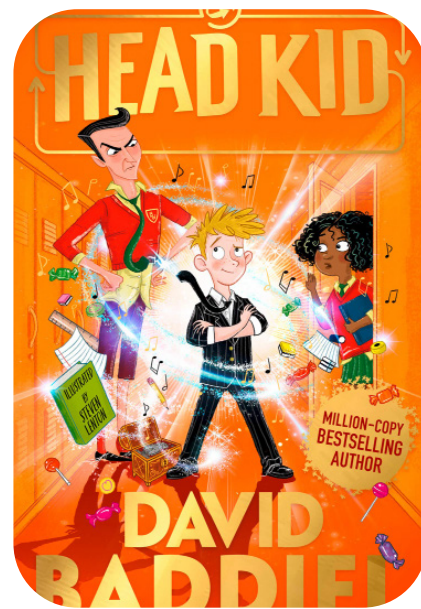


# YEAR 8

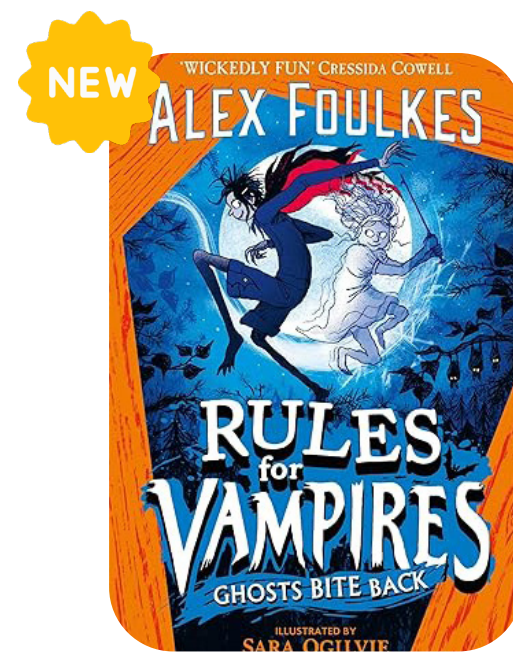
## Reading List - 2024/25

### COMEDY



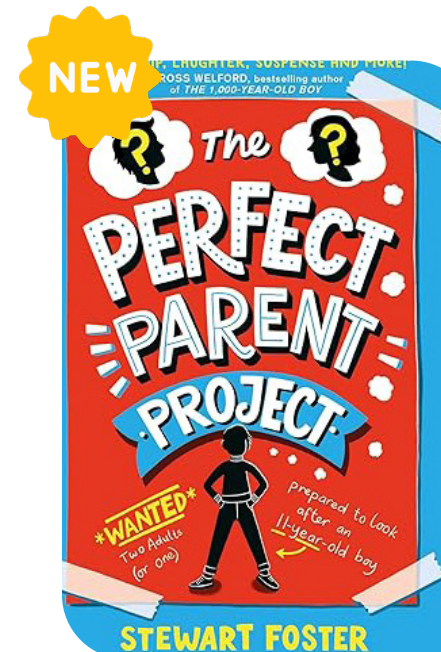
**Head kid**  
*David Baddiel:*

From the million-copy bestselling author of THE PARENT AGENCY and BIRTHDAY BOY comes a wildly entertaining wish-fulfilment adventure that asks the question: what would happen if the strictest head teacher swapped bodies with the naughtiest kid in school?



**Rules for Vampires**  
*Alex Foulkes:*

Vampires are bound by the Vampiric Laws: rules to protect the balance between the worlds of the Living and the Undead. Unfortunately, 11-year-old Leo has just forgotten rule number one...The Rules for Vampires don't tell you what to do when you make a ghostly enemy, or accidentally restart an ancient war....



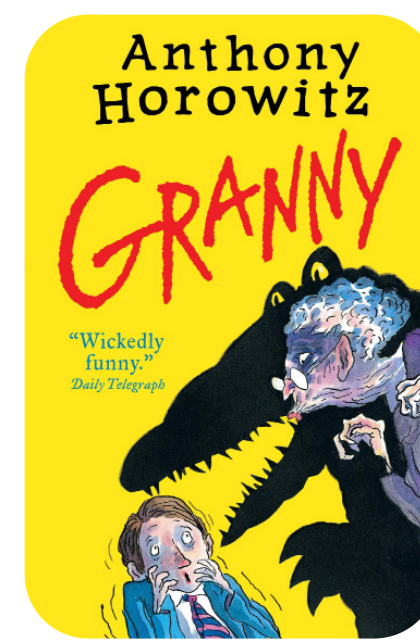
**The perfect Parent Project**  
*Stewart Foster:*

All Sam wants is a family of his own, a home instead of a 'house' and parents he knows will still be there when he wakes up. Because Sam has been in and out of foster care his whole life and he can't imagine ever feeling like he truly belongs. Then his best friend Leah suggests that rather than wait for a family to come to him, he should go out and find one. And so begins The Perfect Parent Project.



**Worst Holiday Ever**  
*Charlie Higson:*

Stan is going on holiday to Italy with his (fifth) best friend Felix and a load of strangers. Luckily, his mum's given him an emergency list that includes how to survive a shark attack, and what to do if he gets kidnapped. It soon turns out Italy is full of dangers and things that can go wrong.



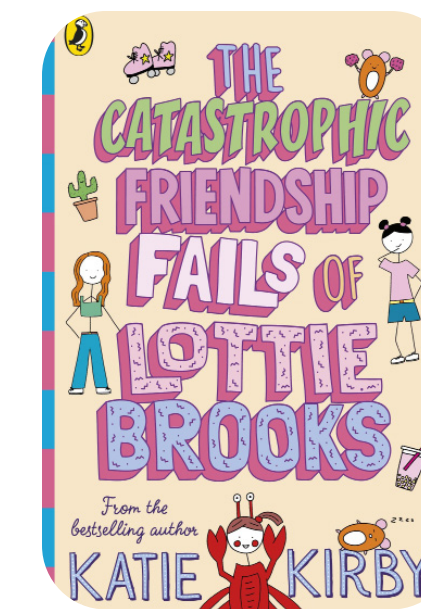
**Granny**  
*Anthony Horowitz:*

Twelve-year-old Joe has an un-believably evil Granny. Not only is Granny physically repulsive and horribly mean, but she also has the look in her eye of a predatory crocodile. Soon Joe starts to suspect that she has unpleasant designs on him. But what are they and how can he foil them?



**Super Ghosts**  
*Greg James and Chris Smith:*

World-famous superhero Doctor Extraordinary as he battles his arch-nemesis Captain Chaos. Unfortunately this one doesn't quite go to plan and they both get blown up inside a giant robot. Dr Ex's number-one fan, twelve-year-old Sonny Nelson, is devastated. A world without heroes is totally rubbish! But things take an even more extraordinary turn when Doctor Ex returns as a ghost and only Sonny can see him...



**The Catastrophic Friendship Fails of Lottie Brooks**  
*Katie Kirby:*

Lottie Brooks is back and ready to face anything. No more trying to impress mean girl Amber. And absolutely no more being nicknamed Cucumber Girl. A lead role in the spring musical gives Lottie a chance to dazzle her mega-crush Daniel with her talent as a singing crab but it's not all singing and dancing at Kingswood High. Lottie's friendship with Molly and Jess seems to be falling apart no matter how hard she tries to keep her BFFs together.

# YEAR 8

## Reading List - 2024/25

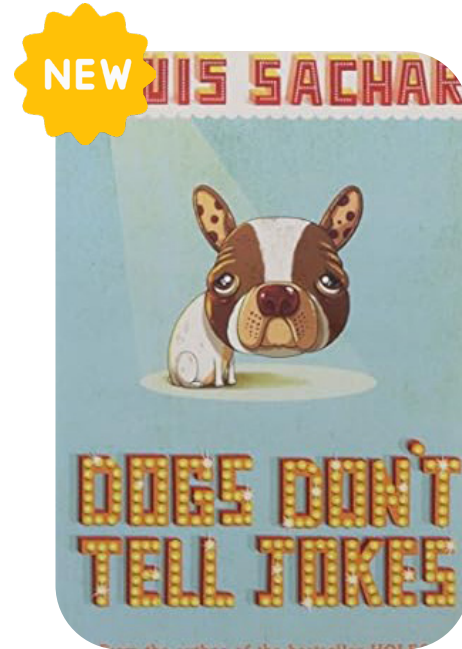
### COMEDY



#### Only You Can Save Mankind

Terry Pratchett:

Johnny Maxwell is just an ordinary boy. And he loves video games. But as he plays at becoming humanity's last hope, shooting invading aliens out of a pixelated sky, a message comes from the last remaining alien spaceship: We wish to talk. And suddenly Johnny comes face to face with a very real alien race that needs his help. This isn't a game anymore...



#### Dogs Don't Tell Jokes

Louis Sachar:

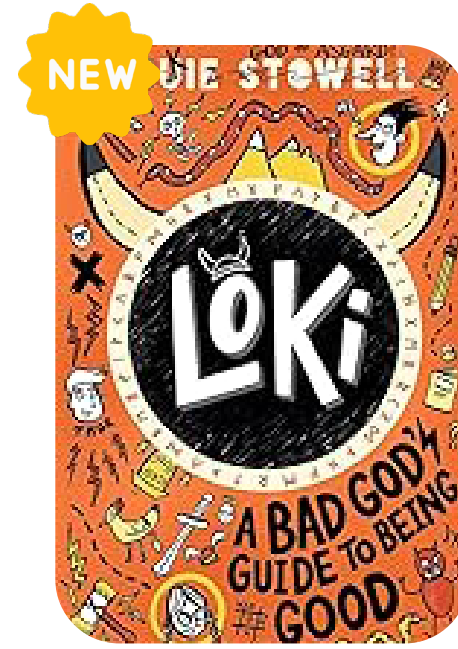
Gary W Bone knows that he was born to be a stand-up comedian. When his school has a talent contest Gary is sure that this is his big chance - he will make everyone laugh and win the prize. But when an outrageous surprise threatens to turn his debut into a disaster, it looks as if the biggest joke of all may be on Gary himself.



#### A Beginners Guide to Ruling the Galaxy

David Solomons:

Gavin's got a new neighbour and she's really annoying. Niki follows him everywhere, bosses him about, and doesn't care that her parents will obliterate Earth with their galactic warships if she doesn't stop running away from them. Can Niki and Gavin sort out the alien despots (aka Mum and Dad) and save the planet? Possibly. Will they become friends along the way? Doubtful...



#### Loki, A Bad God's Guide to Being Good

Louie Stowell:

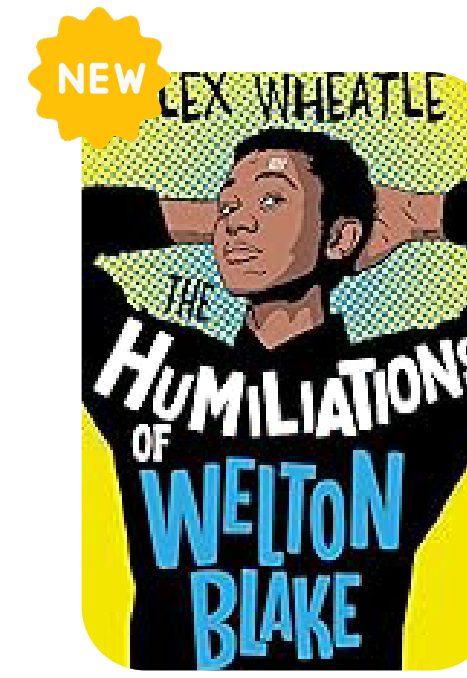
After one trick too many, Loki is banished to live on Earth as a "normal" school boy. Forbidden from using his AWESOME godly powers, Loki must show moral improvement. As he records his lies THE TRUTH in his magical (judgemental) diary, it becomes clear Loki hasn't a clue how to tell good from evil, trust from tricks, or friends from enemies.



#### The Summer We Turned Green

William Sutcliffe:

It's the summer holidays, and thir-teen-year-old Luke's life has been turned upside down. First his older sister Rose moved 'across the road', where a community of climate rebels is protesting the planned airport expansion. Dad only went to get Rose back, but now he's out there building totem poles, wearing sandals and drinking mead (whatever that is) with the best of them... Can Luke save his family when all they want to do is save the planet?



#### The Humiliations of Welton Blake

Alex Wheatle

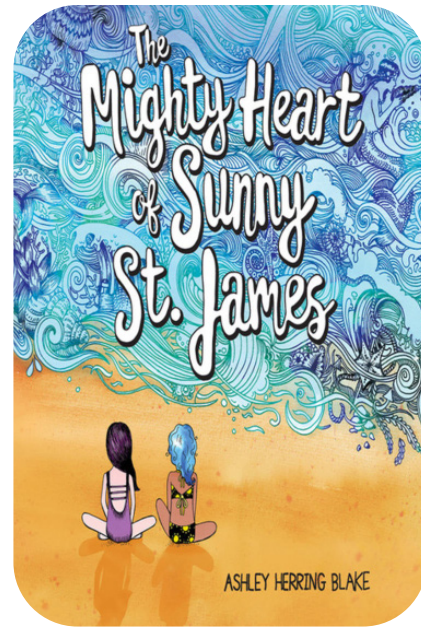
Welton Blake has done it - he's asked out Carmella McKenzie, the best looking girl in school and she's only gone and said yes! But just as he thinks his luck, and life, is starting to change, Welton's phone breaks kickstarting a series of unfortunate, humiliating, and sometimes disgusting events. Life for Welton is about to go very, very wrong.

**Dyslexia Friendly**

# YEAR 8

## Reading List - 2024/25

### LGBTQ+



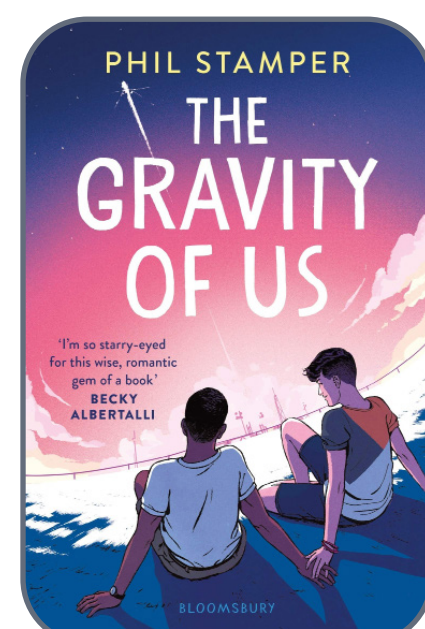
**The Mighty Heart of Sunny St. James**  
*Ashley Herring:*

When Sunny St. James receives a new heart, she decides to set off on a New Life Plan: 1) do awesome amazing things she could never do before; 2) find a new best friend; and 3) kiss a boy for the first time. Her New Life Plan seems to be racing forward, but when she meets her new best friend Quinn, Sunny questions whether she really wants to kiss a boy at all.



**Only at the Weekends**  
*Dean Atta:*

Mack is a hopeless romantic - he blames the films he's grown up watching. He has liked Karim for as long as he can remember and is ecstatic when Karim becomes his boyfriend. But when Mack's dad gets a job on a film in Scotland, Mack must move. It's horrible being so far away from Karim, but the worst part is that Karim doesn't make the effort to visit. Love shouldn't be only on the weekends.



**The Gravity of Us**  
*Phil Stamper:*

Cal wants to be a journalist, and he's already well underway with almost half a million followers on his Flash Fame app and an upcoming internship at BuzzFeed. But his plans are derailed when his pilot father is selected for a highly publicized NASA mission to Mars. Within days, Cal and his parents leave Brooklyn for hot and humid Houston. With the entire nation desperate for any new information about the astronauts, Cal finds himself thrust in the middle of a media circus.



**Hani and Ishu's Guide to Fake Dating**  
*Adiba Jagirda:*

Everyone likes Hani Khan - she's easy going and one of the most popular girls at school. But when she comes out to her friends as bisexual, they don't believe her, claiming she can't be bi if she's only dated guys. Panicked, Hani blurts out that she's in a relationship... with a girl her friends can't stand - Ishu Dey.



**You're the One that I Want**  
*Simon James Green:*

Freddie is unremarkable. He doesn't stand out in any way, and in fact teachers and fellow students keep forgetting who he is. Even his mum thinks he's a disappointment, and spends almost all her time at work, producing a TV show. After a particularly awful night when he embarrasses himself in front of Jasper Perry (the gorgeous teen star of his mum's new show), Freddie decides to follow a new, proactive philosophy designed to transform his social and romantic life: saying 'yes' to every opportunity.  
*Neurodiverse Characters*



**The Lucky List**  
*Rachael Lippincott:*

Since her mum died, Emily's started to feel like her luck's run out. So, when Emily finds her mum's senior-year bucket list, she finds twelve ways to feel close to her again. But if she wants to check everything off, she'll need help - help in the form of Blake. As Blake and Emily work through the list, the girls' bond deepens. Emily is faced with the question: can she accept this new part of herself, the part her mum never even knew existed?

# YEAR 8

## Reading List - 2024/25



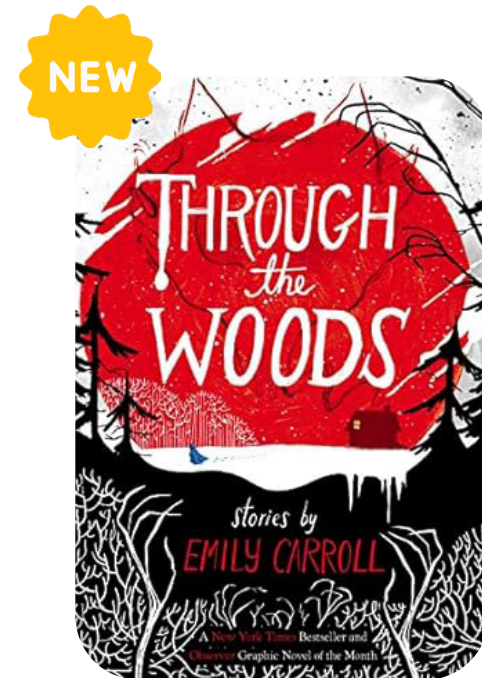
### HORROR



#### Frozen Charlotte

Alex Bell:

Dunvegan School for Girls has been closed and converted into a family home long ago. Sophie arrives at the old schoolhouse to spend the summer with her cousins. Brooding Cameron with his scarred hand, strange Liliias with a fear of bones and Piper, who seems just a bit too good to be true and the girl with a room full of dolls. The girl that died!



#### Through the Woods

Emily Carroll:

Five mysterious, spine-tingling stories follow journeys into (and out of?) the eerie abyss.

#### Graphic Novel

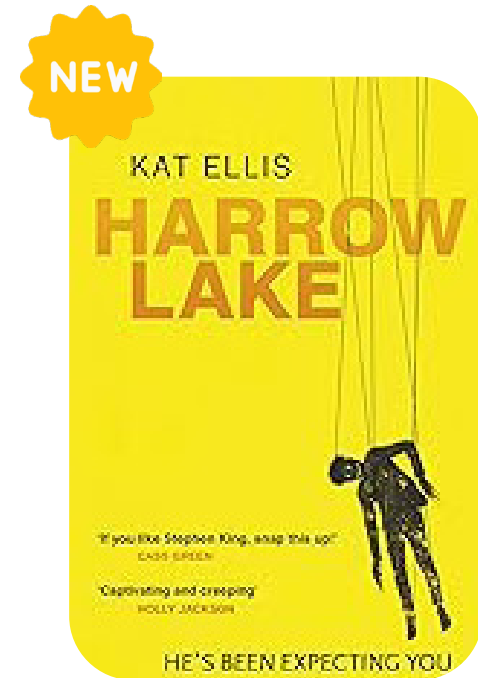


#### Spooks Series

Joseph Delaney:

'Someone has to stand against the dark. And you're the only one who can.' For years, the local Spook has been keeping the County safe from evil. Now his time is coming to an end, but who will take over? Just one boy is left. Thomas Ward. He is the last hope.

#### Book#1



#### Harrow Lake

Kat Ellis:

Lola Nox is the daughter of a celebrated horror filmmaker - she thinks nothing can scare her. But when her father is brutally attacked, she's swiftly packed off to live with a grandmother she's never met in Harrow Lake, the eerie town where her father's most iconic horror movie was shot. The more Lola discovers about the town, the more terrifying it becomes...



#### Things that go Bump

Kathryn Foxfield and Robin Boyden:

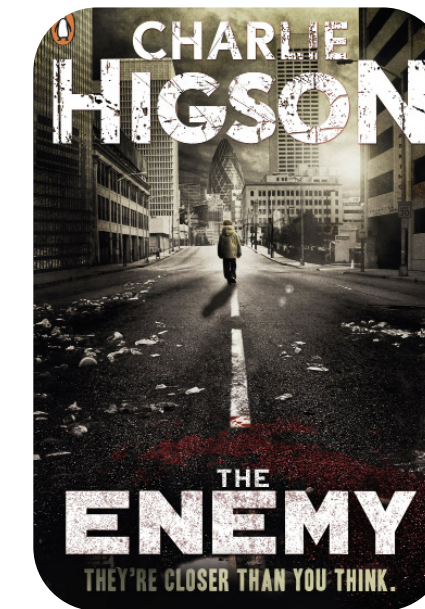
When Olive and some of her year 6 friends find themselves locked overnight inside Flatpack - a new IKEA-style superstore - they quickly realise that they are not alone. A number of things hitched a ride from the forest where Flatpack sources its wood and in every dark nook, they've been multiplying...



#### A Skinful of Shadows

Frances Hardinge:

Sometimes, when a person dies, their spirit looks for someone else to hide in. Some people are perfect for hiding. Makepeace has learned to defend herself from the ghosts that try to possess her in the night, desperate for refuge - but one day she drops her guard. Now she has a spirit inside her.



#### The Enemy Series

Charlie Higson:

Everyone over the age of fourteen has a deadly zombie virus and now the kids must keep themselves alive. When the virus came, every adult fell ill. Some died. The others are crazed, hungry and confused. The children are fighting to survive. Rumours speak of a safe place to hide, so a gang of children move across London-but can they make it there - alive?

#### Book#1

# YEAR 8

## Reading List - 2024/25



### HORROR



#### Crater Lake

Jennifer Killick:

Why is no one around when Lance and the rest of Year Six arrive at the brand new Crater Lake activity centre? This is just the beginning of the school trip from hell; a fight for survival that sees five pupils band together to save their classmates from an alien fate far worse than death - whatever happens, they must Never. Ever. Fall asleep!



#### Demon Road

Triology

Derek Landy:

Amber is smart but insecure, spending most of her time online, to avoid her aloof parents. When an encounter reveals a horrifying secret, she is forced to go on the run from killer cars, vampires, undead serial killers, and red-skinned, horned demons. She races across America before her parents catch up with her.

Book#1



#### Mina and the Undead

Amy McCaw:

New Orleans Fang Fest, 1995. Mina arrives in New Orleans to visit her estranged sister, Libby. She can't wait to explore the city's darkest secrets - vampire tours, spooky cemeteries, disturbing local myths... It gets even better when Mina lands a part-time job at a horror movie mansion and meets Jared, Libby's gorgeous housemate. But the perfect summer bliss is broken when, while exploring the mansion, Mina stumbles upon the body of a girl with puncture marks on her neck.

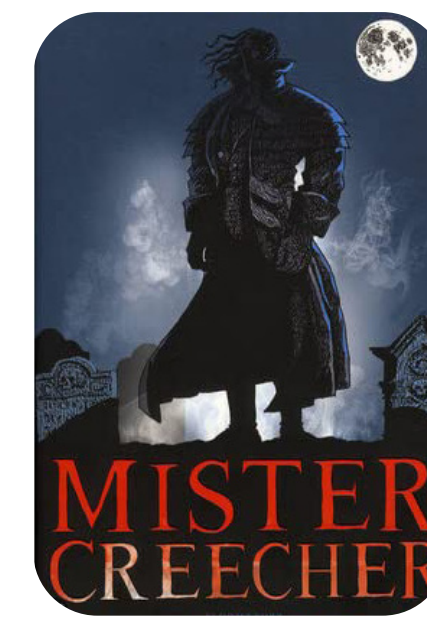


#### Welcome to Camp Killer

Cynthia Murphy:

When an American-style residential camp is set up in the grounds of an English state-home, the teenage camp counsellors find that all is not what it seems.

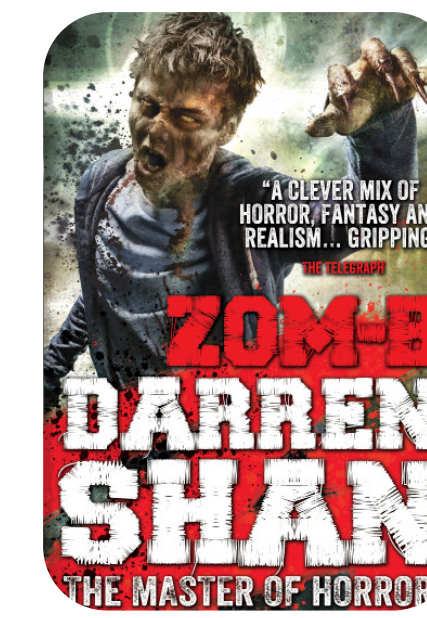
Dyslexia friendly



#### Mister Creecher

Chris Priestley:

Billy is a street urchin, pick-pocket, and petty thief. Mister Creecher is a monstrous giant of a man who terrifies all he meets. Their relationship becomes a bond between these two misfits as their bloody journey takes them ever northwards on the trail of their target, Victor Frankenstein. A frightening book of friendship, trust and betrayal.



#### Zom-B

Series

Darren Shan:

Zom-B is a radical series about a zombie apocalypse, told in the first person by one of its victims. The series combines classic Shan action with a fiendishly twisting plot and hard-hitting and thought-provoking moral questions dealing with racism, abuse of power and more.

Book#1



#### Lockwood and Co.

Series

Jonathan Stroud:

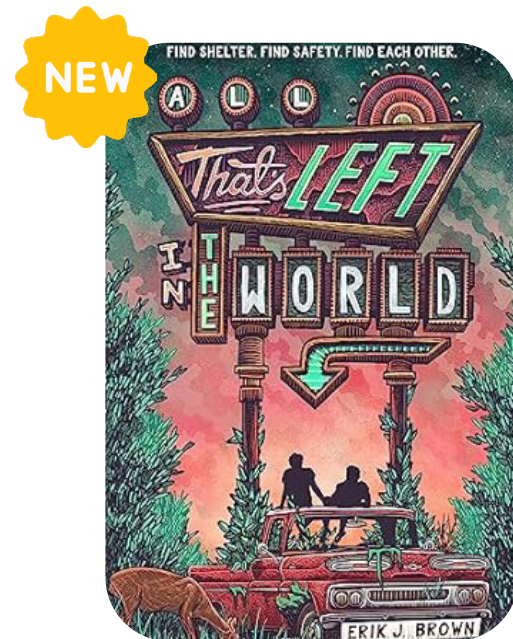
Britain has a horrifying epidemic of ghosts. Lucy joins the smallest, most ramshackle agency in the city, run by Anthony Lockwood. When one of their cases goes horribly wrong, Lockwood & Co. must stay the night in a haunted house and try to escape alive. A scary and funny detective ghost series.

Book#1

# YEAR 8

## Reading List - 2024/25

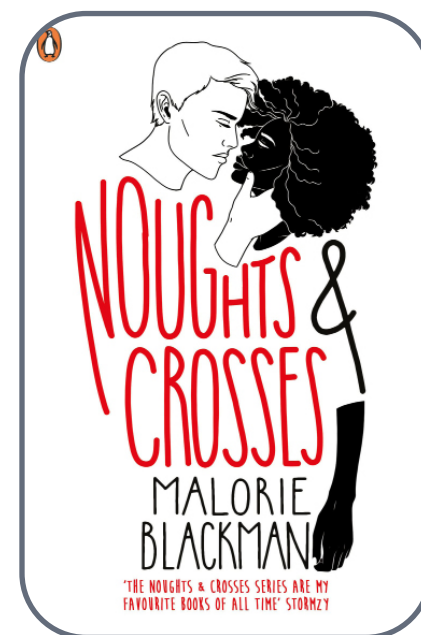
### DYSTOPIAN



#### All That's Left in the Wood

Erik J. Brown:

When a flu wipes out most of the population, strangers Jamie and Andrew form a bond while fighting for survival in a changed world.



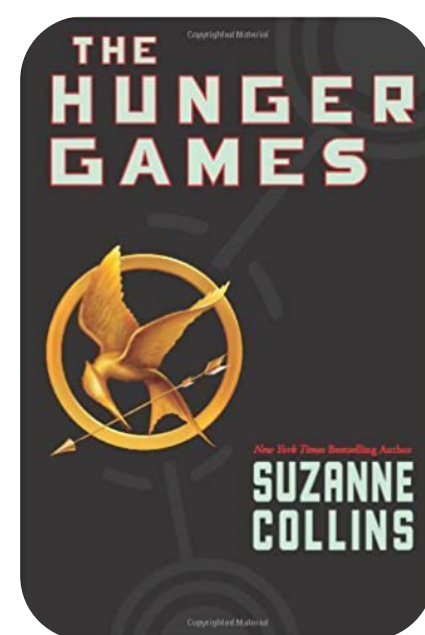
#### Noughts and Crosses

Series

Malorie Blackman:

Two young people are forced to make a stand in this thought-provoking look at racism and prejudice in an alternate society. Sephy is a Cross, Callum is a Nought. Noughts and Crosses simply don't mix. A romance builds between Sephy and Callum – but it leads them into danger.

Book#1



#### The Hunger Games Series

Suzanne Collins:

In the ruins of North America lies the nation of Panem, a shining Capitol surrounded by twelve outlying districts. The Capitol is harsh and cruel forcing teenagers to participate in the annual Hunger Games, a fight to the death on live TV. Katniss Everdeen fights for survival. Book#1 read the Prequel: Ballad of Songbirds & Snakes!

Book#1



#### The Maze Runner Series

James Dashner:

When the lift opens, the only thing Thomas remembers is his name. Boys welcome him to the Glade, a camp in a maze. They have no idea what's happened to the world outside. All they know is that every morning when the walls slide back, they will risk all to find out.

Book#1



#### Gone Series

Michael Grady:

One day everyone above age 15 dis-appears! Just as suddenly, there are no phones, no internet, no tele-vision. Hunger threatens. Bullies rule. A sinister creature lurks. On your 15th birthday, you disappear just like everyone else. A science fiction/ dystopian fantasy world of survival against monsters, bullies and each other.

Book#1



#### Odessa

Jonathan Hill:

Eight years ago an earthquake, "the Big One" hit along the Cascadia fault line, toppling cities and changing landscapes all up and down the west coast of the United States. Life as we know it changed forever. But for Vietnamese American Virginia Crane, life changed shortly after the earthquake, when her mother left and never came back.

Graphic Novel



#### The Giver

Lois Lowry:

There is no war, no hunger, no pain. No one in the community wants for anything. And at twelve years old, each member of the community has their profession carefully chosen for them. Twelve-year old Jonas has never thought there was anything wrong with his world.....

Graphic Novel

# YEAR 8

## Reading List - 2024/25



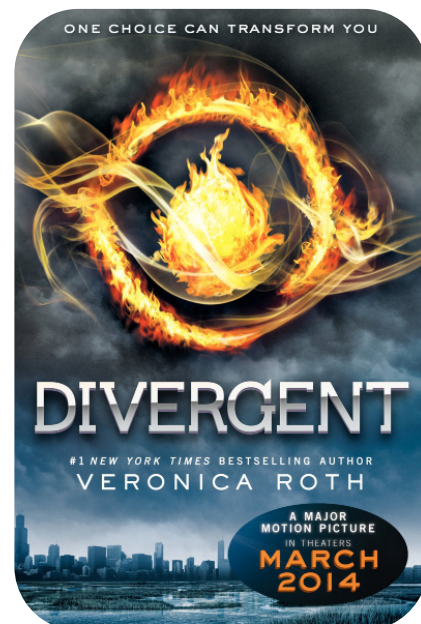
### DYSTOPIAN



#### The Girl With No Soul

Morgan Owen:

A young girl who doesn't recall her life beyond a year ago and no longer has a soul finds herself on the run from the authorities when she tries to find the missing parts of her stolen identity

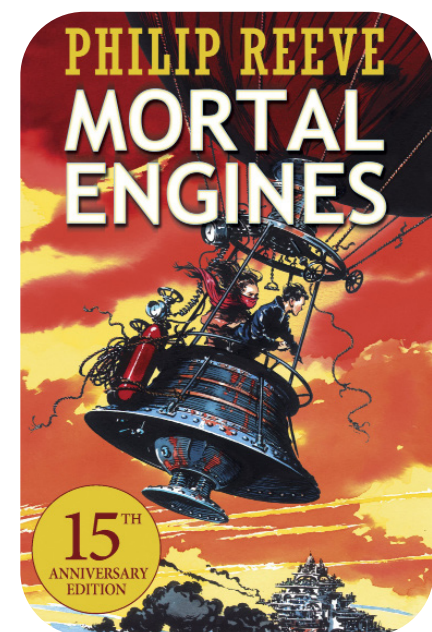


#### Divergent Series

Veronica Roth:

When the doors of the lift crank open, the only thing Thomas remembers is his first name. But he's surrounded by boys who welcome him to the Glade – a walled encampment at the centre of a terrible stone maze. The Gladers don't know why or how they came to be there – or what's happened to the world outside.

Book #1

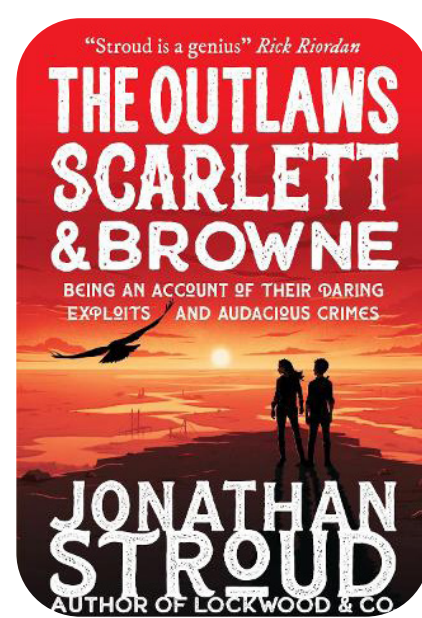


#### The Mortal Engines Series

Philip Reeve:

In a dangerous future, huge motor-ised cities hunt, attack and fight each other for survival. As London pursues a small town, young apprentice Tom is flung out into the wastelands, where a terrifying cy-borg begins to hunt him down... The start of a brilliant Steam-punk dystopian fantasy.

Book#1



#### The Outlaws Scarlett and Browne Series

Jonathan Stroud:

Set in a future England, where gunfights and monsters collide, and where the formidable outlaw Scarlett McCain discovers a wrecked coach with only one survivor, Albert Browne. Scarlett agrees to escort him to safety, but soon, new enemies are on their heels.

Book#1



#### Arc of a Scythe Series

Neal Shusterman:

A world with no hunger, no disease, no war, no misery. Humanity has conquered all those things and even death. Scythes are the only ones who can end life -and must, in order to keep the population under control. Citra and Rowan are chosen to be apprentice to a scythe—a role neither wants.

Book#1



#### Pale

Chris Wooding:

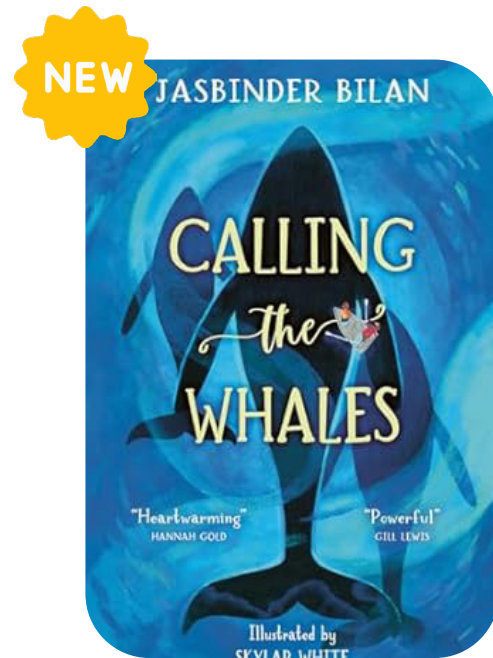
The Lazarus Serum can bring you back from the dead - but when you come back you've changed - you're a Pale, an outcast. It's the last thing Jed wants, but an accident changes everything and Jed's forced to discover the true cost of living forever.

Dyslexia Friendly

# YEAR 8

## Reading List - 2024/25

### ADVENTURE



**Calling the Whales**  
*Jasbinder Bilan:*

When Tulsi and Satchen discover a trapped whale in a fishing net while rowing out to an island near their seaside home, they try to free it.

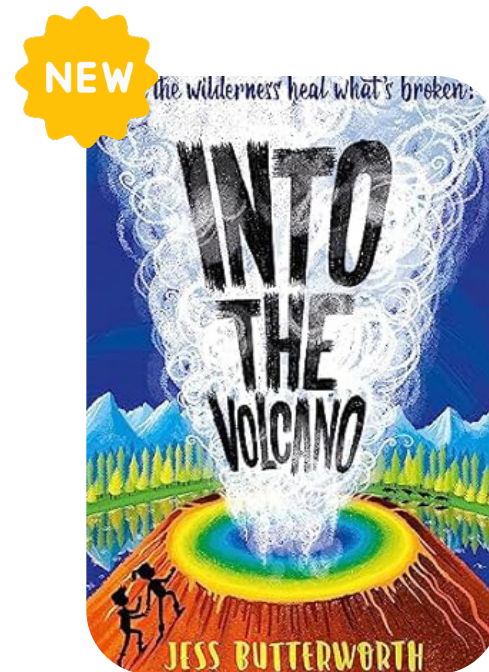
**Dyslexia friendly**



**Cogheart Series**  
*Peter Brunzl:*

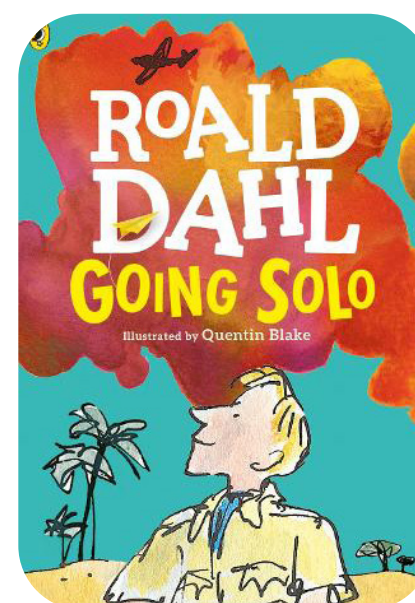
Lily's father is missing, and now silver-eyed men stalk her. With her friends—Robert, the clockmaker's son, and Malkin, her mechanical fox—Lily is plunged into a murky and menacing world of murder, mayhem and mystery set in this gripping Victorian steam punk adventure.

**Book#1**



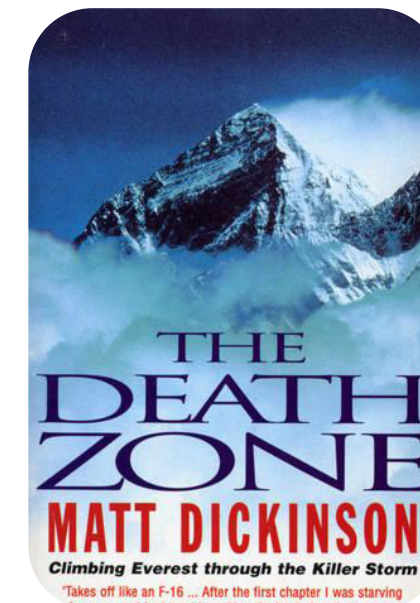
**Into the Volcano**  
*Jess Butterworth:*

Seb's best friend Clay was injured in a shooting, and Seb believes there's a rainbow pool in the heart of Yellowstone National Park that will help heal him. Vivi is feeling lost, wishing she could find a way to honour her grandmother, who didn't survive the same shooting. When they meet at the memorial and Seb tells Vivi what he wants to do, Vivi is convinced that her grandmother would have wanted her to go with Seb to help his friend.



**Going Solo**  
*Roald Dahl:*

Roald Dahl: Going Solo As a young man, Roald Dahl's adventures took him from London to East Africa, until the Second World War began and he became a RAF pilot. You'll read stories of whizzing through the air in a Tiger Moth Plane, encounters with deadly green mambas and hungry lions, and the terrible crash that led him to storytelling.



**The Death Zone**  
*Matt Dickinson:*

It seemed like any other season on Mount Everest. Ten expeditions from around the world were preparing for their summit push, gathered together to try for mountaineering's ultimate prize. Twenty-four hours later, eight of those climbers were dead, victims of the most devastating storm ever to hit Everest. On the North face of the mountain, a British expedition found itself in the thick of the drama.



**The Trail**  
*Meika Hashimoto:*

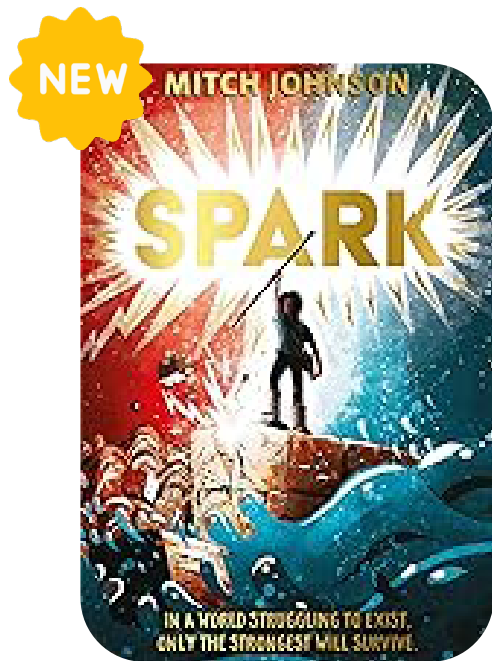
Toby has to finish the final thing on The List. It's a list of brave, daring, totally awesome things that he and his best friend, Lucas, planned to do together, and the only item left is to hike the Appalachian Trail. When a storm comes, Toby finds himself tangled up in someone else's mess: Two boys desperately need his help. But does Toby have any help to give?



# YEAR 8

## Reading List - 2024/25

### ADVENTURE



#### Spark!

*Mitch Johnson:*

Ash has always lived in Last Village, lonely since the day his father left and never came back. The world is unbearably hot, water is drying up, and life is hard. After a vicious thunderstorm, Ash wakes to find that the village's water has completely run out, and all the other villagers have mysteriously disappeared. Accompanied by the outcast Bronwyn, Ash sets off in search of water, for answers about what happened to the villagers, with hope they might find 'The Kingdom' - a rumoured land to the north where life still flourishes.



#### Garbage King

*Elizabeth Laird:*

When Mamo's mother dies, he is abandoned in the shanties of Addis Ababa. Stolen by a child-trafficker and sold to a farmer, he is cruelly treated. Escaping back to the city, he meets another, very different runaway. Dani is rich, educated - and fleeing his tyrannical father. Together they join a gang of homeless street boys who survive only by mutual bonds of trust and total dependence on each other.



#### The Adventures of John Blake

*Philip Pullman:*

Far out at sea, and hidden by the mists of time, sails the Mary Alice and her crew - searching for a way home. But the mysterious ship is being hunted by a villain who will go to ANY lengths to track them down . . . Join John Blake and the crew on an unforgettable time-travelling adventure.

#### Graphic Novel



#### The Good Thieves

*Katherine Rundell:*

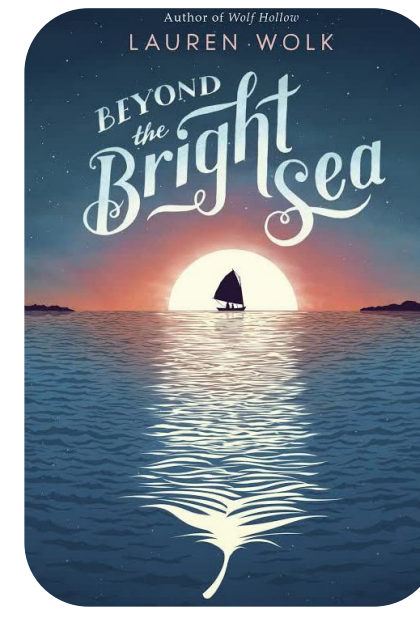
Desperate to help her beloved grandfather, Vita and her mother go to New York. She has one goal: to break into Hudson Hall and retrieve the jewels that the sinister Victor Sorrotore stole from her family. With her new friends, she plans a scary heist.



#### Treasure Island

*Robert Louis Stevenson:*

When a mysterious sailor dies in sinister circumstances at the Admiral Benbow inn, young Jim Hawkins stumbles across a treasure map among the dead man's possessions. But Jim soon becomes only too aware that he is not the only one who knows of the map's existence, and his bravery and cunning are tested to the full.



#### Beyond the Bright Sea

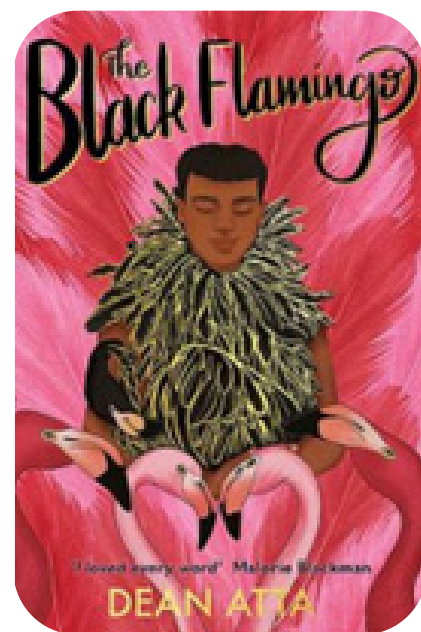
*Lauren Wolk:*

Crow has always been curious about the world around her, but it isn't until the night a mysterious fire appears across the water that the unspoken question of her own history forms in her heart. Soon, a chain of events is triggered, leading Crow down a path of discovery and danger.

# YEAR 8

## Reading List - 2024/25

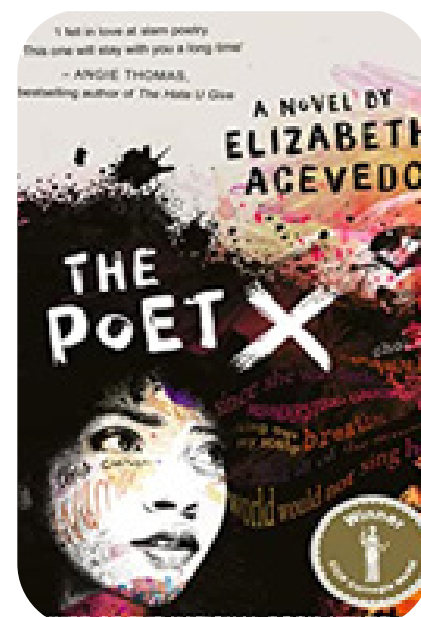
### REAL LIFE



#### **Black Flamingo**

Dean Atta:

Michael waits in the stage wings, wearing a pink wig, pink fluffy coat and black heels. One more step will see him illuminated by spotlight. He has been on a journey of bravery to get here, and he is almost ready to show himself to the world in bold colours ... Can he emerge as *The Black Flamingo*?



#### **The Poet X**

Elizabeth Acevedo:

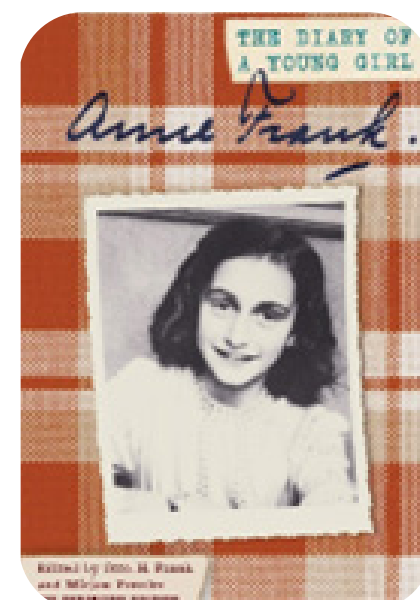
Xiomara feels unheard in her Harlem neighbourhood. She discovers slam poetry to understand her place in the world. She joins a school slam poetry club and can't stop thinking about her poems. Because though the world might not want to hear, Xiomara refuses to be silent.



#### **One**

Sarah Crossan:

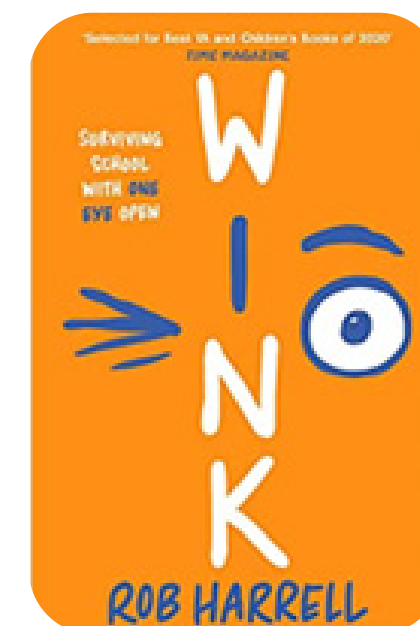
Grace and Tippi are twins - conjoined twins. And their lives are about to change. No longer able to afford homeschooling, they must venture into the world - a world of stares, sneers and cruelty. Will they find more than that at school? Can they find real friends? And what about love? But what neither Grace or Tippi realises is that a heart-wrenching decision lies ahead. A decision that could tear them apart. One that will change their lives even more than they ever imagined.



#### **The Diary of a Young Girl**

Anne Frank:

Discovered in the attic in which she spent the last years of her life, Anne Frank's remarkable diary has become a world classic a powerful reminder of the horrors of war and an eloquent testament to the human spirit.



#### **Wink**

Rob Harrell:

Rob Harrell: Wink  
Ross Molloy just wants to be normal. He doesn't want to lose his hair, or wear a weird hat, or deal with the disappearing friends who don't know what to say to 'the cancer kid'. But with his recent diagnosis of a rare eye cancer, simply blending in is no longer an option. Ross - and his friends and his family - all need to work out how to deal with this devastating challenge that Life has thrown down. Maybe Batpig can come to the rescue?



#### **You Think You Know Me?**

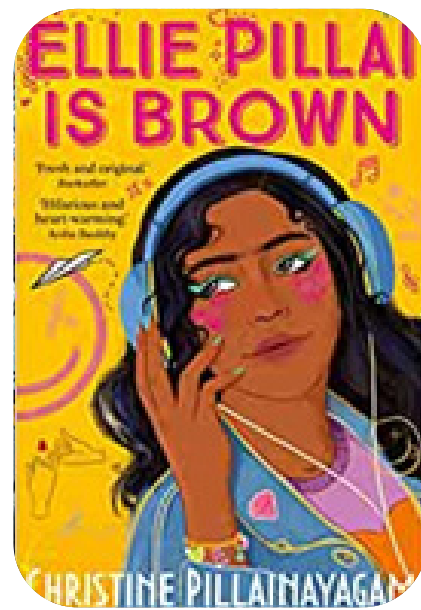
Ayaan Mohamoud:

People like me are devils before we are angels. Hanan has always been good and quiet. She accepts her role as her school's perfect Muslim poster girl. She ignores the racist bullies. A closed mouth is gold - it helps you get home in one piece. Then her friend is murdered and every Muslim is to blame. The world is angry at us again. How can she stay silent while her family is ripped apart?

# YEAR 8

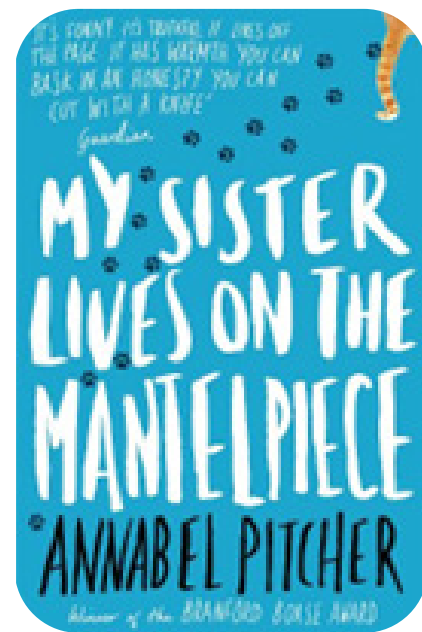
## Reading List - 2024/25

### REAL LIFE - CONT.



**Ellie Pillai is Brown**  
*Christine Pillainayagam:*

Most days, Ellie Pillai is some-where between invisible, and not very cool - and usually she's okay with that. But suddenly, Ellie feels different. Maybe it's the new boy at school who makes her brain ex-plode into rain-bows every time she sees him (and also happens to be going out with her best friend. Suddenly, her misfit style, her skin colour, her songwriting and all that getting lost in the music in her head seem to be okay too. Because maybe standing out isn't a bad thing after all.



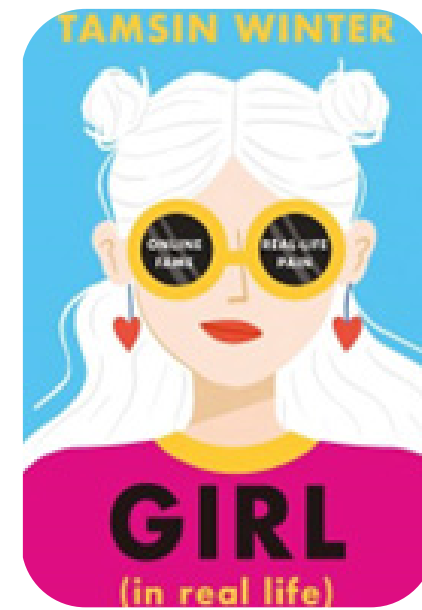
**My Sister Lives on the Mantelpiece**  
*Annabel Pitcher:*

Five years ago, Jamie's sister, Rose, was blown up by a terrorist bomb. His family is torn apart by their grief. His mum runs away. His dad turns to drink and hate. Rose's surviving twin sister Jas-mine stops eating, gets piercings and dyes her hair pink - anything to look different to her twin. But Jamie hasn't cried in all that time.



**The Night Bus Hero**  
*Onjali Rauf:*

I've been getting into trouble for as long I can remember. Recently no one believes me about any-thing - even when I'm telling the truth! It's worse since I played a prank on the old man in the park. Everyone thinks I'm just a bully. They don't believe I could be a hero. But I'm going to prove them all wrong. Bullying and homeless-ness themes.



**Girl (In Real Life)**  
*Tamsin Winter:*

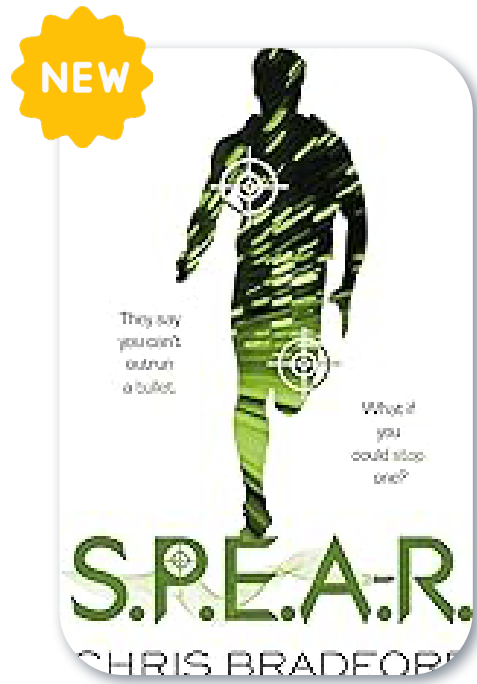
Eva's parents run a hugely success-ful YouTube channel, and Eva is the star of the show. But Eva is getting sick of being made to pose in stupid mum-and-daughter matching out-fits for sponsored posts. The freebies aren't worth the teasing at school. And when an intensely humiliating "period party" post goes viral, Eva is outraged. She's going to find a way to stop the channel, even if she must sabotage it herself.

# YEAR 8

## Reading List - 2024/25



### CRIME, MYSTERY, THRILLERS AND SPIES



**NEW**

**Spear**

*Chris Bradford:*

Hen Troy is caught up in a terrorist attack that takes the lives of his parents, he discovers an amazing power – bullets can't harm him. With this secret uncovered he's soon recruited into a underground organisation where he meets Scarlet, a girl with her own remarkable talent, and the two put their powers to use... Exhilarating action meets heart-pounding suspense in this three-part novel.

**Dyslexia Friendly**



**NEW**

**Ruby Redfort**

*Lauren Child:*

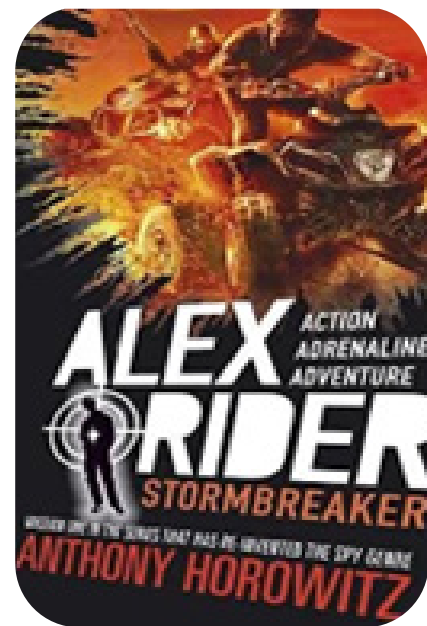
What would you do if you were a thirteen-year-old kid and a secret agency asked you to become their ace code-cracker? Lucky for Ruby Redfort, she's not your average kid. She's never going to crack. She's super-smart, she's always cool and she can keep her mouth shut... can't she? There's only one way to find out...



**Young Bond: Silverfin Series**

*Charlie Higson:*

James Bond will one day become the world's most famous spy, but for now his challenge is to fit in at his new school - making friends and facing up to bullies. But there is an even tougher challenge awaiting him- something mysterious and deadly lurking in the water. It's called SilverFin.



**Alex Rider Series**

*Anthony Horowitz:*

Fourteen-year-old Alex is recruited into MI6. Armed with secret gadgets, he is sent to investigate Herod Sayle, a man who is offering Stormbreaker computers to every school. But the teenage spy soon finds himself in mortal danger.

**Book#1**



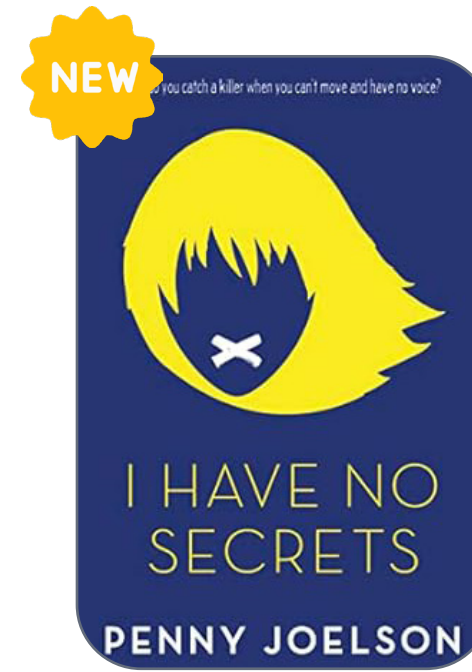
**NEW**

**Good Girl's Guide to Murder**

*Holly Jackson:*

The case is closed. Five years ago, schoolgirl Andie Bell was murdered by Sal Singh. The police know he did it. Everyone in town knows he did it. Almost everyone. Having grown up in the small town that was consumed by the crime, Pippa Fitz-Amobi chooses the case as the topic for her final project.

**Most popular!**



**NEW**

**I Have No Secrets**

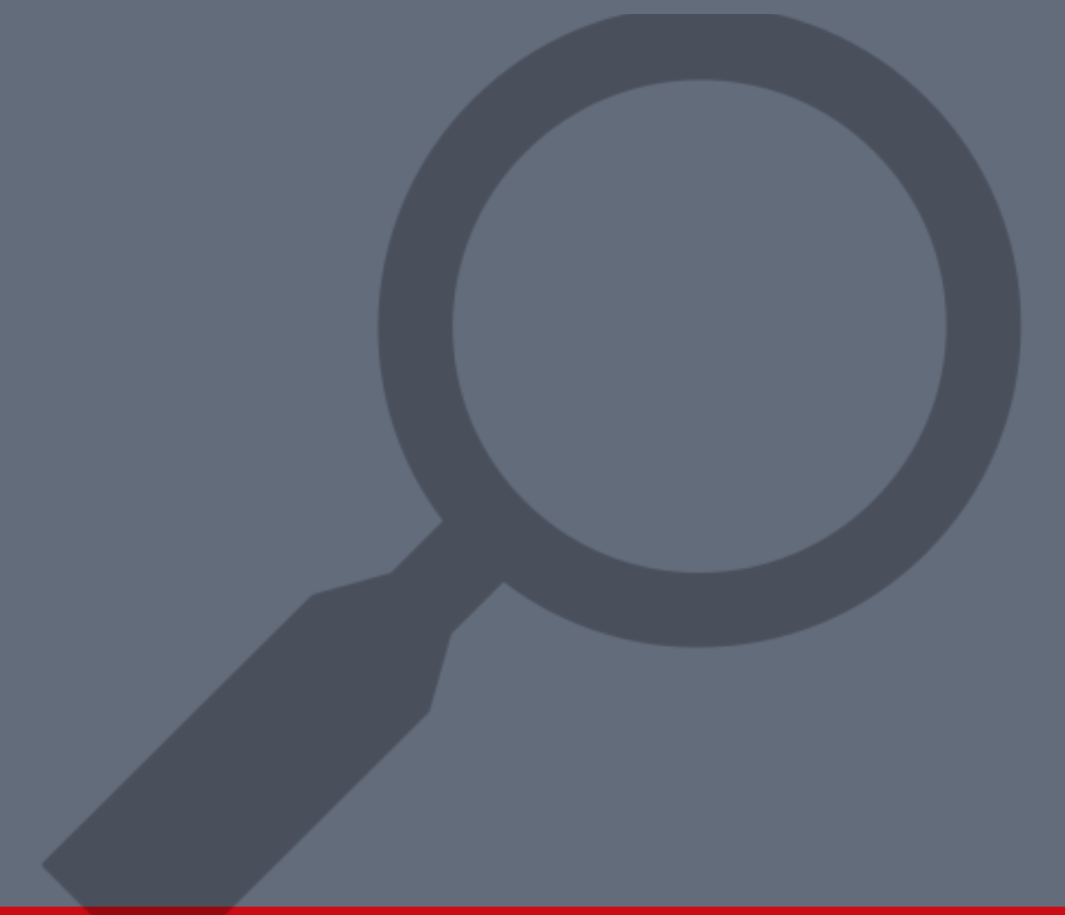
*Penny Joelson:*

Jemma knows who did the murder. She knows because he told her. And she can't tell anyone. Fourteen-year-old Jemma has severe cerebral palsy. Unable to communicate or move, she relies on her family and carer for everything. She has a sharp brain and inquisitive nature, and knows all sorts of things about everyone. But when she is confronted with this terrible secret, she is utterly powerless to do anything. Though that might be about to change...

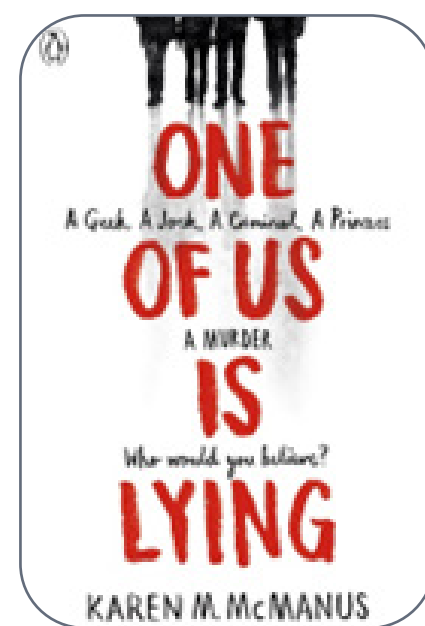
**Most popular!**

# YEAR 8

## Reading List - 2024/25



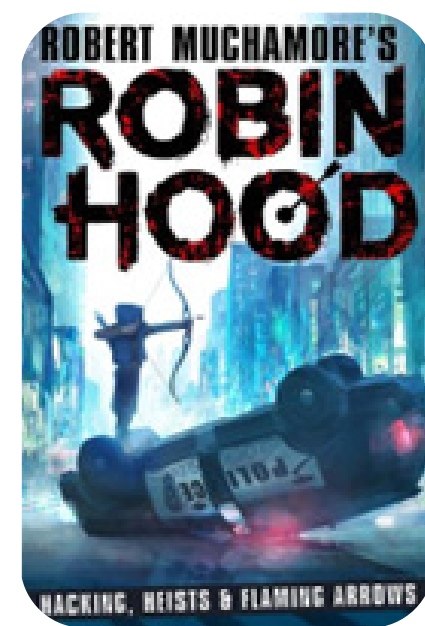
### CRIME, MYSTERY, THRILLERS AND SPIES - CONT.



#### One of Us is Lying

Karen MCManus:

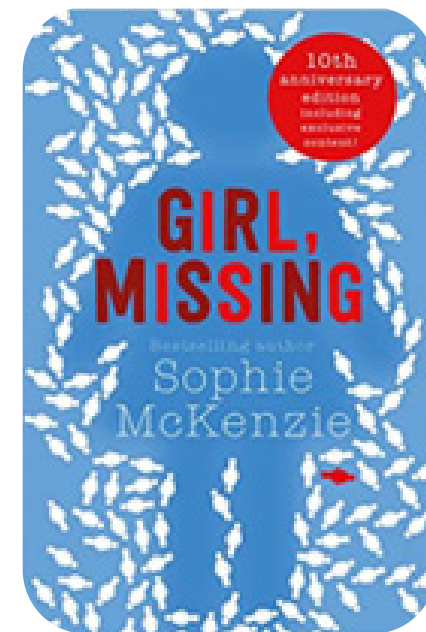
Five students go to detention. Only four leave alive. Yale hopeful Bronwyn has never publicly broken a rule. Sports star Cooper only knows what he's doing in the base-ball diamond. Bad body Nate is one misstep away from a life of crime. Prom queen Addy is holding together the cracks in her perfect life. And outsider Simon, creator of the notorious gossip app at Bayview High, won't ever talk about any of them again. He dies 24 hours before he could post their deepest secrets online.



#### Robin Hood

Robert Muchamore:

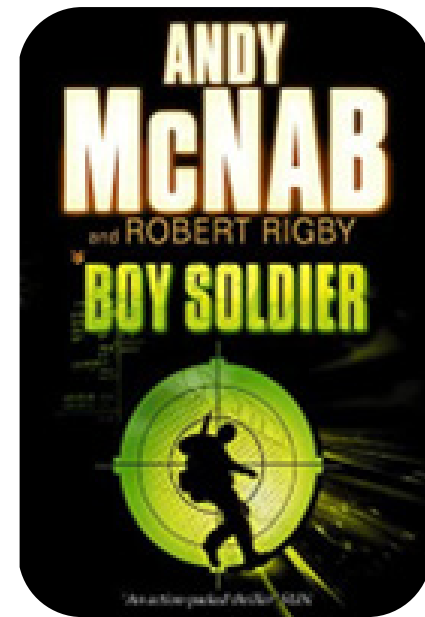
After its vast car plants shut down, the prosperous town of Locksley has become a wasteland of empty homes, toxic land and families on the brink. And it doesn't help that the authorities are in the clutches of profit-obsessed Sheriff of Notting-ham, in cahoots with underworld boss Guy Gisborne. When his dad is framed for a robbery, Robin and his brother Little John are hounded out of Locksley and must learn to survive in the Sherwood forest. But Robin is determined to do more than survive. Small, fast and deadly with a bow, he hatches a plan.



#### Girl Missing

Sophie McKenzie:

Lauren is adopted and eager to know more about her mysterious past. But when she discovers she may have been snatched from her family as a baby, her whole life suddenly feels like a sham. Could her adoptive parents really have been responsible for kidnapping her? Running away from her family to seek out the truth, Lauren's journey takes her deeper and deeper into danger as she realises that someone wants to stop her uncovering what really happened when she was a baby.



#### Boy Soldier Series

Andy McNab:

Danny sets out to track down and expose his grandfather – a traitor. Now people want them both dead. This is a thrilling, fast-paced series full of breath-taking action, SAS procedures and surveillance and survival techniques. A fast-moving, action-packed thriller.

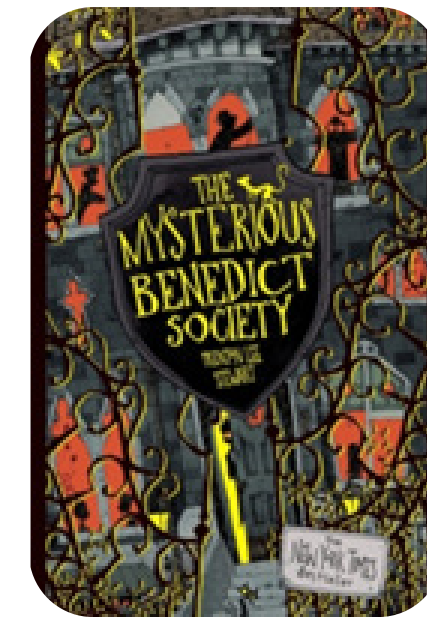
Book#1



#### Agent 21 Series

Chris Ryan:

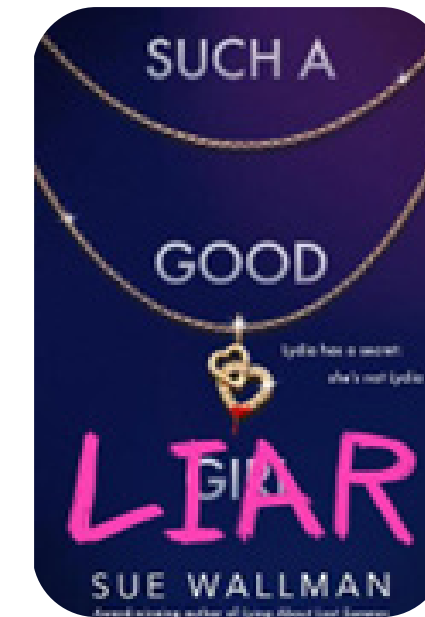
Agent 21-first in an action-packed adventure series by a real-life SAS hero. When Zak Darke's parents die in a mass murder he's alone in the world, until he's sought out by a mysterious man from a government agency. Zak becomes Agent 21. What happened to the 20 agents before him he'll never know. What he does know is that his life is about to change.



#### The Mysterious Benedict Society Series

Trenton Lee Stewart:

When an advertisement appears to take part in a secret mission, many children sit a series of tests. Just four succeed. They are all honest, talented and all orphans. They must go undercover at the Learning Institute where there are no rules. There they must work as a team to save themselves, but also the world outside the walls.



#### Such a Good Liar

Sue Wallman:

Lydia has arrived on a remote is-land populated only by wealthy families and their staff. She quickly finds acceptance, even adoration, from the close-knit families that rule the island. But a storm is coming, and all routes to the mainland are cut off. Thank goodness the Harrington sisters made it in time, because Lydia simply can't wait to meet them. That's because Lydia's not really Lydia Cornwallis. And the Harringtons have hell to pay for what they've done.

# YEAR 8

## Reading List - 2024/25

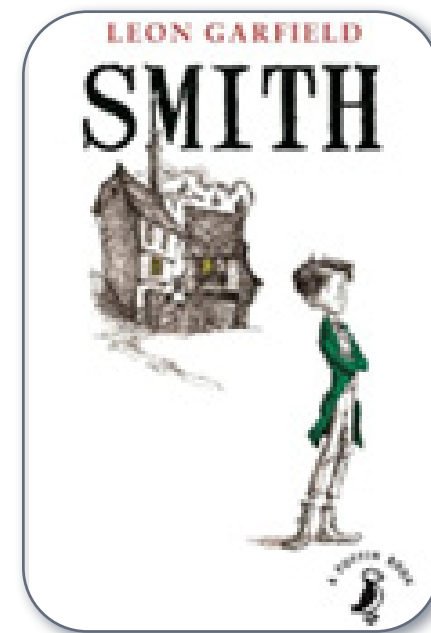


### HISTORICAL



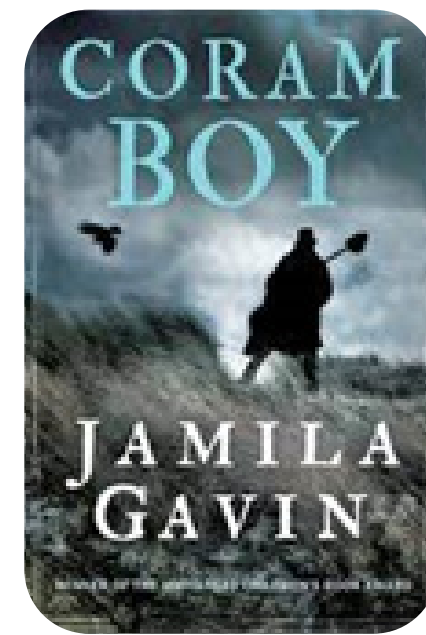
**King of Shadows**  
*Susan Cooper:*

Nat Field is a young actor who has travelled from America to perform as Puck in A midsummer's night dream at the newly rebuilt Globe Theatre. But as rehearsals begin, strange, eerie echoes of the past begin creeping in. Nat goes to bed mysteriously sick - and wakes up, healthy, to find himself in 1599, acting at the original Globe. And his co-star is King of Shadows himself: William Shakespeare, a magical man whose friendship changes Nat for ever.



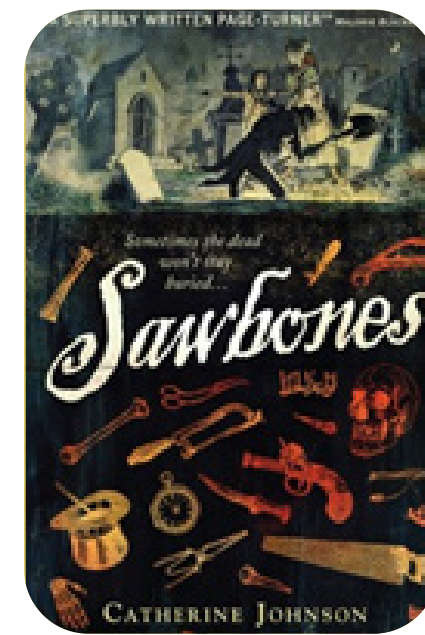
**Smith**  
*Leon Garfield:*

London street urchin Smith is 12 years old, and an experienced pick-pocket. One day on Ludgate Hill, he robbed an old gentleman, and one minute later watched him silently murdered by two men, who chased him for the document he had stolen but could not understand. Smith artfully dodges the two men and winds up in the odd company of a wealthy blind man, who takes Smith into his home and provides him with an education. But this new comfort is lost when Smith himself is suspected of the very murder he witnessed.



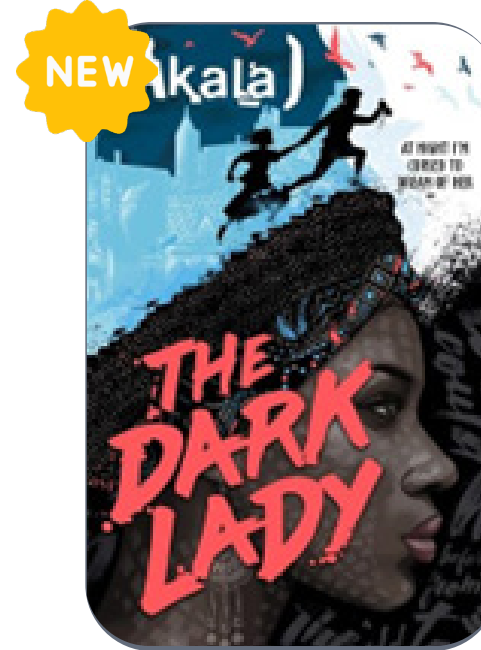
**Coram Boy**  
*Jamila Gavin:*

The Coram man takes babies and money from desperate mothers, promising to deliver them safely to a Foundling Hospital in London. Instead, he murders them and buries them by the roadside, to the helpless horror of his mentally ill son, Mish. Mish saves one, Aaron, who grows up happily unaware of his history, proving himself a promising musician. As Aaron's new life takes him closer to his real family, the watchful Mish makes a terrible mistake, delivering Aaron and his best friend Toby back into the hands of the Coram man.



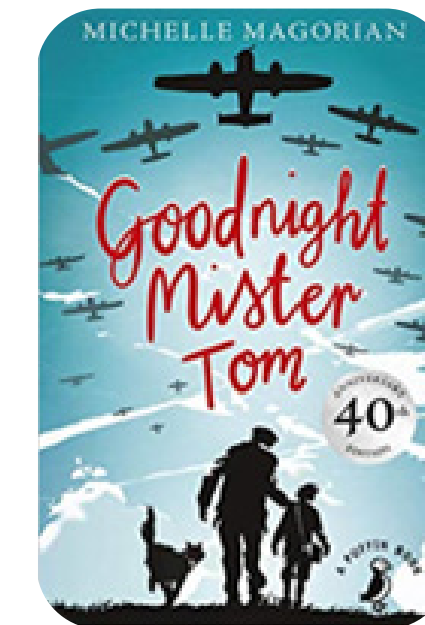
**Sawbones**  
*Catherine Johnson:*

Ezra has been trained by a top surgeon, which will secure him a trade for life. But his world is turned on its head when a failed break-in at his master's house sets off a disturbing series of events that involves grave robbing, body switching and murder. Loveday Finch, daughter of the late magician, asks Ezra to investigate.



**The Boy Behind the Wall**  
*Maximilian Jones:*

What would you risk for a friend you've never met...? In 1960s Berlin the Wall is everywhere. It cuts through streets, parks, even houses. Teenagers Harry and Jakob live either side of the divide. When Jakob finds a message that Harry has sent over the Wall, he grasps the opportunity. The boys begin a secret friendship, evading the authorities using lemon juice as invisible ink to share hidden messages.



**Goodnight Mister Tom**  
*Michelle Magorian:*

Young Willie is evacuated to the country as Britain stands on the brink of the Second World War. A sad child, he slowly begins to flourish under the care of old Tom Oakley - but his new happiness is shattered by a summons from his mother back in London. Tom soon grows worried.



**The Swallows' Flight**  
*Hilary McKay:*

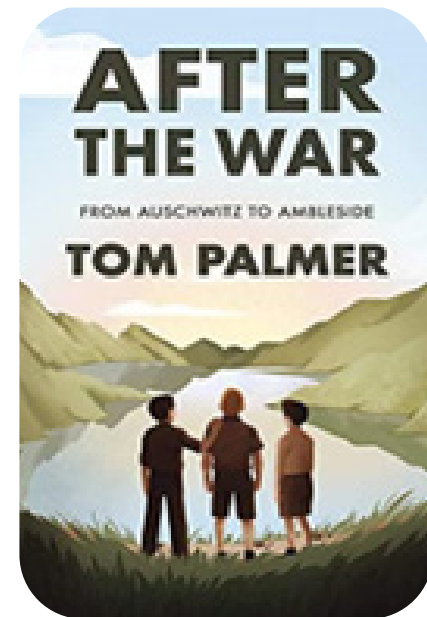
Companion novel to The Skylarks' War. Erik and Hans are Germans, Ruby and Kate are English. One day there are choices to be made. How is courage lost and found? Who is really the enemy? And what does friendship truly mean in the middle of a war? Rupert and Clarry work secretly for peace - and a future for them all.

# YEAR 8

## Reading List - 2024/25



### HISTORICAL - CONT.

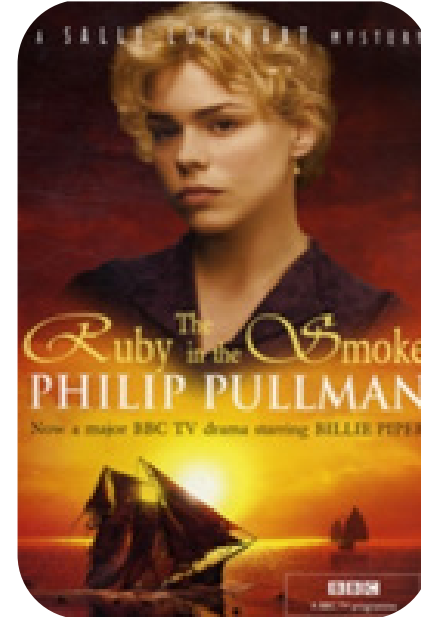


**After the War  
from Auschwitz to  
Ambleside**

*Tom Palmer:*

1945: Three Polish teenagers are brought from the horrors of a concentration camp to the safety of the Lake District for recuperation. The story follows Yossi and his friends Mordecai and Leo as they attempt to rebuild their shattered lives.

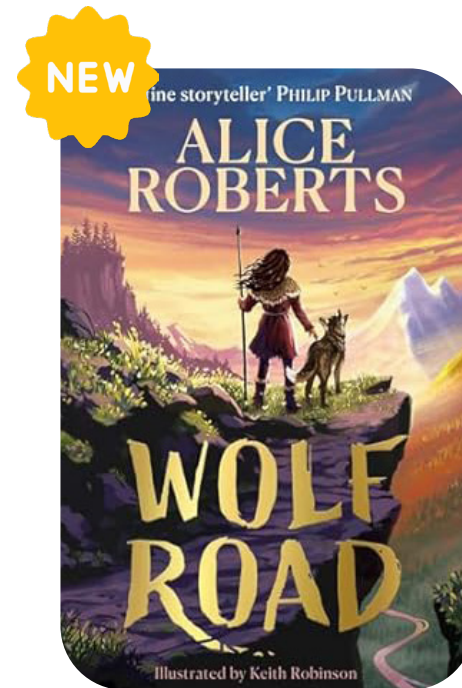
*Dyslexia-friendly*



**Sally Lockhart**

*Philip Pullman:*

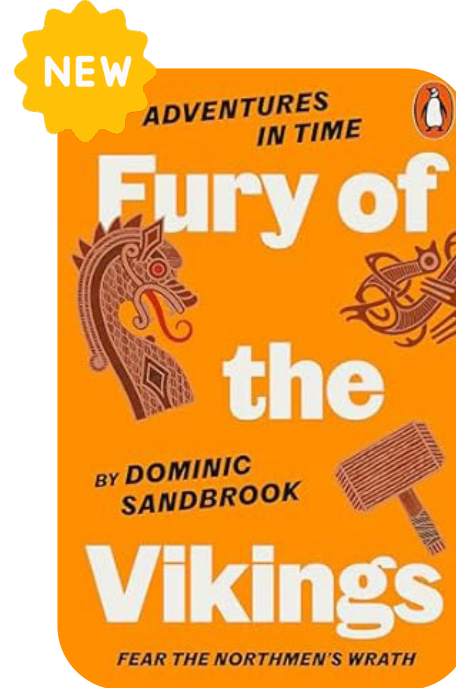
Soon after Sally Lockhart's father drowns at sea, she receives a strange letter containing a dire warning leading, to a man dying of fear. Wanting to discover the truth about her father's death, Sally is plunged into a terrifying mystery in the dark heart of Victorian London, at the centre of which lie a deadly blood-soaked jewel.



**Wolf Road**

*Alice Roberts:*

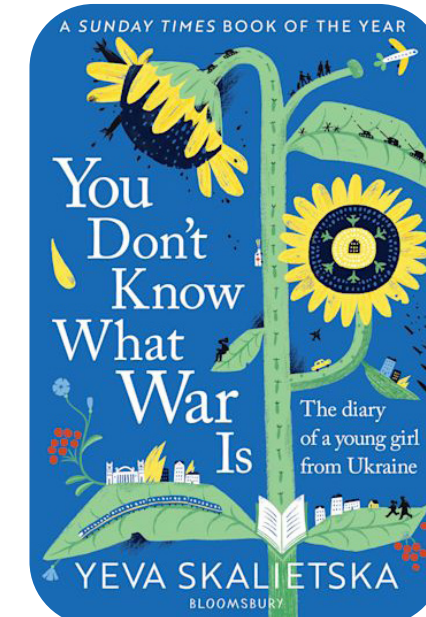
Tuuli is a prehistoric girl, travelling with her tribe through the seasons - making camp, hunting for food and protecting themselves against the many hazards that the climate throws at them. Tuuli knows there's a bigger world out there, and when she spots a strange boy lurking outside their camp, she realises that he might hold the adventure she is looking for.



**Fury of the Vikings**

*Dominic Sandbrook:*

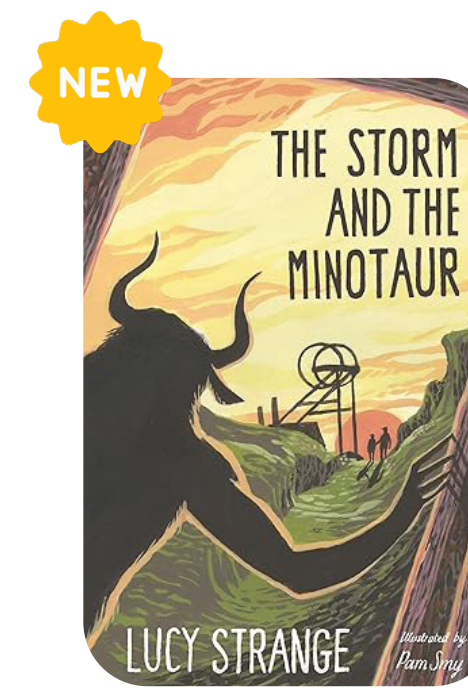
Prepare to meet the most terrifying raiders the world has ever known, as historian Dominic Sandbrook plunges us back into the thrilling drama of the Viking Age. We'll encounter gods and giants, axemen and shield-maidens, from the warlords rampaging through King Alfred's England to the sea-captains who first glimpsed the mountains of Iceland. For even in the most glittering cities on earth, no one is safe from the Northmen's fury...



**You Don't Know  
What War Is**

*Yeva Skalietska:*

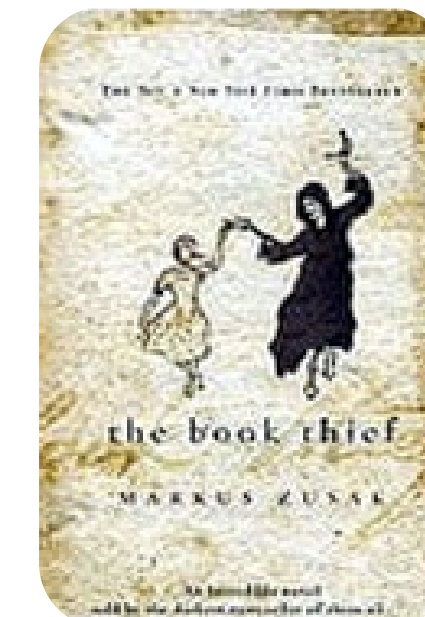
This is a diary by a young girl from Ukraine, fleeing the war and making her way to Ireland.



**The Storm  
and the Minotaur**

*Lucy Strange:*

Money is scarce in George's family and so at the age of nine he has to join his father underground, hewing coal in the local mine. It's far from the dreams George had of continuing his education, and it's also a dangerous way to earn a living that has already claimed the life of his dad's older brother. Not long after he starts work, a summer storm leads to flooding in the mine. Trapped down in the dark, George spots a shadowy figure that seems to be telling George to follow him. Can a ghost from the past lead him back to safety, or will George meet the same fate as his long-lost uncle?



**The Book Thief**

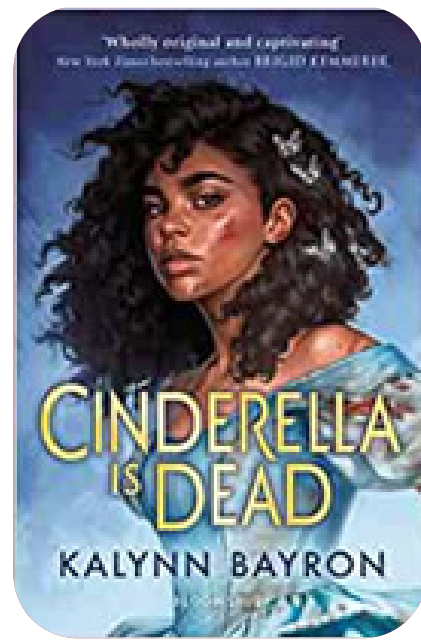
*Markus Zusak:*

By her brother's graveside, Liesel's life is changed when she finds a book: The Grave-digger's Hand-book. It is her first act of book thievery. So begins a love affair with books and words, as Liesel, with the help of her foster father, learns to read. But these are dangerous times because it is 1939 in Germany.

# YEAR 8

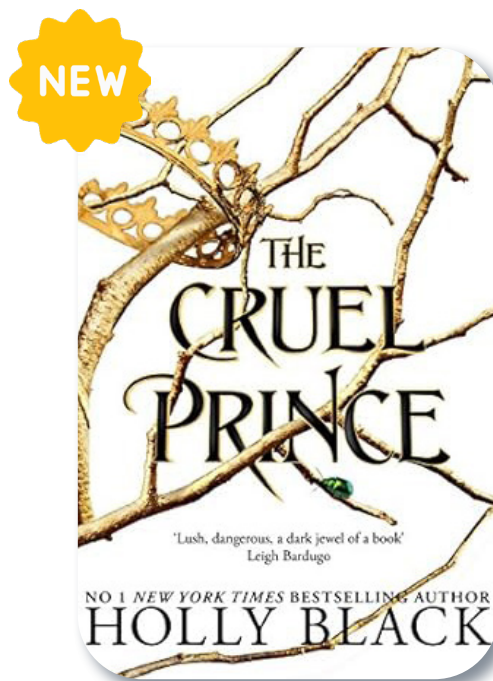
## Reading List - 2024/25

### FANTASY



**Cinderella is Dead**  
*Kalyann Bayron:*

It's 200 years since Cinderella found her prince, but the fairy-tale is over. Sophia knows the story though, off by heart. Because every girl must recite it daily, from when she's tiny until the night she's 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. But Sophia doesn't want to be chosen - she's in love with her best friend, Erin, and hates the idea of being traded like cattle. And when Sophia's night at the ball goes horribly wrong, she must run for her life.



**The Cruel Prince**  
*Holly Black:*

Three sisters are abducted by faeries after their parents are murdered by a faery assassin, and must learn to survive in the cruel faery realm where they have been taken.

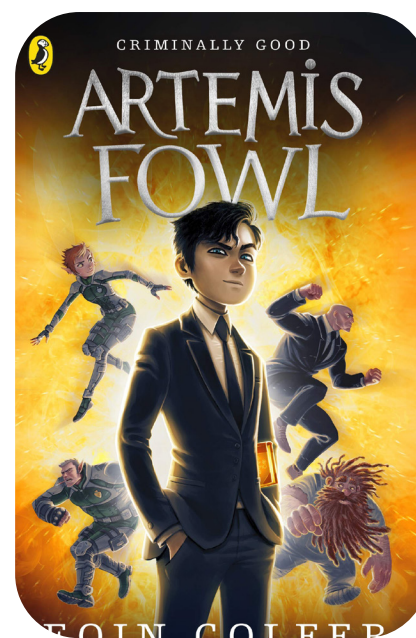
**Book#1**



**Shadow and Bone**  
*Leigh Bardugo:*

Orphaned and expendable, Alina Starkov is a soldier who knows she may not survive her first trek across the Shadow Fold - a swath of unnatural darkness crawling with monsters. But when her regiment is attacked, Alina unleashes dormant magic not even she knew she possessed. Now Alina will enter a lavish world of royalty and intrigue as she trains with the Grisha, her country's magical military elite - and falls under the spell of their notorious leader, the Darkling.

**Book#1**



**Artemis Fowl Series**  
*Eoin Colfer:*

Twelve-year-old Artemis is a mil-lionaire, a genius, and a criminal mastermind. But when he kidnaps a dangerous fairy, Captain Holly Short of the LEP-recon Unit, he is in for a riveting, magical adven-ture. Read the book: see the film.

**Book#1**



**Legendborn**  
*Tracy Deonn:*

When Bree Matthews witnesses a flying demon at-tack on campus, she is drawn into the world of the Legend-born and discovers her own magic and link to the King Arthur dynasty.

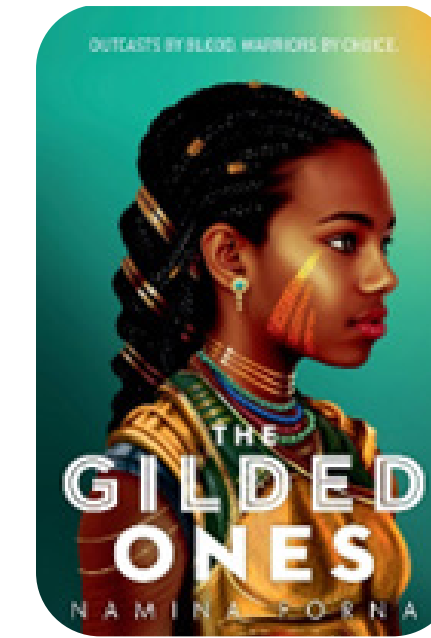
**Book#1**



**Twin Crowns**  
*Catherine Doyle:*

Twin sisters separated at birth and raised into entirely different worlds are about to get to know each other's lives a whole lot better...

**Book#1**



**The Gilded Ones**  
*Namina Forna:*

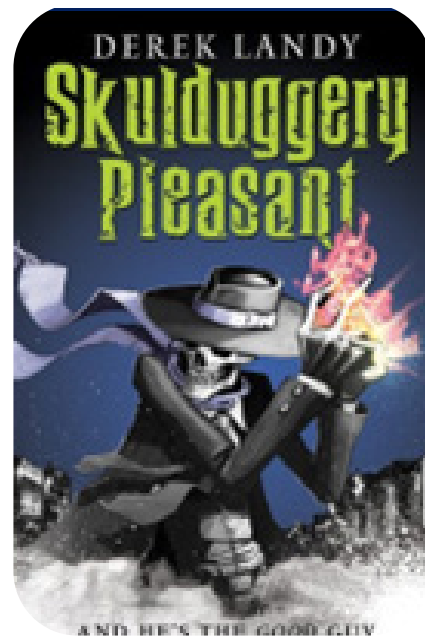
Sixteen-year-old Deka lives in Otera, a deeply patriarchal ancient kingdom, where a woman's worth is tied to her purity, and she must bleed to prove it. But when Deka bleeds gold - the colour of impuri-ty, of a demon - she faces a conse-quence worse than death. She is saved by a mysterious wom-an who tells Deka of her true na-ture: she is an Alaki, a near-immortal with exceptional gifts. The stranger offers her a choice: fight for the Emperor, with others just like her, or be de-stroyed...



# YEAR 8

## Reading List - 2024/25

### FANTASY - CONT.

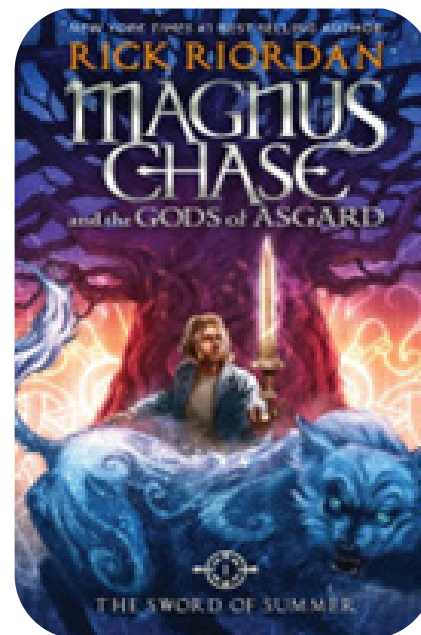


#### Skulduggery Pleasant Series

Derek Landy:

Meet Skulduggery Pleasant: Ace Detective, Razor-tongued Wit, Crackerjack Sorcerer and fire-throwing Skeleton! as well as ally, protector, and mentor of Stephanie, a very unusual and darkly talented twelve-year-old. These two must defeat an all-consuming ancient evil. Will they stop the end of the world?

Book#1

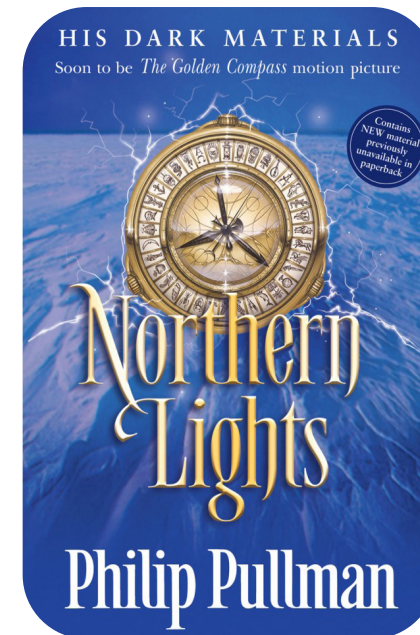


#### The Magnus chase Series

Rick Riordan:

Magnus' uncle Randolph rambles about Norse history and Magnus's birth right: a weapon that has been lost for thousands of years. Puzzle pieces fall into place, but he doesn't have time to consider it all before a fire giant attacks the city, forcing him to choose between his own safety and the lives of hundreds of innocents.

Book#1



#### The Northern Lights

Trilogy

Philip Pullman:

When Lyra's friend Roger disappears, she and her daemon, Pantalaimon, determine to find him. The quest leads them to the North, where armoured bears rule the ice and witch-queens fly through the frozen skies - and where a team of scientists is conducting horrible experiments.

Book#1

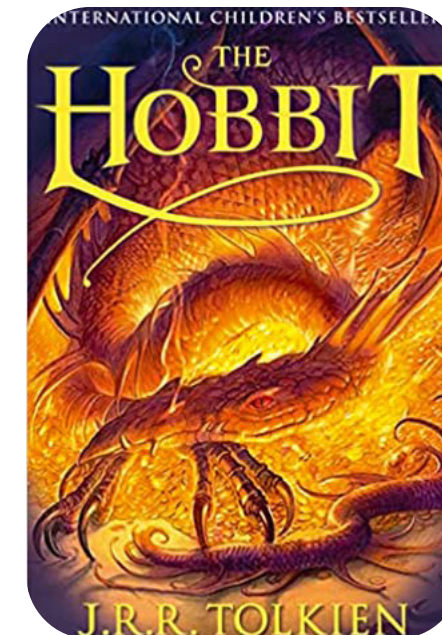


#### Divine Rivals

Rebecca Ross:

All eighteen-year-old Iris Winnow wants to do is hold her family together. With a brother on the frontline forced to fight on behalf of the Gods now missing from the frontline and a mother drowning her sorrows, Iris's best bet is winning the columnist promotion at the Oath Gazette. After centuries of sleep, the gods are warring again... But when Iris's letters to her brother fall into the wrong hands - that of the handsome but cold Roman Kitt, her rival at the paper

Book#1



#### The Hobbit

J.R.R. Tolkien:

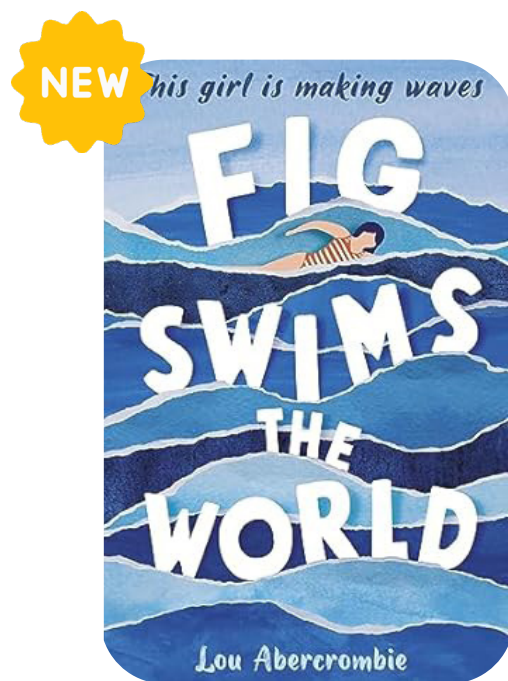
Bilbo Baggins enjoys a quiet and contented life, with no desire to travel far from the comforts of home; then one day the wizard Gandalf and a band of dwarves arrive unexpectedly and enlist his services - as a burglar - on a dangerous expedition to raid the treasure-hoard of Smaug the dragon. Bilbo's life is never to be the same again.

# YEAR 8

## Reading List - 2024/25

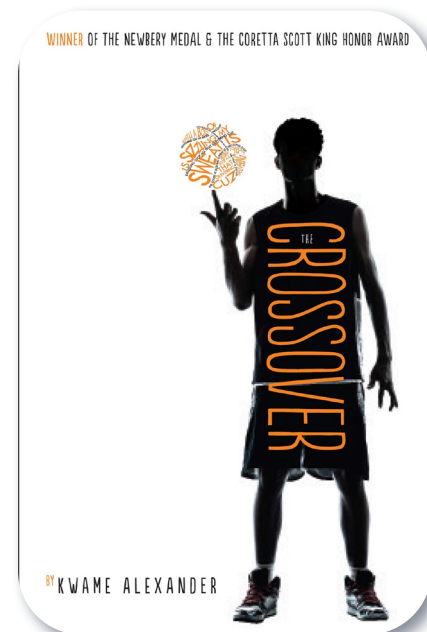


### SPORT



**Fig Swims the World**  
*Lou Abercrombie:*

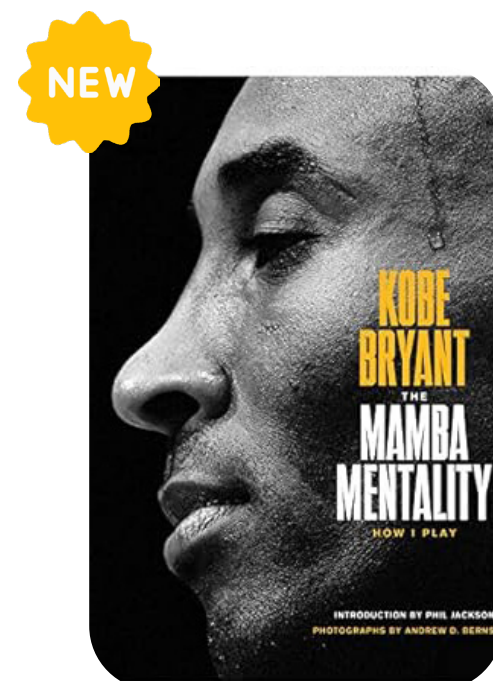
Fig Fitzsherbert is good at a lot of things: making lists, playing the piano, advanced mathematics. But it's never quite enough for her high-flying mother, who every New Year's Day sets Fig an impossible resolution. So one year, Fig decides to set her own challenge instead: she's going to swim her way round the world. There's just one tiny problem ... Fig can't swim.



**Crossover Series**  
*Kwame Alexander:*

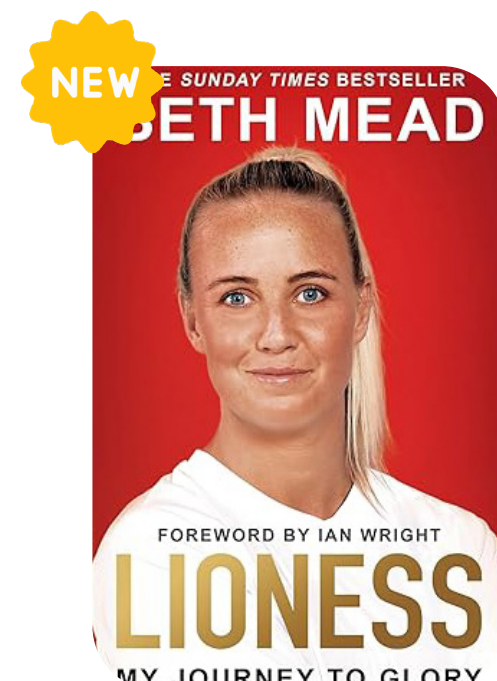
A verse novel about basketball. Josh and Jordan must come to grips with growing up on and off the court. They realise breaking the rules comes at a terrible price, as their story's heart-stopping climax proves a game-changer for the entire family.

**Book#1**



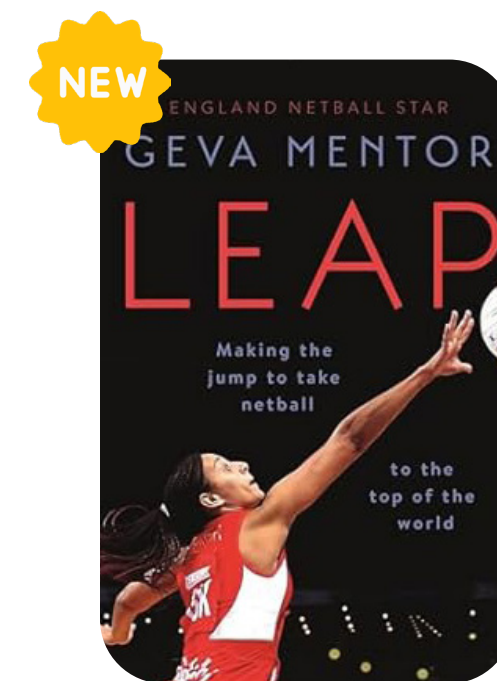
**The Mamba Mentality: How I Play**  
*Kobe Bryant:*

The Mamba Mentality takes us inside the mind of one of the most intelligent, analytical, and creative basketball players ever. In his own words, Bryant reveals his famously detailed approach and the steps he took to prepare mentally and physically to not just succeed at the game, but to excel.



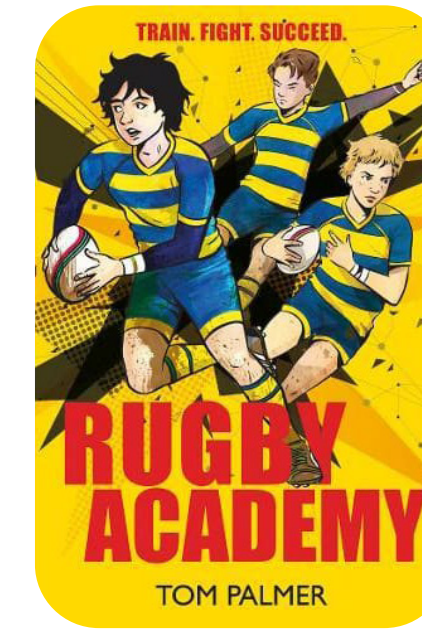
**Lioness: My Journey to Glory**  
*Beth Mead:*

Filled with positive lessons and an exclusive account of England's triumphant Euros campaign, Beth offers readers of all ages a heartfelt, behind-the-scenes look into her remarkable journey to glory.



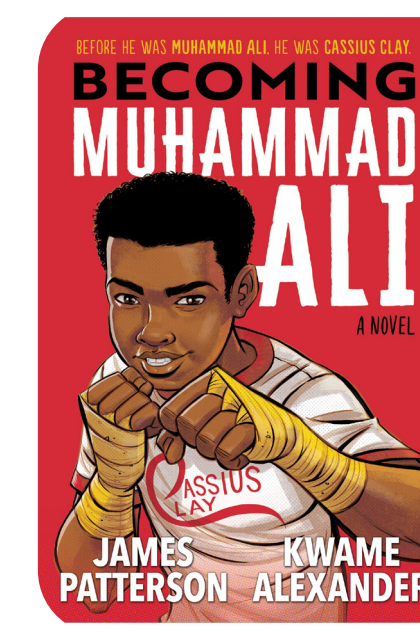
**Leap: Making the jump to take netball to the top of the world**  
*Geva Mentor:*

Geva's rise amongst the ranks of British netball was stratospheric, she was playing for the England senior team when she was just fifteen years old. Moved to Australia to develop her game by playing in the best league in the world and eventually winning Commonwealth gold with the England Roses. Geva talks honestly about her personal life, and how the difficulties and failures of her teams.



**Rugby Academy**  
*Tom Palmer:*

Woody is a footballer and must decide if he's prepared to give rugby his all. Rory feels like he's losing his focus, as his parents may be in danger. Owen finds himself at the centre when conflict breaks out within the team. What are the chances of them making it to the end of the rigorous schools' tournament?



**Becoming Muhammad Ali**  
*James Patterson and Kwame Alexander:*

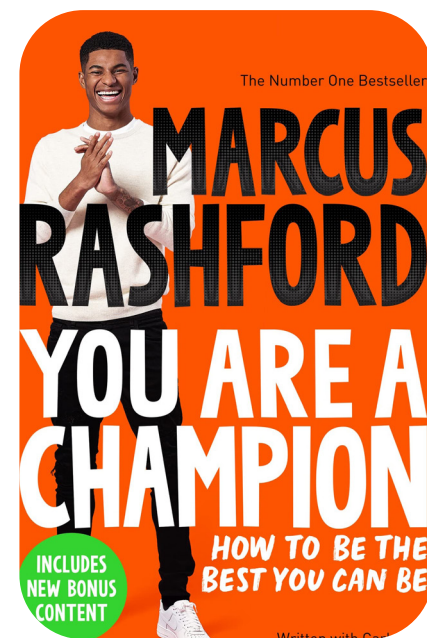
Before he was a household name, Cassius Clay was a kid with struggles like any other. Kwame Alexander and James Patterson join forces to vividly depict his life up to age seventeen in both prose and verse, including his childhood friends, struggles in school, the racism he faced, and his discovery of boxing. Readers will learn about Cassius' family and neighbors in Louisville, Kentucky, and how, after a thief stole his bike, Cassius began training as an amateur boxer at age twelve.

# YEAR 8

## Reading List - 2024/25



### SPORT - CONT.



#### **You are a Champion**

*Marcus Rashford:*

It's hard to know what is possible until you start. You have to be able to dream big and be prepared to work towards your dreams. I've achieved a lot so far, but it didn't come in one go; big things rarely happen overnight, and good things rarely happen as if by magic.



#### **Ghosts**

*Jason Reynolds:*

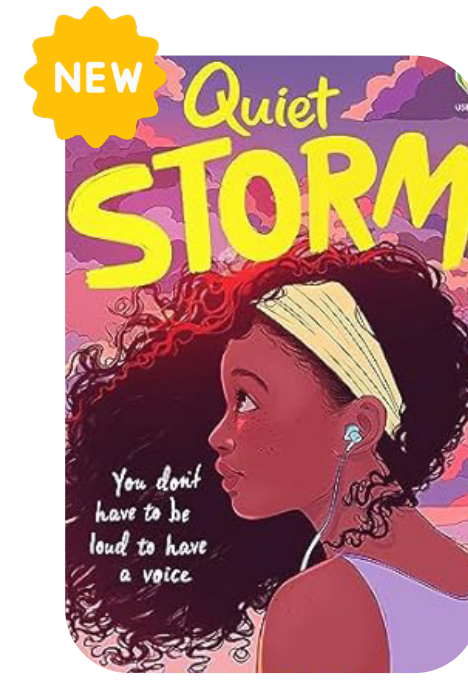
Running. That's all that Ghost has ever known. But never for a track team. But when he challenges an elite sprinter to a race - and wins - the Olympic medallist track coach spots his crazy natural talent. But Ghost has a lot of anger, and a past. Can Ghost harness his raw talent for speed and meld with the team, or will his past finally catch up to him?



#### **Black Brother, Black Brother**

*Jewell Parker Rhodes:*

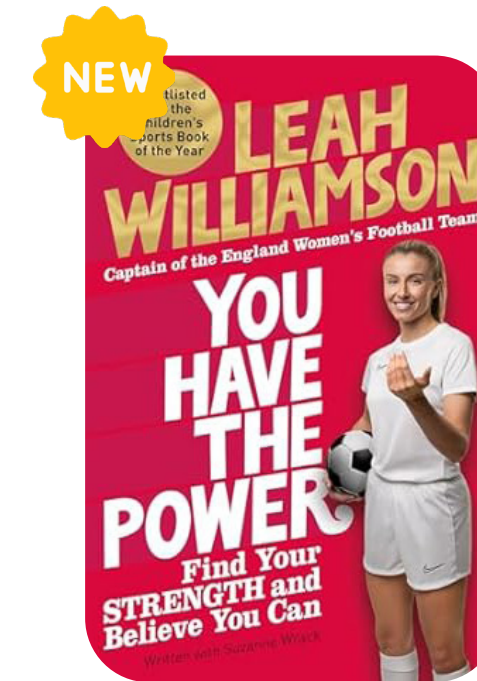
Donte wishes he were invisible. As one of the few black boys at Middlefield Prep, he feels as if he is constantly swimming in whiteness. Dubbed the "Black Brother," Donte's teachers and classmates make it clear they wish he were more like his lighter skinned brother, Dre. Quiet, obedient. Then an incident with "King" Alan leads to Donte's arrest and suspension, he knows the only way to get even is to beat the king of the school at his own game: *fencing*.



#### **Quiet Storm**

*Kimberley Whittam:*

Storm has never liked to stand out from the crowd, but ever since she started Year 7, her life has been full of people telling her she needs to speak up, make friends and be more like her popular big brother. Then Storm breaks a school record, and finds herself the new star of the athletics team. But as she's thrust into the spotlight, her home life and friendships start spiralling out of control, and it's time for Quiet Storm to show that she has something to say...



#### **You have the power: find your strength and believe you can**

*Leah Williamson and Suzanne Wrack:*

In the summer of 2022 Leah led the Lionesses to victory in the European Championships. This positive guide for life will inspire you to lead like a pro, and motivate you to do what you love. Written with journalist Suzanne Wrack, You Have the Power is filled with stories from Leah's own life and tons of brilliant advice, to show young girls how to find their strength and empower them to follow their dreams.

# YEAR 8

## Reading List - 2024/25

### ANIMAL STORIES



#### A Horse Called Hero

Sam Angus:

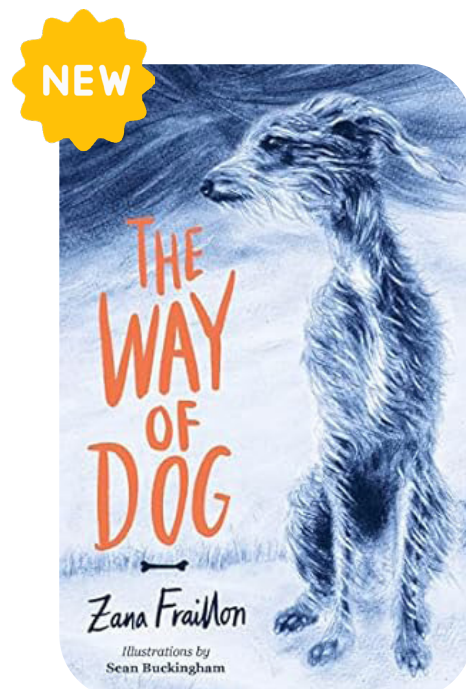
In the Second World War London is a target for German bombs. Dodo and Wolfie are evacuated to the country, where they find an orphaned foal. They raise Hero and learn to ride. But the shadow of war looms over their peaceful existence, and soon Hero must live up to his name



#### When the Sky Falls

Phil Earle:

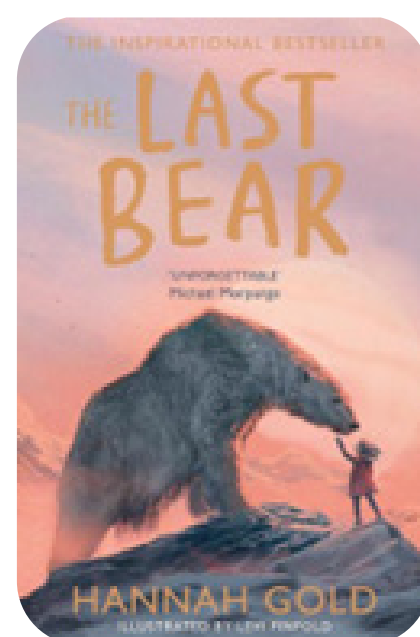
It's 1940, and Joseph has been packed off to stay with Mrs F, a gruff woman with no great fondness for children. To Joseph's amazement, she owns the rundown city zoo where Joseph meets Adonis, a huge silverback gorilla. Adonis is ferociously strong and dangerous, but Joseph finds he has an affinity with the lonely beast. But when the bombs begin to fall, it is up to Joseph to guard Adonis's cage should it be damaged by a blast. Will Joseph be ready to pull the trigger if it comes to it?



#### The Way of Dog

Zana Fraillon:

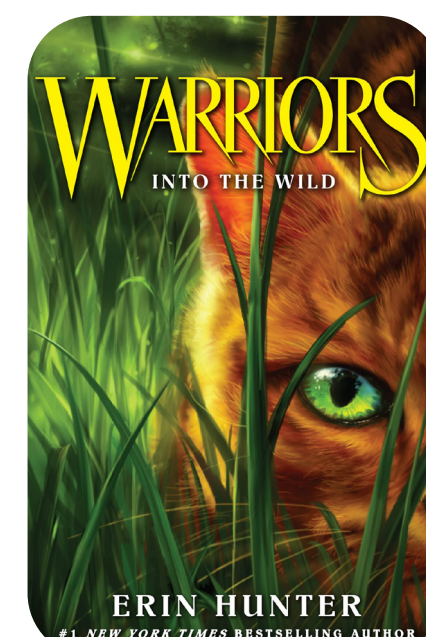
Scruffity is born into a harsh, grey world. What he yearns for most is Family. But no one wants him. Just as his chances of adoption grow thin, Scruffity is set free by a boy as unwanted as he is. He learns how to run, to dig, to howl and, biggest of all, to love. But then tragedy strikes ... How does a dog find his way home when he never had one to begin with?



#### The Last Bear

Hannah Gold:

There are no polar bears left on Bear Island. At least, that's what April's father tells her when his scientific research takes them to this remote Arctic outpost for six months. But one endless summer night, April meets one. He is starving, lonely and a long way from home. Determined to save him, April begins the most important journey of her



#### Warriors

Series:

Erin Hunter:

Four Clans of wild cats have shared the forest and the laws laid down by their ancestors. But the Thunder Clan cats are in danger from the Shadow Clan, warriors are dying - and some deaths are stranger than others. During this turmoil, a cat named Rusty appears, who may turn out to be the bravest warrior of them all.



#### Lark

Anthony McGowan:

Things are tense at home for Nicky and Kenny. Their mum's coming to visit and it will be the first time they've seen her in years. A lot has changed since they were little and Nicky's not so sure he's ready to see her again. When they head for a trek across the moors to take their minds off everything, a series of unforeseen circumstances leaves the brothers in a vulnerable and very dangerous position. There might even be a chance that this time not everyone will make it home alive.

Dyslexia Friendly



#### The Fox and the Ghost King

Michael Morpurgo:

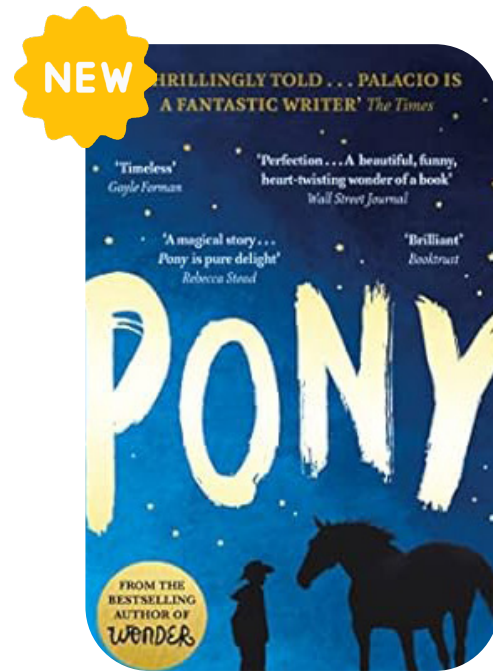
"Every fox in the whole town, in the whole country just about, is a football fan... And we all have an impossible dream." In a cosy den under a garden shed lives a family of foxes. They love to watch football, but their favourite team keeps losing until a ghost king turns up...

# YEAR 8

## Reading List - 2024/25



### ANIMAL STORIES - CONT.



**Pony**  
*R J Palaccio:*

When Silas Bird wakes in the dead of night, he watches powerlessly as three strangers take his father away. Silas is left shaken, scared and alone, except for the presence of his companion, Mitten-wool... who happens to be a ghost. But then a mysterious pony shows up at his door, and Silas knows what he has to do. So begins a perilous journey to find his father



**Good Boy**  
*Mal Peet:*

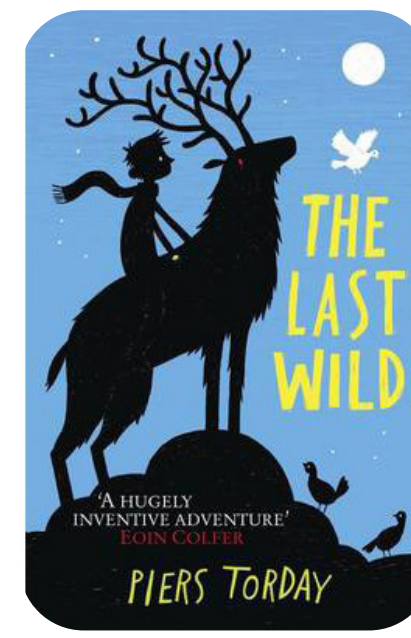
Sandie Callan has been battling it since childhood: the hulking, snarling black dog of her nightmares. For years, her precious pet dog Rabbie has kept the monster at bay, but when he is no longer there to protect her, the black dog reappears to stalk Sandie in her sleep.

**Dyslexia Friendly**



**Animal Healer**  
*Lauren St. John:*

Martine must leave her white giraffe, Jemmy, for 2 weeks as she is on a school trip to South Africa. When a storm blows up and Martine and her friends are thrown overboard into shark-infested waters. They are saved by dolphins but end up on an island. A gripping tale of courage and survival.



**The Last Wild**  
*Series:*  
*Piers Torday:*

In a world where animals no longer exist, Kester is locked away in a home for troubled children. So, when he meets a flock of talking pigeons and a bossy cockroach, Kester thinks he's crazy. But the animals need him. He is drawn into an adventure to save them.

**Book#1**