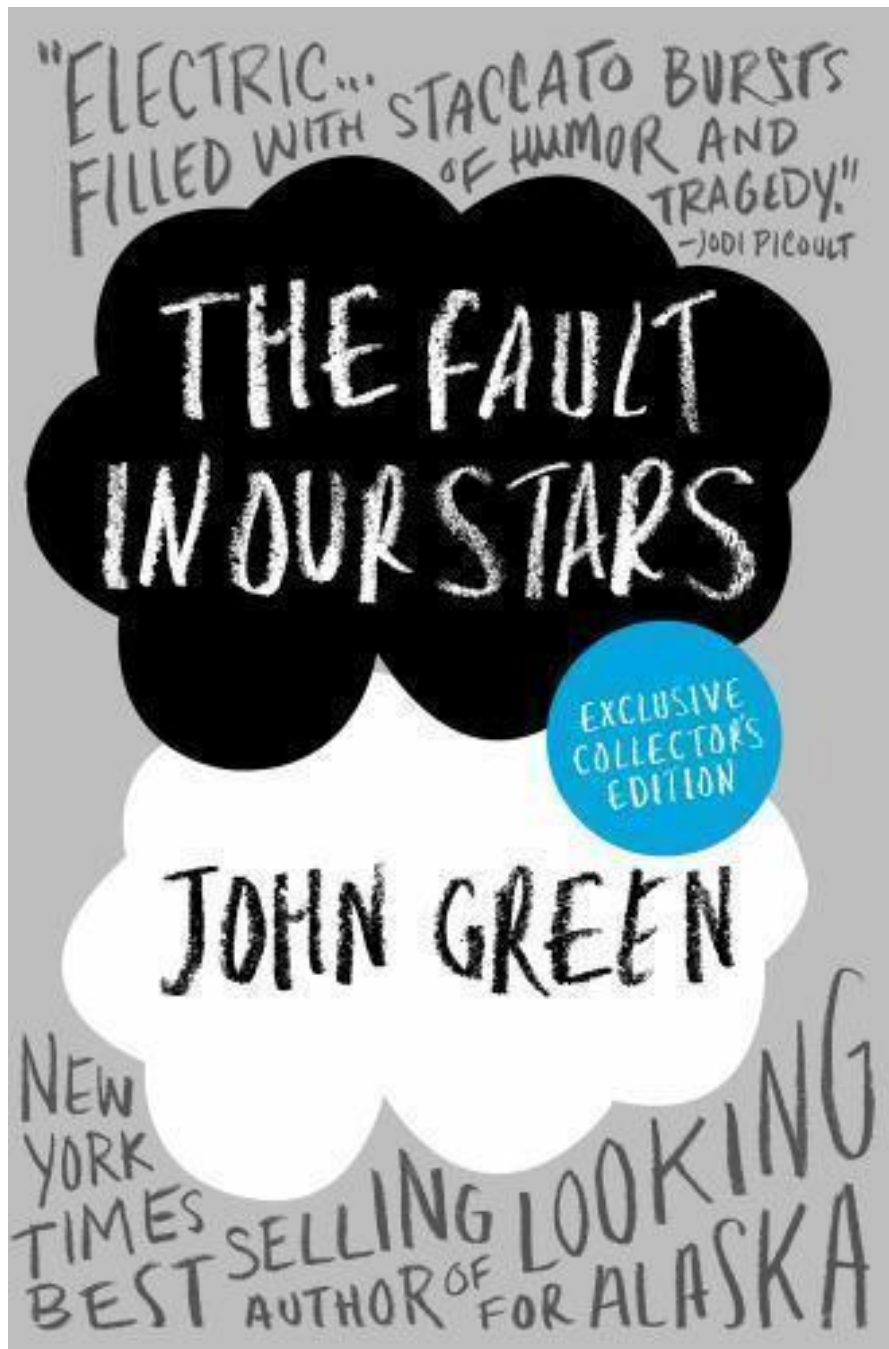
Summary:

This romantic coming-of-age story follows two high school seniors -- Jamaican American Natasha and Korean American Daniel -- from the day they meet on a crowded New York City street and shows how they go on to change each other's lives.

Daniel, 18, is the son of Korean immigrants. Next year, he will certainly join the prestigious Yale University. Natasha, 17, arrived from Jamaica ten years ago. Tonight, she may leave the United States forever. He believes in poetry and love. She believes in science and explainable facts. They have 12 hours to meet, get to know each other, and love each other. Beyond their differences.

Contains: cheating, depression, immigration, racism, suicidal references, family issues





The Fault In Our Stars

Author: **John Green**

Genre: **Romance & Growing Up**

Recommended: **KS4**

Age Range: **14+**

Summary:

This is a heartfelt love story about two teenagers, Hazel Grace Lancaster and Augustus Waters, who fall in love while battling cancer. These young people both share a love of literature and when Hazel Grace shares her affection for an unfinished book with Augustus, they embark on a quest to meet the grumpy author in Amsterdam, an experience which proves to be challenging to say the least!

The story explores themes of love, loss, and the search for meaning in life. Although this sounds like a sad and sorrowful tale, it is filled with tenderness and moments of genuine laughter and above all, it celebrates hope.

Contains: grief and loss, terminal illness, swearing

The Second Sight of Zachary Cloudesley

Author: **Sean Lusk**

Genre: **Historical & Fantasy**

Recommended: **KS4**

Age Range: **14+**

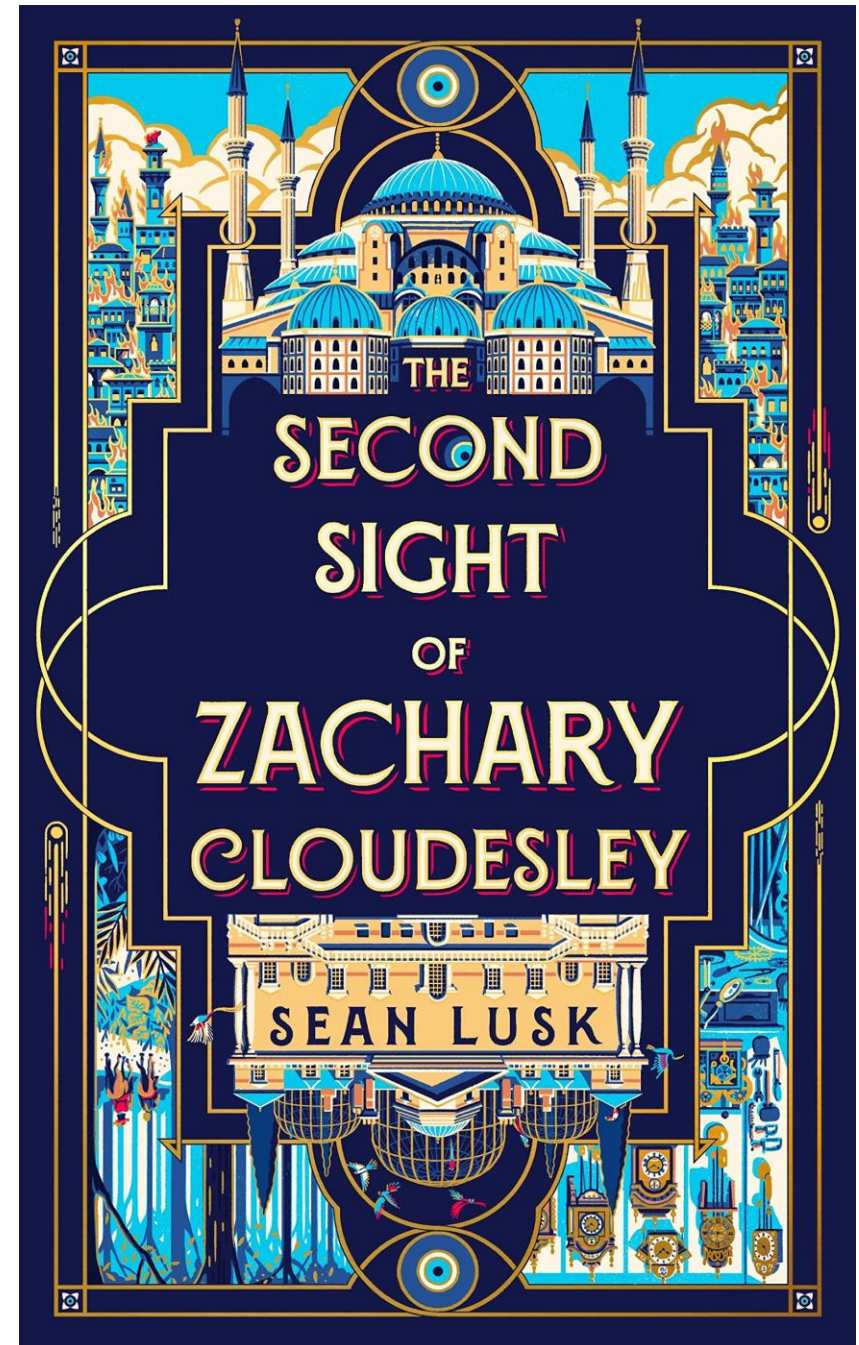
Summary:

Raised amongst the cogs and springs of his father's workshop, Zachary Cloudesley has grown up surrounded by strange and enchanting clockwork automata. He is a happy child, beloved by his father Abel and the workmen who help bring his father's creations to life.

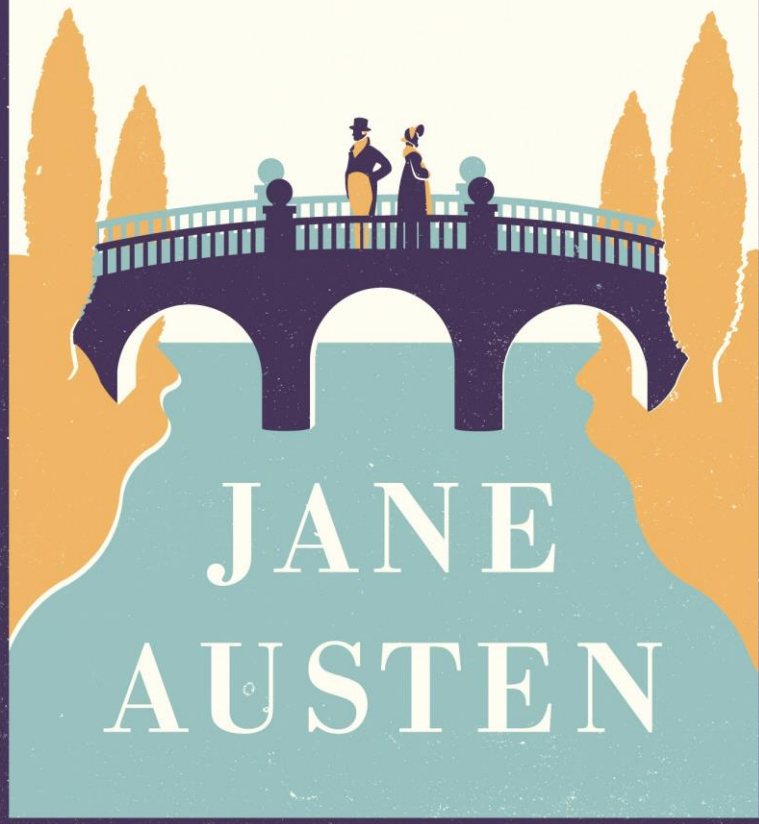
He is also the bearer of an extraordinary gift; at the touch of a hand, Zachary can see into the hearts and minds of the people he meets.

But then a near-fatal accident will take Zachary away from the workshop and his family. His father will have to make a journey that he will never return from. And, years later, only Zachary can find out what happened.

Contains: homosexual relationships; maternal death; family relationships; loss



PRIDE AND PREJUDICE



Pride and Prejudice

Author: **Jane Austen**

Genre: **Romance & Classic**

Recommended: **KS4**

Age Range: **14+**

Summary:

Austen writes a timeless classic with her witty social commentary. This will be a challenging read, so try to remember that she's usually poking fun at people!

The novel centres around the Bennet family and their quest to find suitable husbands for their five daughters. Elizabeth Bennet, the intelligent and spirited protagonist, clashes with the proud and wealthy Mr. Darcy. Through a series of misunderstandings and revelations, their initial animosity gradually transforms into a deep and enduring love.

Austen's masterful storytelling and keen observation of human nature elevate *Pride and Prejudice* beyond a simple romance. The novel explores themes of social class, gender roles, and the importance of judgment and self-awareness.

Contains: gender and class roles

One Of Us Is Lying

Author: **Karen M. McManus**

Genre: **Mystery & Crime**

Recommended: **KS4**

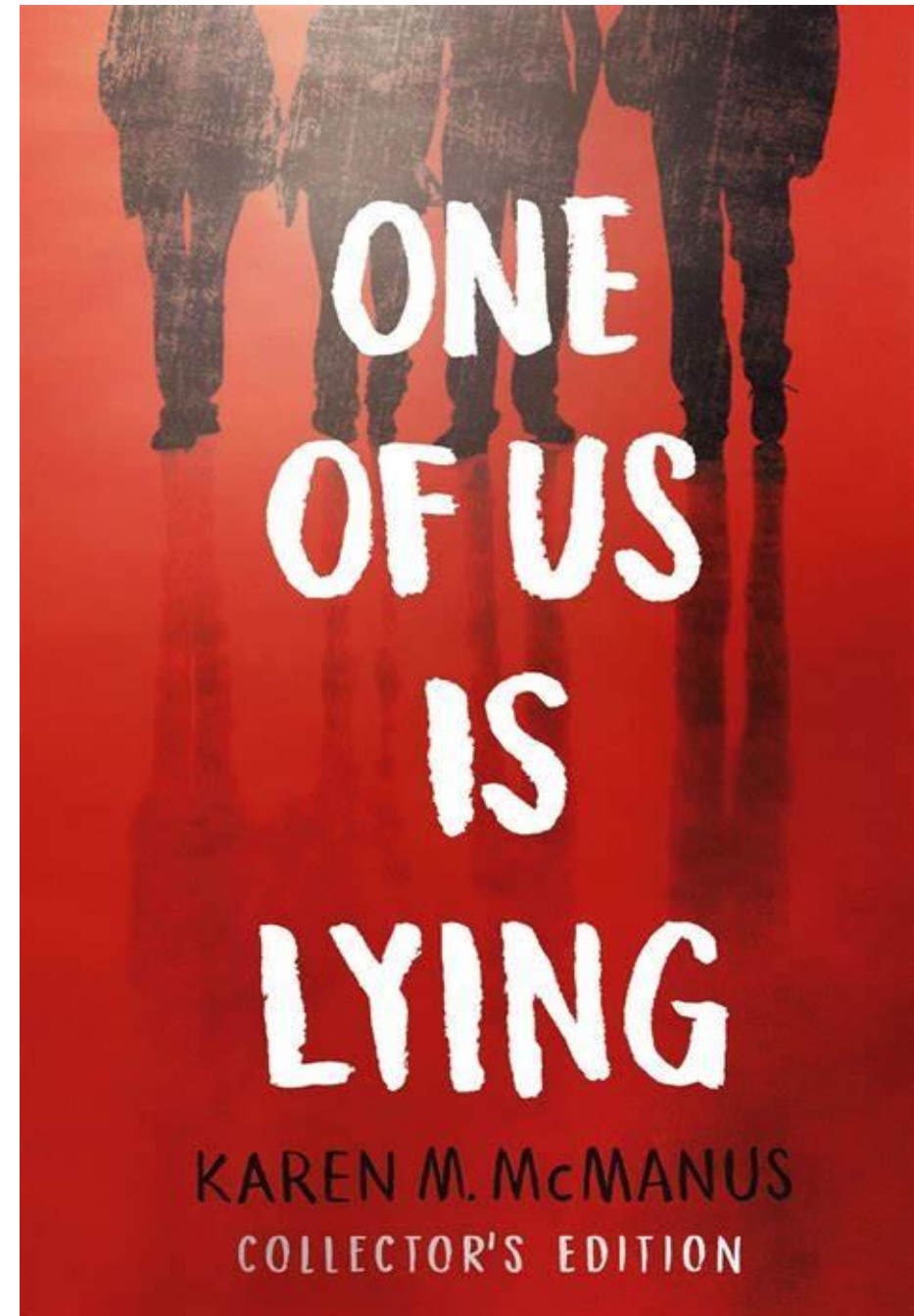
Age Range: **14+**

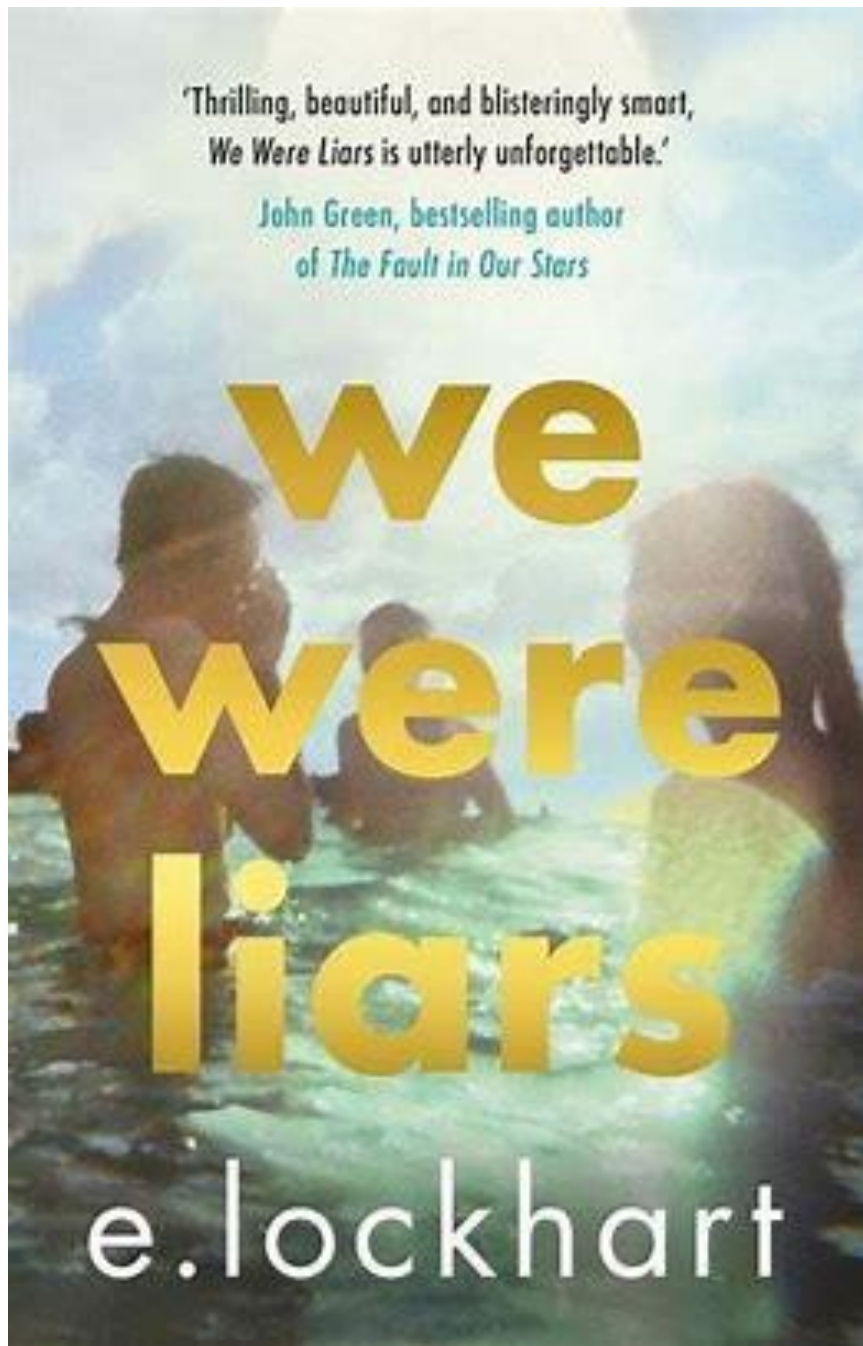
Summary:

This AMAZING novel is a true page turner which will keep you guessing until the very end. The novel follows a group of five high school students who are forced to spend detention together. When one of them dies mysteriously, the remaining four become suspects in a murder investigation. As the secrets and lies unravel, the tension builds, and the reader is drawn into a thrilling mystery.

The plot is full of twists and intrigue and is easy to relate to as it explores themes of friendship, betrayal, and the consequences of our actions. This is a real favourite of the English team; we would highly recommend!

Contains: death, drugs, mild swearing, mild sexual references





We Were Liars

Author: **E. Lockhart**

Genre: **Thriller & Mystery**

Recommended: **KS4**

Age Range: **14+**

Summary:

This is a novel that builds atmosphere brilliantly and, as the drama unfolds, it reveals a dark and disturbing truth set against the backdrop of a beautiful island setting.

The story follows Cadence Sinclair, a privileged teenager who spends summers on a private island with her wealthy family. As she struggles to piece together the events of a traumatic summer, the reader is drawn into a world of secrets, lies, and betrayal.

From the outside, she has the perfect life, yet readers will soon learn there is a very different story lurking underneath the surface.

Contains: trauma, grief, substance abuse

The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde

Author: **Robert Louis Stevenson**

Genre: **Gothic & Classic**

Recommended: **KS4**

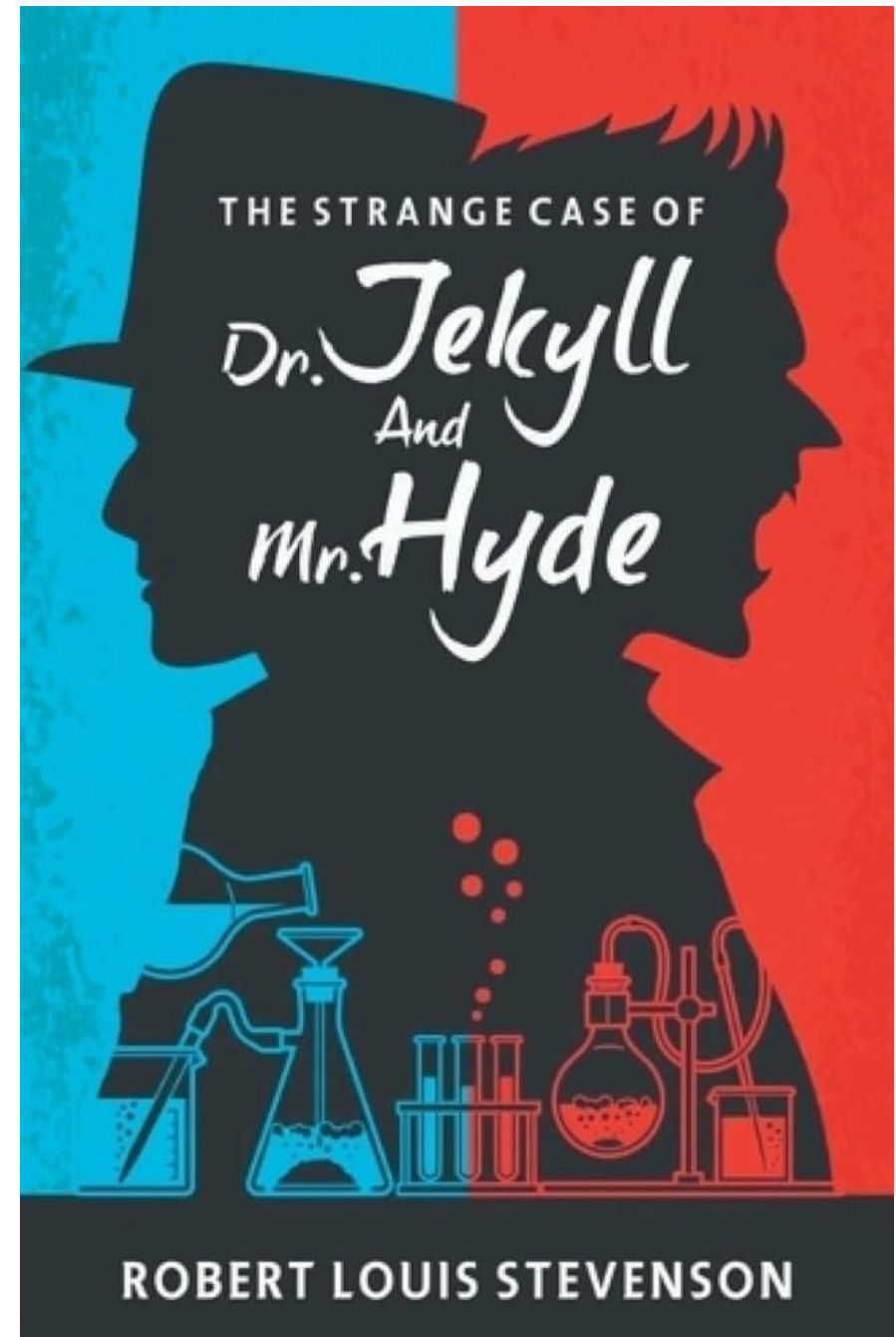
Age Range: **14+**

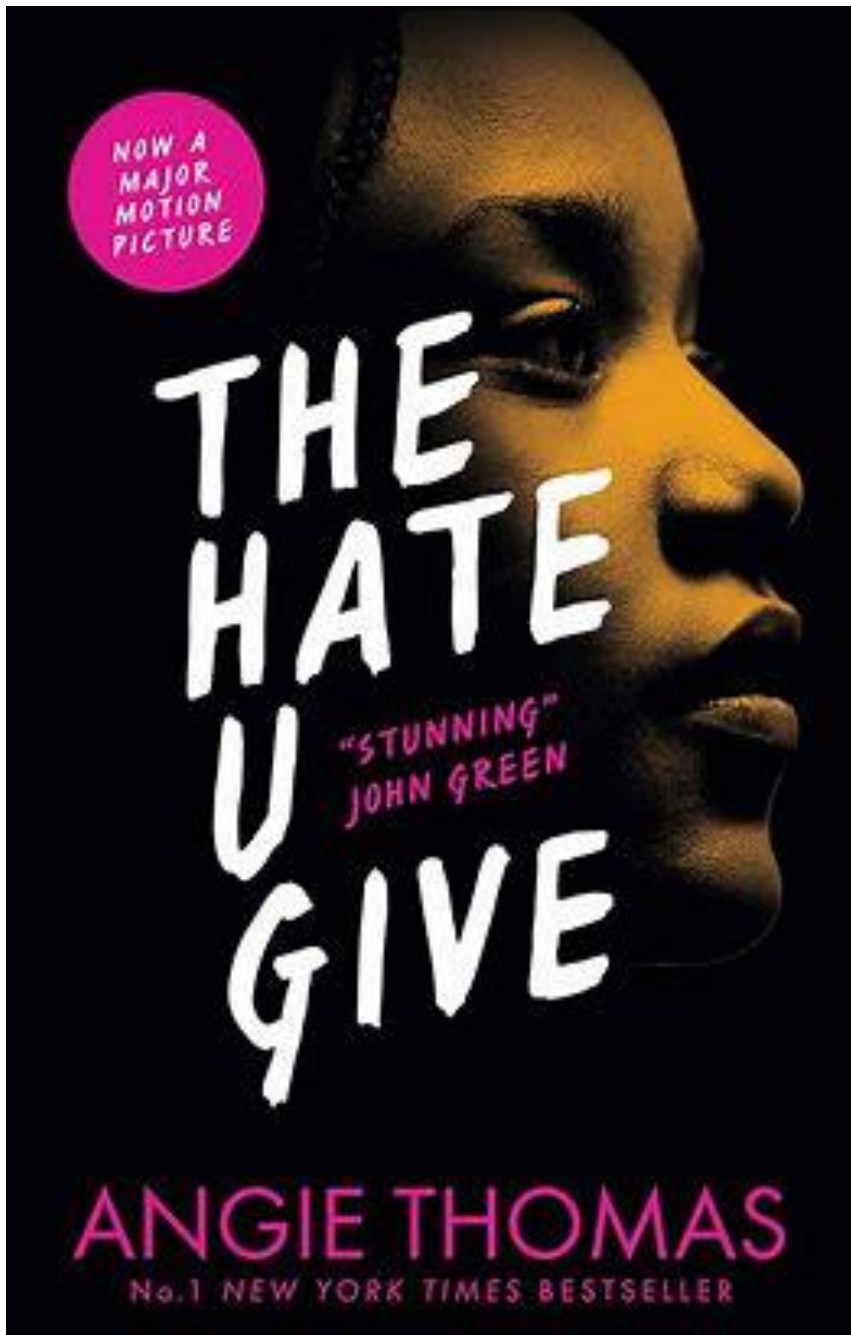
Summary:

Playing on the fears of scientific developments at the turn of the 19th century, *The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde* explores the dual nature of humanity. Dr Henry Jekyll, an eminent and affable scientist, uses his laboratory to craft a potion that he can take to reveal his alter ego, the darker side of his personality, the morally repugnant Mr Hyde. In inhabiting Mr Hyde, Dr Jekyll unleashes his wild and depraved personality. Through his derangement, Stevenson wants us to focus on what it is to be human. He plays with popular psychological theories of the time and questions what the ugliness inside us all could be capable of.

A difficult read but a classic Gothic tale, exploring morality and monstrosity.

Contains: Violence, gore, psychological horror





The Hate U Give

Author: **Angie Thomas**

Genre: **Urban Fiction**

Recommended: **KS4**

Age Range: **14+**

Summary:

This powerful novel tackles the complex issues of race, police brutality, and social justice. The story follows Starr Carter, a young Black girl who navigates the tension between her affluent private school life and her impoverished neighbourhood. When she witnesses the fatal shooting of her unarmed best friend by a police officer, Starr is forced to confront the harsh realities of racism and the power of her voice.

The creation of powerful and memorable Black characters bring these issues to life in a way that is both heartbreaking and hopeful. Starr's journey of self-discovery and activism is inspiring for all young readers who hope for a better and more equal world.

Contains: racism, violence, grief, police brutality

Clap When You Land

Author: **Elizabeth Acevedo**

Genre: **Loss & Family**

Recommended: **KS4**

Age Range: **15+**

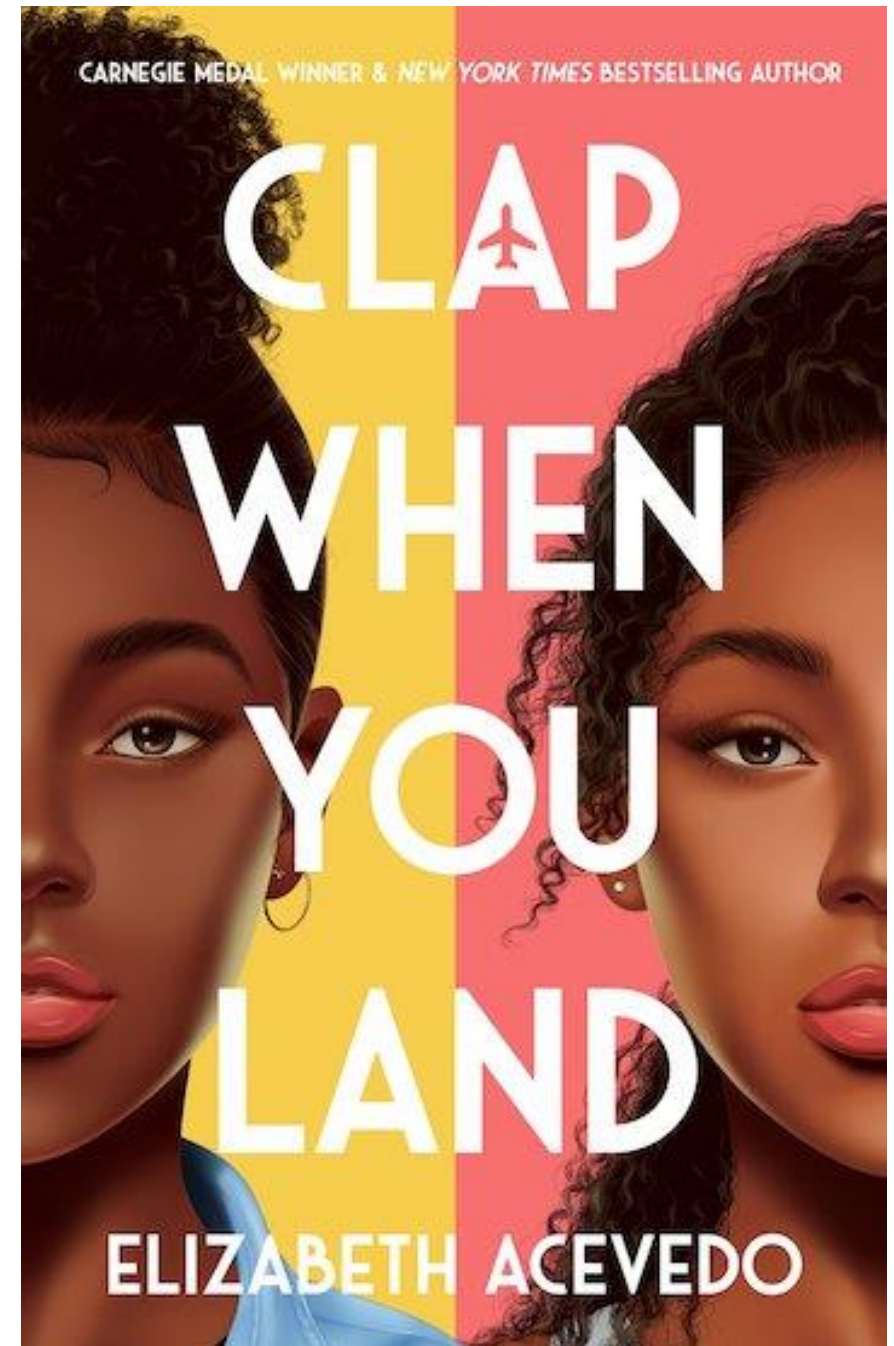
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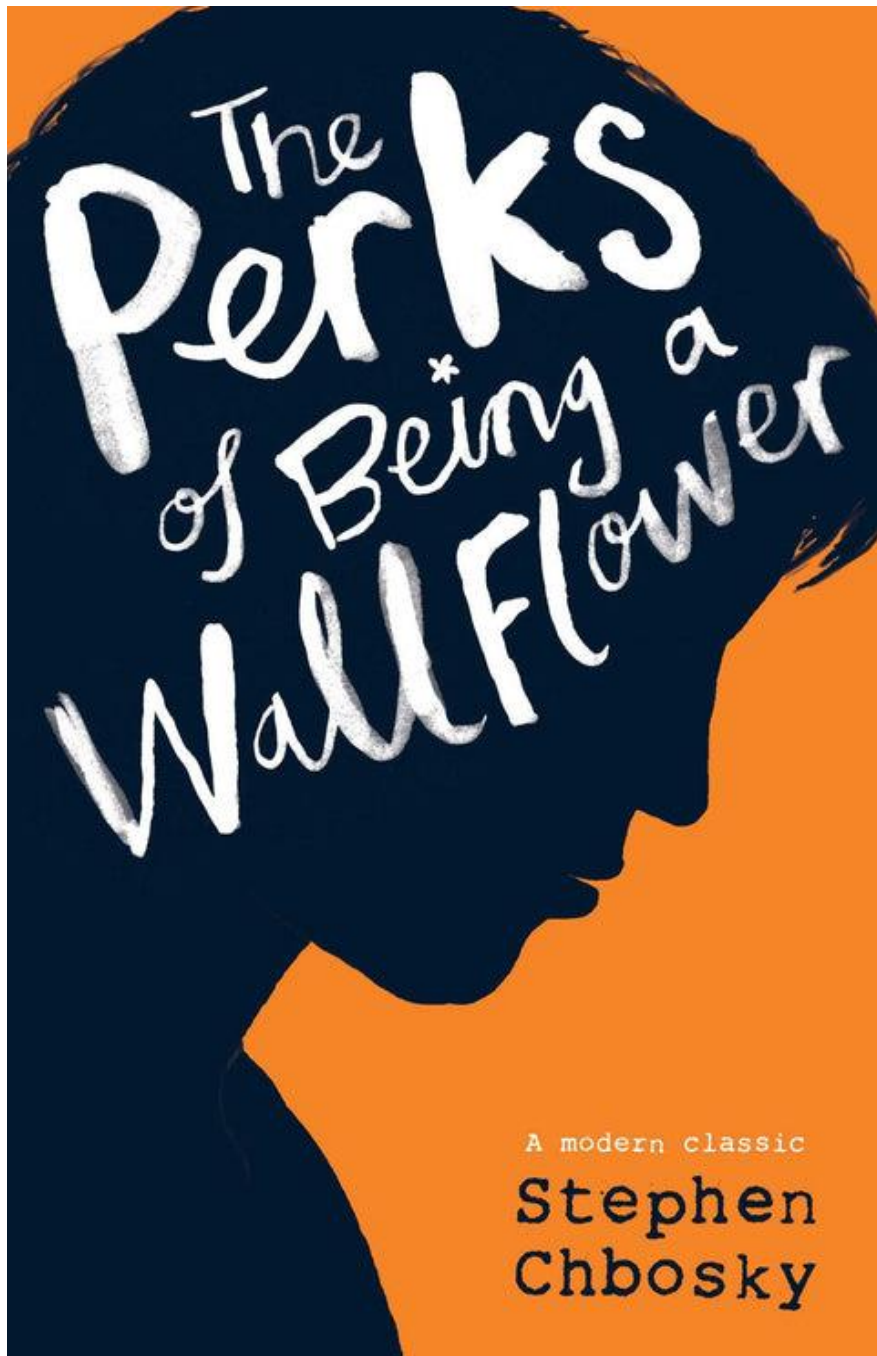
Camino and Yahaira share a father. But they did not know the other existed until recently. Suddenly, after a tragic accident, their lives collide, meaning they are forced to confront the secret that has been kept from them for almost twenty years.

The two sisters have little in common – they look different, have different interests and different lived experiences, yet they cannot break a bond that unwillingly connects them.

This fascinating read will keep you hooked, desperate to know more about the girls' experiences and untangle the complex web of lies that has started to unravel.

Contains: grief, family relationships, sexual assault, sexual references, swearing, LGBTQ+ representation





The Perks of Being a Wallflower

Author: **Stephen Chbosky**

Genre: **Romance & Growing Up**

Recommended: **KS4**

Age Range: **15+**

Summary:

Charlie is a shy teenager who exists on the sidelines – at home, in school and wider society. He has a unique perspective of the world he sees around him. But Charlie cannot remain a ‘wallflower’ forever. He needs to get involved, learn new things and live life to the fullest.

Written from his point of view, this heart-warming story maps Charlie’s journey, as he experiments with new friends, adventures and experiences.

Will he be able to shake his social awkwardness and fears? Can he emerge as a new, confident young man, who embraces the opportunities of friendship and fun?

Contains: violence, alcohol, drugs, sex, relationships, abuse, grief, suicide

Rebecca

Author: **Daphne du Maurier**

Genre: **Mystery & Gothic**

Recommended: **KS4**

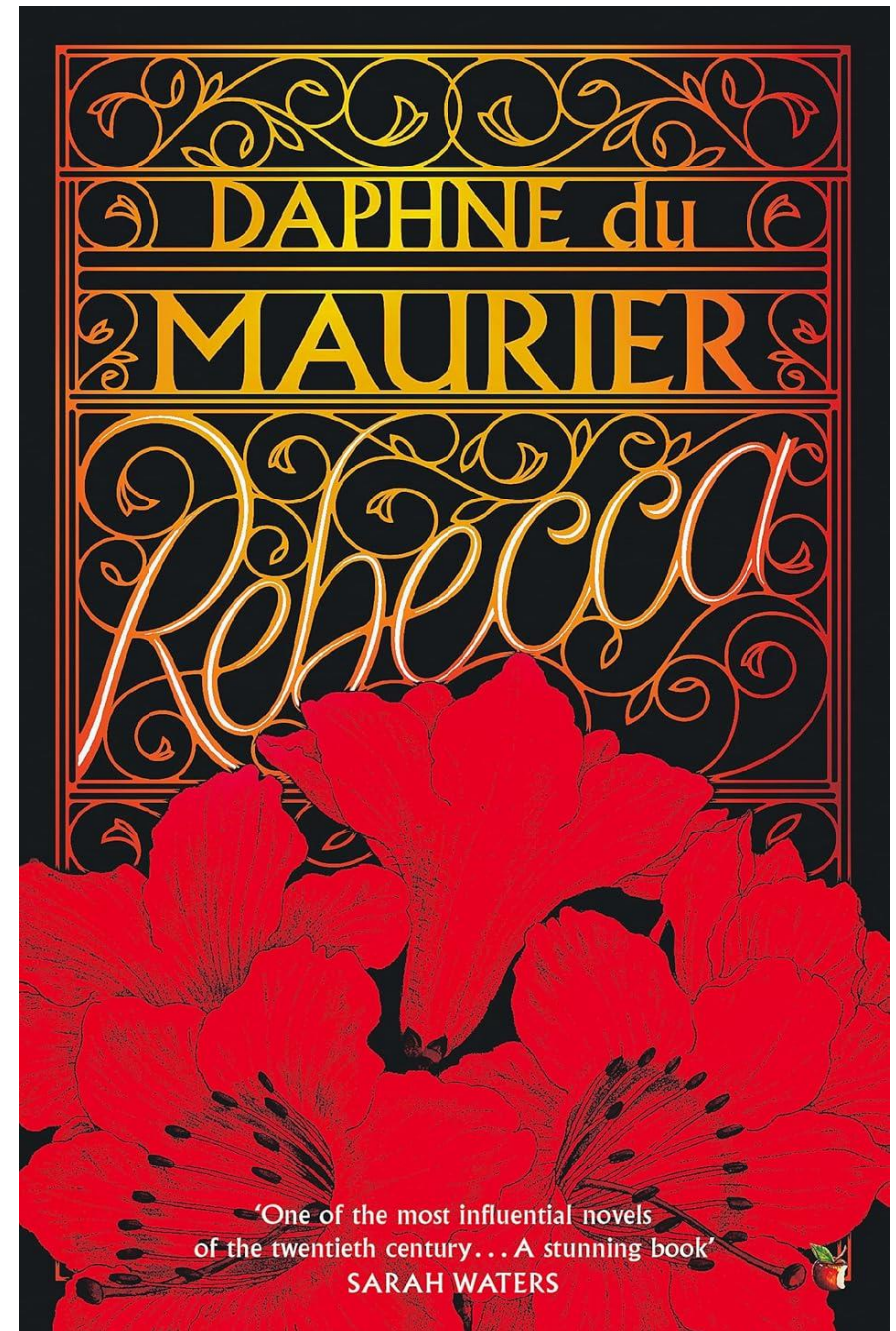
Age Range: **15+**

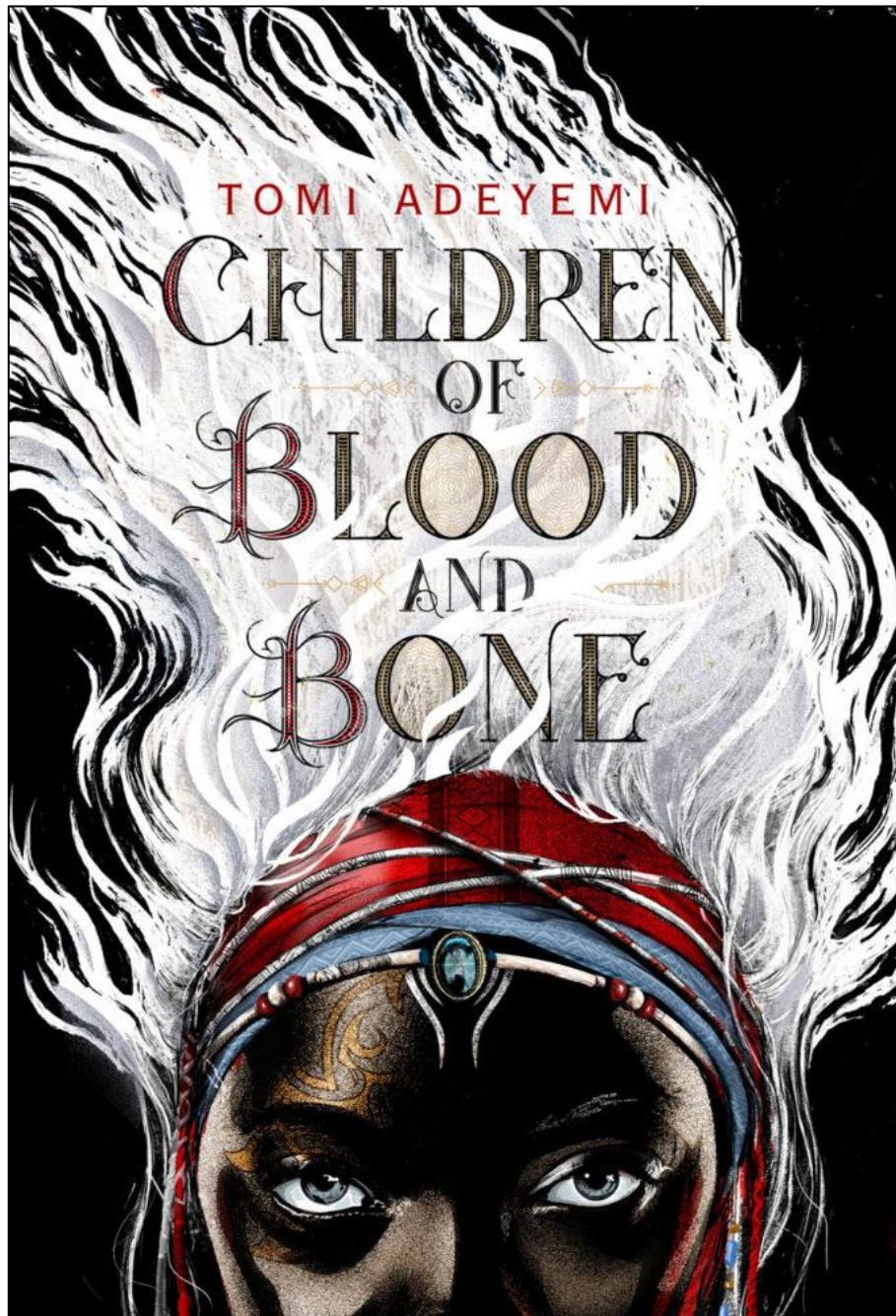
Review:

"Last night I dreamt I went to Manderley again..." This novel begins in Mote Carlo, where our heroine is swept off her feet by the dashing widower Maxim De Winter and his sudden proposal of marriage. Orphaned and working as a lady's maid, she can barely believe her luck. It is only when they arrive at his massive country estate that she realises how large the shadow his late wife will cast over their lives – presenting her with a lingering evil that threatens to destroy their marriage from beyond the grave. Can she overcome it?

Mrs Danvers makes a perfect villain.

Contains: romance, mystery





Children of Blood and Bone

Author: **Tomi Adeyemi**

Genre: **Fantasy**

Recommended: **KS4**

Age Range: **15+**

Summary:

This fantasy novel is – without doubt – a truly captivating story. Set in a West African-inspired world, the story follows Zélie, a young woman with the power to manipulate fire, as she fights against a tyrannical king who has banned magic. The novel blends elements of mythology, folklore, and the historical worlds.

Overall, Children of Blood and Bone is a must-read and is a joyful addition to a diverse bookshelf. It is a powerful and inspiring story that celebrates African culture and heritage.

Contains: abuse, genocide, war, swearing

Hate List

Author: **Jennifer Brown**

Genre: **Crime & Growing Up**

Recommended: **KS4**

Age Range: **15+**

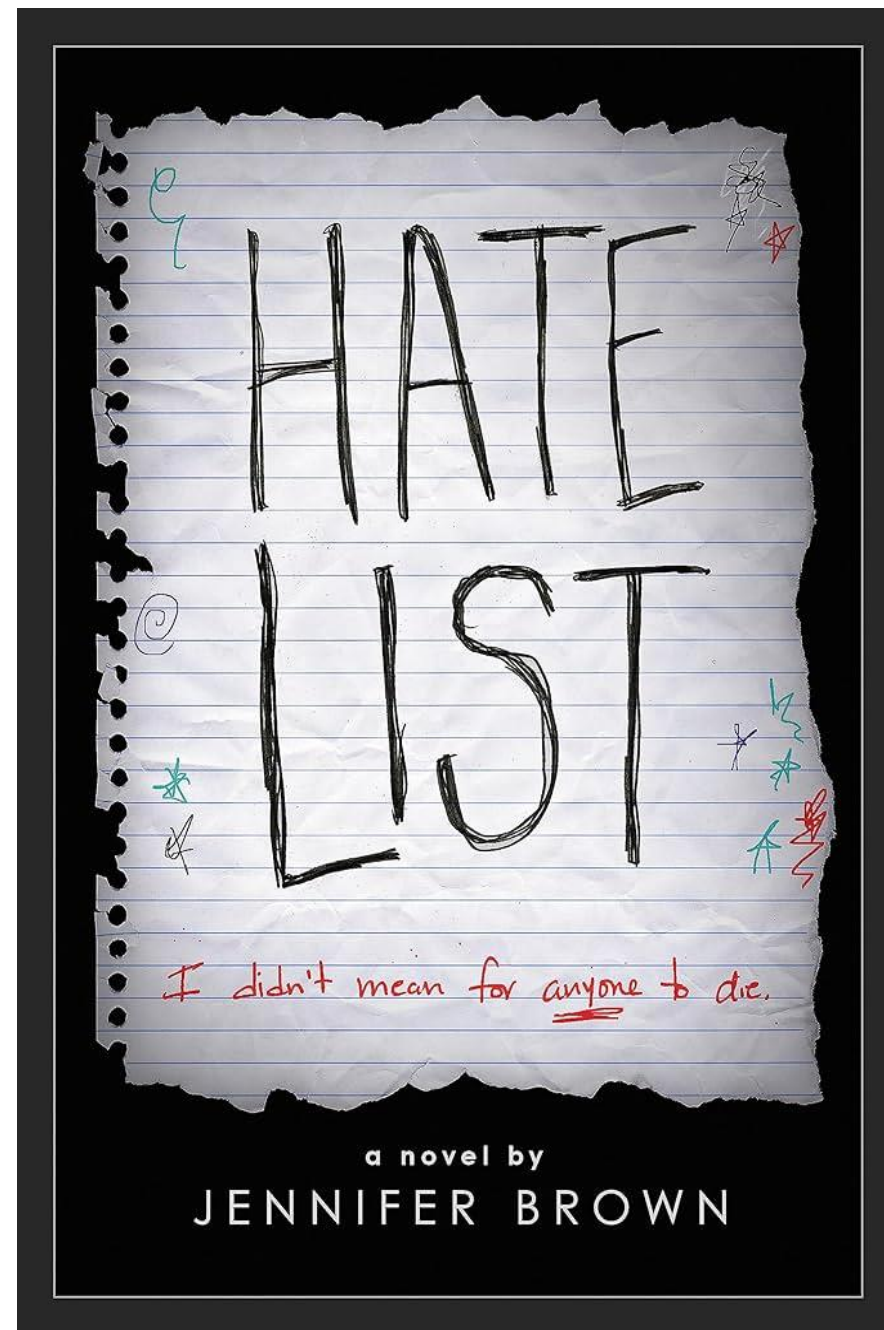
Summary:

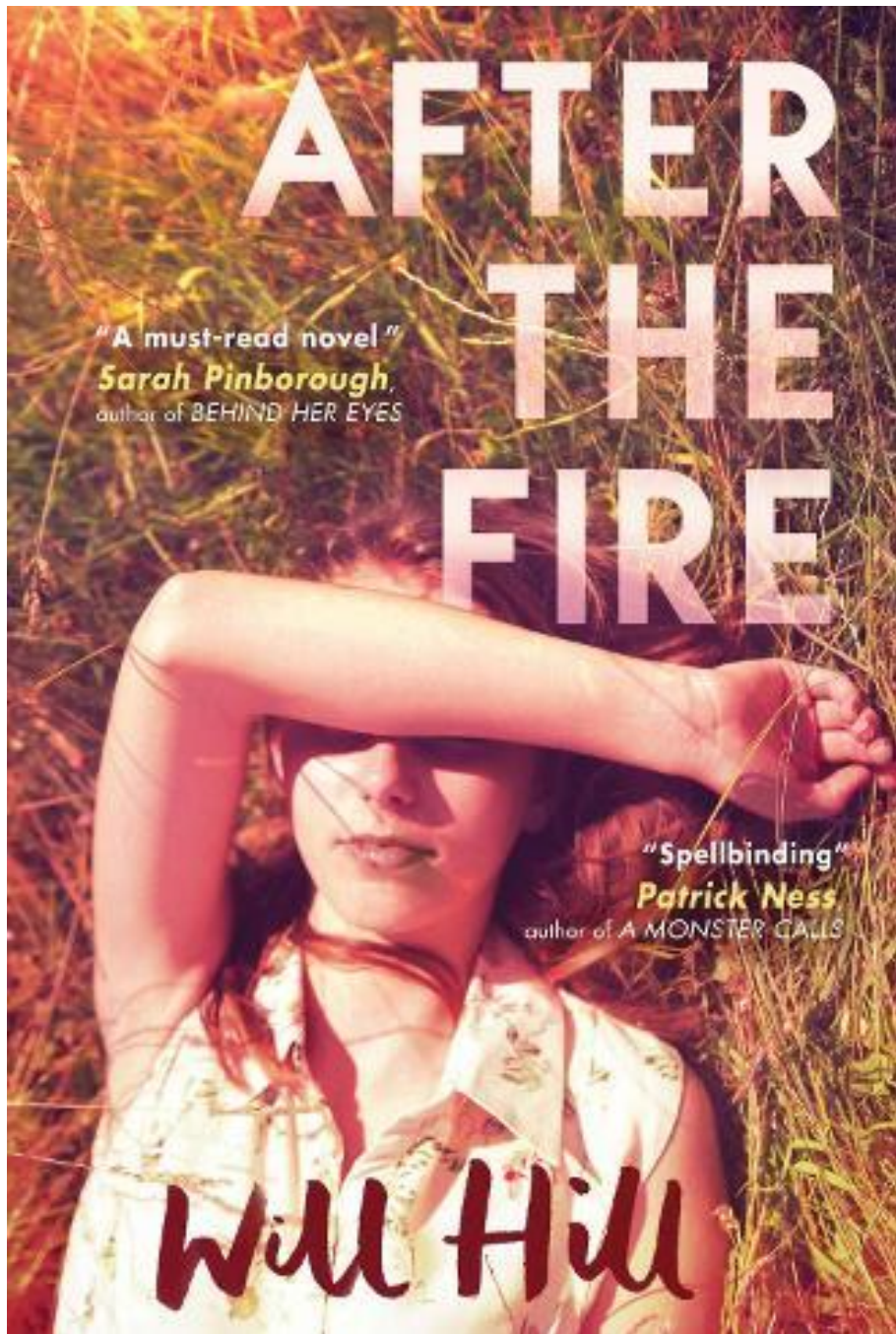
It has been five months since something terrible occurred. Five months since Valerie's boyfriend killed their classmates.

And now Valerie must return to school, suspected by many of being involved, having known about what Nick would do, and being just as much to blame.

Valerie herself is not sure whether she is a culprit or a victim. She is riddled with guilt, wracked with grief, and unable to make sense of what has happened. This award-winning book is her story of rebuilding lives that have changed forever, and forging friendships in the most unimaginable circumstances.

Contains: violence, death, grief, suicidal references, bullying, family relationships, swearing, illness





After the Fire

Author: **Will Hill**

Genre: **Mystery & Thriller**

Recommended: **KS4**

Age Range: **15+**

Summary:

“The things I've seen are burned into me, like scars that refuse to fade.”

Father John controls everything inside The Fence. And Father John likes rules. Especially about never talking to Outsiders. Because Father John knows the truth. He knows what is right, and what is wrong. He knows what is coming.

Moonbeam is starting to doubt, though. She's starting to see the lies behind Father John's words. She wants him to be found out.

What if the only way out of the darkness is to light a fire?

Contains: sexism, child abuse, suicide, alcohol & drug abuse, murder