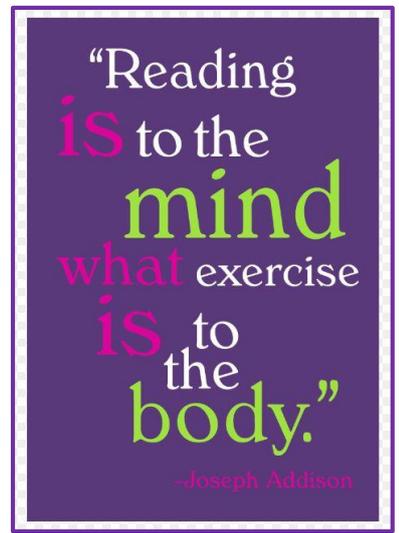
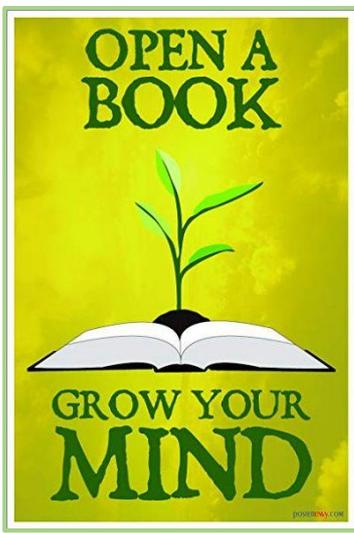




# Recommended Student Reads

In collaboration with Primet Academy, we have put together a selection of tantalising books that we hope will inspire you to broaden your literary knowledge and enthusiasm for reading.

The selection includes a wide range of authors who all bring a unique style of writing to their literary work.

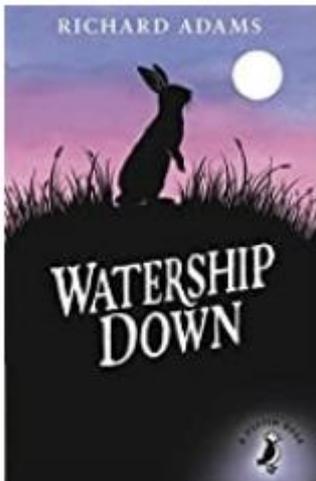


Year 7

## Our Recommendations

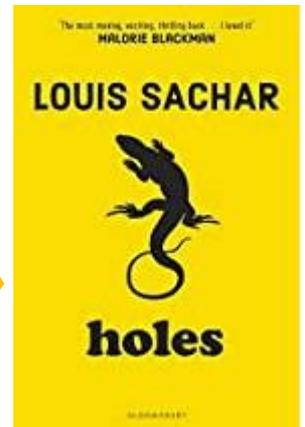
### Watership Down by Richard Adams

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 things are going to happen and he can sense whether they will be good or bad. ... Fiver tells the Threarah that he foresees great danger, but the Chief Rabbit does not believe him.



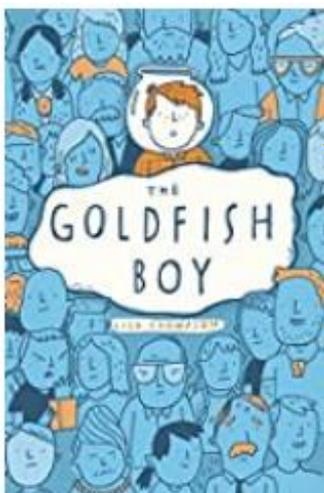
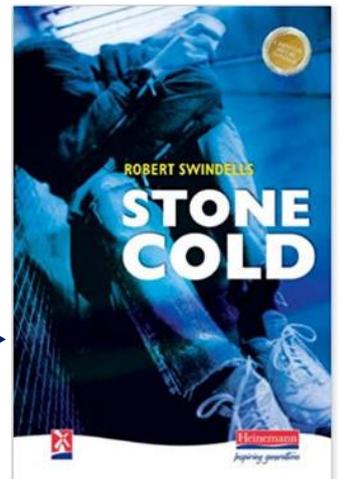
### Holes by Louis Sachar

The book centres on an unlucky teenage boy named Stanley Yelnats, who is sent to Camp Green Lake, a juvenile corrections facility in a desert in Texas, after being falsely accused of theft.



### Stone Cold by Robert Swindells

A Young Adult novel centred around the horrors of living on the streets. The book follows Link who runs away from his broken, abusive home as a teenager. He bounces around a few places before the little money he has runs out and he's forced to live on the streets.

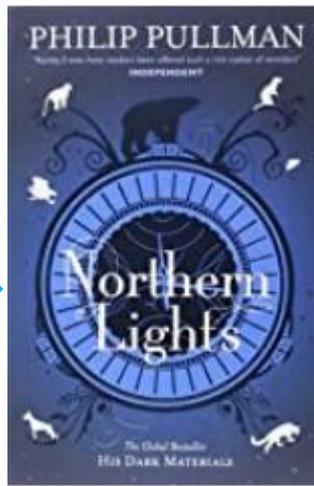


### The Goldfish Boy by Lisa Thompson

Twelve-year-old Matthew got the nickname The Goldfish Boy because he spends all his time in his bedroom, too afraid to go outside. His obsessive compulsive disorder makes him afraid that he'll bring in germs from the outside world that will make his loved ones sick and possibly die.

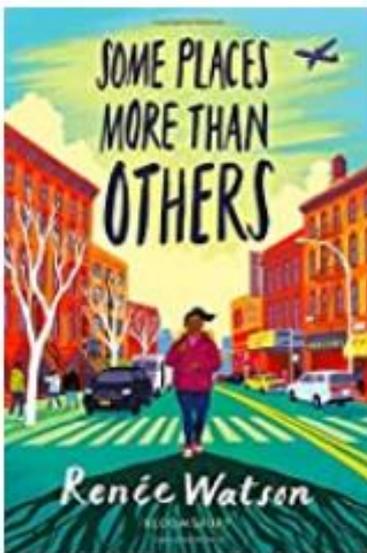
### **Northern Lights** by Philip Pullman

Set in a parallel universe, it features the journey of Lyra Belacqua to the Arctic in search of her missing friend, Roger Parslow, and her imprisoned uncle, Lord Asriel, who has been conducting experiments with a mysterious substance known as "Dust".



### **Some Places More Than Others** by Renie Watson

Explores a family's relationships and Harlem - its history, culture, arts, and people. All Amara wants is to visit her father's family in Harlem. Her wish comes true when her dad decides to bring her along on a business trip.

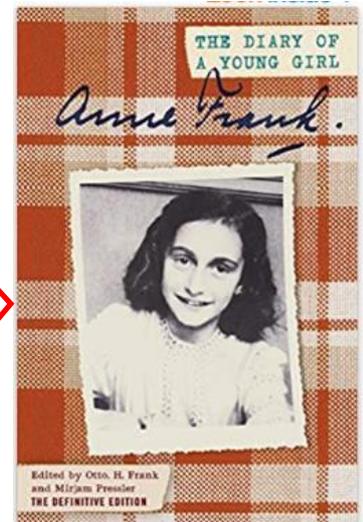


### **The Dark Is Rising** by Susan Cooper

It's Christmas-time in the Stanton family house: presents, carol singing, good cheer. But for eleven-year-old Will Stanton, something sinister has begun, inching round his subconscious, shouting silent warnings he can't decipher. Then on Midwinter Day, Will wakes up to a different world: silent, covered in snow and ancient forest, a world of another time. A world where evil lurks. Because Will is not the ordinary boy he always thought he was. He is the last of the Old Ones and the power to vanquish the evil magic of the Dark lies within him.

### **The Diary of a Young Girl** by Anne Frank

In Nazi-occupied Holland in World War II, shopkeeper Kraler hides two Jewish families in his attic. Young Anne Frank keeps a diary of everyday life for the Franks and the Van Daans, chronicling the Nazi threat as well as family dynamics. A romance with Peter Van Daan causes jealousy between Anne and her sister, Margot.



### **A Wrinkle in Time** by Madeleine L'Engle

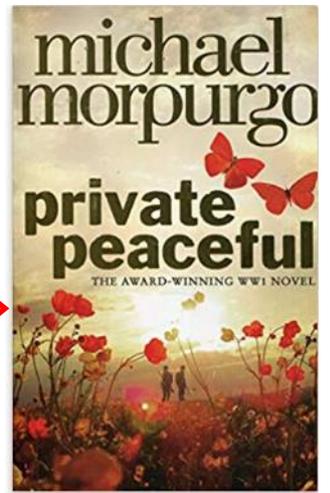
Is the story of Meg Murry, a high-school-aged girl who is transported on an adventure through time and space with her younger brother Charles Wallace and her friend Calvin O'Keefe to rescue her father, a gifted scientist, from the evil forces that hold him prisoner on another planet.





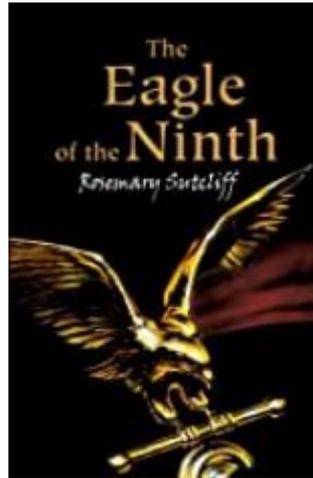
### **Private Peaceful by Michael Morpurgo**

Details the gritty rural lives and loves of Tommo and Charlie - two young brothers - and their poor Devonshire family from 1909 until 1916, when the outbreak of war destroys their country idyll. Both join up (one under age) leaving behind the beautiful Molly who is the love of both their lives.



### **Across the Barricades by Joan Lingard**

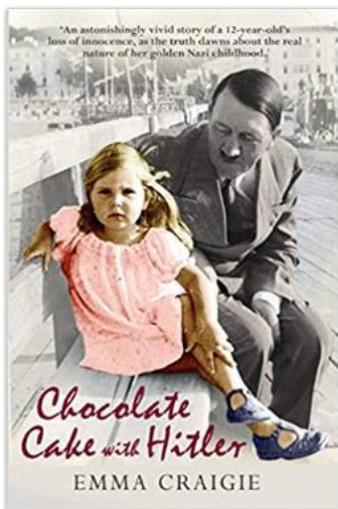
It is set in the Belfast area in the 1970's. Catholics want Ireland to be all together and one country while Protestants want Northern Ireland to stay part of Britain. The plot is about 'The Troubles' and a Protestant girl in love with a Catholic boy.



### **The Eagle of the Ninth by Rosemary Sutcliffe**

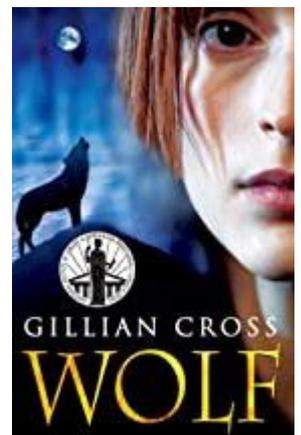
Four thousand men disappeared and their eagle standard was lost. It's a mystery that's never been solved, until now...

Marcus has to find out what happened to his father, who led the legion. So he sets out into the unknown, on a quest so dangerous that nobody expects him to return.



### **Chocolate Cake with Hitler by Emma Craigie**

Tells the remarkable story of Helga Goebbels, daughter of the Nazi Party's head of propaganda, who spent the last ten days of her life cooped up in a bunker in Berlin with Adolf Hitler. As defeat closes in on the Germans, life in the bunker becomes increasingly fraught.



### **Wolf by Gillian Cross**

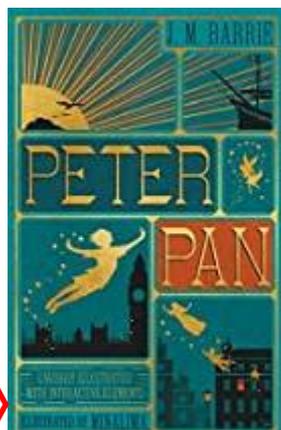
Cassy lives with her granny, until the night that she hears strange footsteps coming into their flat. The next morning, she is packed off to her mum's - a squat in London that her beautiful, simple mother shares with a couple of actors. Cassy does her best to throw herself into her mother's life, even agreeing to take part in their travelling show called 'Wolf'. But she can't ever get rid of the feeling that something is following her, and something bad is going to happen.

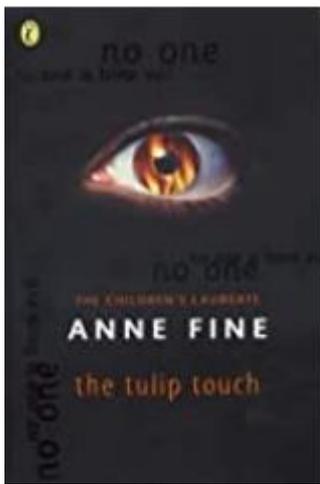
Her fear grows as time passes, until Cassy knows she must face up to her past: who her father is, why he left and where he has gone.

What she doesn't know is that some questions are better left unanswered...

### **Peter Pan by James M Barrie**

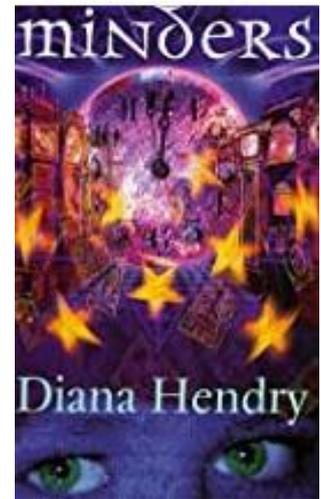
Is the story of a mischievous little boy who can fly, and his adventures on the island of Neverland with Wendy Darling and her brothers, the fairy Tinker Bell, the Lost Boys, the Indian Princess Tiger Lily, and the pirate Captain Hook.





### The Tulip Touch by Anne Fine

Is a story of a strange and disturbing friendship seen through the eyes of Natalie as she gets to know Tulip Pierce, a delinquent girl most others go out of their way to avoid. Nobody wants Tulip in their gang.

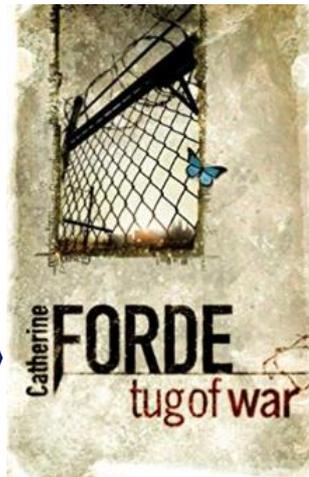


### Minders by Diana Hendry

Scully lives with his parents in an ordinary-looking semi. But they're definitely not an ordinary family. Scully's dad mends and sells clocks, but he's actually a wizard and Scully's mum can see into the future. Scully himself is a trainee wizard!

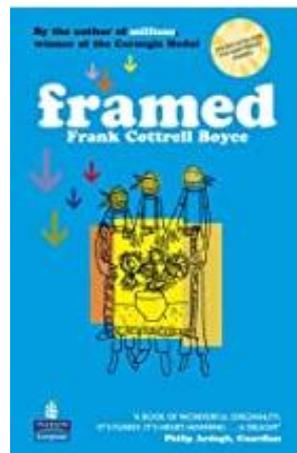
### Tug of War by Catherine Ford.

This is a gripping, powerful, and heart-warming story about one girl's choices. In 2012, The Emergency begins as terrorist bombs shatter cities around the UK and wreak havoc on normal life. Molly's parents decide to send her and her brother, John, away from Glasgow to safety in the countryside.



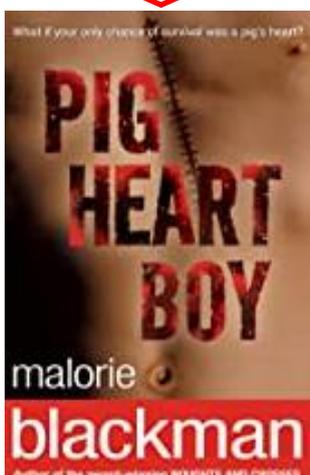
### Framed by Frank Cottrell Boyce

Dylan Hughes is more interested in the Ninja Turtles than in the Renaissance artists they are named after. But then Dad leaves home and overnight, nine-year old Dylan must become man of the household and boss the failing family business.



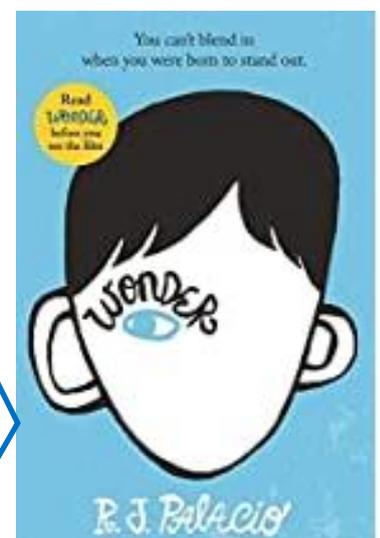
### Pig Heart Boy by Malorie Blackman

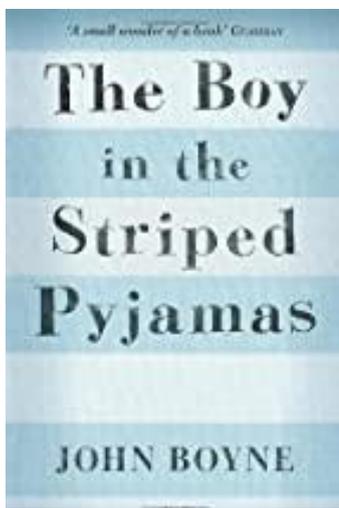
Cameron is thirteen and in need of a heart transplant when a pioneering doctor approaches his family with a startling proposal. He can give Cameron a new heart - but from a pig. Cameron is fed up with just sitting on the side of life, always watching and never doing.



### Wonder by R.J. Palacio

Born with facial differences that, up until now, have prevented him from going to a mainstream school, Auggie Pullman becomes the most unlikely of heroes when he enters the local fifth grade. As his family, his new classmates, and the larger community all struggle to discover their compassion and acceptance, Auggie's extraordinary journey will unite them and prove you can't blend in when you were born to stand out.



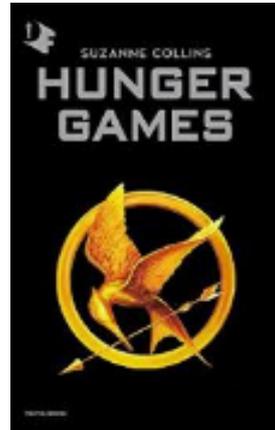
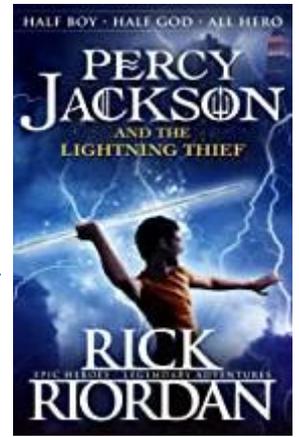


**Boy in the Striped Pyjamas by John Boyne**

Bruno meets a young Jewish boy named Shmuel, a prisoner in Auschwitz. After disguising himself as a prisoner in "striped pyjamas," Bruno is killed along with Shmuel when they're herded into the gas chambers.

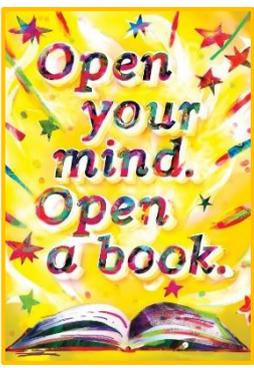
**The Lightning Thief by Rick Riordan**

Twelve-year-old Percy Jackson is on the most dangerous quest of his life. With the help of a satyr and a daughter of Athena, Percy must journey across the United States to catch a thief who has stolen the original weapon of mass destruction — Zeus' master bolt.



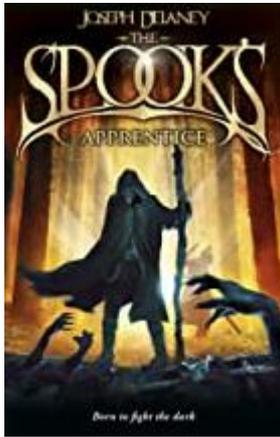
**The Hunger Games by Suzanne Collins**

The story is centred on a 16-year-old girl, Katniss Everdeen and her struggle for survival in dystopia. Each year, as a punishment for the failed rebellion by District 13, the 12 Panem Districts are forced to pay tribute to the ruthless Capitol regime. The story begins on the day of reaping at District 12.



Year 8

## Our Recommendations

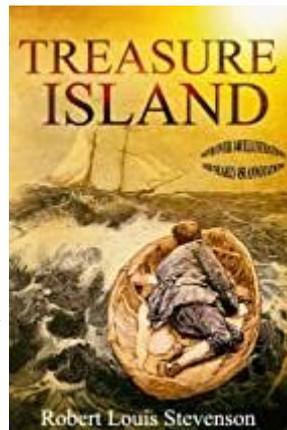


### **The Spook's Apprentice** by Joseph Delaney

The Spook's Apprentice is a fantasy book set in the north of England where Thomas Ward, the seventh son of a seventh son, must prove himself capable of facing ghosts and witches if he is to take on the mantle of The Spook, the people who keep the county safe from the darkness.

### **Treasure Island** by Robert Louis Stevenson

The story is about Jim, a young boy who goes in search of treasure after finding a treasure map. Jim faces shipwreck, a pirate mutiny, and sword fights. Jim's tale is a rags-to-riches story of a young boy who overcomes the odds.



### **Woman in Black** by Susan Hill

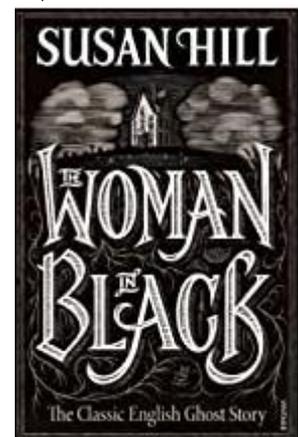
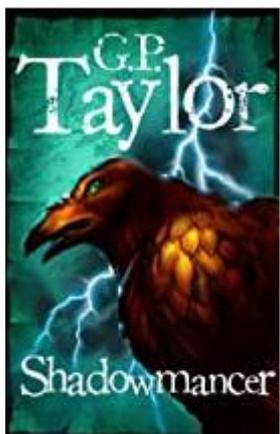
Arthur Kipps, a junior solicitor, is summoned to attend the funeral of Mrs Alice Drablow, the sole inhabitant of Eel Marsh House. The house stands at the end of a causeway, wreathed in fog and mystery, but it is not until he glimpses a wasted young woman, dressed all in black, at the funeral, that a creeping sense of unease begins to take hold, a feeling deepened by the reluctance of the locals to talk of the woman in black and her terrible purpose.

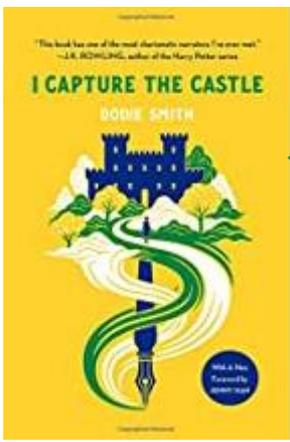
### **Shadowmancer** by G. P. Taylor

Shadowmancer takes you into a world of superstition, magic and witchcraft, where the ultimate sacrifice might even be life itself.

Obadiah Demurral is a sorcerer who is seeking to control the highest power in the universe. He will stop at nothing. The only people in his way are Raphah, Kate, Thomas and the mysterious Jacob Crane.

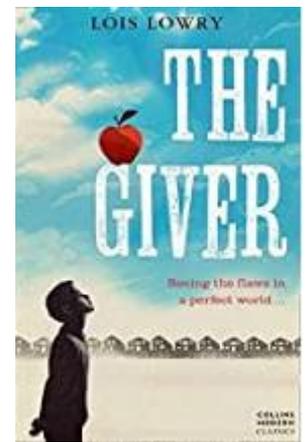
Packed full of history, folklore and smuggling, Shadowmancer is a tale of an epic battle that will grip both young and old. The thrills, suspense and danger are guaranteed to grab the attention and stretch imaginations to the limit.





### I Capture the Castle by Dodie Smith

Tells the story of seventeen-year-old Cassandra and her family, who live in not-so-genteel poverty in a ramshackle old English castle. Here she strives, over six turbulent months, to hone her writing skills. She fills three notebooks with sharply funny yet poignant entries. Her journals candidly chronicle the great changes that take place within the castle's walls, and her own first descent into love. By the time she pens her final entry, she has "captured the castle" - and the heart of the reader - in one of literature's most enchanting entertainments.

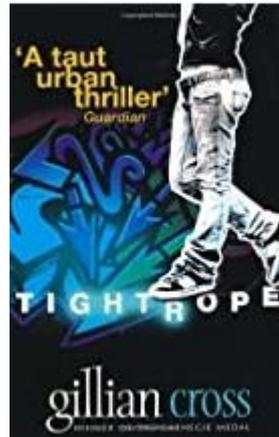


### The Giver by Lois Lowry

A story about a society with citizens who have no memories of its past, except for the individual known as the Receiver of Memory. Citizens are not given freedom or choice. Without choice, the elders of society believe they can prevent negative elements, such as war and poverty.

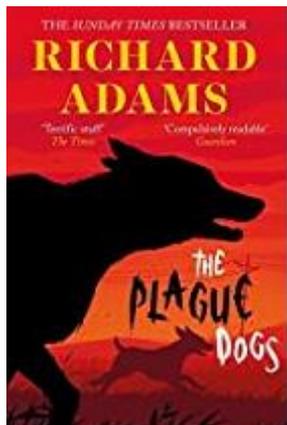
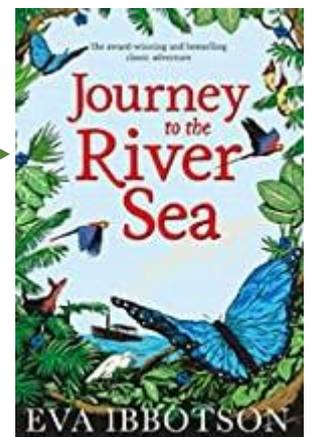
### Tightrope by Gillian Cross

A children's novel by Gillian Cross, published in 1999. It was shortlisted for the Carnegie Medal. It is about a teen girl named Ashley who receives A+'s in school and helps her sick mother through the day. However, she leads a double life.



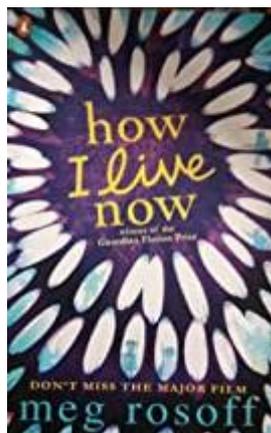
### Journey to the River Sea by Eva Ibbotson

Is about an orphaned London schoolgirl, Maia, who, accompanied by her strict but kind governess, is sent to live with her ghastly relatives in South America. Unlike her nature-phobic relatives, Maia loves her exotic, colourful new world.



### The Plague Dogs by Richard Adams

A lyrical and engrossing tale, a remarkable journey into the hearts and minds of two canine heroes, Snitter and Rowf. After being horribly mistreated at a government animal research facility, Snitter and Rowf escape into the isolation, and terror, of the wilderness.



### How I Live Now by Meg Rosoff

After the outbreak of World War Three, fifteen-year-old New Yorker Elizabeth, known as Daisy, is sent to live in the countryside with her cousins on a remote farm in the United Kingdom.

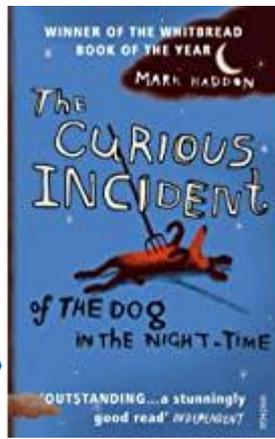
### Everything, Everything by Nicola Yoon

Maddy is allergic to the world; stepping outside the sterile sanctuary of her home could kill her. But then Olly moves in next door. And just like that, Maddy realises there's more to life than just being alive. You only get one chance at first love. And Maddy is ready to risk everything, everything to see where it leads.



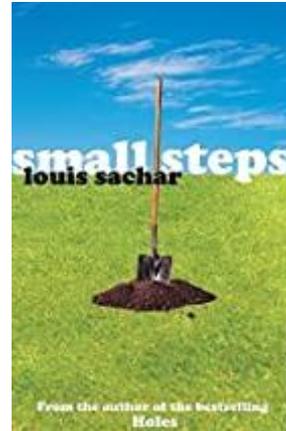
**The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time by Mark Haddon**

A murder mystery like no other, this novel features Christopher Boone, a 15 year-old who suffers from Asperger's syndrome. When he finds a neighbour's dog murdered, he sets out on a journey which will turn his whole world upside down.



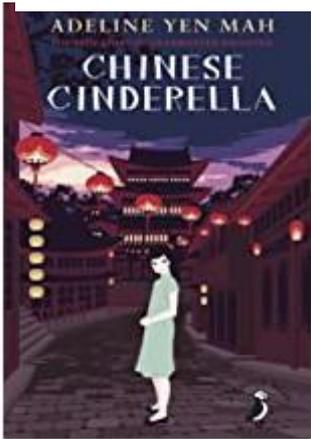
**Small Steps by Louis Sachar**

Small Steps follows Theodore Johnson or Armpit a couple of years post his release from Camp Green Lake. Armpit moved to Austin Texas and digs holes for a living. He also cares for his neighbour Ginny, a ten-year-old girl with cerebral palsy.



**Chinese Cinderella by Adeline Yen Mah**

The true memoir of Adeline Yen Mah's childhood, describing her life up until she is fourteen years old. Adeline is born to a wealthy family in Tianjin, China, as their fifth child. Her mother dies due to birth complications and her family thus views Adeline as "bad luck" and a curse upon them.



**Coram Boy by Jamila Gavin**

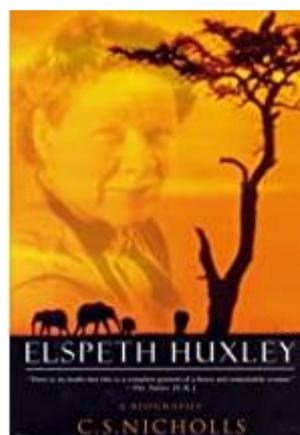
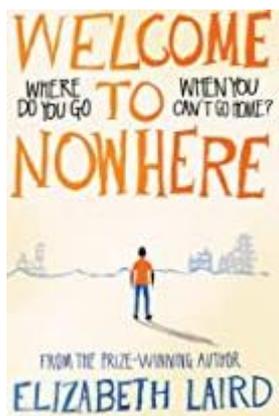
Otis takes babies and money off desperate mothers, promising to deliver them to the Coram Foundling Hospital in London. Instead, he murders them and buries them by the roadside, to the helpless horror of his mentally ill son, Mish.

**Welcome to Nowhere by Elizabeth Laird**

Twelve-year-old Omar and his brothers and sisters were born and raised in the beautiful and bustling city of Bosra, Syria. Omar doesn't care about politics - all he wants is to grow up to become a successful businessman who will take the world by storm. But when his clever older brother, Musa, gets mixed up with some young political activists, everything changes . . .

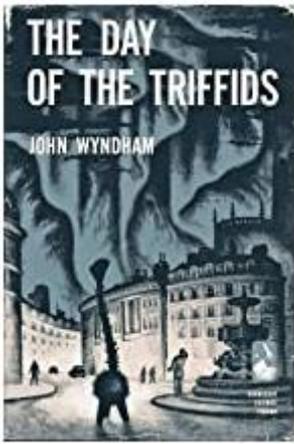
**The Outsiders by S. E. Hinton**

It tells the story of 14-year-old Ponyboy Curtis and his two older brothers, Soda and Darry. The boys are orphans and struggle to stick together in their lower-class neighbourhood, known as the East Side. They and their friends are part of a gang of working class tough street boys called the Greasers.



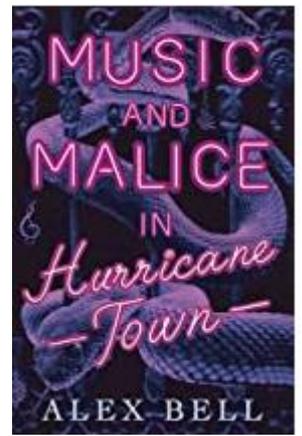
**The Flame Trees by Elspeth Huxley**

Autobiographical story of her life in Africa with her parent settlers – living among the Kikuya in Kenya in a traditional grass house and working the land.



### **The Day of the Triffids** by John Wyndham

The Day of the Triffids is a 1951 post-apocalyptic novel by the English science fiction author John Wyndham. After most people in the world are blinded by an apparent meteor shower, an aggressive species of plant starts killing people.

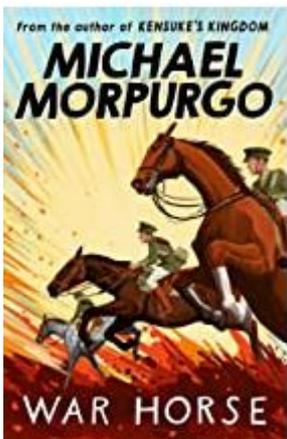
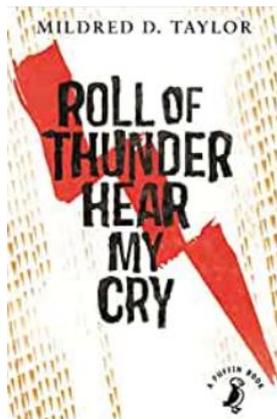


### **Music and Malice in Hurricane Town** by Alex Bell

Music and Malice in Hurricane Town. Jude Lomax scrapes a living playing the trumpet on the neon streets of Baton Noir. Then she is invited to play at the funeral of the infamous cajou queen, Ivory Monette. Passing through the cemetery gates, Jude finds herself possessed by the murdered queen's spirit.

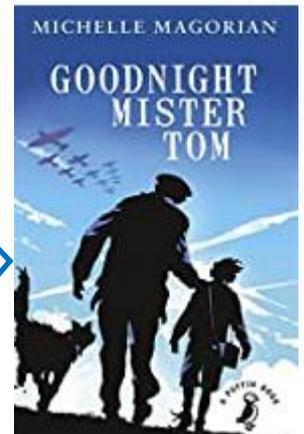
### **Roll of Thunder, Hear my Cry** by Mildred D Taylor

Nine-year-old Cassie Logan lives with her brothers Stacey, Little Man, and Christopher-John on a farm in Mississippi. Unlike most of the black families they live near, they own land, because their father has always believed in the power of owning one's own property.



### **Goodnight Mister Tom** by Michelle Magorian

Winner of the Guardian Children's Fiction Award. It is the story of young Willie Beech, evacuated to the country as Britain stands on the brink of the Second World War. A sad, deprived child, he slowly begins to flourish under the care of old Tom Oakley - but his new-found happiness is shattered by a summons from his mother back in London. As time goes by Tom begins to worry when Willie doesn't answer his letters, so he goes to London to find him, and there makes a terrible discovery.



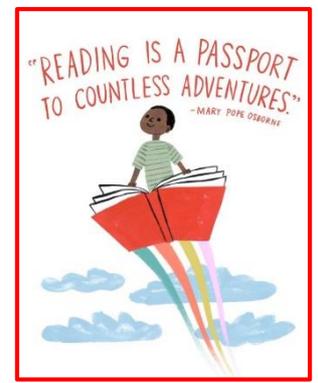
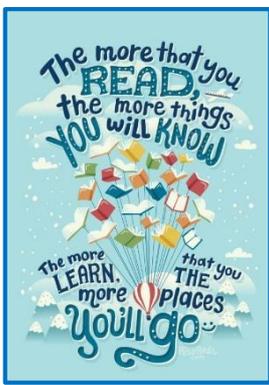
### **War Horse** by Michael Morpurgo

Albert and his beloved horse, Joey, live on a farm in the British countryside. At the outbreak of World War I, Albert and Joey are forcibly parted when Albert's father sells the horse to the British cavalry. Against the backdrop of the Great War, Joey begins an odyssey full of danger, joy and sorrow, and he transforms everyone he meets along the way. Meanwhile Albert, unable to forget his equine friend, searches the battlefields of France to find Joey and bring him home.



### **Oliver Twist** by Charles Dickens

Oliver Twist features some of the author's most enduring characters, such as Oliver himself (who dares to ask for more), the tyrannical Bumble, the diabolical Fagin, the menacing Bill Sikes, Nancy and 'the Artful Dodger'.

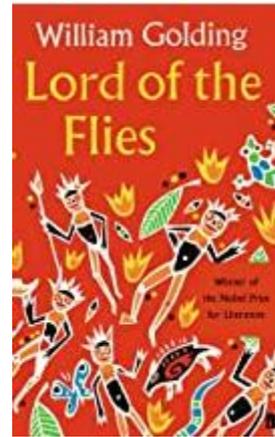


Year 9

## Our Recommendations

### **Nineteen Eighty-Four (1984) by George Orwell**

The book is set in 1984 in Oceania, one of three perpetually warring totalitarian states. Oceania is governed by the all-controlling Party, which has brainwashed the population into unthinking obedience to its leader, Big Brother.



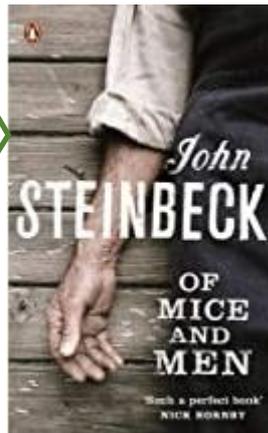
### **Lord of the Flies by William Golding**

William Golding's 1954 novel Lord of the Flies tells the story of a group of young boys who find themselves alone on a deserted island. They develop rules and a system of organisation, but without any adults to serve as a 'civilizing' impulse, the children eventually become violent and brutal.



### **Of Mice and Men by John Steinbeck**

It tells the story of George Milton and Lennie Small, two displaced migrant ranch workers, who move from place to place in California in search of new job opportunities during the Great Depression in the United States.



### **Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde by Robert Louis Stevenson**

A narrative about the complexities of science and the duplicity of human nature. Dr Jekyll is a kind, well-respected and intelligent scientist who meddles with the darker side of science, as he wants to bring out his 'second' nature.



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

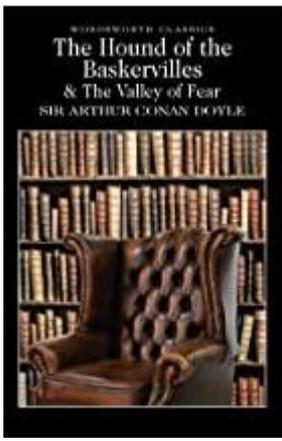
Set in Yorkshire in the 1960s, A Kestrel for a Knave is a day in the life of Billy Casper. Billy is a boy about to leave school, destined for work in the pit, like his half-brother Jud. Billy comes from a broken home and lives in something close to poverty. ... Kes is a kestrel hawk that Billy took from a nest and trained.



### **Animal Farm by George Orwell**

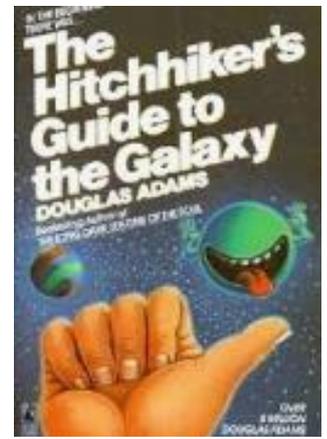
Animal Farm, written by George Orwell, is an allegorical story about the Soviet Union's early years. At the beginning of the story, Old Major inspires his fellow farm animals to revolt against their human master, Mr Jones, owner of Manor Farm. Leaders of the animal revolt include two pigs, Napoleon and Snowball.





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

Sherlock Holmes and Dr Watson investigate the legend of a supernatural hound, a beast that may be stalking a young heir on the fog-shrouded moorland that makes up his estate. On his uncle's death Sir Henry Baskerville returns from abroad and opens up the ancestral hall on the desolate moors of Devonshire.

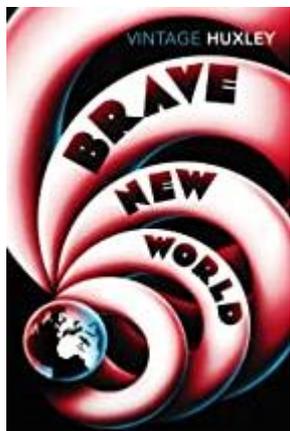
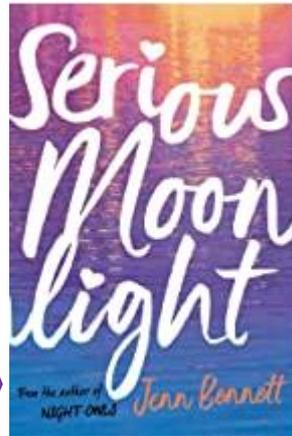


**The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy by Douglas Adams**

Earthman Arthur Dent is rescued by his friend, Ford Prefect - an alien researcher for the titular Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy, an enormous work providing information about every planet in the universe - from the Earth just before it is destroyed by the alien Vogons.

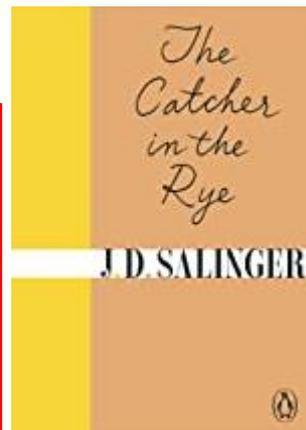
**Serious Moonlight by Jenn Bennett**

Raised in isolation and home-schooled by her strict grandparents, the only experience Birdie has had of the outside world is through her favourite crime books. But everything changes when she takes a summer job working the night shift at a historic Seattle hotel. There she meets Daniel Aoki, the hotel's charismatic driver, and together they stumble upon a real-life mystery: a famous reclusive writer - never before seen in public - is secretly meeting someone at the hotel.



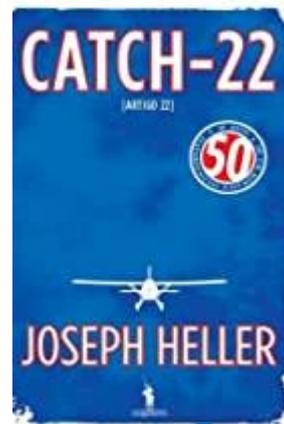
**Brave New World by Aldous Huxley**

On the surface, this might seem like a great idea, but in his dystopian novel Brave New World, Aldous Huxley shows how dangerous it can be to let the government regulate happiness. The novel is an example of dystopian fiction, a story in which a society's attempt to create a perfect world goes wrong.



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

The novel details two days in the life of 16-year-old Holden Caulfield after he has been expelled from prep school. Confused and disillusioned, Holden searches for truth and rails against the "phoniness" of the adult world.



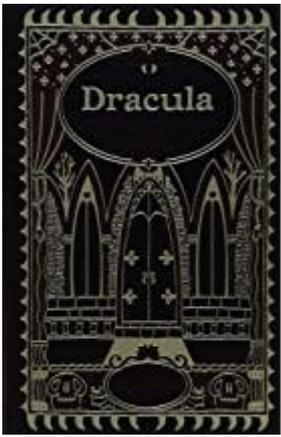
**Catch 22 by Joseph Heller**

Catch-22, satirical novel by American writer Joseph Heller, published in 1961. The work centres on Captain John Yossarian, an American bombardier stationed on a Mediterranean island during World War II, and chronicles his desperate attempts to stay alive.

**Brighton Rock by Graham Greene**

Brighton Rock is a murder mystery set in Brighton, England, in the 1930s. This story of a series of gang murders takes the tone of a morality play, concerning a clash between two characters equally obsessed with the relationship of good and evil. The novel begins with the arrival of Fred Hale in Brighton.





### Dracula by Bram Stoker

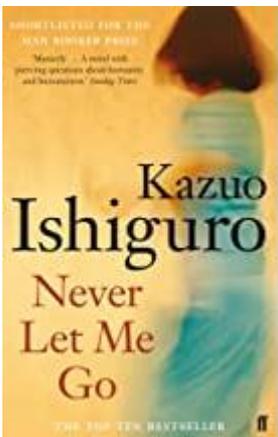
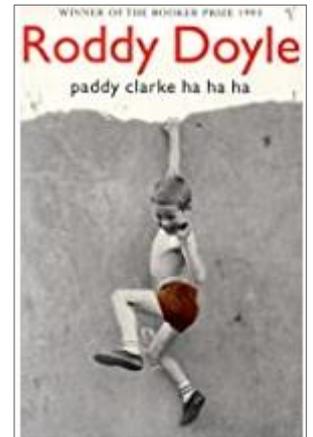
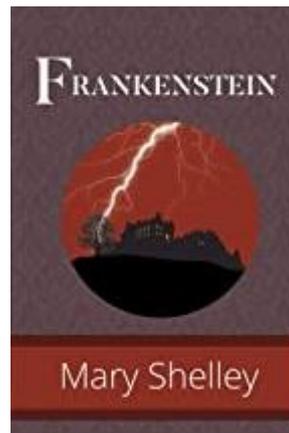
The novel tells the story of Dracula's attempt to move from Transylvania to England so that he may find new blood and spread the undead curse, and of the battle between Dracula and a small group of men and a woman led by Professor Abraham Van Helsing.

### Paddy Clarke Ha h aha by Roddy Doyle

Winner of the Booker Prize. The story is about a 10-year-old boy living in Barrytown, North Dublin, and the events that happen within his age group, school and home in around 1968.

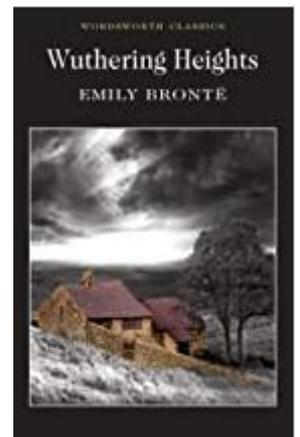
### Frankenstein by Mary Shelley

As Viktor Frankenstein is dying he shares a tale of gruesome terror with a sea captain. Viktor, using previous experiments by a brilliant scientist, was able to bring a creature assembled from body parts back to life. Once he realised how destructive his experiments had become, he abandoned the creature and tried to live a normal life with his fiancé. The lonely creature seeks out Viktor and demands one of two things: a bride or revenge.



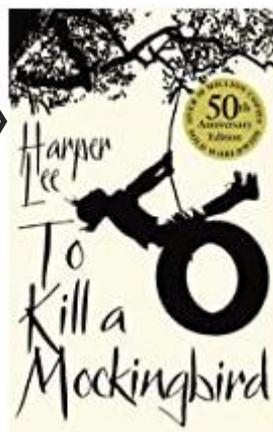
### Never Let Me Go by Kazuo Ishiguro

Kazuo Ishiguro imagines the lives of a group of students growing up in a darkly skewed version of contemporary England. Narrated by Kathy, now thirty-one, Never Let Me Go dramatises her attempts to come to terms with her childhood at the seemingly idyllic Hailsham School and with the fate that has always awaited her and her closest friends in the wider world. A story of love, friendship and memory, Never Let Me Go is charged throughout with a sense of the fragility of life.



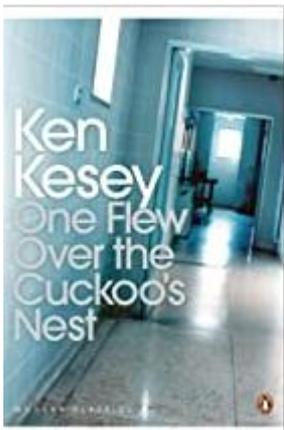
### To Kill a Mockingbird by Harper Lee

The story is told by the little six-year-old girl Jean Louise Finch nicknamed Scout. She is a rebellious girl who has tomboy tendencies. The storyline is based in Maycomb, a small town in Alabama in the 1930s where Scout lives with her elder brother Jem, and her father, Atticus, who is widowed.



### Wuthering Heights by Emily Bronte

A servant in the house of Wuthering Heights tells a traveller the unfortunate tale of lovers Cathy and Heathcliff. The story of unfortunate lovers Heathcliff and Cathy who, despite a deep affection for one another, are forced by circumstance and prejudice to live their lives apart.



### **One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest** by Ken Kesey

When Randle Patrick McMurphy gets transferred for evaluation from a prison farm to a mental institution, he assumes it will be a less restrictive environment. But the martinet Nurse Ratched runs the psychiatric ward with an iron fist, keeping her patients cowed through abuse, medication and sessions of electroconvulsive therapy. The battle of wills between the rebellious McMurphy and the inflexible Ratched soon affects all the ward's patients.

### **The Crucible** by Arthur Miller

The Crucible takes place in Salem, Massachusetts, in 1692 during the Salem witch trials. The play is a fictionalised version of the trials and tells the story of a group of young Salem women who falsely accuse other villagers of witchcraft.



### **Noughts and Crosses** by 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 — a member of the dark-skinned ruling class. Callum is a Nought - a "colourless" member of the underclass who were once slaves to the Crosses.



### **The Book Thief** by Markus Zusak

The Book Thief is a story narrated by a compassionate Death who tells us about Liesel, a girl growing up in Germany during World War II. She steals books, learns to read, and finds comfort in words. She and Max, the Jew her family protects, are the only main characters that survive the war.

