



Featherstone High School Library

Recommended Reading List

Year **9**

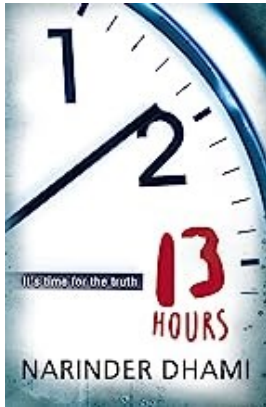
All of the books within this booklet can be borrowed or reserved from the library.

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.

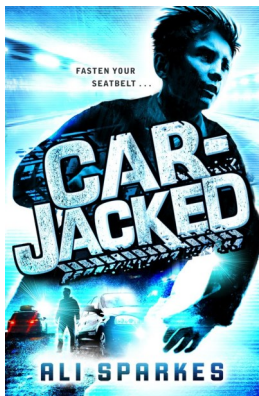


Action/Adventure

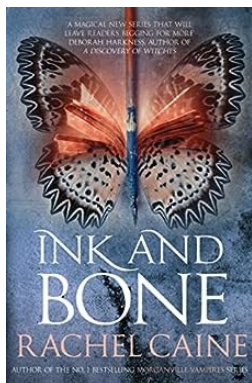


Anni never really questions why her frightened, ill mother won't leave their dilapidated house. She makes them live barricaded on the ground floor, with Anni's mum terrified of some unnamed danger. Then, one day, 13 hours before the prime minister will be driven past the house, mum's worst fears are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



Jack Mattingly is a genius. He has an IQ of 170. He speaks fluent Mandarin and Latin and he can calculate the square root of 1,673,549 in his head. But when Jack's parents' car is hi-jacked, with him inside it, for once he's as clueless as the rest of us. The car-jacker doesn't know Jack's in the car - yet. But it's only a matter of time before he's discovered. And then anything could happen. Only one thing's for sure: Jack's in for the thrill-ride of his life .



In 48 AD, a fire set by the troops of Julius Caesar destroyed much of the Great Library of Alexandria. It was the first of several disasters that resulted in the destruction of the accumulated knowledge of the ancient world. But what if the fire had been stopped? What would the Library have become? Fast forward: the Great Library is now a separate country, protected by its own standing army. It has grown into a vast power, with unquestioned and unrivalled supremacy. Jess Brightwell, seventeen and very smart, with a gift for mechanical engineering, has been sent into the Great Library as a spy for his criminal family...(YA)

Also try....

Cherub Series by Robert Muchamore

Alex Rider series by Anthony Horowitz

H.I.V.E series by Mark Walden

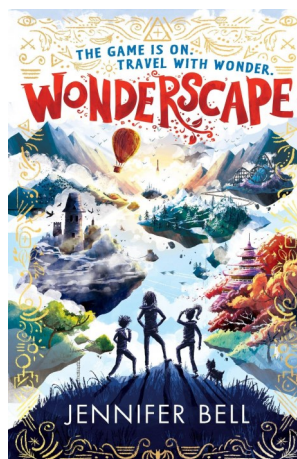
Wonderscape by Jennifer Bell

The Polar Bear Explorers Club by Alex Bell

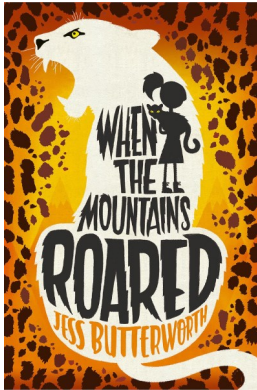
Hostage by Chris Bradford

Bullet Boys by Ally Kennen (YA)

The Traitor by Allen Zadoff (YA)



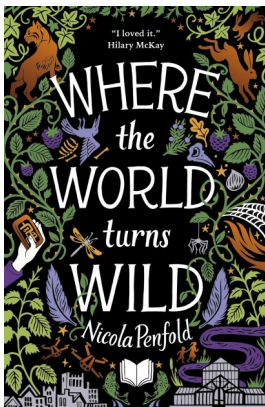
Animals/Nature



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.

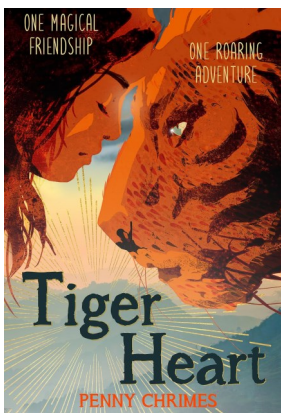
Ever since her mum died, Ruby has been afraid. Of cars. Of the dark. Of going to sleep and never waking up.

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

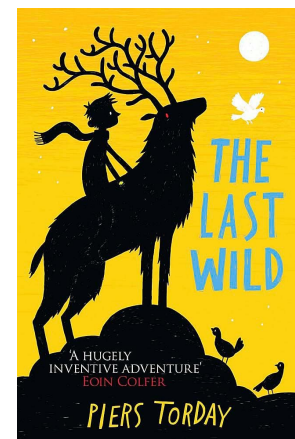
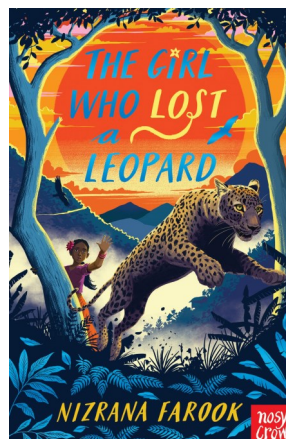
Swan Song by Gill Lewis

My Own Lightning by Lauren Wolk

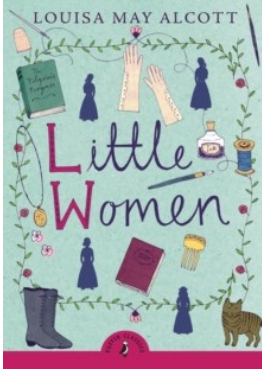
Lionboy by Zizou Corder

Dolphin Song by Lauren St John

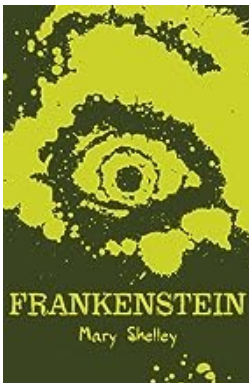
The Girl Who Lost a Leopard by Nizrana Farook



Classics

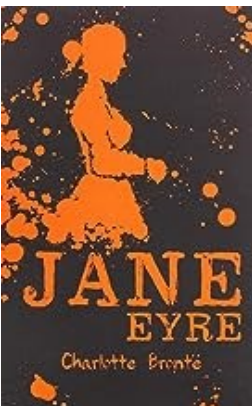


Grown-up Meg, tomboyish Jo, timid Beth, and precocious Amy. The four March sisters couldn't be more different. But with their father away at war, and their mother working to support the family, they have to rely on one another. Whether they're putting on a play, forming a secret society, or celebrating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



This timeless gothic novel presents the epic battle between man and monster. In trying to create life, the young student Victor Frankenstein unleashes forces beyond his control, setting into motion a long and tragic chain of events that brings Victor to the very brink of madness. How he tries to destroy his creation, as it destroys everything Victor loves, is a powerful story of love, friendship, scientific hubris, and horror.

(Also try Mister Creecher for an alternate view of the Frankenstein story)



A novel of intense emotional power, heightened atmosphere and fierce intelligence, *Jane Eyre* dazzled and shocked readers with its passionate depiction of a woman's search for equality and freedom on her own terms. Its heroine Jane endures loneliness and cruelty in the home of her heartless aunt and the cold charity of Lowood School. Her natural independence and spirit prove necessary when she takes a position as governess at Thornfield Hall. But when she finds love with her sardonic employer, Rochester, the discovery of a shameful secret forces her to make a terrible choice.

Also try....

Animal Farm by George Orwell

Alice's Adventures in Wonderland by Lewis Carroll

White Fang by Jack London

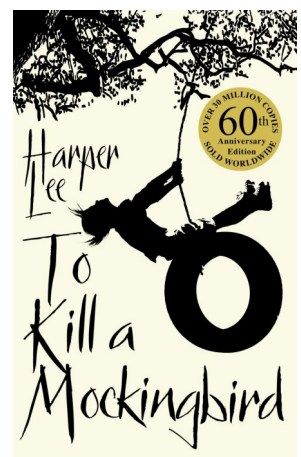
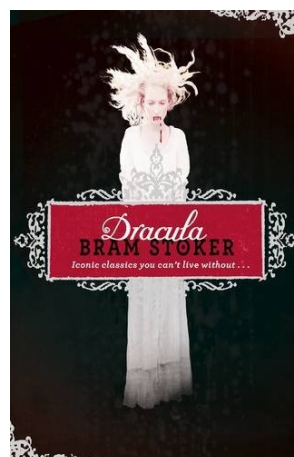
Dracula By Bram Stoker

1984 by George Orwell

Oliver Twist by Charles Dickens

The Secret Garden by Frances Hodgson Burnett

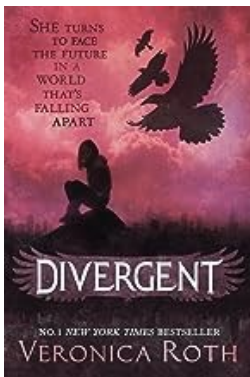
To Kill a Mockingbird by Harper Lee



Dystopian/Science Fiction

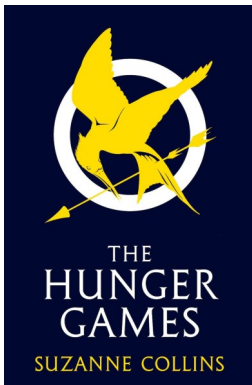


Eric is the first child android to be trialled in society, but he doesn't know that. He does know that he's just moved to London, so it's important that he makes new friends. Danny doesn't have friends, but he doesn't care about that. He would rather not be friends with someone like Eric, but when Eric 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 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.



For sixteen-year-old Tris, the world changes in a heartbeat when she is forced to make a terrible choice. Turning her back on her family, Tris ventures out, alone, determined to find out where she truly belongs.

Shocked by the brutality of her new life, Tris can trust no one. And yet she is drawn to a boy who seems to both threaten and protect her. The hardest choices may yet lie ahead....(YA)



Set in a dark vision of the near future, a terrifying reality TV show is taking place. Twelve boys and twelve girls are forced to appear in a live event called *The Hunger Games*.

There is only one rule: kill or be killed. When sixteen-year-old Katniss Everdeen steps forward to take her younger sister's place in the games, she sees it as a death sentence. But Katniss has been close to death before. For her, survival is second nature...(YA)

Also try....

The Maze Runner by James Dashner

Nowhere/Anywhere/Somewhere by Jon Robinson

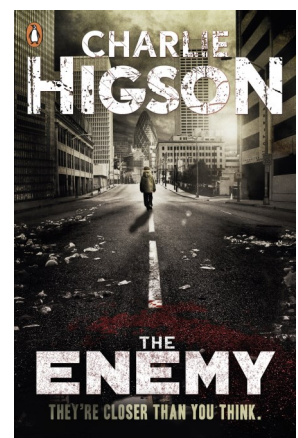
Fake by Ele Fountain

The Boy in the Tower by Polly Ho-Yen

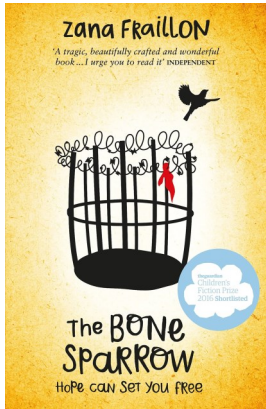
Crater Lake by Jennifer Killick

Noughts and Crosses by Malorie Blackman (YA)

The Enemy Series by Charlie Higson (YA)

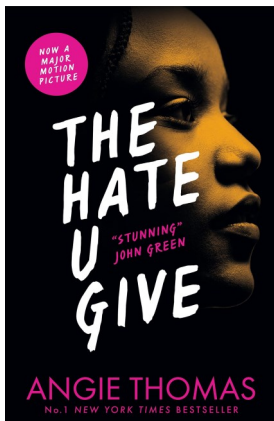


Family & Friendship/Real Life



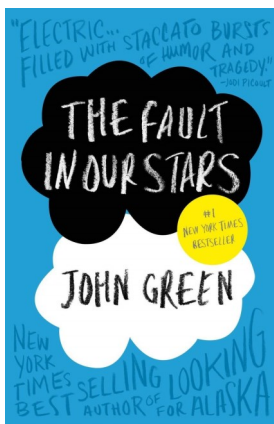
Born in a refugee camp, all Subhi knows of the world is that he's at least 19 fence diamonds high, the nice Jackets never stay long, and at night he dreams that the sea finds its way to his tent, bringing with it unusual treasures. And one day it brings him Jimmie.

Carrying a notebook that she's unable to read and wearing a sparrow made out of bone - 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.



Sixteen-year-old Starr lives in two worlds: the poor neighbourhood where she was born and raised and her posh high school in the suburbs. The uneasy balance between them is shattered when Starr is the only witness to the fatal shooting of her unarmed best friend, Khalil, by a police officer. Now what Starr says could destroy her community. It could also get her killed.

Inspired by the Black Lives Matter movement, this is a powerful and gripping YA novel about one girl's struggle for justice. (YA)



Despite the tumour-shrinking medical miracle that has bought her a few years, Hazel has never been anything but terminal, her final chapter inscribed upon diagnosis.

But when a gorgeous plot twist named Augustus Waters suddenly appears at Cancer Kid Support Group, Hazel's story is about to be completely rewritten.

Insightful, bold, irreverent, and raw, *The Fault in Our Stars* brilliantly explores the funny, thrilling, and tragic business of being alive and in love. (YA)

Also try....

Stargazing for Beginners by Jenny McLachlan

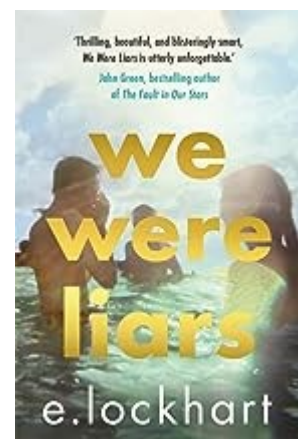
Boy Everywhere by A.M. Bassu

Black Brother, Black Brother by Jewell Parker Rhodes

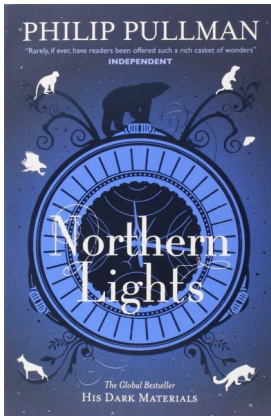
Refugee Boy by Benjamin Zephania

We Were Liars by E. Lockhart (YA)

To all the Boys I've Loved Before by Jenny Han (YA)



Fantasy & Magic

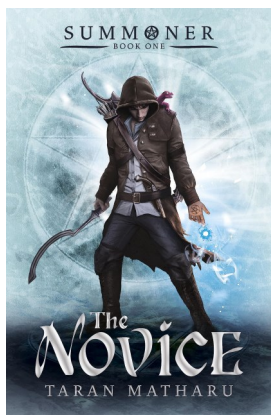


Without this child, we shall all die."

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.



Most people only know one London; but what if there were several? Kell is one of the last Travelers—magicians with a rare ability to travel between parallel Londons. There's Grey London, dirty and crowded and without magic, home to the mad King George III. There's Red London, where life and magic are revered. Then, White London, ruled by whoever has murdered their way to the throne. But once upon a time, there was Black London... (YA)

Also try....

Harry Potter series by J. K. Rowling

Discworld Series by Terry Pratchett

Eragon by Christopher Paolini

The Lord of the Rings by J.R.R. Tolkien

Inkheart by Cornelia Funke

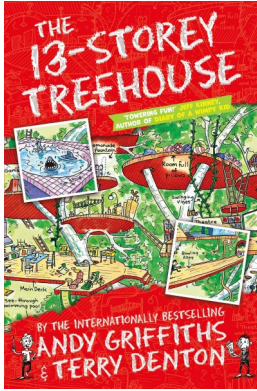
Spellslinger Series by Sebastian de Castell

Throne of Glass by Sarah J. Maas (YA)

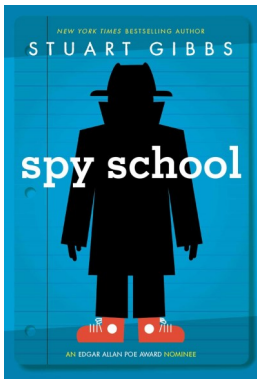
Shadow and Bone by Leigh Bardugo (YA)



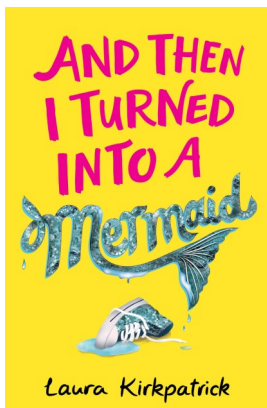
Funny



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 . . . !



Ben Ripley may only be in middle school, but he's already pegged his dream job: CIA or bust. Unfortunately for him, his personality doesn't exactly scream "secret agent." In fact, Ben is so awkward, he can barely get to school and back without a mishap. Because of his innate nerdiness, Ben is not surprised when he is recruited for a magnet school with a focus on science--but he's entirely shocked to discover that the school is actually a front for a junior CIA academy. Could the CIA really want him?



Molly Seabrook's dull seaside life is turned upside down when she turns 13 and is let in on the family secret: she's PART-MERMAID! While this does explain why her bonkers Mum is always skinny-dipping, Molly isn't exactly thrilled. She already has to dress as a haddock to promote the family fish 'n' chip shop, and now *this*? Growing up is hard enough without sprouting a fish tail in Double Maths, or disguising your gills from the cute boy at the ice cream kiosk. Join Molly as she navigates the stormy sea of social awkwardness, best friend fallouts and the World's Most Embarrassing Family – all while attempting to hide her (Very Weird) new double identity. Will she sink or swim? You'll have to wait and SEA . . .

Also try....

World of Norm series by Jonathan Meres

Barry Loser/Future Ratboy by Jim Smith

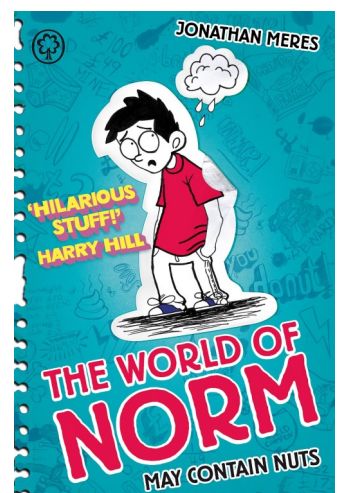
Head Kid by David Baddiel

The Misadventures of Max Crumbly by Rachel Renee Russo

Homeroom Diaries by James Patterson

My Sister the Vampire series by Sienna Mercer

The Funny Life of Teachers by James Campbell



Ghosts/Horror

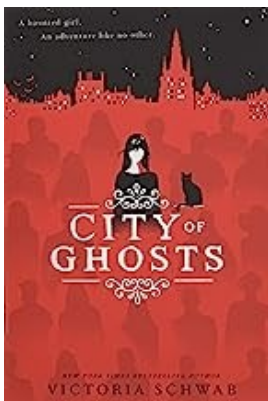


Aveline Jones loves reading ghost stories, so a dreary half-term becomes much more exciting when she discovers a spooky old book. Not only are the stories spine-tingling, but it once belonged to Primrose Penberthy, who vanished mysteriously, never to be seen again. Intrigued, Aveline decides to investigate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



Rebecca Strand was just 16 when she and her father fell to their deaths from the top of the Gibraltar Point Lighthouse in 1839. Just how they fell—or were they pushed?—remains a mystery. And their ghosts haunt the lighthouse to this day ...

Gabe tells this story every day when he gives the ghost tour on Toronto Island. He tries to make it scary enough to satisfy the tourists, but he doesn't actually believe in ghosts — until he finds himself face to face with Rebecca Strand. Rebecca reveals that her father was a member of the Order, a secret society devoted to protecting the world from 'the wakeful and wicked dead' — malevolent spirits...(YA)



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.

Also try....

The Graveyard Book by Neil Gaiman

Cirque du Freak by Darren Shan

Shadow House by Dan Pablocki

Long Lankin by Lindsey Barraclough

Lockwood and Co. Series by Jonathan Stroud

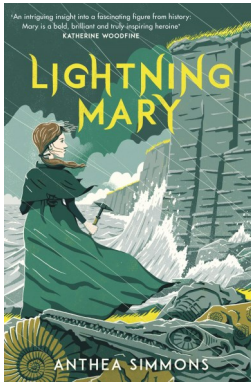
This Savage Song by V. E. Schwab (YA)

The Lighthouse by Alex Bell (YA)

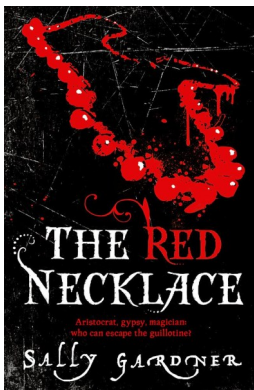
Skulduggery Pleasant series by Derek Landy



Historical (see also War Stories)

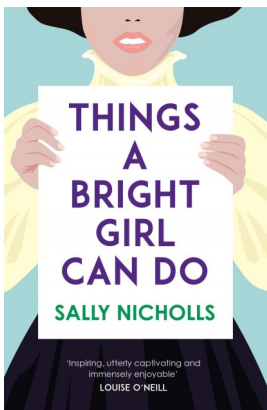


One stormy night, a group of villagers are struck by lightning. The only survivor is a baby - Mary Anning. From that moment on, a spark is lit within her. Growing up poor but proud on the windswept Dorset coast, Mary follows after her father, hunting for fossils uncovered by waves and landslips: ancient 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.



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.



Evelyn is 17, and though she is rich and clever, she may never be allowed to follow her older brother to university. Enraged that she is expected to marry her childhood sweetheart rather than be educated, she joins the Suffragettes, and vows to pay the ultimate price for women's freedom.

May is 15, and already sworn to the cause, though she and her fellow Suffragists refuse violence. When she meets Nell, a girl who's grown up in hardship, she sees a kindred spirit. Together and in love, the two girls start to dream of a world where all kinds of women have their place.

But the fight for freedom will challenge Evelyn, May and Nell more than they ever could believe. As war looms, just how much are they willing to sacrifice?
(YA)

Also try....

Following Frankenstein by Catherine Bruton

Frost Hollow Hall by Emma Carroll

The Eagle by Rosemary Sutcliffe

Gaslight by Eloise Williams

Seaglass by Eloise Williams

Cuckoo Song by France Hardinge

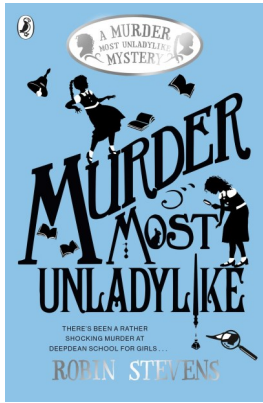
Hetty Feather by Jacqueline Wilson

Liberty's Fire by Linda Syson (YA)

Buffalo Soldier by Tanya Landman (YA)

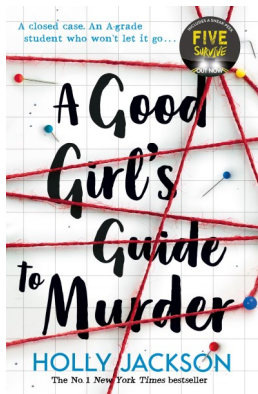


Mystery/Crime



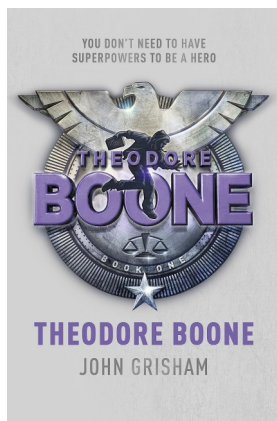
At Deepdean School for Girls, Daisy Wells and Hazel Wong have set up their own detective agency. But they are struggling to find any *real* crimes to investigate.

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.



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.

But having grown up in the same small town that was consumed by the crime, Pippa Fitz-Amobi isn't so sure. When she chooses the case as the topic for her final school project, she starts to uncover secrets that someone in town desperately wants to stay hidden. And if the real killer is still out there, how far will they go to keep Pip from the truth . . . ? (YA)



Half the man, twice the lawyer.

In the small city of Strattenburg, there are many lawyers, and though he's only thirteen years old, Theo Boone thinks he's one of them. Theo knows every judge, policeman, court clerk - and a lot about the law. He dreams of being a great trial lawyer, of a life in the courtroom. But Theo finds himself in court much sooner than he expected. Because he knows so much - maybe too much - he is suddenly dragged into the middle of a sensational murder trial. A cold-blooded killer is about to go free, and only Theo knows the truth. The stakes are high, but Theo won't stop until justice is served. (YA)

Also try....

Waiting for Murder by Fleur Hitchcock

Jackaby by William Ritter

Laura Marlin Mysteries by Lauren St John

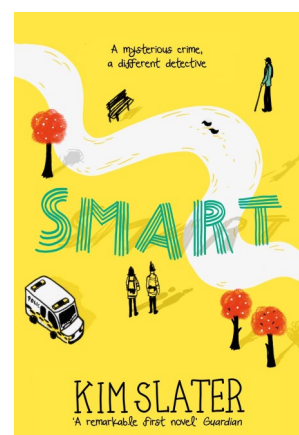
Chasing Danger/Murder at the Ice Hotel
by Sarah Grant

Smart by Kim Slater

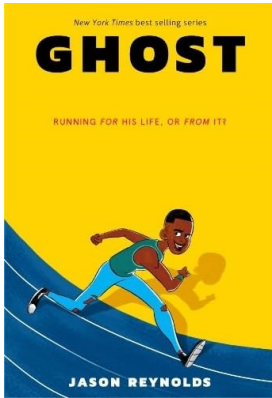
This Book Kills by Ravena Guron (YA)

Girl Missing by Sophie McKenzie (YA)

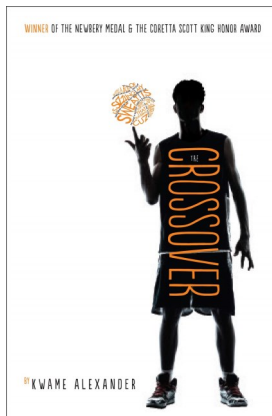
One of Us is Lying by Karen McManus (YA)



Sport Stories and Biographies

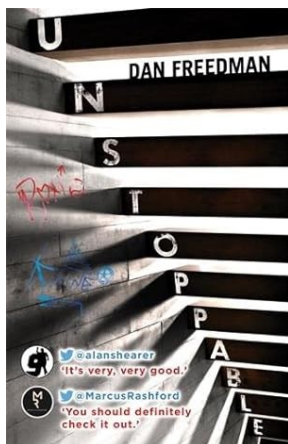


Running. That's all Ghost (real name Castle Cranshaw) has ever known. But Ghost has been running for the wrong reasons -until he meets Coach, an ex-Olympic Medallist who sees something in Ghost: crazy natural talent. If Ghost can stay on track, literally and figuratively, he could be the best sprinter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



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.



Fourteen-year-old twins, Roxy and Kaine, have only one thing in common.

They HATE each other.

Kaine is loud, brash and brilliant at football.

Roxy is heading for tennis superstardom.

When tragedy strikes, their worlds are ripped apart. (YA)

Also try....

Patina/Sunny/Lu by Jason Reynolds

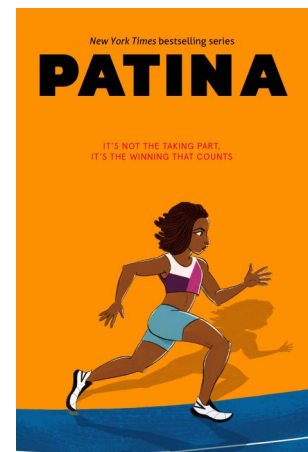
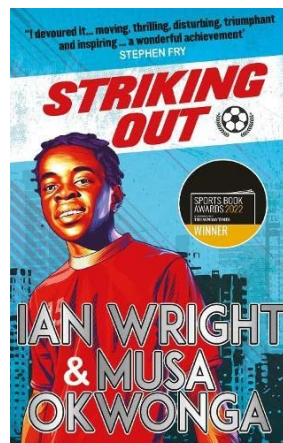
Foul Play series by Tom Palmer

Starting Eleven by Bali Rai

Striking Out by Musa Okwonga

Football School series (non fiction)

Football Biographies by Matt and Tom Oldfield (non fiction)

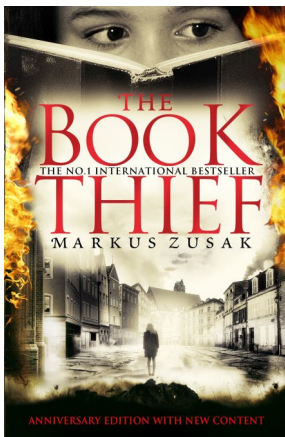


War Stories



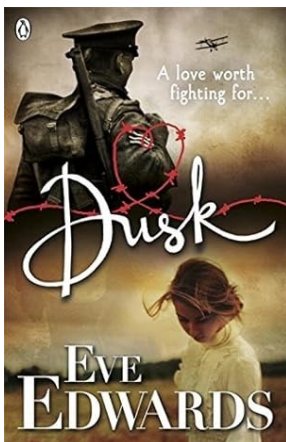
As the brutal Second World War stretches on with no end in sight, life for ordinary Dutch people in the Nazi-occupied Netherlands is fraught with peril and hardship. There is very little to eat and the population lives under the constant threat of arrest and enslavement.

After the murder of her beloved uncle and the capture of her brother by the Germans, Edda is determined to do anything she can to help the resistance fight back against their oppressors. But what can a teenage girl do and how much risk is she willing to take?



1939. Nazi Germany. The country is holding its breath. Death has never been busier.

Liesel, a nine-year-old girl, is living with a foster family on Himmel Street. Her parents have been taken away to a concentration camp. Liesel steals books. This is her story and the story of the inhabitants of her street when the bombs begin to fall.



When Helen, a young hard-working nurse, meets aristocratic artist Sebastian, she doesn't expect to even like him, let alone fall in love. But against the troubled backdrop of wartime London, an unlikely but intense romance blossoms. And even the bloody trenches of the Somme, where they are both posted, cannot diminish their feelings for each other.

But Helen is concealing a secret and when a terrible crime is committed there are devastating consequences for them both.

When lives are being lost, can true love survive? (YA)

Also try....

Private Peaceful by Michael Morpurgo

War Horse by Michael Morpurgo

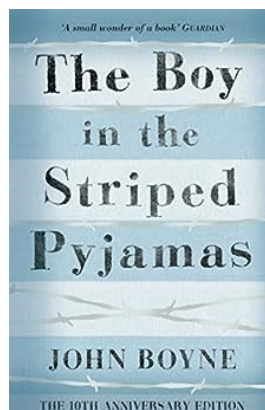
Then/After/Now by Morris Gleitzman

When the Sky Falls by Phil Earle

Armistice Runner by Tom Palmer

The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas by John Boyne

The Diary of Anne Frank (Non-Fiction)





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

