

GORDON'S SCHOOL - ENGLISH DEPARTMENT

KEYSTAGE 3 READING LIST

The English department at Gordon's places strong emphasis on the encouragement of reading and like students to carry a reading book with them every day. Private reading is a regular feature of English lessons.

The list of titles below is by no means a complete list but aims to offer suggestions of titles for those students who wish to read lightly and purely for pleasure as well as those who are enthusiastic readers and are looking for the challenge of more demanding novels.

Many of the books are available in the school library.

Adams, Douglas

Hitch Hiker's Guide To The Galaxy

Just before the Earth is demolished, Arthur Dent is plucked off the planet by his friend Ford Prefect. There are 3 other books in this series.

Adams, Richard

Watership Down

A story of rebellion in a rabbit warren and the subsequent adventures of the rebels.

Aitken, Joan

The Wolves of Willoughby Chase

This book is set early in the 19th century - in a period of English history that never happened. For Good King James III is on the throne, and the country is ravaged by wolves who have migrated through a newly-opened Channel Tunnel.

Alcock, Vivien

The Cuckoo Sister

A scruffy, undernourished teenager appears at the door of Kate's parents' London home, bearing a note that she is their long-lost child, stolen from her pram as a baby.

Alcott, Louisa May

Little Women

Chronicles the joys and sorrows of the four March sisters as they grow into young ladies in nineteenth-century New England.

Almond, David

Skellig

Unhappy about his baby sister's illness and the chaos of moving house, Michael retreats to the garage and finds a mysterious stranger who is something like a bird and something like an angel. Other books by this author include Heaven Eyes, Kit's Wilderness.

Anderson, Rachel

Warlands

No one really knew the true story of Uncle Ho's early life before he came to Amy's family. All they knew was that he was a Vietnamese orphan, born among the bombings and terrors of war. But the warland nightmares in Uncle Ho's head won't go away.

Anthony, Michael

Green Days by the River

This story tells the story of a 15-year-old boy moving from childhood to maturity. He has to adjust to a new and strange environment when his parents move to a village in Trinidad.

Austen, Jane

Emma

Depicts a rich and beautiful heiress whose matchmaking schemes cause many complications.

Pride And Prejudice

Mr and Mrs Bennet live with their five daughters. Jane, the eldest, falls in love with Charles Bingley, a rich bachelor who takes a house nearby with his friend Fitzwilliam Darcy. Darcy is attracted to the second daughter, Elizabeth

Bawden, Nina

Carrie's War

Carrie and her younger brother spend World War II as evacuees in a Welsh village where Carrie, upset by a family feud, commits an act that haunts her for thirty years. Other books by Nina Bawden include The Outside Child, The Finding, ... and many more.

Berry, James

The Anansi Stories

The African culture, like many others, has trickster tales - a folktale whose main character is an animal who tricks other animals. One of the favourite characters of African trickster tales is Anansi the Spider. Tales of Anansi can be found on the website:
www.motherlandnigeria.com/stories.html

Blackman, Malorie

Noughts And Crosses

Callum is a nought - a second-class citizen in a world run by the ruling Crosses. He is also one of the first nought youngsters to be given the chance to study at a school for Crosses. Sephy is a Cross - can Callum and Sephy possibly find a way to be together?

Blume, Judy

Tiger Eyes

Davey is haunted by the horror of her father's murder. Then, one day, she meets a mysterious young man called Wolf ... Other books by Judy Blume include Deenie, Are You There God It's Me Margaret, Then Again Maybe I Won't ... and many more.

Bowler, Tim

River Boy

Grandpa is dying. He can barely move his hands any more but, stubborn as ever, refuses to stay in hospital. He's determined to finish his last painting, 'River Boy', before he goes.
At first Jess can't understand his refusal to let go, but then she too becomes involved in the mysterious painting. And when she meets the river boy himself, she finds she is suddenly caught up in a challenge of her own that she must complete - before it's too late ...

Bradbury, Ray

The Golden Apples of the Sun

This book of science fiction short stories includes tales of the captain who takes a rocket to the sun to bring back a cup of sunlight, and the loveless girl who travels at night into bodies not her own.

The Illustrated Man

This collection of science fiction stories deals with love, madness, and death on Mars, Venus and in space.

Bronte, Charlotte	<p><u>Jane Eyre</u> Eyre is a poor young teacher who goes to work for the rich Mr Rochester. They love each other and decide to marry but he hides a terrible secret which will bring them both great sadness.</p>
Bronte, Emily	<p><u>Wuthering Heights</u> Wuthering Heights is a house on the lonely moors of Yorkshire. Catherine Earnshaw and Heathcliffe fall in love but Cathy marries another man, Edgar Linton, and breaks Heathcliffe's heart. Returning years later, he takes his revenge on the Linton family.</p>
Bryson, Bill	<p><u>A Walk In The Woods</u> This is a humorous report on his walk along the Appalachian Trail. The Trail is the longest continuous footpath in the world and it snakes through some of the wildest and most spectacular landscapes in America.</p>
Burgess, Melvyn	<p><u>Junk</u> Tells, in the voices of many individuals, of two fourteen-year-old runaways in Bristol, who find a home with anarchists and get involved in vandalism, shoplifting and prostitution to support their growing addiction to heroin. (Ultimately a moral book but some disturbing content.)</p>
Burnett, Frances Hodgson	<p><u>The Secret Garden</u> After the death of her parents, Mary Lennox is brought back from India to live in her uncle's great lonely house. Then one day, she discovers the key to a secret garden and, as if by magic, her life begins to change.</p>
Byars, Betsy	<p><u>The Eighteenth Emergency</u> When Benjie insults Marty, he knows he's made a big mistake because Benji is the school bully. This is a story of how to stand up to bullies. Other titles include The Not Just Anybody Family, The Pinballs, The Midnight Fox ... and many more.</p>
Cabot, Meg	<p><u>The Princess Diaries</u> Manhattan teenager Mia suddenly becomes a princess! Mia begins taking princess lessons from her old "grandmere" and is followed everywhere by a trigger happy bodyguard.</p>
Carpenter, Humphrey	<p><u>Shakespeare Without The Boring Bits</u> Presents simplified retellings of nine of Shakespeare's plays.</p>
Chick, Sandra	<p><u>Don't Look Back</u> Lisa Brunt lives with her Gran. Desperate to escape her life, Lisa makes the same mistake her mother made - she becomes pregnant. But Lisa is determined that no matter what, she will survive.</p>
Christie, Agatha	<p><u>The Body In The Library</u> The blonde lying on the hearth rug in the library had been strangled. The police follow all the leads. The number of suspects multiplies. But it is Miss Marple who finds the thread linking all the clues. Other titles include Nemesis, Murder On The Orient Express ... and many more.</p>

Christopher, John	<p><u>The Guardians</u> In the divided England of the distant future, a recently-orphaned boy flees the sprawling area known as the Conurb for the serene world of the County where the people seem to live a simpler existence.</p>
Colfer, Eoin	<p><u>Artemis Fowl</u> When a twelve-year-old evil genius tries to restore his family fortune by capturing a fairy and demanding a ransom in gold, the fairies fight back with magic, technology and a particularly nasty troll.</p>
Cooper, Susan	<p><u>The Dark is Rising</u> On his eleventh birthday Will Stanton discovers that he is the last of the Old Ones, destined to seek the six magical Signs that will enable the Old Ones to triumph over the evil forces of the Dark. Further books in the series are Over Sea Under Stone, Greenwitch, The Grey King, Silver On The Tree.</p>
Creech, Sharon	<p><u>Ruby Holler</u> Dallas and Florida knew all the rules. They also knew the punishments for disobeying the rules, because they had broken every rule in the orphanage. Many times. Eventually, an elderly couple ask the children to come and live with them in Ruby Holler and share some wonderful adventures. Some adventures turn out to be those you haven't planned for at all - especially when you have two unruly kids.</p>
Cross, Gillian	<p><u>The Demon Headmaster</u> Something is horribly wrong at Dinah's new school - the children are strangely neat and well behaved. What is the secret of the Headmaster's control? Dinah is determined to unravel the mystery of the sinister Headmaster.</p>
Crossley, Kevin	<p><u>Arthur: The Seeing Stone</u> Secrets and mysteries surround Arthur, a boy who waits to grow up and become a knight, and watches his namesake's story unfold in a stone given to him by Merlin.</p>
Dahl, Roald	<p><u>Matilda</u> Matilda is a little girl who is far too good to be true. At age 5½ she's doing double-digit multiplication problems and blitz-reading Dickens. Her classmates love her even though she's a nerd and the teacher's pet. But everything in her life is not perfect. Other books by Roald Dahl include Tales Of The Unexpected and Boy.</p>
Danziger, Paula	<p><u>PS Longer Letter Later</u> Elizabeth and Tara*Starr are totally different but they are best friends. When Tara moves away, the girls continue their friendship through letters and so we learn what happens to them and how they realize that they can depend on each other and on themselves. Other books include It's An Aardvark-Eat-Turtle World, The Divorce Express ... and many more.</p>

Davies, Andrew	<p><u>Conrad's War</u> Currently fascinated with wars, army, killing and guns, Conrad becomes convinced that through dreams or time warp he is experiencing action in a past war.</p>
Dickens, Charles	<p><u>A Christmas Carol</u> Through the intervention of four ghosts, Ebenezer Scrooge is shown the spirit of Christmas.</p> <p><u>David Copperfield</u> From his boyhood at the knee of his nurse, to the cruelties of Salem House Academy and his youthful adoration of Dora Spenlow, David Copperfield learns about life, love and the world. His life is filled with memorable characters - the Micawbers, Uriah Heep and Steerforth.</p> <p><u>Great Expectations</u> The classic story of orphan Pip and the mysterious fortune which falls into his lap, his snobbish rejection of his old friends and his growth through pain and mishap into true maturity.</p>
Dickinson, Peter	<p><u>The Weathermonger</u> People of the future recreate the Middle Ages by destroying machines and by subjecting anyone found with a machine or a knowledge of mechanics to severe punishment or death.</p>
Digby, Anne	<p><u>The Trebizon series</u> Rebecca Mason goes to boarding school at Trebizon. These are the stories of her school days and the adventures she has.</p>
Doyle, Sir Arthur Conan	<p><u>Sherlock Holmes Stories</u> A Study In Scarlet and The Extraordinary Adventures of Sherlock Holmes are just two of the books telling of the remarkable detective skills of Sherlock Holmes and his partner, Dr Watson.</p>
Durrell, Gerald	<p><u>My Family and Other Animals</u> These are the memoirs of an English boy growing up on Corfu. Gerald collects all kinds of animals and insects and brings them back to the house, much to his family's dismay.</p>
Elliot, George	<p><u>Silas Marner</u> Driven out of the religious community to which he belongs, Silas Marner takes refuge in the village of Raveloe. He is a lonely man, whose only comfort is his gold. One night his gold is stolen and he is left with nothing, until a small child wanders into his cottage.</p>
Evans, Nicholas	<p><u>The Horse Whisperer</u> In New York, a 13-year-old girl and her horse are hit by a truck. They both survive, but suffer horrible injuries. When the girl's mother hears about a man said to have the gift of healing troubled horses, they set off for distant Montana, where their lives are changed forever.</p>

Evans, Nicholas

The Smoke Jumper

Set against the backdrop of the American West and the wilds of Africa, this novel reveals a story of friendship, passion and honour that charts three people's quest for happiness and self-discovery.

Farley, W

The Black Stallion

Young Alec Ramsay is shipwrecked on a desert island with a horse destined to play an important part in his life. Following their rescue their adventure continues in America.

Fine, Anne

Flour Babies

For the annual school science fair, Mr Cartright's class don't get to work on the Soap Factory, the Maggot Farm or the Exploding Custard Tins. To their intense disgust they get the Flour Babies - sweet little six-pound bags of flour that must be cared for at all times.

Up On Cloud Nine

'How stupid do you have to be to fall out of a top-floor window?' Or was Stolly trying something else? Stolly had always been so alive, so inspiring, notorious for being the school's most imaginative liar (or fantasist as he called it). But now he's lying in a hospital bed and Ian, his best friend, is watching, waiting and remembering ...

Book of the Banshee

A humorous look at modern family life as a 'war zone'. Other books by this author include The Granny Project, Madame Doubtfire ... and may others.

Fisk, Nicholas

Grinny

Tim and Beth have never heard of Great Aunt Emma before, so they are shocked when she appears on their doorstep. Soon they make a horrifying discovery: this old woman is as dangerous as a time-bomb, and she has a fearful task to perform, which involves them.

Frank, Ann

The Diary of Ann Frank

The Diary of Anne Frank" is the story of a Jewish girl and her life during World War II, told through the diary which she kept during the War.

Gaarder, Jostein

The Solitaire Mystery

Twelve-year-old Hans and his father are on a journey to Greece when a series of unusual incidents occurs: a dwarf gives Hans a magnifying glass; a baker gives him a bun containing a miniature book; and what of the Joker who looks too deeply and too much?

Sophie's World

Sophie finds two questions in her mailbox: "Who are you?" and "Where does the world come from?" This is the start of her journey through the history of philosophy, guided by a mysterious mentor. To find the truth, we must understand the questions, but the truth is stranger than Sophie can imagine.

Through A Glass Darkly

As Cecilia lies ill in bed and her family prepare for Christmas in the knowledge that she won't get better, an angel steps in through her window. There follows a series of conversations between them which change Cecilia and her relationship with her family.

- Gallico, Paul** The Snow Goose
A love story centring on Philip, a hunchback, who lives alone in an abandoned lighthouse except for the flocks of geese that migrate during the cold winter months, and a young girl from the local village who brings him a snow goose wounded by a gun shot.
- Garfield, Leon** Six Apprentices
This is a collection of six tales about life in the 18th century.
- Garner, Alan** Elidor
Roland, Helen, Nicholas and David are lured into a ruined church, where they enter into the twilight world of Elidor. The group are charged with guarding the treasures of the dying land. Then the evil forces find a path through to this world.
- Red Shift
Visions torment Tom, Macey and Thomas as they struggle with age-old forces. Can those they love keep them clinging to reality? Or is the future destined to reflect the past?
- The Owl Service
It all begins with the scratching in the ceiling. From the moment Alison discovers the dinner service in the attic, with its curious pattern of floral owls, a chain of events is set in progress that is to affect everybody's lives.
- Weirdstone of Brisinganen
The wizard who saves Colin and Susan from the eerie creatures pursuing them across Alderley Edge has been looking for the Weirdstone of Brisingamen - a source of deep magic - for over 100 years. As evil closes in, the children realize that they are the key.
- Gavin, Jamila** Coram Boy
This is an historical novel which delves into a hidden side of 18th-century England: the world of infanticide and child slavery.
- The Wheel Of Surya
Book 1 of the trilogy tells of an Indian brother and sister who are separated from their mother and home. Their only hope of survival is to find their father in England. But England isn't the refuge they expect.
- The Eye Of The Horse
Book 2 of the trilogy centres on the efforts of two young Sikhs, Marvinder and Jaspal, to work out their own identity and allegiances. Scenes shift from their traditional village to a poor area of London, finally returning to newly independent India. The trilogy ends with "The Track of the Wind".
- Geras, Adele** Snapshots of Paradise and other stories
Ten short stories offer insights into joy and pain, humour and loss, love and death.
- Gleitzman, Morris** Two Weeks With The Queen
This is the funny and moving account of a boy's quest to save his brother. Colin decides to take the problem of his brother's cancer to the most important person he knows - the Queen.

Golding, William	<p><u>Lord of the Flies</u> This is the story of a group of boys who, after a plane crash, set up a fragile community on a previously uninhabited island. As memories of home recede and the blood from frenzied pig-hunts arouses them, the boys' childish fear turns into something deeper and more primitive.</p>
Graham, Kenneth	<p><u>Wind in the Willows</u> Ratty introduces Mole to life on the riverbank and the trouble prone Toad. Mole and friends help Toad out of several scrapes, finally battling to reclaim Toad Hall from the Dark Wood Animals.</p>
Gray, Nigel	<p><u>Shots</u> A powerful novel set in a multi-racial street which erupts with emotion and violence.</p>
Guy, Rosa	<p><u>The Friends</u> Phyllisia eventually recognizes that her own selfish pride rather than her mother's death and her father's tyrannical behaviour created the gulf between her and her best friend.</p>
Hadden, Mark	<p><u>The Curious Incident Of The Dog In The Night-time</u> This is a murder mystery novel in which the detective, and narrator, is Christopher Boone. Christopher is fifteen and has Asperger's, a form of autism. He knows a lot about maths and very little about human beings. He loves lists, patterns and the truth. He hates yellow and brown and being touched. He has never gone further than the end of the road on his own, but when he finds a neighbour's dog murdered he sets out on a terrifying journey which will turn his whole world upside down.</p>
Halvorson, Marilyn	<p><u>Cowboys Don't Cry</u> A first-person narrative about a boy growing up and coming to grips with who he is.</p>
Hardy, Thomas	<p><u>Tess of the D'Urbervilles</u> This is the tale of Tess Durbeyfield, wronged by two men and driven to vengeful murder.</p> <p><u>The Withered Arm and other Wessex Tales</u> Short stories</p>
Harris, Joanne	<p><u>Blackberry Wine</u> Jay's memories are revived by the delivery of a bottle of home-brewed wine from a friend. Jay, disillusioned by adulthood, escapes to a derelict farmhouse in France. There he faces old demons and the beautiful Marise, a woman who hides a terrible secret.</p> <p><u>Chocolat</u> When an exotic stranger opens a chocolate boutique in a French village at the beginning of Lent, the traditional season for self-denial, it divides the community and causes a conflict that escalates into a "church not chocolate" battle.</p>

- Harris, Ruth Elwyn** The Silent Shore (Quantock Quartet series)
This series tells of the lives and loves of four sisters and their neighbours, the Mackenzies. Set during the early 20th century, it encompasses two World Wars and the sisters' individual stories are told against the backdrop of the major events of the time.
- Lian Hearn** Across The Nightingale Floor
In his black-walled fortress, the warlord Iida Sadamu surveys his famous nightingale floor - it sings at the tread of each human foot. No assassin can cross it unheard.
Takeo is one of the Hidden, a peaceful people who know nothing of war. But the community is massacred, and Takeo alone survives.
Takeo's quest for revenge takes him to places he has never envisioned. It is also a journey of self-discovery, as he learns of talents he did not know he had: preternatural hearing, invisibility and the ability to be in two places at once. Ultimately, though, it is a journey that will lead Takeo to his hidden destiny.
- Hill, Susan** I'm the King of the Castle
Young Kingshaw and his mother have come to live with Hooper and his father in the isolated Victorian house. To Hooper, Kingshaw is an intruder, a boy to be persecuted.
- Hines, Barry** A Kestrel For A Knave
This novel tells the story of the relationship between the desperate Billy, a friendless boy living in a soulless northern town, and the fierce kestrel, Kes, which he raises from the nest.
- Hinton, Nigel** Buddy
Buddy's hopeless father is an ageing rocker, interested only in Elvis and bikes, and living on the fringes of the under-world. When Buddy's mum walks out, they manage to strike up a kind of relationship - until Buddy realises that his dad is involved in something more serious.
- Buddy's Song
Buddy's dad Terry is in prison and Buddy thinks it's his fault. Buddy feels lonely and confused and he turns to music, plays his old guitar and learns some Buddy Holly songs. When Terry gets out, he decides Buddy has talent and is determined to make him a star.
- Collision Course
This is the story of a crisis in the life of a young boy who steals a motorbike and accidentally knocks down a pedestrian.
- Holm, Anne** I Am David
This tells of a young boy's journey through Europe after escaping from the camp where he has lived all his life. Faced with a host of new experiences, David gradually begins to understand the world around him.
- Holt, Tom** Alexander At The World's End
The story of two men, Alexander the Great, who conquered empires, and Euxenus, who tackled the drainage problems of a small village. Their paths crossed only briefly but it changed their lives forever.

- Hooper, Mary** The Megan Series
Megan, at age 15, discovers that she is five months pregnant. How she copes, the decisions she has to make, and how her family and friends react are all revealed in this compulsive story. The series continues in Megan(2) and Megan(3)
- Horowitz, Anthony** Point Blanc
Fourteen-year-old Alex Rider, reluctant MI6 spy, is back at school trying to adapt to his new double life ... and to double homework. But MI6 have other plans for him. Investigations into the "accidental" deaths of two of the world's most powerful men have revealed that both had a son attending an exclusive school for rebellious rich kids. Alex must infiltrate the academy as a pupil and establish the truth about what is really happening there. Other books in the series include: Skeleton Key, Storm Breaker, Eagle Strike, Scorpia, Ark Angel.
- Howker, Janni** Badger on the Barge
Each of the five stories in this book are concerned with an encounter between two people - one young, one old. They include Miss Brady, who lives with a badger on a barge, and draws her friend Helen into a plot to defy the authorities, and the shepherd Reicker, an ex-Nazi.
- Isaac Champion
This is an explosive tale, depicting the difficult, often bitter relationship between a son and his horse-dealer father at the beginning of the 20th century.
- Hoy, Linda** Your Friend Rebecca
After her mother's death, Rebecca feels isolated and depressed. Then she goes to the school drama-group, where she begins to develop the strength to regain control of her life and rebuild the relationship with her father.
- Hughes, Ted** The Iron Man
This is the story about a huge iron man who struggles to put himself together after being smashed to pieces falling from a cliff, and then takes on a giant dragon in an unfair contest.
- Jacques, Brian** Seven Strange and Ghostly Tales
These chilling ghost stories features an unforgettable cast of characters, including Henry Mawdsley, who lies too much, Gilly Bodkin, who risks her life for her sweet tooth, and Allie Alma, a girl who likes to steal.
- Tales Of Redwall series
Redwall Abbey, tranquil home to a community of peace-loving mice, is threatened by Cluny the Scourge - the evil, one-eyed rat warlord - and his battle-hardened horde of predators. The series continues with Mossflower, Outcast Of Redwall and many more.
- Jarvis, Robin** The Deptford Histories
Book 1, The Alchemist's Cat, begins in the winter of 1664 and Will Godwin, an alchemist's assistant, finds a cat and her three new-born kittens. Will carries them back to his master's apothecary shop and there unfolds a tale of sorcery, disease, villainy and murder. The series continues with The Oaken Throne and Thomas.

Jarvis, Robin	<p><u>The Deptford Mice</u> Book 1, The Dark Portal, begins in the sewers of Deptford where lurks a dark presence, Jupiter, Lord of All. Into this twilight realm wanders a small and frightened mouse. His death triggers a chain of events which hurl the Deptford Mice into a doom-laden world of terror and sorcery. The adventures continue in The Crystal Prison and The Final Reckoning.</p> <p><u>The Whitby series</u> This series relates the adventures of two orphans, Jennet and Ben. Living in the town of Whitby, they become embroiled in the lives of the fisherfolk - strange creatures whose existence is under threat from deadly enemies.</p>
Johnston, Jennifer	<p><u>Shadows On Our Skin</u> Joe lives with his parents in Derry, where British soldiers are a familiar sight. He befriends a newcomer to Derry, Kathleen, a lonely school teacher. His elder brother returns from London with money to spend and a gun in his pocket, and suddenly Joe's childhood is over.</p>
Jones, Diana Wynne	<p><u>Charmed Life</u> Cat Chant can't even work a simple spell but his older sister Gwendolen is very good at magic and she's determined that her next teacher will be the most powerful enchanter of all, the legendary Chrestomanci. Other books by this author include Hexwood, Dogsboddy and many others.</p>
Jordan, Sherry	<p><u>The Raging Quiet</u> Set in medieval times, this book tells the story of Marnie and Raver each set apart from the community around them: Marnie because she is a newcomer having been brought to the seaside village by her new - and much older - husband; and Raver because he is the village lunatic.</p>
Kaye, Geraldine	<p><u>A Breath of Fresh Air</u> Amy Smith is a Bristol schoolgirl whose interest in slavery is sparked off by a school project. During a thunderstorm, Amy is plunged into the life of Ama, a runaway slave girl who lived in Bristol 200 years ago.</p>
Keith, Lois	<p><u>A Different Life</u> Libby Starling is 15 and dying for the school trip. But Libby becomes disabled after being ducked in the sea, and this novel takes a clear look at the pain and difficulties she faces.</p>
Kemp, Gene	<p><u>The Turbulent Term of Tyke Tyler</u> Tyke Tyler and Danny Price are best friends, much to the despair of the headmaster of their school - because wherever the pair go, trouble is never far behind. During this, their last term, Tyke tries to help Danny stay out of trouble.</p>
Keyes, Daniel	<p><u>Flowers for Algernon</u> In this classic story, Charlie Gordon, a retarded adult who cleans floors and toilets, becomes a genius through an experimental operation.</p>

Lester, Julius	<p><u>Basketball Games</u> This is a story of friendship and young love in the face of prejudice and hostility. A young teenager moves with his parents to a town in the American South, where "a nigger may be lynched" for speaking to a white girl.</p>
Levenkron, Steven	<p><u>The Best Little Girl In The World</u> At her ballet class Francesca realizes she is "fat". With this realization, fat Francesca has to die, and slim Kessa takes her place. Help arrives in the shape of Sandy Sherman, a doctor.</p>
Lewis, C S	<p><u>The Chronicles of Narnia series</u> The stories depict a world where a witch decrees eternal winter; where there are more talking animals than people; and where battles are fought by Centaurs, Giants and Fauns.</p> <p><u>Out Of The Silent Planet</u> This tells of the adventures of Dr Ransom, a Cambridge academic, who is kidnapped and transported first to Mars, where he discovers an amazing range of rational and spiritual creatures, and then to Venus.</p>
Lingard, Joan	<p><u>The Twelfth of July (and sequels)</u> A novel which is part of a series about a young Belfast couple who try to make a new life for themselves. In this book Kevin and his Catholic friends go out to daub slogans in a Protestant territory - an event which leads him to meet Sadie who changes his life.</p>
Lively, Penelope	<p><u>The Ghost of Thomas Kempe</u> The Harrison family moves into a small cottage. There seems to be a joker about and the finger is pointed at James. He decides to find out who is really behind all the upsets.</p>
Lowry, Lois	<p><u>The Giver</u> Given his lifetime assignment at the Ceremony of Twelve, Jonas becomes the receiver of memories shared by only one other in his community and discovers the terrible truth about the society in which he lives.</p> <p><u>The Woods at the End of Autumn Street</u> The adult world is a confusing place in this sad, but humorous, story of a child learning to face life's realities. When Elizabeth goes to live in her grandfather's house in Pennsylvania, there is much that she doesn't understand.</p>
Lutzeier, Elizabeth	<p><u>Lost For Words</u> Aysha has always been the fastest, cleverest and most popular girl in her village. But when she and her mother move to London to begin a new life, Aysha is forced to face a brand new world. Unable to speak the language, she meets pity or contempt at every corner.</p>

- McCaffrey, Anne** Dragon Series
The men who rode the dragons were a breed apart. Chosen when the dragons were first hatched, they became soulmates for life with the huge beasts they controlled - the only creatures who could defend the planet Pern from the blood-red star. These books tell of the world of the dragonriders.
- MacLavery, Bernard** Cal
Springing out of the fear and violence of Ulster, this is a haunting love story in a land where tenderness and innocence can only flicker briefly in the dark.
- The Best of Bernard MacLavery
This is a selection of ten short stories by Bernard MacLavery which are all written from the viewpoints of children or young people
- Magorian, Michelle** A Little Love Song
At seventeen, Rose is convinced no one will ever love her because she has a beautiful older sister. It is 1943 and the girls have been sent to seaside town out of harm's way. Rose unearths a love story set in another war, a story that becomes more real when she falls in love herself ...
- Back Home & 2 others
12-year-old Rusty returns home to England from the US after five years as an evacuee, and is shocked by what she finds - a world of rationing and drabness. Although Rusty feels homesick trying to belong to both countries, her spirit leads her to a dramatic conclusion.
- Goodnight Mr Tom
Willie Beech is evacuated to the country as Britain stands on the brink of World War II. 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.
- Mahy, Margaret** The Catalogue of the Universe
Angela May acts out her burning desire to find and confront her father, whom her mother describes as having been the love affair of her life, but the truth is a very different story.
- The Haunting
Barney recognizes the symptoms as the haunting begins again. Some of his family are sceptical, but others know that there is something special about Barney - they have seen it before.
- Mark, Jan** Thunder and Lightnings
When Andrew's family moves house, he meets his neighbour, Victor. There isn't a thing Victor doesn't know about the RAF planes flying overhead and the two boys are soon busy tracking their movements. Then they learn that Victor's beloved Lightnings are to be scrapped.
- Marshall, James Vance** A River Ran Out of Eden
Unimark, has only four inhabitants - a couple and their two children, Eric and Jess. The father, Jim, earns his money fishing and trapping animals. Eric discovers a golden seal with pups. Will Eric be able to stop his father from hunting the seal?

Marshall, James Vance	<p><u>Walkabout</u> Mary and her young brother Peter are the only survivors of an air crash in the middle of the Australian desert. They are facing death from exhaustion and starvation when they meet an Aboriginal boy who helps them to survive, and guides them on their long journey.</p>
McCaughrean, Geraldine	<p><u>The Kite Rider</u> Set in 13th-century China, this is the adventurous story of Haoyou, a boy who makes his way in the world by flying into the air, strapped to a huge kite.</p> <p><u>Stop The Train</u> It's 1893, and for Cissy and her family, a new life beckons on the prairies of Oklahoma. Along with other settlers, they travel to Florence and prepare for business alongside the Red Rock Railroad track.</p> <p><u>Not the End of the World</u> Everyone knows the story of the Flood, the waters that rose unstopably. The men who survived. The animals that went in two by two. But what about the others? The women and the children. How did it feel to head into the Unknown? Could God really mean them to watch people struggling in the water, and do nothing to help? And how did it feel to spend day after day shut up with every kind of animal - hungry, angry, and afraid?</p>
Montgomery, L M	<p><u>Anne Of Green Gables</u> When the Cuthberts adopt an orphan, they aren't prepared for Anne ("with an 'e'") Shirley. But the spunky heroine wins everyone's heart and finds herself a true home.</p>
Morpurgo, Michael	<p><u>Friend or Foe</u> The Germans are bombing London. Everyone hates the Germans - especially David: they killed his father. And now, because of them, David and Tucky have been evacuated, to live with strangers. Other books by this author include The Nine Lives Of Montezuma and War Horse ... and many more.</p>
Mosco, Maisie	<p><u>Almonds And Raisins</u> Set in Manchester in 1905, this book begins the story of the Sandberg family who, having escaped from Eastern Europe, now struggle through the Great War and the Depression in England.</p>
Murray, Millie	<p><u>Sorrelle</u> Sorrelle is black and has agreed to go out with Arun, an Asian boy. But everyone seems to be against them. Soon Sorrelle is dealing with warring parents and a furious best friend, and hostility from just about everyone she meets on the street.</p>
Naidoo, Beverley	<p><u>The Other Side Of Truth</u> This is the story of "illegal" Nigerian immigrants, 12-year-old Sade and her brother, Femi. Their father is an outspoken political journalist and when their mother is killed they are sent to London. Abandoned, they await their father and learn the difficulties of living as refugees.</p>

- Orwell, George** Animal Farm
Having got rid of their human master, the animals in this political fable look forward to a life of freedom and plenty. But as a clever, ruthless elite takes control, the other animals find themselves hopelessly ensnared in the same old way.
- Paton Walsh, Jill** A Parcel of Patterns
When the villagers of Eyam isolate themselves to prevent the Plague spreading, Mall is separated from her beloved Thomas.
- Pearce, Phillipa** Tom's Midnight Garden
Aunt Gwen's grandfather clock in the hall is very interesting. It seems to have a life of its own. The clock provides the key to a magical world which Tom discovers. It's in the garden that Tom meets an orphaned girl, Hattie
- Pelzer, Dave** A Child Called It
This is the author's story of his childhood as a boy brutally beaten and starved by his emotionally unstable, alcoholic mother. 'The Lost Boy' and 'A Man Named Dave' complete the trilogy.
(NB These books may not be suitable for younger readers)
- Pierce, Tamora** Wolf-Speaker
When humans start destroying the majestic Dunlath Valley, the wolves seek out Daine to intervene. As Daine calls upon her wild magic, she must go even deeper to organize her animal friends and fight an apocalyptic battle.
- The Song Of The Lioness quartet
Alanna of Trebond disguises herself as a boy and begins training to be a knight. Alanna's skills and stubbornness help her befriend Prince Jonathan and alienate his evil uncle, Duke Roger. This book is filled with swords and sorcery, adventure and intrigue, good and evil.
- The Immortals series
Set in Tortall during the reign of King Jonathan III and Queen Thayet, The Immortals' series chronicles a time when the world is invaded by immortal creatures and a girl is born with a magical gift that could restore the very balance of nature.
- The Protector Of The Small quartet
This is the tale of Keladry, a girl who wants just one thing: to win her knight's shield. Kel is allowed to enter the palace school, knowing that she will not exactly be welcomed in her new life.
- Pilling, Anne** Mother's Daily Scream
Set in a vicarage, three children find themselves somewhat ignored as their parents are kept busy caring for the needs of the community. The girl and her friends produce a family newspaper, "Mother's Daily Scream", to draw attention to the family's goings on.
- Pratchett, Terry** Discworld Series
The Discworld is an unpredictable place, what with rivers you can skateboard across, rocks that like a stroll about of an evening and points of raw magic that can turn a body inside out.

- Pratchett, Terry** The Amazing Maurice And His Educated Rodent
Maurice, a streetwise tomcat, has the perfect money-making scam. Everyone knows about rats and pipers, and Maurice has a stupid-looking kid with a pipe, and his very own plague of rats - strangely educated rats ... But the con goes wrong and the rats learn a new word. EVIL. It's not a game any more.
- Pullman, Philip** His Dark Materials series
In 'Northern Lights', Lyra's friend Roger disappears. She and her daemon, Pantalaimon, set out to find him. They travel to the North where scientists are conducting unspeakably horrible experiments. The series continues with 'The Subtle Knife' and 'The Amber Spyglass'.
- The Ruby In The Smoke
In search of clues to solve the puzzle of her father's death, 16-year-old Sally ventures into the shadowy underworld of Victorian London.
- Rees, Celia** Soul Taker
Lewis is unhappy. Overweight and unpopular, his dad despises him, and he doesn't have any friends. Desperate to change, he tries a fortune-teller. But if Lewis really wants to change his future, he'll have to give something in return. Other books by this author include 'The Soul Taker' and 'Truth Or Dare'.
- Rennison, Louise** Angus, Thongs And Full-frontal Snogging
Georgia is 14-years-old. She lives with her annoying parents, a 3yr-old sister, her cat Angus and has to wear a beret to school. She would rather be blond, have a smaller nose, slimmer eyebrows and a boyfriend. The sequel is 'It's Ok, I'm Wearing Really Big Knickers'.
- Rhue, Morton** The Wave
'The Wave' started in Mr Ross' history lesson and now it's all over the school. At the beginning, Laurie liked The Wave, but now it's begun to frighten her and no one else seems to see what is happening.
- Richardson, Jean** Beware! Beware! Chilling Tales
Nine chilling tales of the supernatural feature stories by some of the best writers for young people, among them Jan Mark, Vivien Alcock, and Peter Dickinson.
- Richter, Hans Peter** Friedrich
A young German boy recounts the fate of his best friend, a Jew, during the Nazi regime.
- Riordan, James** The Prisoner
I had to bail out. The plane was going down. I could have been trapped for ages if it hadn't been for those kids.
The girl and the boy - they hate me for who I am. But if I can just make them see that bombs don't care which side you're on ...
- Robey, Sally** Tyso's Promise
When a good-looking, tough gypsy boy runs away from his aunt and uncle, he promises to return to collect his brother and sister. Will he find a way to keep his promise, and will he manage to stay out of trouble?

Smith, Rukshana

Salt on the Snow

Julie is apprehensive when she's asked to teach English to an Asian woman. The first meeting is a shock to them both, but slowly they come to understand each other, despite opposition from Julie's family.

Sumitra's Story

Sumitra's family are thrown out of Uganda and go to England. At school and work Sumitra mixes with people of different backgrounds and nationalities. At home, she has difficulties accepting her parents' Hindu values.

Speare, Elizabeth George

The Bronze Bow

Set in Galilee in the time of Jesus, this story tells of a young Jewish rebel who is won over to the gentle teachings of Jesus.

Steinbeck, John

Of Mice and Men

"Of Mice and Men" centres around Lennie and George. Lennie is a strong man with the mind of a child whose world centres around George, his friend and protector.

The Pearl

A Mexican pearl-fisher finds a pearl of great value - far more than what he needs to pay the doctor to save his child's life. But the pearl brings only evil and tragedy.

The Red Pony

Ownership of a red pony teaches ten-year-old Jody about life and death.

Stevenson, R L

Kidnapped

After being kidnapped by his villainous uncle, sixteen-year-old David Balfour escapes and becomes involved in the struggle of the Scottish highlanders against English rule.

Treasure Island

Having discovered that the crew, led by Long John Silver, is really a gang of cut-throats, young Jim Hawkins and his party need guns and swords to stay alive and claim their prize.

Strachan, Ian

The Boy In The Bubble

Adam was born without an immune system and has had to live in a big plastic bubble all his life to keep him away from germs. One day a class from the local school visit him and he falls in love with one of the girls.

Streatfield, Noel

Ballet Shoes

Adopted as babies by Great Uncle Matthew, Pauline, Petrova and Posy Fossil lead a sheltered life until they begin at the Children's Academy of Dancing and Stage Training. Only then do they begin to discover their special talents and extraordinary ambitions.

Sutcliff, Rosemary

Beowulf the Dragonslayer

Only Beowulf, has the courage and strength to fight Grendel the man-wolf. In this re-telling of the Anglo-Saxon legend, the author tells of Beowulf's terrifying quests against Grendal, the hideous sea-hag and his fight to the death with the monstrous fire-drake

Sutcliff, Rosemary

The Eagle Of The Ninth series

This is set in the time of the Roman occupation of Britain. It is the story of a young centurion's quest to find his father, who has disappeared with the entire Ninth Legion. Other books in the series include 'The Silver Branch' and 'The Lantern Bearers'.

Swindells, Robert

Abomination

Martha is 12, and very different from other children. Her parents are strict members of a religious group and their rules dominate her life. She must never invite anyone home, or their shameful secret, the Abomination, could be revealed.

Hydra

When Ben and Midge sneak out at night to investigate mysterious corn-circles which have begun to appear in the fields around Cansfield Farm, they discover that a dilapidated barn conceals a terrifying secret.

Invisible

Creep around, unseen? Listen in to other people's conversations? Twins Carrie and Conrad, and their friends do all these things when a new girl at school shows them her secret: how to make yourself invisible. It's exciting and fun, but it can also be dangerous.

Stone Cold

Link, 17 years old, and driven from his parental home, has drifted to London, jobless and friendless. He meets Deb, a homeless girl, who gives him some meaning in life. He doesn't realize that Deb is a journalist hunting a serial killer who preys on the homeless.

The Brother in the Land

Denny, a teenager, is one of the unlucky ones, a survivor, one of those who have come through a nuclear war alive. In plain language he sets down all that has happened to him, what he sees, and what he feels in the first days after the bomb has dropped.

Taylor, Mildred

Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry

Cassie didn't understand why farming his own land meant so much to her father. During that year, in the 1930s, when the night riders carried destruction among her people, she learned that it was worth fighting for a principle even if it brought terrible hardships.

Thomas, Ruth

The Secret

After their mother has a terrible accident which leaves her lying unconscious in hospital, Nicky and Roy decide to keep their mother's disappearance secret, but when they begin to run out of money they realize that drastic action is necessary.

Tolkein, J R R

The Hobbit

A tale of the adventure of a company of dwarves in search of dragon-guarded gold. A reluctant partner in this perilous quest is Bilbo Baggins, a comfort-loving, unambitious hobbit, who surprises even himself by his resourcefulness and skill as a burglar.

Tolkein, J R R

The Lord Of The Rings

In a sleepy village in the Shire, a young hobbit is entrusted with an immense task. He must make a perilous journey across Middle-earth to the Crack of Doom, there to destroy the Ruling Ring of Power - the only thing that prevents the Dark Lord's evil dominion.

Townsend, Sue

Adrian Mole Series

At 13 years old, Adrian Mole has more than his fair share of problems - spots, ill-health, parents threatening to divorce, rejection of his poetry and much more - all recorded in his diary.

Twain, Mark

The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn

A young boy living in mid-nineteenth century Missouri relates the many adventures that he and his friend, an escaped slave, experience as they travel down the Mississippi River on a raft.

The Adventures of Tom Sawyer

Tom Sawyer lives with his strict Aunt Polly on the banks of the Mississippi River, yet loves to run wild with his friend Huckleberry Finn.

Ure, Jean

Just Sixteen

Sam and his mates enjoy boasting about their success with girls, until Sam meets Priya. Making love feels right for both of them. But their happiness is shattered when Priya discovers she's pregnant.

Tea-Leaf on the Roof

William's father writes mystery stories for children. In the stories the children have exciting adventures though William's father won't even let him climb on the garage roof. But when the "tea-leaf" arrives, William and his friends have a chance to solve a real mystery.

Verne, Jules

20,000 Leagues Under the Sea

Three men find themselves the helpless prisoners of Captain Nemo, the captain of a submarine. Resigned to their fate, they begin a miraculous journey and travel through waters never before explored.

Voigt, Cynthia

A Solitary Blue

Jeff is abandoned by his mother Melody. He grows up instead with his dusty old father. When Melody reappears in Jeff's life and invites him to stay for the summer, Jeff's world is alight with happiness. But Melody is never there, and Jeff is as lonely as ever.

Elske

In this, the final book of the "Kingdom" series, 13-year-old Elske escapes rape and certain death at the hands of the leaders of her barbaric society to become handmaiden to a rebellious noblewoman.

Homecoming

In this first book of the Tillerman saga, the four Tillerman children, abandoned by their emotionally ill mother, travel to their paternal grandmother's Maryland farm, in search of a place to call home.

Watson, James

Talking In Whispers

When the driver of the car 16 year-old Andres is travelling in is shot, and his father is taken away, Andres becomes a wanted man and a prime target of the security forces. Yet he finds new friends, who agree to help.

Westall, Robert

Blitzcat

During WW2, one brave cat leads the way to safety, out of the blazing hell of blitzed Coventry. Wherever she goes, she changes lives. Her determination never wavers, she is the Blitzcat. Other books include Fathom Five, Kingdom by the sea and many more.

White, E B

Charlotte's Webb

A girl called Fern loves a little pig called Wilbur. Wilbur's friend Charlotte, a beautiful grey spider, saves Wilbur from the usual fate of nice fat pigs, by a wonderfully clever plan (which no one else could possible have thought of).

Wilson, Jacqueline

The Lottie Project

Charlie likes living with her Mum - until Mum meets a new man. Charlie is furious and her school project on the Victorians becomes a refuge from the strained relations at home. All Charlie's feelings and frustrations are reflected in the story of the young servant girl, Lottie.

The Story Of Tracy Beaker

Tracy is ten years and two months old and lives in a children's home. Tracy knows that her mum will come and fetch her one day. In the meantime she quite likes the idea of being fostered and tries to make a good impression on a visiting writer.

Lola Rose

When life at home suddenly gets really frightening, Jayni, her mum and her little brother Kenny pack their bags and escape in the middle of the night. They also have to choose new names - and so Jayni becomes the glamorous, grown-up Lola Rose! But Lola Rose's new life isn't quite as wonderful as her new name. And when Mum has to go into hospital, Lola Rose is forced to be much more grown up than she really feels.

The Diamond Girls

Dixie, Rochelle, Jude and Martine - the Diamond girls! They've moved into a terrible house on a run-down estate and after barely five minutes Rochelle's flirting, Jude's fighting and Martine's storming off. Even though Dixie's the youngest, she's desperate to get the house fixed up before Mum comes home with her new baby! Will the Diamond girls pull together in time for the first Diamond boy?

Yen Mah, Adeline

A Chinese Cinderella

The story of a Chinese woman and how she suffered appalling emotional deprivation and rejection by her family as a child growing up in China and Hong Kong. She tells how she rose above all this to make a happy marriage and become a successful doctor in the USA.

Falling Leaves

When Adeline's father remarried, his new wife treated her stepchildren like second-class citizens. Set against a background of changing political times in China, this is the true story of how Adeline survived the traumas of her childhood to make a successful career for herself.

Zephaniah, Benjamin

Face

If there's one thing that Martin is sure about, it's that life is pretty good to him. This is the story of Martin, whose life is completely changed when his face is badly scarred in a joyriding accident.

Zindel, Paul

A Begonia for Miss Applebaum

Other people might think Miss Applebaum eccentric, but to Zelda and Henry she's the most special teacher they've ever known. They buy her a gift when she retires, but meeting her means having to face up to more in life than they imagined.

The Pigman

This is the story of a lonely old man befriended by teenagers John and Lorraine, who have no idea of the effect he will have on their lives. He may be trying to recapture his youth through them, but the wisdom he imparts more than makes up for it. Then he dies.

Old favourites still go down well:

Lewis Carroll's Alice books
R D Blackmore's - Lorna Doone
Katy books by Susan Coolidge
Daphne Du Maurier – Jamaica Inn, Rebecca, My Cousin Rachel
Ruth Rendell
Anna Sewell - Black Beauty

Some Videos / DVDs to try:

A Man Called Horse
Black Stallion
Call of the Wild
Charlotte's Web
Clueless (a modern 'Emma')
E.T.
Far from the Madding Crowd
Kes
Kramer vs Kramer
Little Women
Lord of the Flies
Macbeth
Man for All Seasons

Plague Dogs
Romeo and Juliet
Secrets of Nimh
Sense And Sensibility
Silent Running
Stand By Me
Tess
The Snowman
To Kill a Mockingbird
Watership Down
Whistle Down the Wind
Wuthering Heights