

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.

You can also use these websites to help:

<http://www.booktrust.org.uk/books/#/d/books/bookfinder>

<http://www.lovereadings4kids.co.uk/>

Year 5 (age 9-10)

A selection of books especially selected for children in Year 5 (9 - 10 year olds) of average reading ability. If your child is a competent reader or has read all these titles then try the books from the Year 6 list. Alternatively, if these books are a little challenging, try books from the Year 4 list.

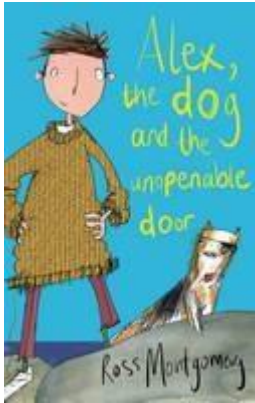


A Tale Dark and Grimm Adam Gidwitz

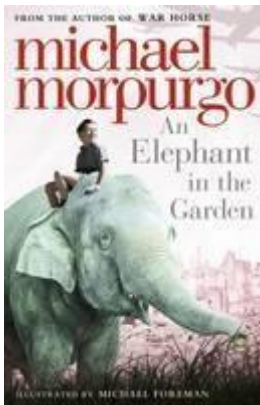
Reader: beware. Warlocks with dark spells, hunters with deadly aim, and bakers with ovens retrofitted for cooking children lurk within these pages. But if you dare, turn the page and learn the true story of Hansel and Gretel - the story behind (and beyond) the bread crumbs, edible houses and outwitted witches. Come on in. It may be frightening, it's certainly bloody, and it's definitely not for the faint of heart.

Alex, the Dog and the Unopenable Door

Ross Montgomery



Alex Jennings is a boy with a problem. His mum's sent him away to boarding school because his father, the most famously failed explorer in the history of the Cusp, has escaped from hospital again, yelling 'squiggles'. Make that two problems. Now the evil Davidus Kyte and all his henchmen are after Alex, convinced he alone knows the meaning of the word 'squiggles'. OK, make that three - Alex Jennings is a boy with a lot of problems. But with the help of a talking dog and a girl with unfeasibly sharp teeth, he just might have what it takes to cross the Forbidden Lands, escape the evil Davidus Kyte, and find out what lies beyond the Cusp ...

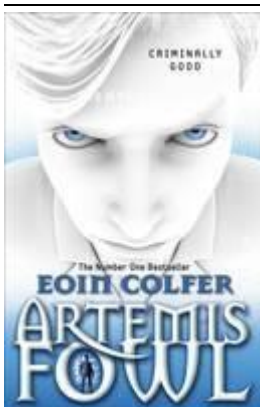


An Elephant in the Garden Michael

Morpurgo, M. B. E.

A thrilling and moving novel about an extraordinary animal caught up in a very human war, for anyone who loved The Amazing Story of Adolphus Tips or The Butterfly Lion...By the award-winning former Children's Laureate and author of War Horse.

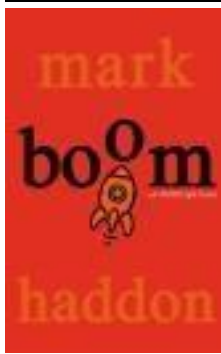
Dresden, 1945. Elizabeth and Karli's mother works at the zoo, where her favourite animal is a young elephant named Marlene. Then the zoo director tells her that the dangerous animals - including the elephants - must be shot before the town is bombed. Unable to give Marlene up, their mother moves her into the back garden to save her...and then the bombs start to fall. Their home destroyed, the whole family must flee the bombed-out city and through the perilous, snow-covered landscape, all the while avoiding the Russian troops who are drawing ever closer. It would be hard enough to do, without an elephant in tow...



Artemis Fowl

Eoin Colfer

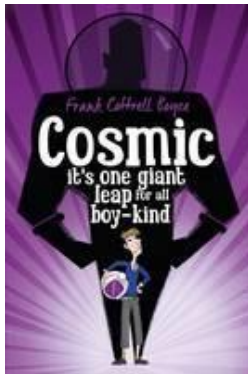
Twelve-year-old villain, Artemis Fowl, is the most ingenious criminal mastermind in history. His bold and daring plan is to hold a leprechaun to ransom. But he's taking on more than he bargained for when he kidnaps Captain Holly Short of the LEPrecon (Lower Elements Police Reconnaissance Unit). For a 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!



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.



Cosmic
Frank Cottrell Boyce

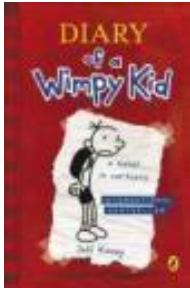
It's one giant leap for all boy-kind in Frank Cottrell Boyce's out-of-thisworld story: Cosmic. Liam is too big for his boots. And his football strip.

And his school blazer. But being super-sized height-wise has its advantages: he's the only eleven-year-old to ever ride the G-forcedefying Cosmic rollercoaster - or to be offered the chance to drive a Porsche. Long-legged Liam makes a giant leap for boy-kind by competing with a group of adults for the chance to go into space. Is Liam the best boy for the job? Sometimes being big isn't all about being a grown-up.



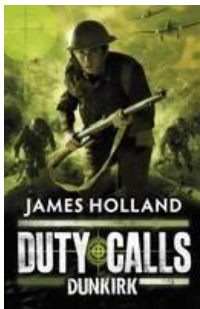
Deep End
Sam Hutton

Your life can change in a second. Maddie Cooper's did. She and her parents were gunned down in the street. Maddie's mother was killed, her father left in a wheelchair. Searching for a new role in life, Maddie signs up as a trainee in her father's notorious flying squad.



Diary of a Wimpy Kid
Jeff Kinney

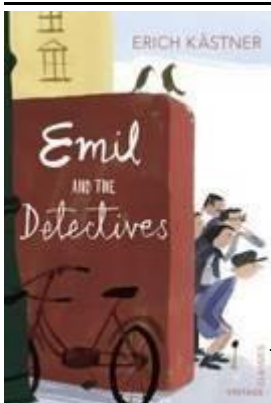
The first in the brilliant Wimpy Kid series that has taken the US, and now the UK by storm. The illustrations and story hilariously chart Greg's life at a new school.



Duty Calls: Dunkirk
James Holland

Duty Calls: Dunkirk by James Holland is a gripping true-to-life story about one of the most dramatic events of World War II. 'You wanted to see some action - well you're going to get it now. You're going to get it now all right'.

Friday 24th May, 1940 Private Johnny Hawke, aged sixteen, awakens to artillery fire. Hours later, Stukas scream down from the sky. Messerschmit fighters roar towards his regiment. Trucks burst into flames. Now men and mules lay dead and dying, severed limbs twisted grotesquely as blood soaks the cobbled streets. Young Private Hawke just wants to do his duty and serve his country. But as he - and his fellow soldiers - prepare to stop the German advance, there's only one question on everyone's lips. How will they survive?



Emil and the Detectives
Erich Kästner

'Password Emil!' Emil is excited to be taking the train on his own for the first time. He doesn't like the look of his fellow passenger, the man in the bowler hat. Emil will just have to keep his wits about him and his money in his pocket. But Emil falls asleep and when he wakes up the man in the bowler hat is gone - and so is the money! Emil is determined to get it back. He teams up with a gang of young detectives and so begins a hair-raising chase across Berlin to catch the dirty rotten thief...

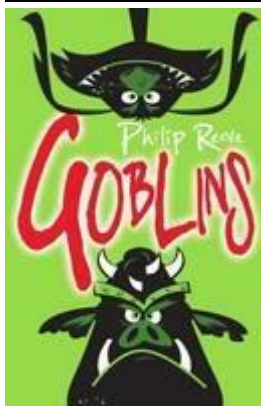


George's Secret Key to the Universe

Lucy Hawking, Stephen Hawking

Take a rollercoaster ride through the vastness of space and, in the midst of an exciting adventure, discover the mysteries of physics, science and the universe with George, his new friends next door - the scientist Eric and his daughter, Annie - and a super-intelligent computer called Cosmos, which can take them to the edge of a black hole and back again. Or can it? And who else would like to get their hands on

Cosmos? A funny and hugely informative romp through space, time and the universe.



Goblins

Philip Reeve

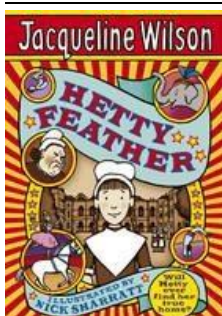
A wild world of magical creatures and heroic adventure from the extraordinary imagination of Philip Reeve. The squabbling goblins who live in the great towers of Clovenstone spend their time fighting and looting. Only clever young Skarper understands that dark magic created by a vanquished sorcerer is rising again. From the lands of men come fortune-seekers - and trolls, giants, cloud-maidens, boglins, swamp monsters, tree-warriors and bloodthirsty goblins are swept into a fabulous magical conflict to thrill all fantasy fans.

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. Eoin Colfer has perfected the detective story in this hilarious and crisply told adventure that spins out at a cracking pace.



Hetty Feather

Jacqueline Wilson

London, 1876 and Hetty Feather is just a tiny baby when her mother leaves her at the Foundling Hospital. The Hospital cares for abandoned children - but Hetty must first live with a foster family until she is big enough to go to school. Life in the countryside is hard but with her

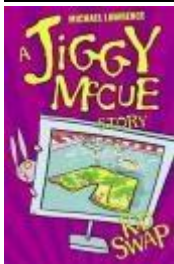
'brothers' Jem and Gideon, she helps in the fields and plays imaginary games. Together they sneak off to visit the travelling circus and Hetty is mesmerised by the show, especially Madame Adeline and her performing horses. But Hetty's happiness is threatened once more when she is returned to the Foundling Hospital. The new life of awful uniforms and terrible food is a struggle for her. But now she has the chance to find her real mother. Could she really be the wonderful Madame Adeline? Or will Hetty find the truth is even more surprising?

Jacqueline Wilson will surprise and delight old fans and new with this utterly original take on a historical novel. Set in Victorian times and featuring a brand new feisty heroine, Hetty Feather, this is a Tracy Beaker-esque tale that will thrill young readers. Warm, moving, funny and totally fascinating, it's the perfect gift for girls of nine and older.



Ingo
Helen Dunmore

This is the first of the Ingo quartet. Helen Dunmore has done what few authors succeed in doing. She's created an absolutely believable mythical world alongside our own. One that makes you want to be there more than anything else, one that is both spellbinding and magical. Ingo is a world in which you will be totally entranced and entrapped. And it's so eloquently written.



Jiggy McCue: Kid Swap
Michael Lawrence

Brilliantly funny and typical of the author, it's full of his razor sharp wit. Jiggy McCue is much loved by boys and girls alike and when Jiggy finds he's been signed up by his parents for a reality TV show with a twist, things start to

get more than a little tricky. Existing fans of Jiggy will be thrilled to join him on another adventure and new readers will enjoy the ride.

Krindlekrax

Philip Ridley



Ruskin Splinter is small and thin, with knock-knees, thick glasses and a squeaky voice, and the idea of him taming a dragon makes the whole class laugh. Big, strong Elvis is stupid but he looks like a hero. So who is more likely to get the big part in the school play? But when the mysterious beast, Krindlekrax, threatens Lizard Street and everyone who lives there, it is Ruskin who saves the day and proves he is the stuff that heros are made of after all.

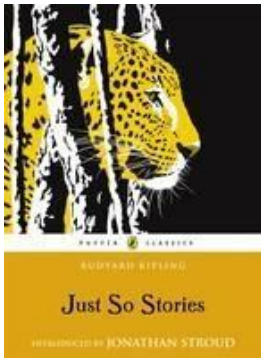
Man of the Match **Dan Freedman**

Jamie Johnson is fast becoming the most popular player in the country. He's playing the best football of his career for his beloved Hawkstone. But life at the top of the league isn't as easy as it seems... After Hawkstone sign a new winger, Jamie suddenly has a serious rival on the team. And when he finds himself sent on loan to a tiny local club, Jamie wonders if it's all over...



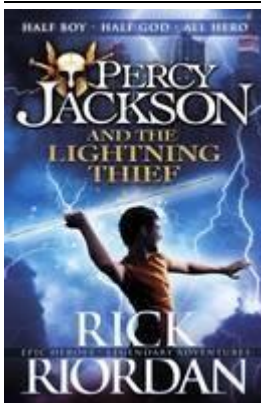
Matilda **Roald Dahl**

Matilda is a brilliant and sensitive child, but her parents think of her only as a nuisance. Even before she is five years old, she has read Dickens and Hemingway and still her parents think of her as a pest. So she decides to get back at them. Her platinum-haired mother and car salesman father are no match for her sharp genius, and neither is the cruel headmistress Miss Trunchbull. And then the child prodigy discovers she has an extraordinary magic power that can save her school and especially the lovely kindergarten teacher, Miss Honey.



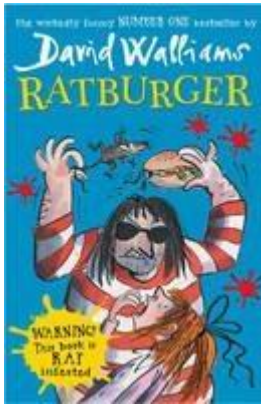
Just So Stories **Rudyard Kipling, Jonathan Stroud**

This book presents the delightful tales of whales and cats and kangaroos and crabs - everything from how the camel got in a hump (and got his hump!) to how the alphabet was invented. Enchanting and funny, these fantastical stories continue to delight each and every generation.



Percy Jackson and the Lightning Thief **Rick Riordan**

Half boy. Half God. All Hero. Look, I didn't want to be a half-blood. I never asked to be the son of a Greek God. I was just a normal kid, going to school, playing basketball, skateboarding. The usual. Until I accidentally vaporized my maths teacher. Now I spend my time battling monsters and generally trying to stay alive. This is the one where Zeus, God of the Sky, thinks I've stolen his lightning bolt - and making Zeus angry is a very bad idea.

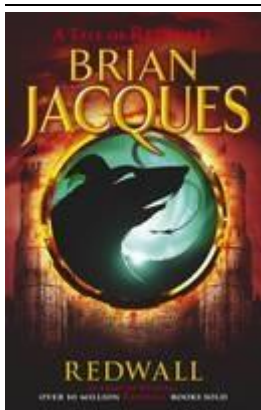


Ratburger

David Walliams

The fifth screamingly funny novel from David Walliams, number one bestseller and fastest growing children's author in the country, now available in paperback. From the bestselling author of Gangsta Granny and Demon Dentist comes another hilarious, action-packed and touching novel - the story of a little girl called Zoe.

Things are not looking good for Zoe. Her stepmother Sheila is so lazy she gets Zoe to pick her nose for her. The school bully Tina Trotts makes her life a misery - mainly by flobbering on her head. And now the evil Burt from Burt's Burgers is after her pet rat! And guess what he wants to do with it? The clue is in the title...



Redwall

Brian Jacques

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. Cluny is certain that Redwall will fall easily to his fearsome army but he hasn't bargained for the courage and strength of the combined forces of the Redwall mice and their loyal woodland friends...



Shadow Forest

Matt Haig

Samuel Blink is the hero of this story, but he doesn't know it yet. Right now, he and his sister Martha are in the back of his parents' car. He has no idea a giant log is about to fall from the sky and change his life forever. He doesn't know that he and Martha will be forced to move to Norway and eat their Aunt Eda's smelly brown cheese. He hasn't the

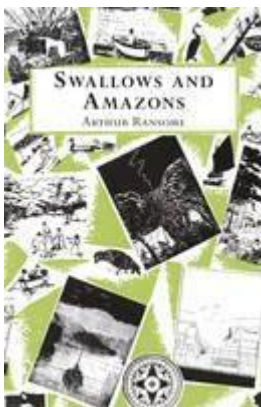
slightest clue Martha will disappear into Shadow Forest. A forest full of one-eyed trolls, the sinister huldre-folk, deadly Truth Pixies and a witch who steals shadows. A forest ruled by the evil Changemaker. A forest so dangerous that people who enter never return. No. Samuel Blink doesn't know any of this. So don't tell him. It might ruin the book ...

Winner of the Gold Smarties Prize and the Blue Peter Award, and shortlisted for the Carnegie Medal and the Waterstone's Prize



Stormbreaker
Anthony Horowitz

When his guardian dies in suspicious circumstances, fourteen-year-old Alex Rider finds his world turned upside down. Forcibly recruited into MI6, Alex has to take part in gruelling SAS training exercises. Then, armed with his own special set of secret gadgets, he's off on his first mission to Cornwall, where Middle-Eastern multi-billionaire Herod Sayle is producing his state-of-the-art Stormbreaker computers. Sayle has offered to give one free to every school in the country - but there's more to the gift than meets the eye.



Swallows and Amazons
Arthur Ransome

The ultimate children's classic - long summer days filled with adventure. John, Susan, Titty and Roger sail their boat, Swallow, to a deserted island for a summer camping trip. Exploring and playing sailors is an adventure in itself but the island holds more excitement in store. Two fierce Amazon pirates, Nancy and Peggy, challenge them to war and a summer of battles and alliances ensues.



The Boy Who Swam with Piranhas
David Almond

Stanley Potts is just an ordinary boy, but when all the jobs in Fish Quay disappear his Uncle Ernie develops an extraordinary fascination with canning fish. Suddenly their home is filled with the sound of clanging machinery and the stench of mackerel, and Uncle Ernie's obsession reaches such heights that he would even can Stan's beloved goldfish! Stan, however, has his own destiny, which leads him - via a hook-aduck stall - to Pancho Pirelli, the blue-caped madman who swims with piranhas. And as Stan delves into the waters, he finally discovers who he really can be.



The Dark Wild
Piers Torday

WINNER OF THE GUARDIAN CHILDREN'S FICTION PRIZE 2014. 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?

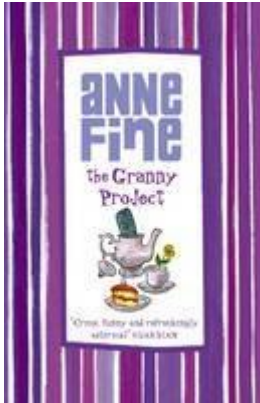
The Girl Who Walked On Air

Emma Carroll

Louie, who was abandoned at Chipchase's Travelling Circus as a baby, dreams of becoming a 'Showstopper', but Mr Chipchase keeps her hidden, tucked away in the ticket booth. No Death-Defying Stunts for her. But Louie has been secretly practising her act - tightrope-walking - and dreams of being the Girl Who Walked on Air ...she just needs to be given the chance to shine. And the circus needs her too - Wellbeloved's rival show is stealing their crowds. They need a Showstopper. Desperate, Mr Chipchase reluctantly lets Louie perform. She is a sensation, and gets an offer from the sinister Mr Wellbeloved himself to perform ...over Niagara Falls. But nothing is quite as it seems and soon Louie's bravery is tested not just on the highwire but in confronting her past and the shady characters in the world of the circus ...

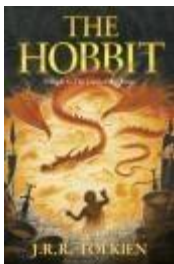
The Granny Project

Anne Fine



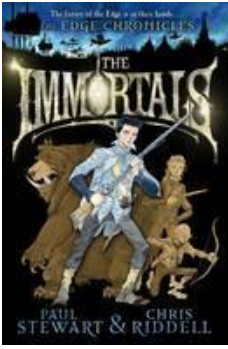
What does he mean? What's going on? Are you two thinking of putting Granny into a Home? Thinking is finished,' Natasha told him. 'It is decided. The four children, Ivan, Sophie, Tanya and Nicholas, can't

believe it. Their parents are planning to put their grandmother into a Home. She's a bit of a dotty old lady - sometimes demanding, often annoying - but as much a part of their lives as their shambly house or the whirring of the washing machine. So they decide to take action. They begin 'The Granny Project', with immediate and sensational results...



The Hobbit
J R R Tolkien

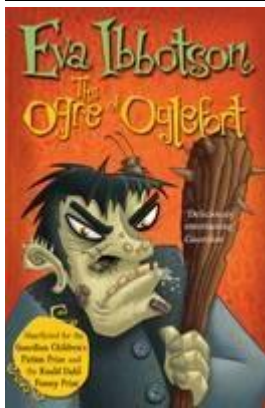
The Hobbit is the prelude to *The Lord of the Rings* and was first published in 1937. It is a finely written saga full of adventures with elves, trolls and many perilous dangers. The story follows the quest of home-loving Bilbo Baggins as he leaves his comedic-rustic village and moves into darker, deeper territory along with the thirteen dwarves and the wizard Gandalf. Bilbo encounters various denizens of the Wilderland, in order to reach and win his share of the treasure guarded by the dragon, Smaug.



The Immortals
Chris Riddell, Paul Stewart

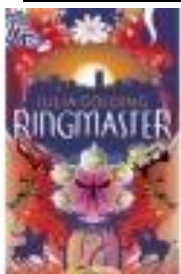
Five hundred years into the third age of flight and mighty phraxships steam across the immensity of the Deepwoods, plying their lucrative trade between the three great cities. Nate Quarter, a young Lamplighter from the mines of the eastern woods is propelled on an epic journey of self-discovery that encompasses tournaments, battles, revolutions and a final encounter with the Immortals themselves. This is the final tale in the Edge Chronicles sequence and it's a fabulous climax.

Set years in the future, this book is ideal for new readers to discover the series before going back to read the 'history' of Twig, Rook and Quint. Packed with incredible illustrations from Chris Riddell, this is a wonderfully funny, moving and utterly inventive book.



The Ogre of Oglefort
Eva Ibbotson

When a Hag, an orphan boy called Ivo, Ulf the troll and wizard Brian Brainsweller are sent to rescue a princess from an ogre, they briefly consider running away and hiding. Can they be any match for the gruesome, terrifying, ghastly, flesh-eating Ogre of Oglefort? But not all is as it first appears - the Ogre is depressed and the princess doesn't want to be rescued. The Norns, who rule their fates, decide to take things in hand and send a gang of the vilest, most petrifying ghouls to get the job done properly...



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 Silver Sword
Ian Serraillier

Although the silver sword was only a paper knife, it became the symbol of hope and courage which kept the Balicki children and their orphan friend Jan alive through the four years of occupation when they had to fend for themselves. And afterwards it inspired them to keep going on the exhausting and dangerous journey from war-torn Poland to

Switzerland, where they hoped to find their parents. Based on true accounts, this is a moving story of life during and after the Second World War.

The Sleeping Army

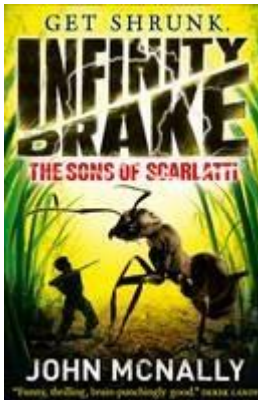


Francesca Simon

Freya is an ordinary girl living in modern Britain, but with a twist: people still worship the Viking gods. One evening, stuck with her dad on his night shift at the British Museum, she is drawn to the Lewis Chessmen

and Heimdall's Horn. Unable to resist, she blows the horn, waking three chess pieces from their enchantment; the slaves Roskva and Alfi, and Snot the Berserk. They are all summoned to Asgard, land of the Viking gods, and told they must go on a perilous journey to restore the gods to youth. If Freya refuses she will be turned into an ivory chess piece but, if she accepts her destiny and fails, the same terrible fate awaits her.

The Sons of Scarlatti

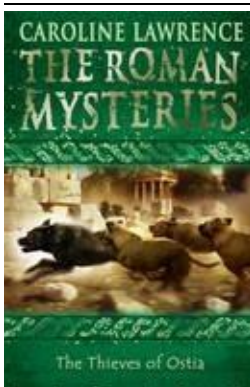


John McNally

A BIG adventure with a tiny hero...Infinity Drake and his scientist uncle are summoned to a crisis meeting. A power-mad villain has released a

doomsday bio-weapon - the mutant Scarlatti wasp. Millions of lives are

in danger, but Uncle Al has a crazy plan that just might work...Soon he's shrinking a crack military team to take down the wasps. But a double agent throws the mission and now Finn is 9mm tall and has the weight of the world's survival on his tiny shoulders. Killer bugs: It's time to pick on someone your own size!

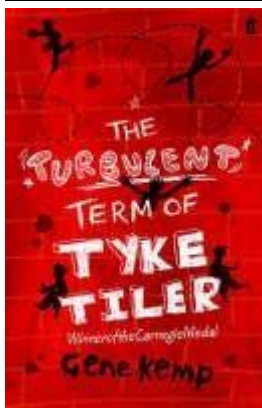


The Thieves of Ostia

Caroline Lawrence

Flavia Gemina is brilliant at finding things, so it's natural for her to solve mysteries. The daughter of a ship's captain living in Ostia, the port of Rome, in AD79, she acquires a gang of three friends who help her. There is Jonathan, the Jewish boy (and secretly a Christian); Nubia, the African slave girl; and Lupus, a mute beggar boy. Together they work out who severed the heads of the watchdogs that guard people's homes, and why he did it.

Caroline Lawrence is a terrific storyteller and a delightfully readable and accessible writer with characters that children will relate to. Her picture of daily life in Ancient Rome is wonderfully vivid. But *THE THIEVES OF OSTIA* is first and foremost a whodunnit, with lots of twist and cliffhangers and a mystery for the reader to solve.



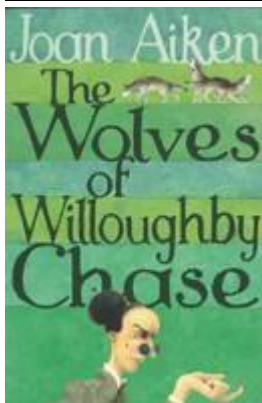
The Turbulent Term of Tyke Tiler
Gene Kemp

Tyke Tiler is very fond of jokes, that's why there are so many in this story. Tyke is also fond of Danny Price, who is not too bright and depends a lot on his friend. Together Tyke and Danny are double trouble.



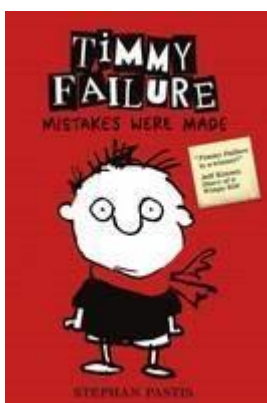
The Witches
Roald Dahl

This is a book about 'real witches' - the ones that absolutely loathe children and are always plotting to get rid of them. It features a great new Quentin Blake cover as well as a whole new exciting end section about Roald Dahl and his world.



The Wolves of Willoughby Chase
Joan Aiken

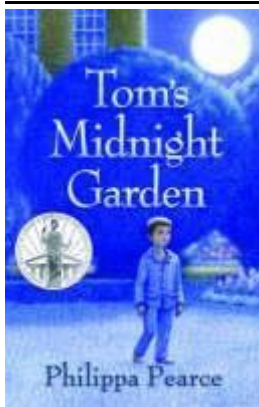
1832 - a period of English History that never happened. Good King James III is on the throne and the country is ravaged by wolves which have migrated through the newly-opened Channel Tunnel. When Sylvia and Bonnie (both orphans) fall into the hands of evil Miss Slighcarp, they must use all their wits to escape unscathed - for the governess is more cruel and merciless than the wolves that surround the great house of Willoughby Chase.



Timmy Failure: Mistakes Were Made **Stephan Pastis**

Perfect for fans of Wimpy Kid and Big Nate, Timmy Failure: Mistakes Were Made is the first book in the New York Times bestselling series. Listed as one of 100 Modern Children's Classics by The Sunday Times, it was also a Booktrust Best Book Awards winner.

Meet Timmy Failure, founder of the best detective agency in town - Total Failure, Inc. With the help of his polar bear, Total, the clueless, comically self-confident Timmy already has plans for world domination. Plans that will make his mother rich and unpaid bills a thing of the past. And plans that will defeat Corrina Corrina, The One Whose Name Shall Not Be Uttered . But she's not going away.



Tom's Midnight Garden
Philippa Pearce

Lying awake at night, Tom hears the old grandfather clock downstairs strike ...eleven ...twelve ...thirteen ...Thirteen! When Tom gets up to investigate, he discovers a magical garden. A garden that everyone told him doesn't exist. A garden that only he can enter ...

A Carnegie-Medal-winning modern classic that's magically timeless.



True Stories of the Second World War
Henry Brook, Paul Dowswell

A boxed set of three paperback books from the True Stories series: The Blitz, D-Day and The Second World War. Each book contains a series of real-life accounts of bravery and heroism, as well as providing a realistic portrayal of the horrors of war. Published in association with the Imperial War Museums.



Two Weeks with the Queen

Morris Gleitzman

'I need to see the Queen about my sick brother.' Colin Mudford is on a quest. His brother Luke has cancer and the doctors in Australia don't seem to be able to cure him. Sent to London to stay with relatives, Colin is desperate to do something to help Luke. He wants to find the best the doctor in the world. Where better to start than by going to the top? Colin is determined to ask the Queen for her advice. In Morris

Gleitzman's trademark style, this very moving story illuminates deeply serious issues about illness and loss with bright moments of humour.



Whistling in the Dark **Shirley Hughes**

Liverpool, 1940: thirteen-year-old Joan's home is under threat from the Nazi's terrifying nightly air-raids. It is not an easy time to be a teenager, especially with the sweet rationing, strict curfews and blackouts. Joan and best friend Doreen love going to the cinema until the bombings intensify and then even that becomes too dangerous, especially when an army deserter is found lurking near their home. Who is he and why does he think Joan can help him? As the Blitz worsens, Joan and her friends make a discovery that will tear the whole community apart...