

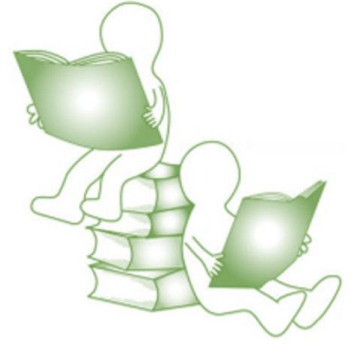
Reading Suggestions

Key Stage 2

There is a huge range of excellent fiction for the 7 – 11 year age range. These lists for each year group list just a few and many cross the year group boundaries. Some may look too young but the length of a book can be deceptive. Some feature more illustration than text: illustration can be as important in the telling of a story as words and will introduce children to key illustrators.

There are also plenty of series that are perfect for this age range, do take a look at the authors themselves and please note that we have only included one book from each series. Some authors such as Jacqueline Wilson and Malorie Blackman write across the age range and some of their titles are more suited to older children.

The Harry Potter series is well known and not included in these lists. Children can try it out at any stage, though at Year 3, it might be better to read it with the child.



Reading Suggestions

Year 6 (age 10-11)

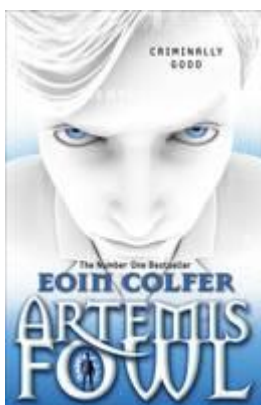
A selection of books especially selected for children in Year 6 (10 - 11 year olds) of average reading ability.

Year 6 students should be picking from our class libraries in order to progress their reading. While the children may feel that reading longer books is a better progression, reading lots of shorter books can also be very helpful for their creative English, as they experience new vocabulary, characters and places.

If your child is a competent reader or has read all these titles then try the books from the Advanced Readers list. Alternatively, if these books are a little challenging, try books from the Year 5 list.

The Harry Potter series is well known and not included in these lists. Children can try it out at any stage, though it might be better to read parts with the child.

*** Recommended by Queen Edith children**



Artemis Fowl *
Eoin Colfer

"I love this series" Dexter

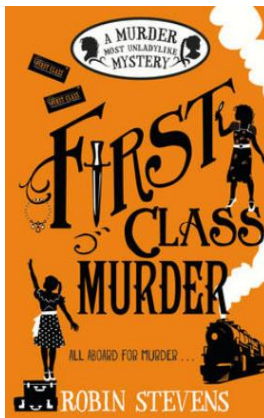
Twelve-year-old villain, Artemis Fowl, is the most ingenious criminal mastermind in history. His bold and daring plan is to hold a leprechaun to ransom. But he's taking on more than he bargained for when he kidnaps Captain Holly Short of the LEPrecon (Lower Elements Police Reconnaissance Unit). For a start, leprechaun technology is more advanced than our own. Add to that the fact that Holly is a true heroine and that her senior officer Commander Root will stop at nothing to get her back and you've got the mother of all sieges brewing!



A Wizard of Earthsea

Ursula K. Le Guin

The first book of Earthsea is a tale of wizards, dragons and terrifying shadows. The island of Gont is a land famous for wizards. Of these, some say the greatest - and surely the greatest voyager - is the man called Sparrowhawk. As a reckless, awkward boy, he discovered the great power that was in him - with terrifying consequences. Tempted by pride to try spells beyond his means, Sparrowhawk lets loose an evil shadow-beast in his land. Only he can destroy it, and the quest leads him to the farthest corner of Earthsea.



Murder Most Unladylike Series *

Robin Stevens

"This is my favourite series" Denis and Emily

From the author of Murder Most Unladylike. Daisy Wells and Hazel Wong are taking a holiday on the world-famous Orient Express - and it's clear that each of their fellow first-class passengers has something to hide. Even more intriguing: there is rumour of a spy in their midst. Then, during dinner, there is a scream from inside one of the cabins. When the door is broken down, a passenger is found murdered, her stunning ruby necklace gone. But the killer has vanished - as if into thin air. Daisy and Hazel are faced with their first ever locked-room mystery - and with competition from several other sleuths, who are just as determined to crack the case.

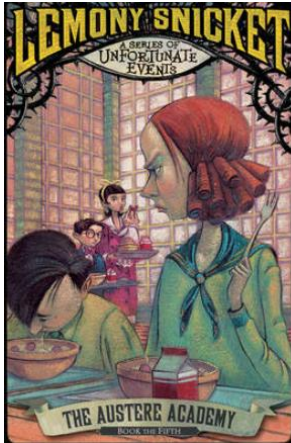


Billy's Blitz

Barbara Mitchelhill

This Book Is The Winner of the Young Quills Prize for Historical Fiction.

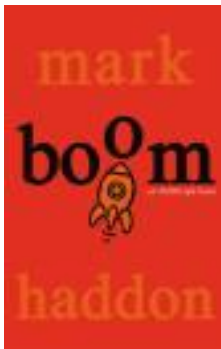
When War breaks out, Billy's dad joins the army and most of his friends are evacuated from Balham, South London. But Billy's mum doesn't believe the bombs will ever fall on them and she refuses to send him and his sister Rose away. Life in Balham has certainly changed for Billy: no school, no friends and, because of rationing, no treats. But by September 1940, things are about to get a lot worse. Hitler has a plan for the destruction of London and soon Billy is caught up in the Blitz: an event so terrifying, it will take every ounce of courage for him to survive in war-torn Balham and keep his family together.



Austere Academy *
Lemony Snicket

"It's a really funny book with lots of description which makes it effective" Hao

From A Series of Unfortunate Events: this bestselling series (in fact in the top five of bestsellers of the last decade), now at long last available in paperback. More ghastly than boarding school, and almost as interminable. There is nothing to be found in the pages of these books but misery and despair. You still have time to choose something else to read. But if you must know what unpleasanties befall the charming and clever Baudelaire children read on...



Boom!
Mark Haddon

Everything about this deliciously improbable adventure is almost completely daft – and that's the fun of it all. When Charlie sets up his walkie-talkie in the staff room he doesn't hear gossip about the pupils as he had expected. Instead, he finds the teachers are speaking in a foreign language that no one has ever heard of. Charlie is kidnapped trying to find out more and when Jim sets out to find him – his sister 'borrows' a motorbike and driving him up to Skye - he too is caught up in the disturbing rituals of an unusual group. Jim tells the madcap story which also includes a wry and light-hearted view of family life.



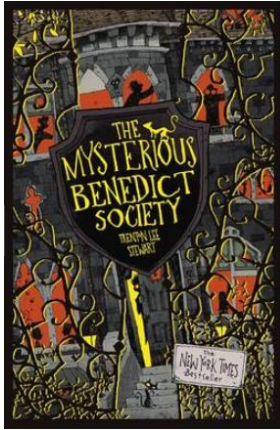
Back Home
Michelle Magorian

It's 1945. World War II has just ended and twelve-year-old Rusty comes back home to Britain after being evacuated to the US. The greyness and bleakness of life in England is a shock, but even worse is adapting to the strict discipline of her family, including a brother she's never met, after the warmth and openness of her adopted American family. Rusty is sent to a horrific boarding school, before finally running away as her search for happiness becomes more and more desperate.



Carrie's War
Nina Bawden

Carrie's War by Nina Bawden is an unforgettable Second World War story. 'I did a dreadful thing ...or I feel that I did, and nothing can change it...' It is the Second World War and Carrie and Nick are evacuated from London to a small town in Wales, where they are placed with strict Mr Evans and his timid mouse of a sister. Their friend Albert is luckier, living in Druid's Bottom with Hepzibah Green who tells wonderful stories, and the strange Mister Johnny, who speaks a language all of his own. Carrie and Nick are happy to visit Albert there, until one day when Carrie does a terrible thing - the worst thing she ever did in her life...



The Mysterious Benedict Society *
Trenton Lee Stewart

“It’s a mystery book that has plot twists that you don’t expect and the characters have very different personalities. Also, there are odd inventions and evil zombies controlled by villains.” Katie

Here you will meet four very unusual children each with three things in common – all orphans, all incredibly talented and all utterly and completely honest. Akin to *Lemony Snicket* but in our view loads better, readers are plunged head-first into a world of puzzles and logic, testing their ingenuity and cunning as well as that of the four children. It’s fast-paced, brilliantly plotted and the characters are incredibly endearing in their individual ways.



Dark Fire
Chris d'Lacey

The last of the ‘Mortal Engines Quartet’.

With the Earth on the brink of recolonisation by dragons, David Rain is sent on an important mission: to seek out and destroy a trace of dark fire, the deadliest force in the universe. But with success could come a terrible price, the sacrifice of a beloved clay dragon. How much does the life of one small dragon count, when the alternative is the birth of a darkling...?



You are Awesome
Matthew Syed

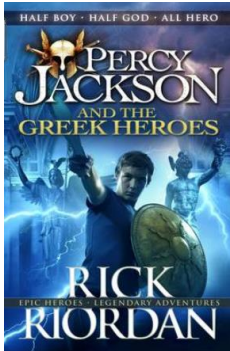
I'm no good at sport ... I can't do maths ... I really struggle with exams ... Sound familiar? If you believe you can't do something, the chances are you won't try. But what if you really could get better at maths, or sport or exams? In fact, what if you could excel at anything you put your mind to?

You Are Awesome can help you do just that, inspiring and empowering young readers to find the confidence to realise their potential.



Dragonfly Pool
Eva Ibbotson

Tally doesn’t want to leave her father and her aunts and go away to boarding school. But Delderton Hall is a very special school with interesting staff and pupils and loads of scope for imagination and creativity. Tally organises a trip to the Kingdom of Bergania where she befriends the prince and soon finds herself swept up in a thrilling and dangerous adventure.

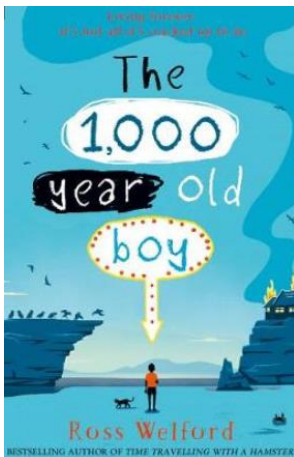


Percy Jackson and the Greek Heroes *

Rick Riordan

"It includes lots of sad but funny Greek stories so it lets you learn Greek mythology" Ryan

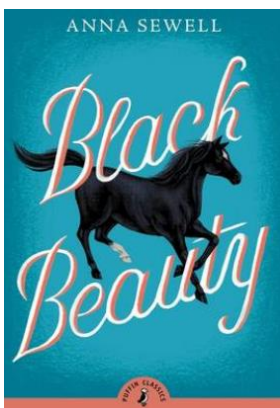
The fabulous Percy Jackson himself takes the reader back, to roughly 4,000 years ago and tells the stories of twelve Greek Heroes. This isn't about Percy, however his unique voice shines through as he tells the tales in his own audacious way. This is funny and witty and mixes modern day with ancient times in a way that shouldn't work, but oh how it does, brilliantly. The tales include Jason and the Golden Fleece, Hercules and his tasks and Otrera's Amazons (they don't all end happily). Percy helpfully tells you how to pronounce some of the more difficult names and gives his own sage advice along the way.



The 1,000 year old boy

Ross Welford

There are stories about people who want to live forever. This is not one of those stories. This is a story about someone who wants to stop... Alfie Monk is like any other nearly teenage boy - except he's 1,000 years old and can remember the last Viking invasion of England. Obviously no one believes him. So when everything Alfie knows and loves is destroyed in a fire, and the modern world comes crashing in, Alfie embarks on a mission to find friendship, acceptance, and a different way to live... .. which means finding a way to make sure he will eventually die.



Black Beauty *

Anna Sewell

"It's a book that teaches you about cruelty to animals. It gives you an inside look into the life of Black Beauty and reminds me to be grateful"

Esme

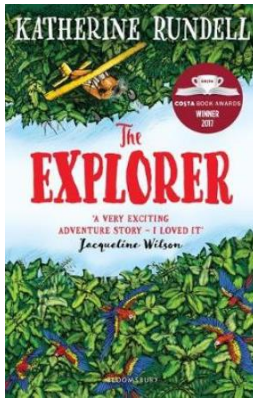
A truly timeless adventure of a horse with an unbreakable spirit and a bond that eventually goes almost full circle. Animal lovers will love the story of Black Beauty even though the tears will be almost as frequent as the smiles. An essential read.



Eragon

Christopher Paolini

When Eragon finds a polished stone in the forest, he thinks it is the lucky discovery of a poor farm boy; perhaps it will buy his family meat for the winter. But when the stone brings a dragon hatchling, Eragon soon realizes he has stumbled upon a legacy nearly as old as the Empire itself. Overnight his simple life is shattered and he is thrust into a perilous new world of destiny, magic and power.



The Explorer **Katherine Rundell**

After crashing hundreds of miles from civilisation in the Amazon rainforest, Fred, Con, Lila and Max are utterly alone and in grave danger. They have no food, no water and no chance of being rescued. But they are alive and they have hope. As they negotiate the wild jungle they begin to find signs that something - someone - has been there before them. Could there possibly be a way out after all?



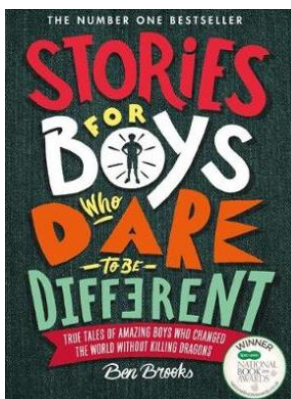
Five Children and it **E. Nesbit**

'Don't you know a sand-fairy when you see one?' I dare say you have often thought about what you would do if you were granted three wishes. The five children - Cyril, Anthea, Robert, Jane and their baby brother - had often talked about it but when they are faced with the grumpy sand-fairy they find it difficult to make up their minds. And that is just the beginning of their dilemmas. As they discover, there is nothing quite like a wish for getting you into terrible trouble.



Frozen In Time **Ali Sparkes**

A page-turning mystery-adventure with a pleasingly old-fashioned feel as two children, frozen by cryonic suspension by their father in 1956, are miraculously brought back to life by two other children in 2009. There are loads of clues to follow and several mysteries to be solved as well as a lot of enjoyable confusion and surprise as children from 'then' see childhood 'now'.



Stories for Boys Who Dare to be Different * **Ben Brooks**

"It's very encouraging for everyone to do what they want to do and not be scared" Yousef

Inspiring and entirely non- stereotypical mini-biographies. It is an extraordinary compilation of 100 stories of famous and not-so-famous men from the past to the present day, every single one of them a rule-breaker and innovator in his own way, and all going on to achieve amazing things.



Goodnight Mister Tom

Michelle Magorian

Young Willie Beech is 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 ...

Winner of the Guardian Children's Fiction Award.



Greyhound of a Girl

Roddy Doyle

12 year old Mary's beloved grandmother is near the end of her life. Letting go is hard - until Granny's long-dead mammy appears. Her ghost has returned to help her dying daughter say goodbye to the ones she loves. But first she needs to take them all on a road trip to the past.

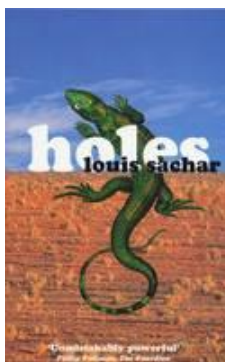
A GREYHOUND OF A GIRL is a perfectly-pitched funny and tender tale about four generations of an Irish family, and the special bonds between mothers and daughters. It will entrance readers from 10 to adult.



Half Moon Investigations

Eoin Colfer

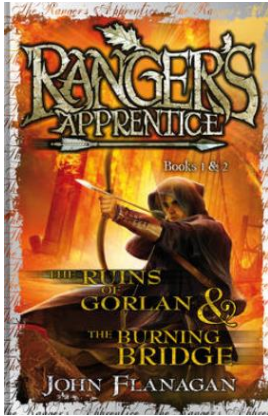
Fletcher Moon is a twelve year old private detective: with a dozen successful investigations under his belt, he's planning to head for the big time. No more kids' stuff for him. Moon wants real cases and real money. With Doobie Doyle, an eight year old with sharp eyes and a big mouth as his best informant, Moon gets cracking on some serious business.



Holes

Louis Sachar

Stanley Yelnats' family has a history of bad luck going back generations, so he is not too surprised when a miscarriage of justice sends him to Camp Green Lake Juvenile Detention Centre. Nor is he very surprised when he is told that his daily labour at the camp is to dig a hole, five foot wide by five foot deep, and report anything that he finds in that hole. The warden claims that it is character building, but this is a lie and Stanley must dig up the truth.



Ranger's Apprentice *
John Flanagan

"It's a fun and exciting series that never gets boring" Matt

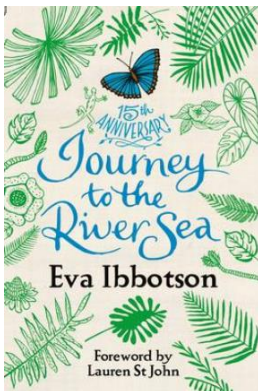
"It's funny, exciting and mysterious. If you like action, adventure and suspense this book will be great for you!" Corben

Will, you have been chosen. You and you alone. You will become the eyes and ears of the kingdom, learning to move silent as a shadow. Your arrow will fly true and your sword will be swift, risking your life to protect your people. You are the Ranger's Apprentice. Are you ready?



Inkheart
Cornelia Funke

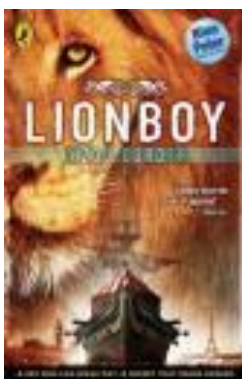
Meggie is the daughter of a revered bookbinder called Mo whose peaceful existence is one night shattered by the arrival of Dustfinger--a shadowy man with a mysterious link to Mo's past. Mo and Meggie are soon on the move, running from something that threatens everything they hold dear.



Journey to the River Sea
Eva Ibbotson

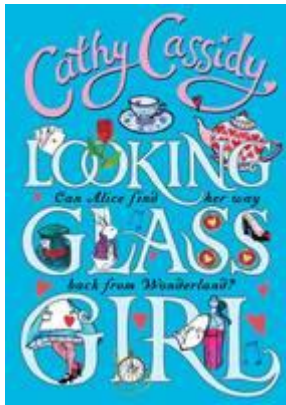
It's 1910 and orphaned Maia is sent off to stay with her relatives far, far away in the heart of the Amazon jungle. She's excited by the prospect of living such an inspiring place but soon finds that life with her twin cousin's Gwendolyn and Beatrice is torture.

How Maia escapes and thrives with the help of her redoubtable governess is a glorious drama against a magical background.



Lionboy
Zizou Corder

This is the story of Charlie Ashanti, who discovers he can speak the language of cats after he is scratched by a big cat on a trip to Africa as a baby. It's a gift he has had all his life, but he only discovers how essential it can be when his scientist parents suddenly go missing. They were on the brink of a historic medical discovery and the suspicion is that somebody has kidnapped them. Charlie uses his network of cat friends to track their journey overseas to Paris, and to get across the English Channel he inadvertently joins the crew of a travelling Circus Ship.



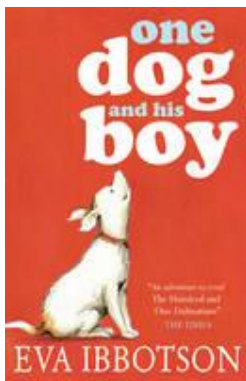
Looking-Glass Girl
Cathy Cassidy

Alice nearly didn't go to the sleepover. Why would Savvy, queen of the school, invite someone like her? Now Alice is lying unconscious in a hospital bed. Lost in a wonderland of dreams and half-formed memories, she's surrounded by voices - the doctor, her worried friends and Luke, whose kisses the night of the fall took her by surprise ...When the accident happened her world vanished - can Alice ever find her way back?



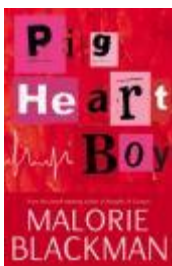
My Brother's Secret
Dan Smith

Germany, 1941. 12-year-old Karl Friedmann is looking forward to joining the Hitler Youth, like all boys his age. But when his father is killed, his rebellious older brother Stefan shows him things that leave his faith in the Fuhrer shaken. What does it mean to be a good German? What does it mean to wear the mysterious flower sewn inside his brother's jacket? Who is the real enemy?



One Dog and His Boy
Eva Ibbotson

A dog would damage the expensive carpets in Hal's glamorous home, and his wealthy parents refuse to consider one. Then they discover Easy Pets, a convenient dog-rental agency. Terrier Fleck arrives on Hal's birthday, but when Hal discovers that his dog must be returned, he runs away. Hal and Fleck are joined by a group of pedigree breeds joyfully escaping from Easy Pets \- among them is Otto, the wise and sombre St Bernard, and the fierce and excitable Pekinese Li-Chee. A large reward is offered for the missing boy, and soon Hal and his dogs are being chased across the country by ruthless pursuers. Helped by a travelling circus, and the sympathetic children from an orphanage, they race for their freedom.



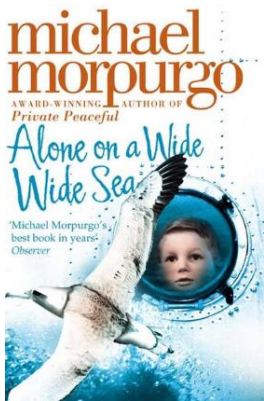
Pig Heart Boy
Malorie Blackman

Cameron's operation is risky. Very risky. He needs a new heart and the best match comes from an unusual source - a pig. A pig heart transplant has never been done before. It may not work out and it's controversial but Cameron and his family are prepared to give it a try. After all, it's the one chance Cameron has of leading a normal life and at thirteen that's the one thing he really wants to do. Told by Cameron as he faces up to the bravest decision of his life this is an emotionally rich and thought-provoking story



Private Peaceful
Michael Morpurgo

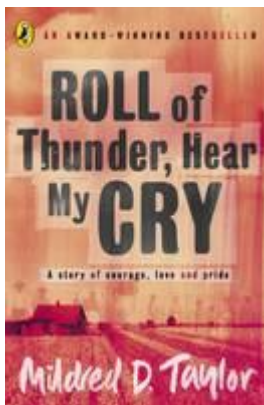
Heroism or cowardice? A stunning story of the First World War from a master storyteller. Told in the voice of a young soldier, the story follows 24 hours in his life at the front during WW1, and captures his memories as he looks back over his life. Full of stunningly researched detail and engrossing atmosphere, the book leads to a dramatic and moving conclusion. Both a love story and a deeply moving account of the horrors of the First World War, this book will reach everyone from 9 to 90.



Alone on a Wide Wide Sea *
Michael. Morpurgo

"It's an emotional and realistic story that really makes you think about how lucky you are" Vatan

A touching and tender story about an unusual childhood. Arthur is shipped off to Australia as a six year old orphan during World War Two. He suffers physical and emotional hardship as well as some rarer moments of kindness and compassion during a roller coaster of a childhood which he narrates simply and without being too judgemental. Unsurprisingly, his adult life is chaotic and only his love of the sailing holds him together and which ultimately links him up with his long lost sister.



Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry
Mildred Delois Taylor

ADVANCED RECOMMENDATION

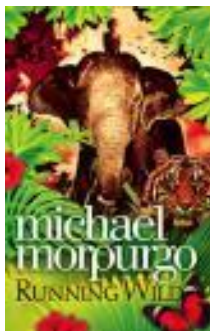
Mildred D. Taylor's much-loved classic, for readers aged 12+, Roll of Thunder Hear My Cry follows a feisty African-American girl - Cassie Logan - as she grows up in Mississippi during the Great Depression and learns the shocking realities of racism. Perfect for fans of The Help , Malorie Blackman and To Kill a Mockingbird . 'Look out there, Cassie girl, all that belongs to you.' Cassie finds it difficult to understand why the farm means so much to her father. But, as she witnesses the hatred and destruction all around her, she begins to learn the importance of standing up for your rights. The powerful and moving story of growing up during the American Depression. Mildred D. Taylor was born in Jackson, Mississippi and is the author of several young adult novels which tackle issues of race, including: the iconic Roll of Thunder Hear My Cry , Let the Circle Be Unbroken and The Land .



Rooftoppers
Katherine Rundell

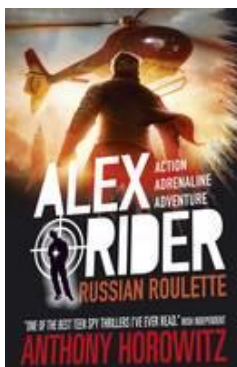
Join plucky heroine Sophie, her eccentric guardian Charles, and her intrepid orphan allies on the rooftops of Victorian Paris, as they encounter suspense and adventure that will keep kids of all ages on the edge of their seats right to the heartwarming end.

Readers who enjoyed the Lemony Snicket books, Ellen Potter's *The Kneebone Boy*, Cornelia Funke's *The Thief Lord*, and Sally Gardner's *I, Coriander* will want to put *Rooftoppers* on their Must Read list.



Running Wild
Michael Morpurgo

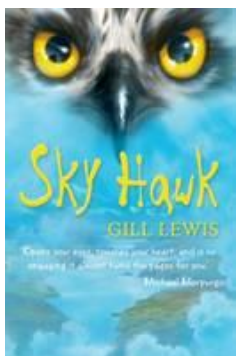
Trying to get over his father's death, Will and his mother travel to Indonesia for a trip of a life time. For his Christmas present, Will is given a ride on an elephant. Elephants are his favourite animals and when Will sets off on Oona's back he feels like a king. But then Oona begins to act strangely and soon she and Will are fighting for their lives as the great tsunami comes crashing in.



Russian Roulette *
Anthony Horowitz

"It's an action packed series full of adventure with a 14 year old spy" Tom

In the prequel to the number one bestselling Alex Rider series by Anthony Horowitz, contract killer Yassen Gregorovich is given orders to kill Alex. But Yassen knows a secret from the past that connects him to the fourteen-year-old spy. What is it that makes one of them choose to do evil, and what does it take to turn him into a killer?



Sky Hawk
Gill Lewis

When Callum and his friends find Iona on Callum's farm they try to chase her back into the village. But Iona runs from them up into the hills. It is late and dark and snow lies in the mountain gullies. Worried for Iona's safety, Callum follows to find her shivering with cold but refusing to leave. She is guarding a secret hidden in the forest above the dark waters of the loch. So they make a deal. Iona shares the secret and in return Callum allows her back onto the farm. They form a deep bond of friendship and make a promise to keep their secret safe. It is a promise that will change Callum's world forever ...She turned her head, and fixed me with her brilliant yellow eyes. She looked right into me. And suddenly I knew then, in that one moment, I was as much part of her world as she was of mine.



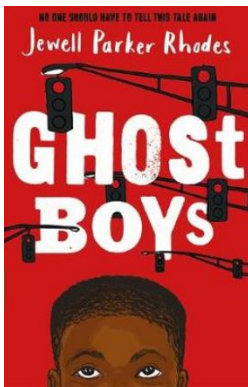
Skellig
David Almond

When a move to a new house coincides with his baby sister's illness, Michael's world seems suddenly lonely and uncertain. Then, one Sunday afternoon, he stumbles into the old, ramshackle garage of his new home, and finds something magical. A strange creature - part owl, part angel, a being who needs Michael's help if he is to survive. With his new friend Mina, Michael nourishes Skellig back to health, while his baby sister languishes in the hospital. But Skellig is far more than he at first appears, and as he helps Michael breathe life into his tiny sister, Michael's world changes forever ...



The Accidental Prime Minister
Tom McLaughlin

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!



Ghost Boys
Jewell Parker Rhodes

A powerful short novel that will undoubtedly challenge readers to consider the reality of racism and the Black Lives Matter campaign. Twelve-year-old Jerome doesn't get into trouble. He goes to school. He does his homework. He takes care of his little sister. Then Jerome is shot by a police officer who mistakes his toy gun for a real threat. DEAD As a ghost, watching his family trying to cope with his death, Jerome begins to notice other ghost boys. Each boy has a story and they all have something in common... Bit by bit, Jerome begins to understand what really happened - not just to him, but to all of the ghost boys.



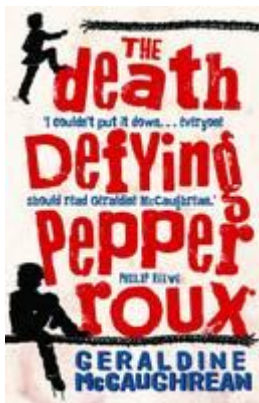
The Company of Ghosts
Berlie Doherty

It was a seascape, moody with rocks and cliffs and wild showers of spray. Ellie's own reflection was drawn into it, like a ghost image among the lights and shadows. 'That's our island,' Morag said. 'It looks mysterious.' 'It is. That's where we're going tomorrow.' Ellie is excited to be going with Morag's family to their beautiful island, but when she finds herself abandoned there, things begin to change. Footsteps, shadows, strange lights, a haunting song; more and more she becomes aware that she is not really on her own.



The Dark Wild
Piers Torday

Twelve-year-old Kester thought he had discovered the last wild animals in the land. He thought his adventure was over. He was wrong. Below the sparkling city of Premium, deep underground, a dark wild remains: animals who believe the time is right to rise up against their human enemies. And soon Kester realises: he is the only one who can stop them. Kester Jaynes saved the animals. Can he save the humans too?



The Death Defying Pepper Roux
Geraldine McCaughrean

When Pepper Roux was born his aunt foretold that he would not live past 14 years of age. Throughout his childhood his parents haven't bothered with him much, knowing that his life would be short-lived. So when Pepper wakes up on his 14th birthday he knows this will be the day that he'll die. But as the day wears on, and Pepper finds himself still alive, he decides to set off to sea in an attempt to try and avoid death for as long as possible. As time goes on Pepper steps into many roles and personas and has numerous outrageous adventures. But can he stay one step ahead of death? Or will fate catch up with him? And, if he does live, which of his many lives will he choose to adopt?



The Graveyard Book
Neil Gaiman

Spooks galore in this brilliant and fantastic story of life in the graveyard. When Baby Bod escapes a murderer intent on killing his whole family, he is taken in by the graveyard ghosts. In eight chapters, each of which depicts every other year of Bod's life, a separate story of Bod's life unfolds and always in the background there is the sinister, haunting presence of a killer.



The Machine Gunners
Robert Westall

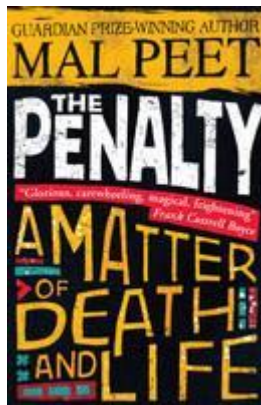
'Some bright kid's got a gun and 2000 rounds of live ammo. And that gun's no peashooter. It'll go through a brick wall at a quarter of a mile.' Chas McGill has the second-best collection of war souvenirs in Garmouth, and he desperately wants it to be the best. When he stumbles across the remains of a German bomber crashed in the woods - its shiny, black machine-gun still intact - he grabs his chance. Soon he's masterminding his own war effort with dangerous and unexpected results...



The Midnight Folk
John Masefield

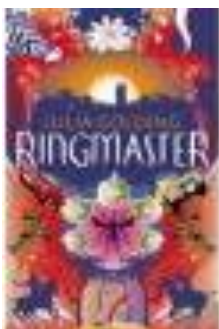
'You ought to know about the treasure, Kay ...for until it is restored or traced, no man of our name ought to rest.' Determined to recover the long-lost family treasure, Kay finds himself in a race against the evil Abner Brown. Abner has his witch friends and his dark magic to help him, but Kay has the very special Midnight Folk.

John Masefield's classic children's book is considered to be one of the great works of modern children's fiction.



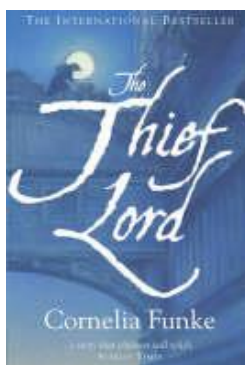
The Penalty
Mal Peet

This is the thrilling sequel to the award-winning Keeper . As the city of San Juan pulses to summer's sluggish beat, its teenage football prodigy El Brujito, the Little Magician, vanishes without trace. Paul Faustino, South America's top sports journalist, is reluctantly drawn into the mystery. As a story of corruption and murder unfolds, he is forced to confront a bitter history of slavery, and the power of the occult.



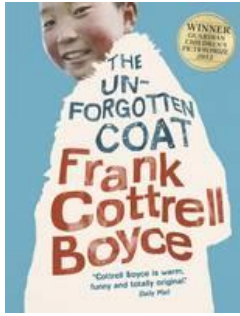
The Ringmaster
Julia Golding

Darcie Lock is inadvertently thrown into a world of SAS men, espionage, corruption, polo games and fashion parades when her father is taken hostage while investigating an international smuggling ring. Darcie is commissioned to find out what happened. Armed with her sharp wit and only a few gadgets, can Darcie save her father?



The Thief Lord
Cornelia Funke

Winter has come early to Venice. Two orphaned children are on the run, hiding among the crumbling canals and misty alleyways of the city. Befriended by a gang of street children and their mysterious leader, the Thief Lord, they shelter in an old, disused cinema. On their trail is a bungling detective, obsessed with disguises and the health of his pet tortoises. But a greater threat to the boys' new-found freedom is something from a forgotten past - a beautiful magical treasure with the power to spin time itself.



The Unforgotten Coat **Frank Cottrell Boyce**

From the award-winning author of Millions comes a story of friendship in the midst of adversity. Winner of the 2012 Guardian Children's Fiction Prize, this magical and poignant book is enriched by stunning and atmospheric Polaroid photos.

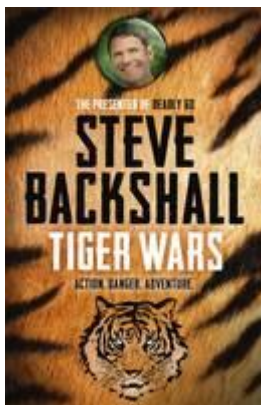
Two refugee brothers from Mongolia are determined to fit in with their Liverpool schoolmates, but bring so much of Mongolia to Bootle that their new friend and guide, Julie, is hard-pressed to know truth from fantasy.



The White Giraffe * **Lauren St John**

"It follows the life of a young girl who had to go to Africa due to a fire. It's full of adventures, good and bad, and it wants you to keep reading." Laura

Lauren St John's stunning debut novel about a young English orphan, Martine, sent to live on a South African game reserve with a grandmother she never knew existed. Rich with the scents, sounds and intoxicating magic of Africa, it follows the magical story of 11 year old Martine as she meets her soulmate, a young white giraffe named Jemmy. When Martine's parents are killed, she is sent to live in Africa with her grandmother who seems to be hiding something from her....a wonderful adventure ensues



Tiger Wars **Steve Backshall**

Deadly Adversaries. An Impossible Mission. Tiger Wars.

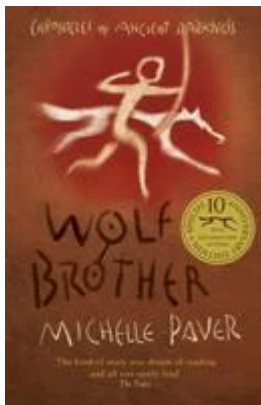
Gripping adventure fiction from Deadly TV presenter Steve Backshall, perfect for fans of Anthony Horowitz and Charlie Higson. This is the first adventure in the Falcon Chronicles, filled with intrigue, adventure, exotic wildlife and dramatic locations. As Saker and Sinter rescue tigers or mountain gorillas, thwart shark finners and cyanide fishers, rainforest exploiters and canned hunters, they come face to face with the world's most fascinating, majestic and lethal creatures.



Wishing for tomorrow **Hilary McKay**

The Sequel to the Little Princess

A new chapter to the story of Sara Crew has been cleverly crafted by Hilary McKay who picks up the threads at Miss Minchin's after Sara has left and, in particular, the loneliness of Sara's friend Ermengarde who is teased mercilessly by her peers. Ermengarde's life is transformed by the attention of her Aunt Eliza but Ermengarde cannot rest until she has made her peace with Sara. She has to do everything she can to see Sara before she returns to India. A must for all readers who like Hilary McKay herself have asked, "What happened next?"



Wolf Brother
Michelle Paver

Thousands of years ago the land is one dark forest. Its people are hunter-gatherers. They know every tree and herb and they know how to survive in a time of enchantment and powerful magic. Until an ambitious and malevolent force conjures a demon: a demon so evil that it can be contained only in the body of a ferocious bear that will slay everything it sees, a demon determined to destroy the world. Only one boy can stop it - 12 year old Torak, who has seen his father murdered by the bear. With his dying breath, Torak's father tells his son of the burden that is his. He must lead the bear to the mountain of the World Spirit and beg that spirit's help to overcome it. Torak is an unwilling hero. He is scared and trusts no one. His only companion is a wolf cub only three moons old, whom he seems to understand better than any human. There is a terrifying quest in a world of wolves, tree spirits and Hidden People, a world in which trusting a friend means risking your life.



The Song from Somewhere Else
A F Harrold

A.F. Harrold blends reality and imagination in a moving and thought-provoking story about friendship, loneliness and being brave when things are difficult. Bullied at school and unsupported at home, Frank makes an unusual friendship with Nick, the weird boy in her class who everyone else shuns. After Nick rescues Frank from the bullies, she goes round to his house where she discovers something very unusual. What should Frank believe about what she sees? And should she keep Nick's secret?



Wonder
R. J. Palacio

'My name is August. I won't describe what I look like. Whatever you're thinking, it's probably worse.' Auggie wants to be an ordinary ten-year-old. He does ordinary things - eating ice cream, playing on his Xbox. He feels ordinary - inside. But ordinary kids don't make other ordinary kids run away screaming in playgrounds. Ordinary kids aren't stared at wherever they go. Born with a terrible facial abnormality, Auggie has been home-schooled by his parents his whole life. Now, for the first time, he's being sent to a real school - and he's dreading it. All he wants is to be accepted - but can he convince his new classmates that he's just like them, underneath it all? Wonder is a funny, frank, astonishingly moving debut to read in one sitting, pass on to others, and remember long after the final page.