

# SUGGESTED READING

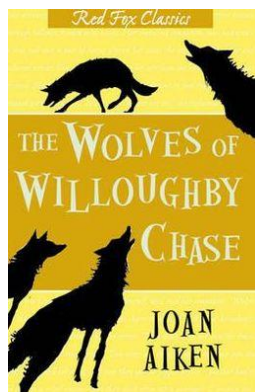
KS3: YEAR 7 AND 8



Suggested reading has been classified by genre to enable students to make more informed choices about any reading outside of the curriculum at WVC. Texts have been chosen because of their challenge, scope and quality of writing.

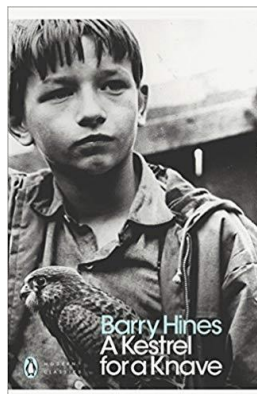
A brief synopsis for each text has been provided; however, it is strongly recommended that parents/carers research book choices prior to reading. Some texts may have distressing content.

Please note that in the 'Supplementary Studies' section, the texts are advised to be read alongside units studied within class.

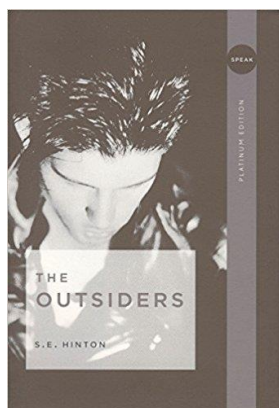


**The Wolves of Willoughby Chase (1962):**

Long ago, at a time in history that never happened, England was overrun with wolves. But as Bonnie and her cousin Sylvia discover, real danger often lies closer to home. Their new governess, Miss Slighcarp, doesn't seem at all nice. She shuts Bonnie in a cupboard, fires the faithful servants and sends the cousins far away from Willoughby Chase to a place they will never be found. Can Bonnie and Sylvia outwit the wicked Miss Slighcarp and her network of criminals, forgers and snitches?



**A Kestrel for a Knave (1968):** Life is tough and cheerless for Billy Casper, a troubled teenager growing up in the small Yorkshire mining town of Barnsley. Treated as a failure at school, and unhappy at home, Billy discovers a new passion in life when he finds Kes, a kestrel hawk. Billy identifies with her silent strength and she inspires in him the trust and love that nothing else can, discovering through her the passion missing from his life.

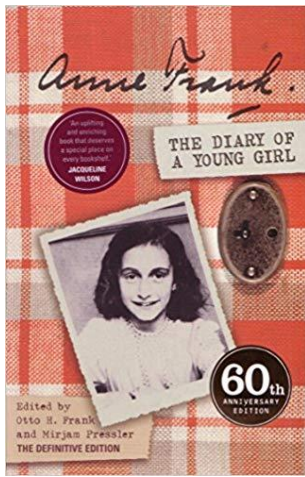


**The Outsiders (1967):** Ponyboy is pretty sure that he's got things figured out. He knows that he can count on his brothers, Darry and Sodapop. And he knows that he can count on his friends--true friends who would do anything for him, like Johnny and Two-Bit. But not on much else besides trouble with the Socs, a vicious gang of rich kids whose idea of a good time is beating up on "greasers" like Ponyboy. At least he knows what to expect--until the night someone takes things too far.

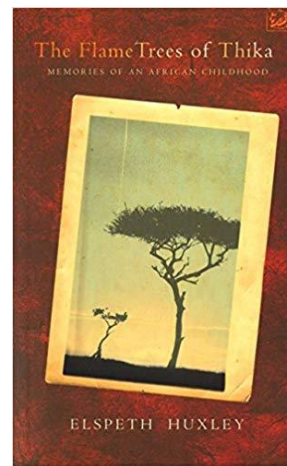


**Great Expectations (1861):** Little orphan Pip scarcely imagines how a terrifying encounter with a convict on the lonely marshes will later transform his life. Pip is more troubled by his visits to strange old Miss Havisham - her decaying wedding dress and the house full of memories - and the beautiful girl Estella who makes him ashamed of his country manners and coarse hands. A blacksmith's apprentice could never hope to win Estella, but then, young Pip's future might not turn out quite as expected...

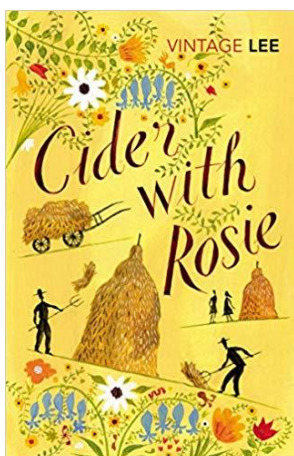




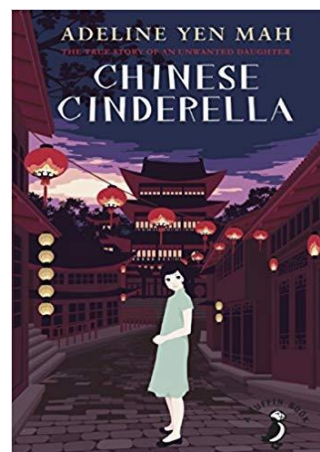
**The Diary of a Young Girl (1947):** In July 1942, thirteen-year-old Anne Frank and her family, fleeing the occupation, went into hiding in an Amsterdam warehouse. Over the next two years Anne vividly describes in her diary the frustrations of living in such close quarters, and her thoughts, feelings and longings as she grows up. Her diary ends abruptly when, in August 1944, they were all betrayed.



**The flame trees of Thika (1959):** In an open cart Elspeth Huxley set off with her parents to travel to Thika in Kenya. As pioneering settlers among the Kikuyu people, they built a house of grass, ate off a damask cloth spread over packing cases and discovered - the hard way - the world of the African.

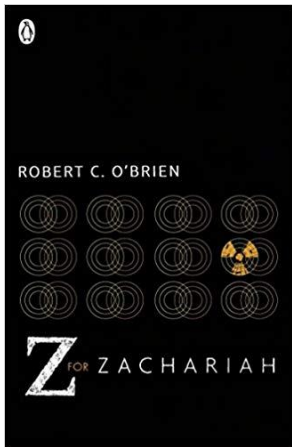


**Cider with Rosie (1959):** A wonderfully vivid memoir of childhood in a remote Cotswold village, a village before electricity or cars, a timeless place on the verge of change. Growing up amongst the fields and woods and characters of the place, Laurie Lee depicts a world that is both immediate and real and belongs to a now-distant past.

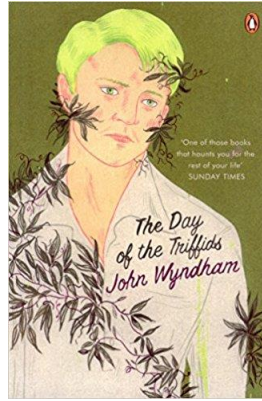


**Chinese Cinderella: The Secret Story of an Unwanted Daughter (1999):** A book by Chinese-American physician and author Adeline Yen Mah describing her experiences growing up in China during the Second World War.

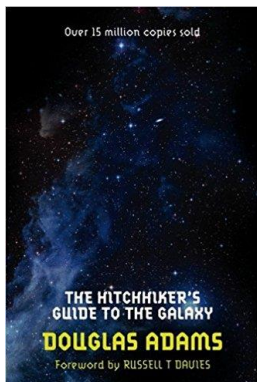




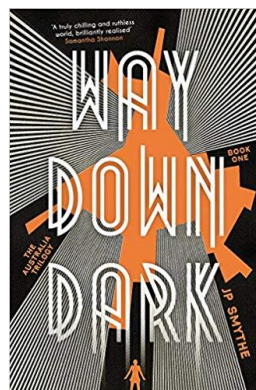
**Z for Zachariah (1974):** Ann Burden has been living alone in a valley for over a year - until Loomis, a scientist in a radiation-proof suit, arrives. She hopes they will be companions but his behaviour towards her becomes increasingly threatening as he attacks her and then cuts off her food supply and tries to bring her under his control. Although there may be no one else alive, Ann steals his suit and leaves the valley in search of humanity.



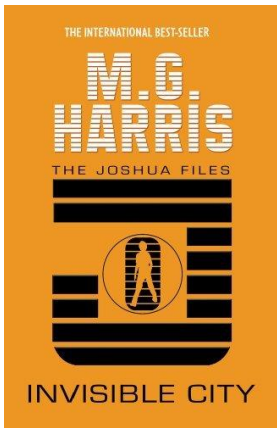
**The Day of the Triffids (1951):** When a freak cosmic event renders most of the Earth's population blind, Bill Masen is one of the lucky few to retain his sight. The London he walks is crammed with groups of men and women needing help, some ready to prey on those who can still see. But another menace stalks blind and sighted alike. With nobody to stop their spread the Triffids, mobile plants with lethal stingers and carnivorous appetites, seem set to take control.



**The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy (1997):** It's an ordinary Thursday lunchtime for Arthur Dent until his house gets demolished. The Earth follows shortly afterwards to make way for a new hyperspace bypass and his best friend has just announced that he's an alien. At this moment, they're hurtling through space with nothing but their towels and an innocuous-looking book inscribed with the big, friendly words: DON'T PANIC.

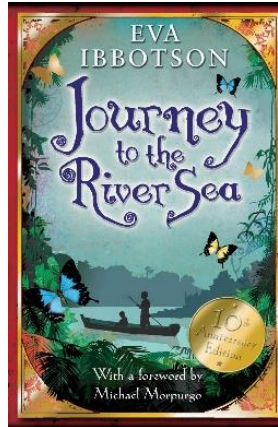


**Way Down Dark (2015):** Imagine a nightmare from which there is no escape. Seventeen-year-old Chan's ancestors left a dying Earth hundreds of years ago, in search of a new home. They never found one. This is a hell where no one can hide. The only life that Chan's ever known is one of violence, of fighting. Of trying to survive. This is a ship of death, of murderers and cults and gangs. There might be a way to escape. To find it, Chan must head way down into the darkness - a place of buried secrets, long-forgotten lies, and the abandoned bodies of the dead.



**The Invisible City (2008):**

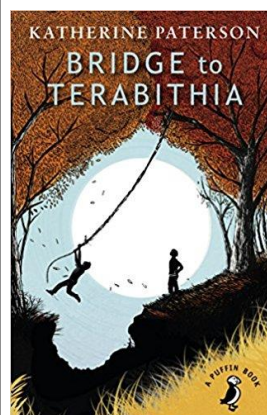
When his archaeologist father goes missing after an air crash in Mexico, Josh suspects alien abduction. But when he discovers his dad was murdered, Josh is caught up in a race to find the Ix Codex – a lost book of the ancient Maya and a prophecy about the end of the world...



**Journey to the River Sea (2001):** It is 1910 and Maia, tragically orphaned at thirteen, has been sent from England to start a new life with distant relatives in Manaus, hundreds of miles up the Amazon. She is accompanied by an eccentric and mysterious governess who has secret reasons of her own for making the journey. Both soon discover an exotic world bursting with new experiences in, this highly colourful, joyous adventure.

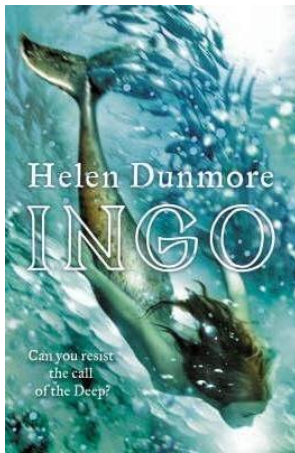


**Flame in the Mist (2017):** Mariko has always known that being a woman means she's not in control of her own fate. But Mariko is the daughter of a prominent samurai and a cunning alchemist in her own right, and she refuses to be ignored. When she is ambushed by a group of bandits known as the Black Clan enroute to a political marriage to Minamoto Raiden - the emperor's son - Mariko realises she has two choices: she can wait to be rescued... or she can take matters into her own hands, hunt down the clan and find the person who wants her dead.



**Bridge to Terabithia (1977):** Jess Aarons wants to be the fastest boy in the class, but when Leslie Burke moves into the neighbouring farm his life changes forever. Even though she runs faster than him, Jess begins to think Leslie might be okay - she's clever and funny and not a bit soppy. And it is Leslie who invents Terabithia, the secret country on an island across the creek where he can escape his troublesome family. The only way to reach Terabithia is by rope-swing where Jess and Leslie become King and Queen, defeating giants, sharing stories and dreams, and plotting against their enemies. They are invincible - until tragedy strikes.

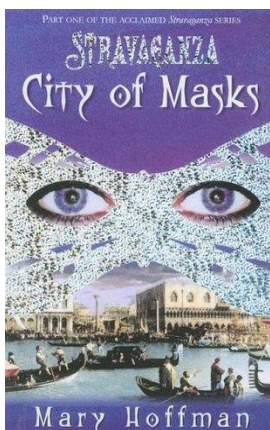




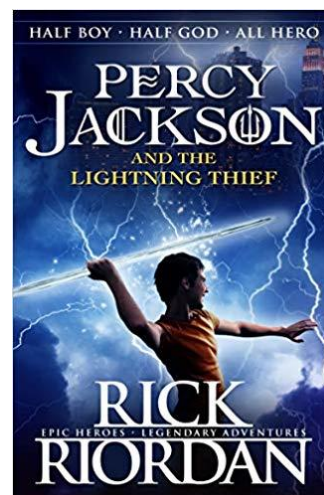
**Ingo (2005):** A spellbinding magical adventure. Sapphire, and her brother Conor, discover INGO, a powerful and exciting world under the sea.



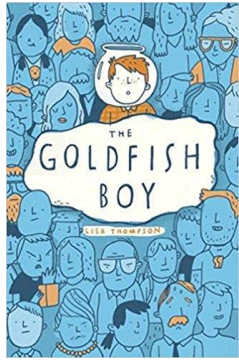
**A Wrinkle in Time (1962):** When Charles Wallace Murry goes searching through a 'wrinkle in time' for his lost father, he finds himself on an evil planet where all life is enslaved by a huge pulsating brain known as 'It'. How Charles, his sister Meg and friend Calvin find and free his father makes this a very special and exciting mixture of fantasy and science fiction, which all the way through is dominated by the funny and mysterious trio of guardian angels known as Mrs Whatsit, Mrs Who and Mrs Which.



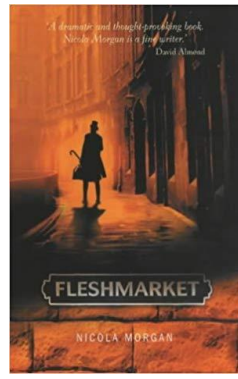
**City of Masks (2002):** Set in a parallel world, where Italy is called Talia and Venice is called Bellezza, the narrative follows Lucien, who in our world is very ill. Given a marbled notebook to help him communicate when his throat hurts too much to speak, the notebook is the means that transports Lucien to this magical, dangerous new world set in an alternative sixteenth century, and thrills to the delight of political intrigue and danger of assassination attempts both foiled and successful.



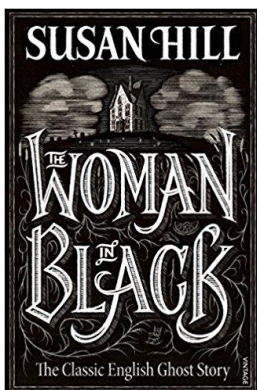
**The Lightning Thief (2005):** Twelve-year-old Percy Jackson discovers he is a demigod, the son of a mortal woman and the Greek god Poseidon. Percy and his friends, Annabeth Chase and Grover Underwood, go on a quest to find Zeus' stolen lightning bolt and prevent a war between the gods Zeus, Poseidon, and Hades.



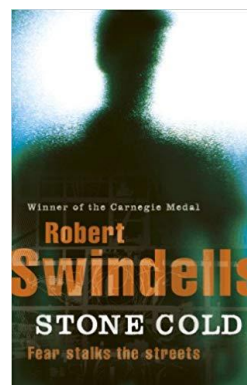
**The Goldfish Boy (2017):** Twelve-year-old Matthew is trapped in his bedroom by crippling OCD, spending most of his time staring out of his window as the inhabitants of Chestnut Close go about their business. Until the day he is the last person to see his next-door neighbour's toddler, Teddy, before he goes missing. Matthew must turn detective and unravel the mystery of Teddy's disappearance - with the help of a brilliant cast of supporting characters.



**Fleshmarket (2003):** It is Edinburgh, 1822, and young Robbie is eight years old when he witnesses his mother's pain and subsequent death from an operation - without anaesthetic - to remove a tumour at the hands of Dr Knox. Haunted by this terrible event, Robbie, his hapless father and baby sister Essie attempt to move on. When Robbie's father loses all their money and disappears, Robbie is left to look after himself and his sister in the Edinburgh slums. Somehow, he falls in with Burke and Hare, the two men whom Knox employs to 'collect' bodies for medical research.

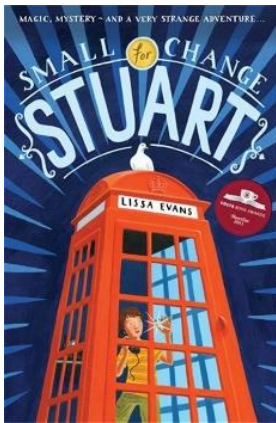


**The Woman in Black (1983):** Arthur Kipps, a junior solicitor, is summoned to attend the funeral of Mrs Alice Drablow, the sole inhabitant of Eel Marsh House. The house stands at the end of a causeway, wreathed in fog and mystery, but it is not until he glimpses a wasted young woman, dressed all in black, at the funeral, that a creeping sense of unease begins to take hold, a feeling deepened by the reluctance of the locals to talk of the woman in black – and her terrible purpose.



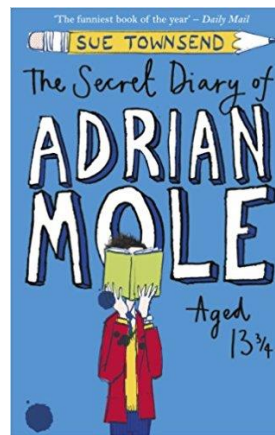
**Stone Cold (1995):** A tense, exciting thriller combined with a perceptive and harrowing portrait of life on the streets. As a serial killer preys on the young and vulnerable homeless, 17-year-old Link is distrustful of people until he pairs up with Deb. What Deb doesn't tell him is that she's an ambitious young journalist on a self-imposed assignment to track down the killer and that she's prepared to use herself as bait...





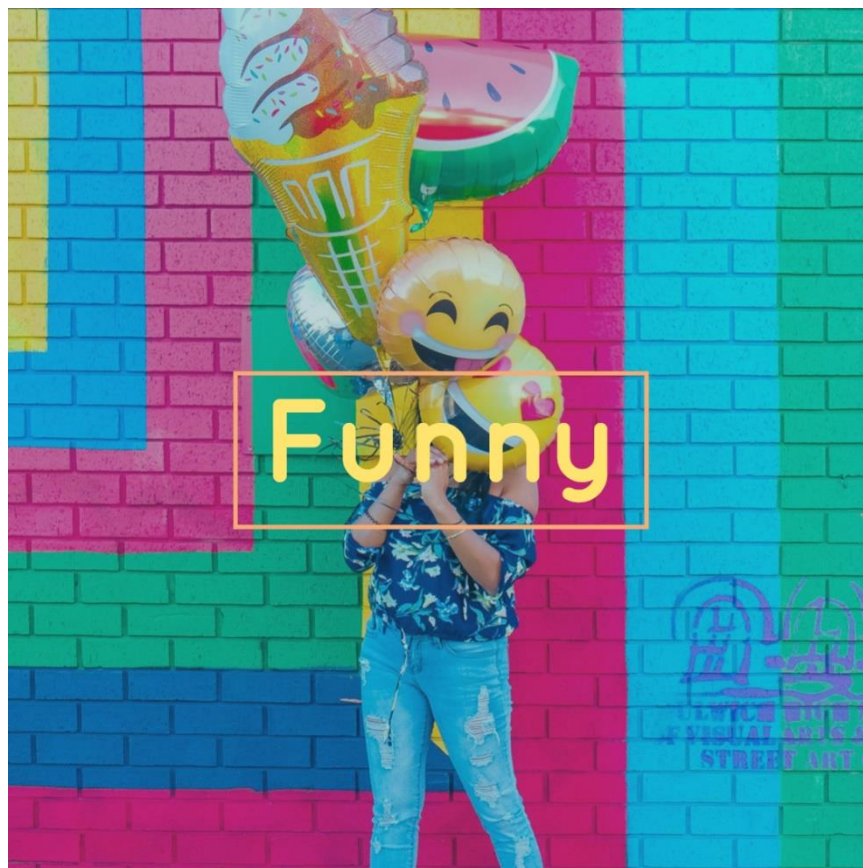
### Small Change for Stuart (2011):

The strangest adventure of Stuart's life is finding his great-uncle's lost workshop – a place of trickery and magic. With clues to follow and puzzles to solve, but the fun ends up as danger and Stuart realizes that he can't finish the task by himself. 'A fast-moving blend of comedy and magic'.



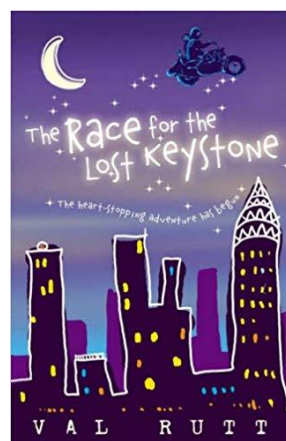
### The Secret Diary of Adrian Mole, Aged 13¾ (1982):

Meet Adrian Mole, a hapless teenager providing an unabashed, pimples-and-all glimpse into adolescent life. Writing candidly about his parents' marital troubles, the dog, his life as a tortured poet and 'misunderstood intellectual', Adrian's painfully honest diary is hilarious and compelling reading.



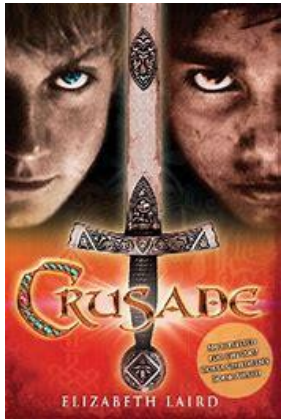
### Agent Z Meets The Masked Crusader (1993):

Ben's a born daydreamer. He'd much rather be in the Sahara, or on a Viking ship than sitting in a boring maths lesson. Then Agent Z appears on the scene - and THAT means secret missions, cunning plans and careful strategies. And soon Ben and his friends, Barney and Jenks, realize that life on planet earth is RATHER exciting after all!

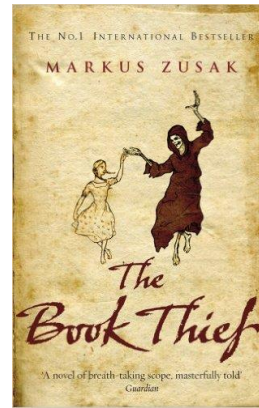


### The Race for the Lost Keystone (2004):

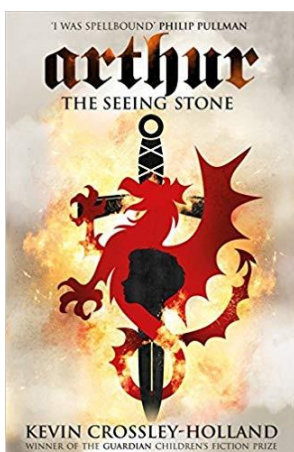
Kate and Phil Reynolds think they belong to an ordinary family. That is until a larger than life old lady turns up on a Harley Davidson with her Labrador, Fearless, in the sidecar, and introduces herself as their Great Aunt Elizabeth. Also, until they discover that their own cat, Barking, can talk, and that their legacy is ownership of some unique stones that have very special properties but come with a whole heap of responsibility. Kate and Phil Reynolds' lives are about to be irreversibly turned upside down...



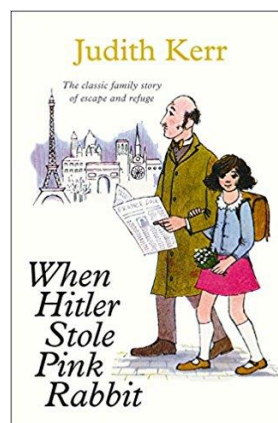
**Crusade (2007):** Salim, a merchant's son, is leading an uneventful life in the port of Acre – until news arrives that a Crusader attack is imminent. To keep Salim safe, his father buys him an apprenticeship with an esteemed, travelling doctor. But Salim's employment leads him to the heart of Sultan Saladin's camp – and into battle against the barbaric and unholy invaders...



**The Book Thief (2005):** 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.

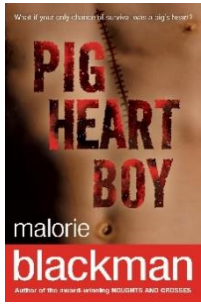


**The Seeing Stone (2000):** The year is 1199, the place the Welsh Marches. Young Arthur de Caldicot is given a magical shining stone in which his legendary namesake is revealed. In 100 short chapters that brilliantly evoke life in a medieval manor, stories of the boy King Arthur begin to echo - and anticipate - the secrets and mysteries that emerge in his own life.



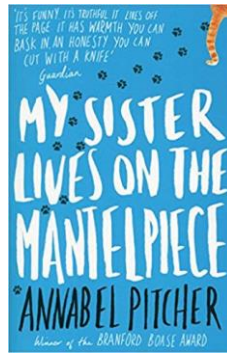
**When Hitler Stole Pink Rabbit (1971):** Suppose your country began to change. Suppose that without your noticing, it became dangerous for some people to live in Germany any longer. Suppose you found, to your complete surprise, that your own father was one of those people. That is what happened to Anna in 1933. She was nine years old when it began, too busy to take much notice of political posters, but out of them glared the face of Adolf Hitler, the man who would soon change the whole of Europe – starting with her own small life.



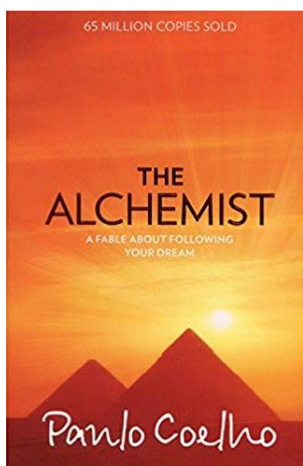


### **Pig Heart Boy (1997):**

Cameron Kelsey has only a few months to live, and is no longer able to play sport, swim or live a normal life. With no suitable human heart donor available, he agrees to try the revolutionary new process and is given a new heart, from a pig.

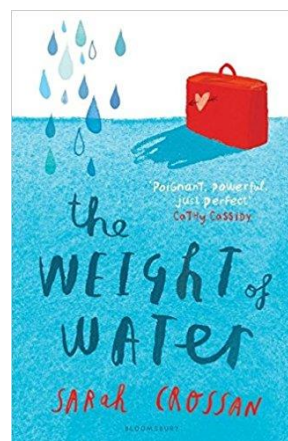


**My Sister Lives on the Mantelpiece (2011):** Five years ago, Jamie's sister, Rose, was blown up by a terrorist bomb. His family is torn apart by their grief. His mum runs away. His dad turns to drink and hate. Rose's surviving twin sister Jasmine stops eating, gets piercings and dyes her hair pink - anything to look different to her twin. But Jamie hasn't cried in all that time. To him, Rose is just a distant memory. Jamie is far more interested in his cat, Roger, his Spiderman T-shirt, and his deep longing and unshakeable belief that his Mum will come back to the family. Moving away for a Fresh New Start introduces Jamie to a girl named Sunya. Sunya is bright, exciting and fun, and the one person at school he can call a friend. But how far can this new friendship grow when Jamie is desperate that his dad doesn't find out?



### **The Alchemist (1988):**

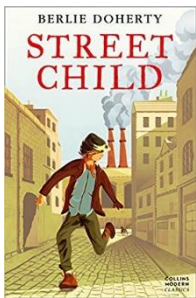
Santiago, a young shepherd living in the hills of Andalusia, feels that there is more to life than his humble home and his flock. One day he finds the courage to follow his dreams into distant lands, each step galvanised by the knowledge that he is following the right path: his own. The people he meets along the way, the things he sees and the wisdom he learns are life-changing.



### **The Weight of Water (2011):**

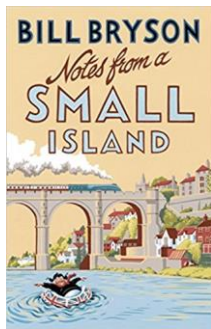
Armed with a suitcase and an old laundry bag filled with clothes, Kasienka and her mother head for England. Life is lonely for Kasienka. At home her mother's heart is breaking and at school friends are scarce. But when someone special swims into her life, Kasienka learns that there might be more than one way for her to stay afloat.

## Year 7



**Street Child** (1993): Unforgettable tale of an orphan in Victorian London, based on the boy whose plight inspired Dr Barnardo to found his famous children's homes. When his mother dies, Jim Jarvis is left all alone in London. He is sent to the workhouse but quickly escapes, choosing a hard life on the streets of the city over the confines of the workhouse walls. Struggling to survive, Jim finally finds some friends... only to be snatched away and made to work for the remorselessly cruel Grimy Nick, constantly guarded by his vicious dog, Snipe. Will Jim ever manage to be free?

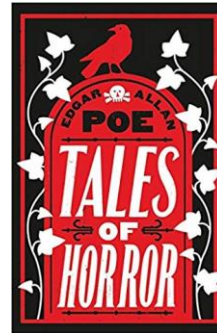
*Links to Victorian Childhood*



### Notes from a Small Island (1995):

Before leaving his much-loved home in North Yorkshire to move back to the States for a few years with his family, Bill Bryson insisted on taking one last trip around Britain, a sort of valedictory tour of the green and kindly island that had so long been his home. His aim was to take stock of the nation's parts, and to analyse what precisely it was he loved so much about a country that had produced Marmite.

*Links to Travel Writing*



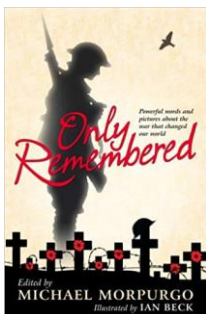
**Tales of Horror** (1843): A murderer is forced to reveal his crime by the sound of a beating heart, a mysterious figure wreaks havoc among a party of noblemen during the time of the plague, a grieving lover awakens to find himself clutching a box of his beloved blood-stained teeth, a man is obsessed with the fear of being buried alive - these are only some of the memorable characters and stories included in this volume, which exemplify Poe's inventiveness and natural talent as a storyteller.

*Links to The Gothic*



Supplementary Studies

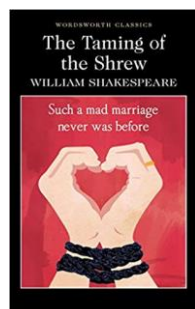
## Year 8



### Only Remembered (2014):

Published to mark the centenary of the outbreak of the First World War, this beautiful anthology collects favourite extracts, poems and images from some of the UK's leading cultural, political and literary figures. Poems, short stories, personal letters, newspaper articles, scripts, photographs and paintings are just some of the elements of this astonishing collection, with cover and artwork by renowned illustrator, Ian Beck. Royalties from the publication are split between the Royal British Legion and projects for soldiers' children and families at SSAFA.

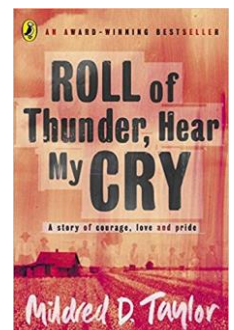
*Links to War Poetry*



### The Taming of the Shrew (1592):

The main plot depicts the courtship of Petruchio and Katherina, the headstrong, obdurate shrew. Initially, Katherina is an unwilling participant in the relationship; however, Petruchio "tames" her with various psychological torments, such as keeping her from eating and drinking, until she becomes a desirable, compliant, and obedient bride. The subplot features a competition between the suitors of Katherina's younger sister, Bianca, who is seen as the "ideal" woman. The question of whether the play is misogynistic or not has become the subject of considerable controversy, particularly among modern scholars, audiences, and readers.

*Links to Much Ado About Nothing*



### Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry (1976):

The novel explores life in southern Mississippi, in a climate of racism where many are persecuted for the colour of their skin. Throughout the book, the reader learns about the importance of land and the effects of racism, at the same time Cassie Logan learns 'the way things are'. It is key to this story that the narrator is a child as it adds emphasis upon what it was like to grow up in "The South", and it also helps us to understand the true impact of going up in the Great Depression.

*Links to Of Mice and Men*

*Links to To Kill a Mockingbird*



# SUGGESTIONS?

Let your English teacher know and we'll update our list.

