

Featherstone High School Library

Recommended Reading List

Year **7&8**

All of the books within this booklet can be borrowed or reserved from the library.

Many are also available on the e-platform.

Don't forget to check the Star Levels to help you find a book that is more or less challenging.



Action/Adventure



Anni never really questions why her frightened, ill mother won't leave their dilapidated house. She makes them live barricaded on the ground floor, with Anni's mum terrified of some unnamed danger. Then, one day, 13 hours before the prime minister will be driven past the house, mum's worst fears are realised.

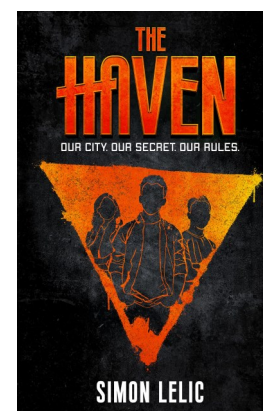
In this exciting, page-turning story, we find out the real motives behind the attempt to jeopardise the prime minister's visit - and the astonishing reason why Anni's loving mother has demanded so much of her and kept so much secret.



When Arthur, Ren and Cecily investigate a mysterious explosion on their way to school, they find themselves trapped aboard *The Principia* – a scientific research ship sailing through hazardous waters, captained by one Isaac Newton.

Lost in the year 2473 in the Wonderscape, an epic in-reality adventure game, they must call on the help of some unlikely historical heroes, to play their way home before time runs out.

Jumanji meets *Ready Player One* in this fast-paced adventure featuring incredible real-life heroes.



You don't know it exists, but when you have nowhere else to turn, the Haven will find you ... An adrenaline-fuelled adventure in a new series by top thriller writer Simon Lelic.

Our city. Our secret. Our rules.

Alone. On the run. Ollie Turner has nowhere to hide.

But he gets a second chance. Underneath the city there's a secret organisation, far from adult eyes.

It's called the Haven.

Soon Ollie is caught up in their battle: to stop Maddy Sikes destroying the city. Time is running out for Ollie and his new friends, and millions of lives are at stake ...

Also try....

Cherub Series by Robert Muchamore

Alex Rider series by Anthony Horowitz

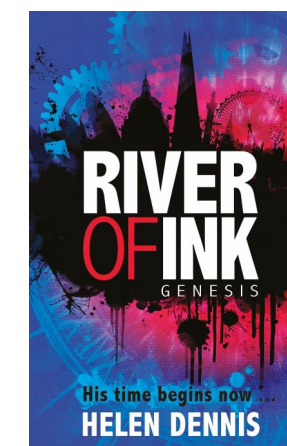
Carjacked by Ali Sparkes

Running on the Roof of the World by Jess Butterworth

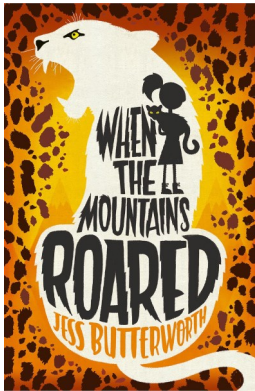
Wave Riders by Lauren St John

River of Ink by Helen Dennis

Adventures on Trains series by M. G. Leonard



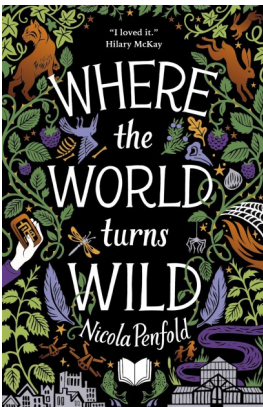
Animals/Nature



When Ruby's dad uproots her from Australia to set up a hotel in the mountains of India, Ruby is devastated. Not only are they living in a run-down building in the middle of the wilderness surrounded by scorpions, bears and leopards, but Ruby is sure that India will never truly feel like home - not without her mum there.

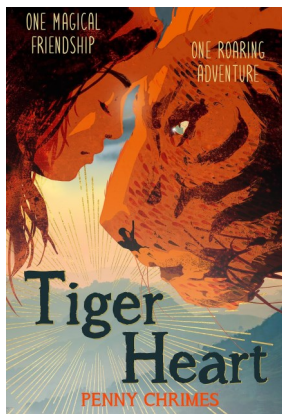
Ever since her mum died, Ruby has been afraid. Of cars. Of the dark. Of going to sleep and never waking up.

But then the last remaining leopards of the mountain are threatened and everything changes. Ruby vows to do all she can to protect them...



Juniper Greene lives in a walled city from which nature has been banished, following the outbreak of a deadly man-made disease many years earlier. While most people seem content to live in such a cage, she and her little brother Bear have always known about their resistance to the disease, and dream of escaping into the wild.

When scientists discover that the siblings provide the key to fighting the disease, the pair must flee for their lives. Will they ever find the home they're searching for?



Fly never meant to end up in a cage with a man-eating tiger. And though she's sure she's no princess, when the tiger addresses her as 'your majesty', she can't help but vow to free him and return him home. But the bird-filled jungles and cloud-topped mountains of the tiger's homeland are an ocean away. And not everyone wants the tiger - or Fly - to get there alive.

With dark and dangerous forces working against them, will Fly be able to fulfil her promise and maybe - just maybe - become the queen her tiger knows her to be?

Also try....

The Last Wild trilogy by Piers Torday

Gorilla Dawn/Sky Dancer by Gill Lewis

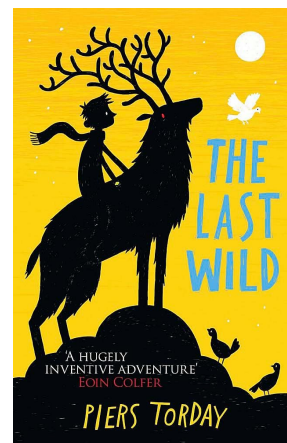
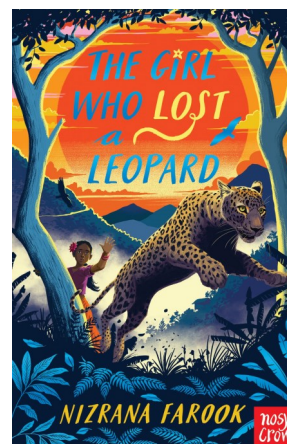
Swan Song by Gill Lewis

My Own Lightning by Lauren Wolk

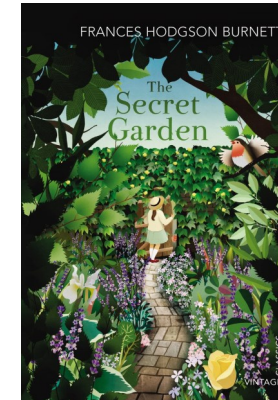
Lionboy by Zizou Corder

Dolphin Song by Lauren St John

The Girl Who Lost a Leopard by Nizrana Farook

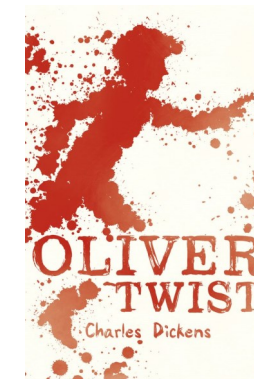


Classics



When young Mary Lennox loses her parents to a terrible illness, she is thrust into a new life with her reclusive uncle in the confines of the enigmatic Misselthwaite Manor. Consumed by bitterness and loneliness, Mary's life is about to change once more when she stumbles upon a hidden key and a long-forgotten door—a gateway to a secret garden full of mystery and splendor, where time stands still.

As Mary unravels the mysteries of the secret garden's neglected beauty, she embarks on a new adventure with her spirited maid Martha, kind-hearted Dickon, and Colin, her fragile cousin, whose illness has confined him in his chambers for years. Soon, Mary starts to blossom through the healing power of nature, helping Colin rediscover the beauty of life...



This is the story of orphaned Oliver, who runs away from the workhouse only to be taken in by a den of thieves. Plunged into a dark criminal underworld of vivid and memorable characters - the arch-villain Fagin, the artful Dodger, the menacing Bill Sikes and kind-hearted Nancy - Oliver struggles to survive and find his real family.

A rich, powerful look at Victorian London poverty from master storyteller, Charles Dickens.



Grown-up Meg, tomboyish Jo, timid Beth, and precocious Amy. The four March sisters couldn't be more different. But with their father away at war, and their mother working to support the family, they have to rely on one another. Whether they're putting on a play, forming a secret society, or celebrating Christmas, there's one thing they can't help wondering: Will Father return home safely?

Also try....

Peter Pan by J. M. Barrie

Treasure Island by Robert Louis Stevenson

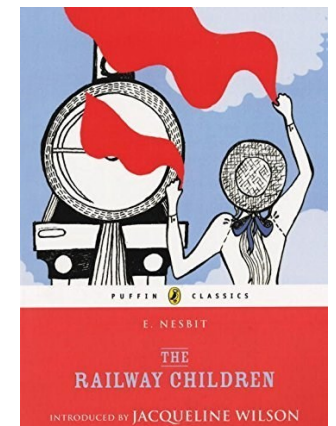
White Fang by Jack London

Alice's Adventures in Wonderland by Lewis Carroll

Anne of Green Gables by L. M. Montgomery

The Railway Children by E Nesbit

Black Beauty by Anna Sewell



Dystopian/Science Fiction

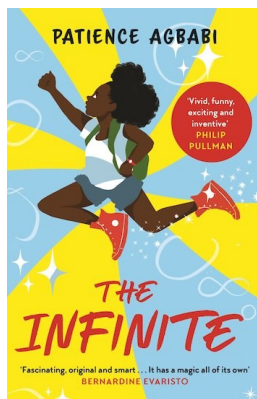


Fifteen-year-old girl gamer Casey Henderson is obsessed with smash-hit game SkyWake – and she's good at it, too. Little does she realize it's actually an alien training tool created by an evil extra-terrestrial race. When the aliens swoop down on a national gaming tournament, Casey and her teammates discover they're abducting the best gamers to fight in a distant alien war across the galaxy. And they've got her brother. Casey's gaming skills are her best hope of stopping the aliens – but first she and her online teammates must learn to work together in real life...



Eric is the first child android to be trialled in society, but he doesn't know that. He does know that he's just moved to Ashland from London, so it's important that he makes new friends. Danny doesn't have any friends, but he doesn't care about that. He would rather not be friends with someone like Eric, but when Eric takes an interest in Land X, Danny's favourite game, Danny thinks he might have found a real friend... if he can figure out the mystery behind Eric's sudden disappearances.

As their friendship grows, it becomes harder to ignore the weird events that happen around Eric, but uncovering the truth is an act that might cost them both, as powerful forces soon move in around them.



Leaplings, children born on the 29th of February, are very rare. Rarer still are Leaplings with The Gift - the ability to leap through time. Elle has The Gift, but she's never used it. Until now.

On her twelfth birthday, Elle and her best friend Big Ben travel to the Time Squad Centre in 2048. Elle has received a mysterious warning from the future. Other Leaplings are disappearing in time - and not everyone at the centre can be trusted.

Soon Elle's adventure becomes more than a race through time. It's a race against time. She must fight to save the world as she knows it - before it ceases to exist . . .

Also try....

The Maze Runner by James Dashner

The Many Worlds of Albie Bright

Orion Lost by Alastair Chisolm

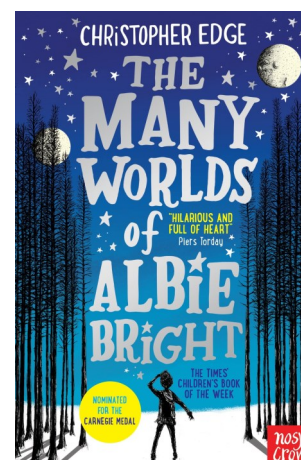
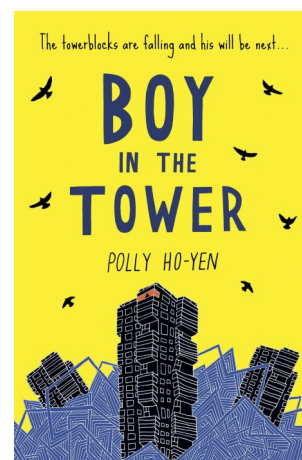
The Boy in the Tower by Polly Ho-Yen

Crater Lake by Jennifer Killick

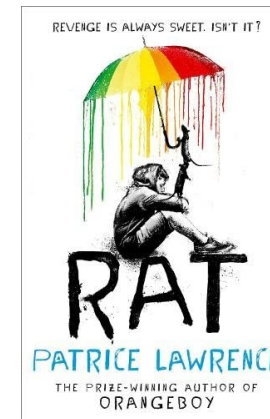
Swarm Rising by Tim Peake

T-Rex Terror by Ash Stone

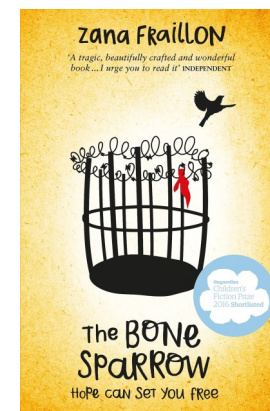
Nowhere by Jon Robinson



Family & Friendship/Real Life



When his mum is sent back to prison, Al knows exactly who's to blame. Mr Brayker, who lives downstairs, has been making trouble for Al's mum ever since they moved in, and Al's determined to get his revenge. Ignoring advice from his gran and sister, Plum, Al takes things into his own hands with a plan that involves the only two creatures he can rely on: his pet rats, Venom and Vulture. But things don't turn out exactly as he'd imagined... Written by award-winning author, Patrice Lawrence, this is short and moving story of community, loneliness, and how you never quite know what's going on in someone else's life.



Born in a refugee camp, all Subhi knows of the world is that he's at least 19 fence diamonds high, the nice Jackets never stay long, and at night he dreams that the sea finds its way to his tent, bringing with it unusual treasures. And one day it brings him Jimmie.

Carrying a notebook that she's unable to read and wearing a sparrow made out of bone around her neck - both talismans of her family's past and the mother she's lost - Jimmie strikes up an unlikely friendship with Subhi beyond the fence.

As he reads aloud the tale of how Jimmie's family came to be, both children discover the importance of their own stories in writing their futures.



Nothing much happens in Sycamore, the small village where Clara lives - at least, that's how it seems. She loves eating ripe mangoes fallen from trees, running outside in the rainy season and escaping to her secret hideout with her best friend Gaynah. There's only one problem: she can't remember anything about the previous summer.

When a quirky girl called Rudy arrives from England, everything starts to change. Gaynah stops acting like a best friend, while Rudy and Clara roam across the island and uncover an old family secret. As the summer reaches its peak and the island storms begin, Clara's memory starts to return and she must finally face the truth of what happened last year.

Also try....

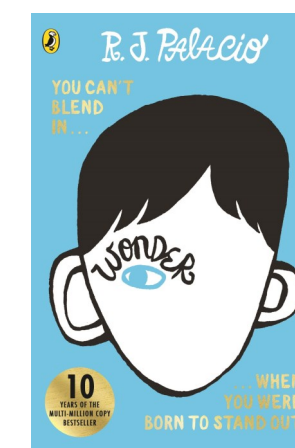
Stargazing for Beginners by Jenny McLachlan

Wonder by R. J. Palacio

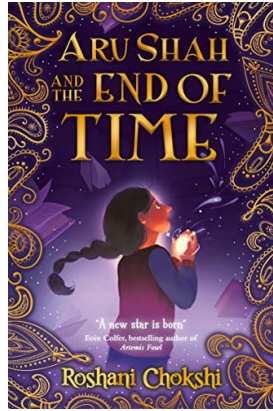
The Boy at the Back of the Classroom by Onjali Rauf

Secret Sunshine Project by Benjamin Dean

Can You Feel the Noise BY Stewart Foster

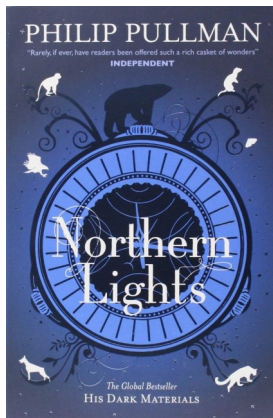


Fantasy & Magic



Aru Shah has a tendency to stretch the truth in order to fit in at school. Whilst her classmates are jetting off to exotic locales, she'll be at home, in the Museum of Ancient Indian Art and Culture where her mother works. Is it any wonder that Aru makes up stories about being royalty, traveling to Paris, and having a chauffeur?

When Aru's schoolmates dare her to prove that the museum's Lamp of Bharata is cursed, she doesn't think there's any harm in lighting it. Little does Aru know that lighting the lamp has dire consequences. She unwittingly frees the Sleeper, an ancient demon whose duty it is to awaken the God of Destruction...

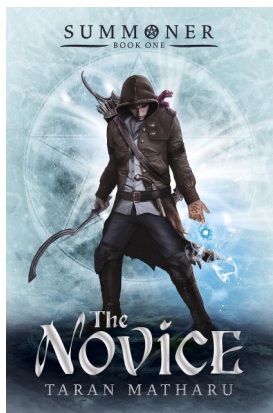


Without this child, we shall all die."

Lyra Belacqua and her animal daemon live half-wild and carefree among scholars of Jordan College, Oxford.

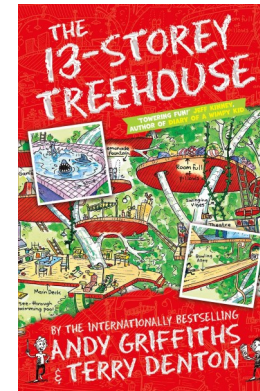
The destiny that awaits her will take her to the frozen lands of the Arctic, where witch-clans reign and ice-bears fight.

Her extraordinary journey will have immeasurable consequences far beyond her own world...

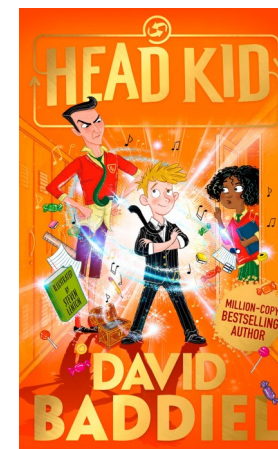


Fletcher was nothing more than a humble blacksmith's apprentice, when a chance encounter leads to the discovery that he has the ability to summon demons from another world. Chased from his village for a crime he did not commit, he must travel with his demon to the Vocans Academy, where the gifted are trained in the art of summoning.

The academy will put Fletcher through a gauntlet of gruelling lessons, training him as a battlemage to fight in the Hominum Empire's war against the savage orcs... full of Demons, magic and epic adventure



Andy and Terry live in the WORLD'S BEST treehouse! It's got a giant catapult, a secret underground laboratory, a tank of man-eating sharks and a marshmallow machine that follows you around and shoots marshmallows into your mouth whenever you're hungry! Just watch out for the sea monkeys, and the monkeys pretending to be sea monkeys, and the giant mutant mermaid sea monster . . . Oh, and, whatever you do, don't get trapped in a burp-gas-filled bubble . . . !



Bracket Wood is about to be visited by the school inspectors. But there's one big problem: Ryan Ward.

The maestro of practical jokes, Ryan has played so many tricks that in the end the Head Teacher just walks out. And then the new Head Teacher, Mr Carter, arrives. A man so strict even the teachers are scared of him. So imagine his surprise – and Ryan's – when they swap bodies.

Now Ryan is Head Teacher – and his mortal enemy is one of his pupils. It's every naughty kid's dream!



When Joe tells a local news reporter exactly what he would do if he were leader of the country, the video goes viral and Joe's speech becomes famous all over the world!

Before long, people are calling for the current leader to resign and give someone else a go . . . and that's how an ordinary boy like Joe ended up with the most extraordinary job. Now the fun can really start . . .

Hats for cats! Pet pigs for all! Banana shaped buses! Swimming pools on trains!

A hilarious story of one boy's meteoric rise to power!

Also try....

World of Norm series by Jonathan Meres

My Brother is a Superhero by David Solomons

Barry Loser/Future Ratboy by Jim Smith

The Super Miraculous Journey of Freddie Yates by Jenny Pearson

Loki: A Bad God'd Guide to Being Good by Louie Stowell

The Funny Life of Teachers by James Campbell



Also try....

Harry Potter series by J. K. Rowling

Discworld Series by Terry Pratchett

Eragon by Christopher Paolini

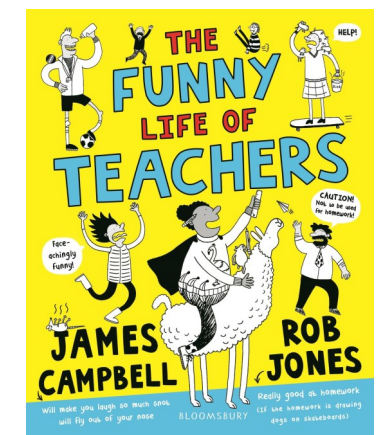
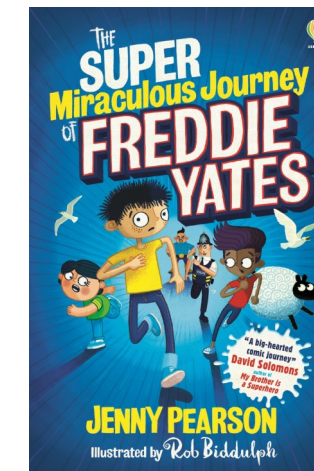
The Peculiar Peggs of Riddling Woods by Samuel J Halpin

A Place Called Perfect by Helena Duggan

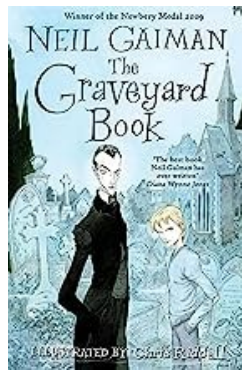
Rise of the School for Good and Evil by Sonam Chainani

Onyeka and the Academy of the Sun by Tola Okogwu

Funny



Ghosts/Horror



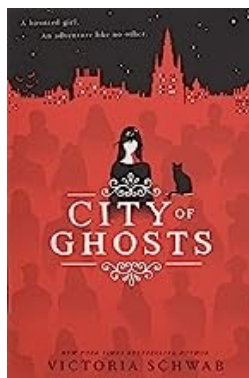
Nobody Owens, known to his friends as Bod, is a normal boy. He would be completely normal if he didn't live in a graveyard, raised and educated by ghosts. There, living among the dead, Bod discovers that he possesses remarkable magical powers: he can avoid people's notice, scare them, and even invade their dreams.

There are dangers and adventures for Bod in the graveyard. But it is in the land of the living that the real danger lurks, for it is there that the man Jack lives - and he has sinister plans for Bod...



Aveline Jones loves reading ghost stories, so a dreary half-term becomes much more exciting when she discovers a spooky old book. Not only are the stories spine-tingling, but it once belonged to Primrose Penberthy, who vanished mysteriously, never to be seen again. Intrigued, Aveline decides to investigate Primrose's disappearance.

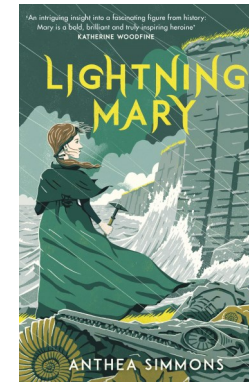
Now someone... or something, is stirring. And it is looking for Aveline.



Ever since Cass almost drowned (okay, she did drown, but she doesn't like to think about it), she can pull back the Veil that separates the living from the dead . . . and enter the world of spirits. Her best friend is even a ghost. So things are already pretty strange. But they're about to get much stranger.

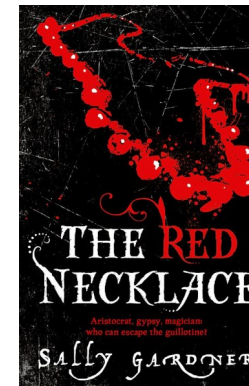
When Cass's parents start hosting a TV show about the world's most haunted places, the family heads off to Edinburgh, Scotland. Here, graveyards, castles, and secret passageways teem with restless phantoms. And when Cass meets a girl who shares her "gift," she realizes how much she still has to learn about the Veil -- and herself.

Historical (see also War Stories)



One stormy night, a group of villagers are struck by lightning. The only survivor is a baby - Mary Anning. From that moment on, a spark is lit within her.

Growing up poor but proud on the windswept Dorset coast, Mary follows after her father, hunting for fossils uncovered by waves and landslips: ancient creatures, turned to stone. Ignoring other people's taunts, Mary faces danger to bring back valuable treasures to help feed her family. But tragedy and despair is never far away. Mary must depend upon her unique courage and knowledge to fulfil her dream of becoming a scientist in a time when girls have no opportunities for such ambitions. What will happen when she makes her greatest discovery of all...?



The story of a remarkable boy called Yann Margoza; Tetu, his friend and mentor; Sido, unloved daughter of a foolish Marquis; and Count Kalliovski, Grand Master of a secret society, who has half the aristocracy in thrall to him, and wants Yann dead.

Yann is spirited away to London but three years later, when Paris is gripped by the bloody horrors of the Revolution, he returns, charged with two missions: to find out Kalliovski's darkest deeds and to save Sido from the guillotine.



All Nansi knows is that her mother disappeared on the day she was fished out of Cardiff docks. With no other family to turn to, she works for Sid at the Empire Theatre, sometimes legally, sometimes thieving, trying to earn enough money to hire a detective to find her mother. Everything changes when Constance and Violet join the theatre, both with their own dark secrets. Nansi is forced to be part of Violet's crooked psychic act.

But it's when Constance recognises her, and realises who her mother must be, that Nansi's world is turned upside down forever. She is soon on the run for her life and she will have to risk everything if she's going to find the truth.

Also try....

Following Frankenstein by Catherine Bruton

Frost Hollow Hall by Emma Carroll

Wolf Brother by Michelle Paver

The Eagle by Rosemary Sutcliffe

Lady Mary by Lucy Worsley

My Name is Victoria by Lucy Worsley

Seaglass by Eloise Williams

Hetty Feather by Jacqueline Wilson

My Story Series (Biographies)

Also try....

Still Water/Seven Ghosts by Chris Priestly

Cirque du Freak by Darren Shan

Shadow House by Dan Poblocki

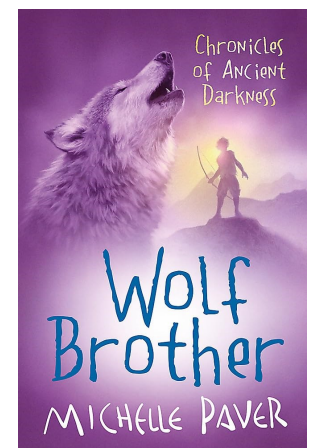
Long Lankin by Lindsey Barraclough

Shiverton Hall by Emerald Fennell

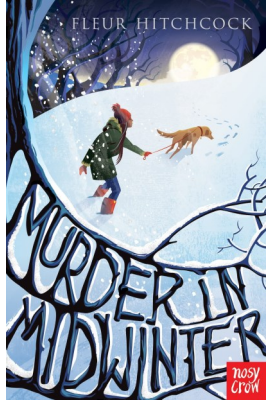
Horror Heights: The Slime by Bec Hill

Dreadwood by Jennifer Killick

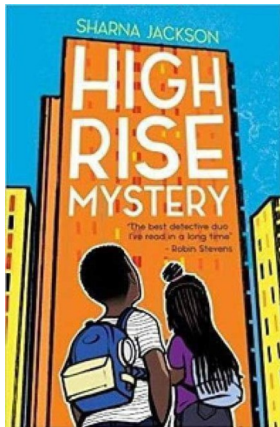
Lockwood and Co. Series by Jonathan Stroud



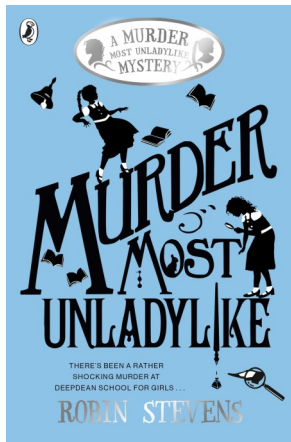
Mystery/Crime



Sitting on the top deck of a bus days before Christmas, Maya sees a couple arguing violently in the middle of a crowded Regent Street. They see her watching, she looks away, and the woman disappears. Maya goes to the police, who shrug and send her away. Then a body turns up... Now convinced she is a vital witness to a crime, the police send Maya into hiding in rural Wales. She resolves to get to the bottom of the mystery. Then the snow comes and no one can get out. But what if someone can still get in?



The detective duo everyone is dying to meet! Summer in London is hot, the hottest on record, and there's been a murder in THE TRI: the high-rise home to resident know-it-alls, Nik and Norva. Who better to solve the case? Armed with curiosity, home-turf knowledge and unlimited time - until the end of the summer holidays anyway. The first whodunnit in a new mystery series by Sharna Jackson.



At Deepdean School for Girls, Daisy Wells and Hazel Wong have set up their own detective agency. But they are struggling to find any *real* crimes to investigate.

Then Hazel discovers the Science Mistress, Miss Bell, lying dead in the Gym. To add to the mystery, when she and Daisy return five minutes later, the body has disappeared. Now Hazel and Daisy not only have a murder to solve: they have to prove one happened in the first place.

Determined to get to the bottom of the crime before the killer strikes again Hazel and Daisy must hunt for evidence, spy on their suspects and use all the cunning and intuition they can muster. But will they succeed? And can their friendship stand the test?

Also try....

Scarlet & Ivy series by Sophie Cleverly

Wave Riders by Lauren St John

Laura Marlin Mysteries by Lauren St John

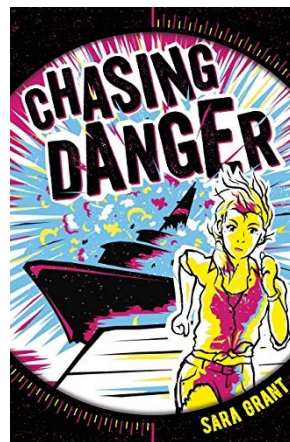
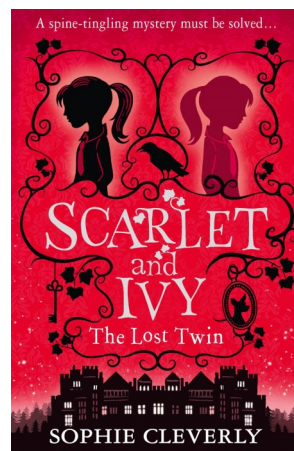
Smart by Kim Slater

Mystery at the Ice Hotel by Sarah Grant

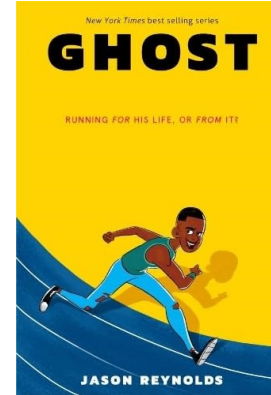
A Girl Called Justice by Elly Griffiths

Twitch by M. G. Leonard

The Detention Detectives by Lis Jardine



Sport Stories and Biographies



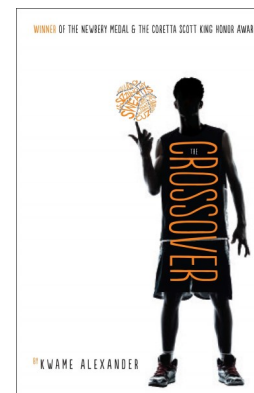
Running. That's all Ghost (real name Castle Cranshaw) has ever known. But Ghost has been running for the wrong reasons -until he meets Coach, an ex-Olympic Medallist who sees something in Ghost: crazy natural talent. If Ghost can stay on track, literally and figuratively, he could be the best sprinter in the city. Can Ghost harness his raw talent for speed, or will his past finally catch up to him?



Jamie's desperate to become Highwood School's star football player (and in his dreams, Hawkstone United's, too).

But after he wrecks his chances at the trials, the pressure's on to prove himself, so why aren't his mum, teachers and best mate on his side?

The pressure is on... has Jamie got what it takes to win?



12-year-old Josh and his twin Jordan have basketball in their blood. They're kings of the court, star players for their school team. Their father used to be a champion player and they each want nothing more than to follow in his footsteps.

Both on and off the court, there is conflict and hardship which will test Josh's bond with his brother. In this heartfelt novel in verse, the boys find that life doesn't come with a play-book and it's not all about winning.

Also try....

Patina/Sunny/Lu by Jason Reynolds

Foul Play series by Tom Palmer

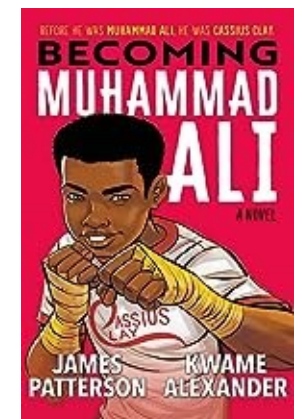
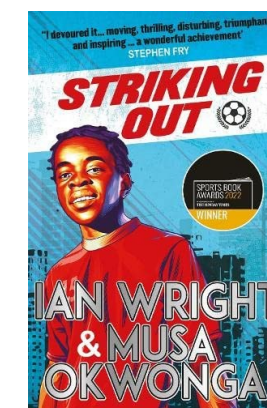
Black Brother, Black Brother by Jewell Parker Rhodes

Becoming Muhammad Ali by James Patterson & Kwame Alexander

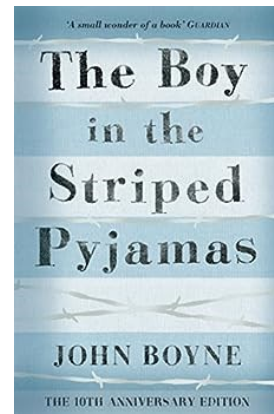
Striking Out by Musa Okwonga & Ian Wright

Football School series (non fiction)

Football Biographies by Matt & Tom Oldfield (non fiction)



War Stories



Nine year old Bruno knows nothing of the Final Solution and the Holocaust. He's oblivious to the appalling cruelties being inflicted on the people of Europe by his country.

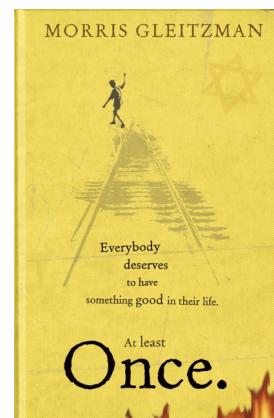
All he knows is that he has moved from Berlin to a desolate area where he has no one to play with.

Until he meets Shmuel.

Shmuel lives in a strange parallel existence on the other side of the adjoining wire fence, where everyone wears a uniform of striped pyjamas. Despite the wire fence separating them, the two boys become best friends.



In the deadly chaos of the First World War, one horse witnesses the reality of battle from both sides of the trenches. Bombarded by artillery, with bullets knocking riders from his back, Joey tells a powerful story of the truest friendships surviving in terrible times. One horse has seen the best and the worst of humanity. The power of war and the beauty of peace. This is his story.



Felix has been living in an orphanage for three years and eight months when the men in armbands arrive to burn the books.

Going on the run in search of his parents, Felix soon learns that Poland in 1942 is not a safe place for Jewish boys. But can his gift for storytelling keep him one step ahead of the Nazis and help him find his parents?

After all, everybody deserves to have something good in their life at least once.

Also try....

Private Peaceful by Michael Morpurgo

Then/After/Now by Morris Gleitzman

When the Sky Falls by Phil Earle

Goodnight Mr Tom by Michelle Magorian

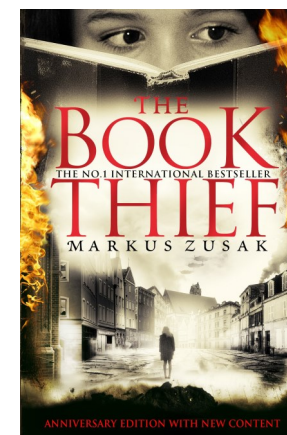
The Book Thief by Markus Zusak

Resist by Tom Palmer

Armistice Runner by Tom Palmer

Noor-Un-Nissa Inyat Khan by Sufiya Ahmed

The Diary of Anne Frank (Non-Fiction)



LIBRARY
Reading & Learning

Guide to reading levels

(This is just a guide and not all books will have the reading level stickers on the spine. There are some really good books on the KS3 Recommended Reading list and remember to check the genre boxes and new books area or ask a Librarian or English teacher for help with finding a good book for your reading level.

Easy quick reads



Average reads –not too easy but not too hard



Slightly more difficult and challenging books



Very challenging books – would also be suitable for year 9/10/11

