



St John  
Bosco  
College

# Recommended Reading List 2020-2021



Latest Titles  
Librarian Top Picks  
Top Author /  
Series Picks



Action & Adventure  
Classics  
Family Life / Fantasy &  
Imagination  
Community Life & Gangs  
Girl Talk  
Gothic Novels  
Growing Up: Into Teens  
Having A Laugh / Funny Books  
Living In A Warzone  
Monsters & Demons  
Ghost & Horror  
Multi-Volume Fantasy Series  
Mysteries & Detectives  
School Stories  
Science Fiction  
Sport Stories



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### LATEST RECOMMENDED TITLES @ October 2020

**Abi Elphinstone – Jungledrop (Volume 2) (The Unmapped Chronicles)** Eleven-year-old twins, Fox and Fibber, have been rivals for as long as they can remember. Only one of them will inherit the family fortune and so a race is afoot to save the dwindling Petty-Squabble empire and win the love of their parents.

Also try: **The Dreamsnatcher, The Shadow Keeper, The Night Spinner, Sky Song**

**Karen Mcmanus – One Of Us Is Next** Welcome back to Bayview High . . .

It's been a year since the events of One Of Us Is Lying. But nothing has settled for the residents of Bayview. Not now someone has started playing a sinister game of Truth or Dare. When the game takes an even darker turn, suddenly no one at Bayview High knows who to trust.

Also try: **One Of Us Is Lying, Two Can Keep A Secret**

**Holly Bourne – The Places I've Cried In Public** A must read for any young feminist and it teaches the importance of love, respect and empowerment in any relationship. Basically, it's a girl power knockout!

Also try: **And A Happy New Year, It Only Happens In The Movies, What Magic Is This?**

**Michael Morpurgo – The Puffin Keeper** It was Benjamin Postlethwaite's job all his long life to make sure the light shone brightly high up in the lighthouse on Puffin Island. Not once in all his years as the lighthouse keeper had he ever let his light go out. But sometimes even the brightest light on a lighthouse cannot save a ship.

Also try: **War Horse, Kensuke's Kingdom, The Amazing Story of Aldophus Tips**

**Robin Stevens – Death Sets Sail** Daisy Wells and Hazel Wong are in Egypt, taking a cruise along the Nile. They are hoping to see some ancient temples and a mummy or two; what they get, instead, is murder.

Also try: **Murder Most Unladylike, Arsenic For Tea, A Spoonful of Murder**

**Philip Pullman - The Secret Commonwealth: The Book of Dust Volume Two (Book of Dust 2)** Lyra is now studying at St Sophia's College, Oxford, with her daemon Pantalaimon. But, for the first time there are serious divisions between the two. When an act of terrible violence breaks the peace of the Oxford night, Lyra and Pan's relationship reaches a crisis and they are drawn, far from home, into the dangerous factions of a world they had no idea existed.

Also try: **Northern Lights / Golden Compass, The Subtle Knife, The Amber Spyglass**

**Jennifer Bell – Wonderscape** When Arthur, Ren and Cecily investigate a mysterious explosion on their way to school, they find themselves trapped aboard The Principia – a scientific research ship sailing through hazardous waters, captained by one Isaac Newton.

Lost in the year 2473 in the Wonderscape, an epic in-reality adventure game, they must call on the help of some unlikely historical heroes, to play their way home before time runs out.

Also try: **The Crooked Sixpence, The Smoking Hourglass, The Frozen Telescope**

**Jenny McLachlan - Return to Roar (Land of Roar)** Twins Arthur and Rose can't wait to go back to Roar, the fantasy world they get to through their grandad's attic. Roar is a land of dragons, mermaids, unicorns, ninja wizards and where anything they can imagine can be real.

Also try: **Stargazing For Beginners, Flirty Dancing, Truly Wildly Deeply**

**Hana Tooke - The Unadoptables** In the autumn of 1886, Elinora Gassbeek, matron of the Little Tulip Orphanage discovers five new babies in most extraordinary circumstances: Growing up together, these five children know their individuality is what makes them so special - and so determined to stay together. Then a most sinister gentleman appears and threatens to tear them apart.

**Simon Farnaby - The Wizard In My Shed: The Misadventures of Merdyn the Wild** Rose is a totally ordinary girl, on a mission to mend her broken family. When Rose bumps into Merdyn and discovers what he is, she quickly realises that he could be just what she needs. Now they just need to hide him in the shed without Rose's mum noticing, track down Merdyn's magic staff and find a way to send Merdyn back through time to the Dark Ages.

**Katya Balen - October, October** October and her dad live in the woods. They sleep in the house Dad built for them and eat the food they grow in the vegetable patches. And that's the way it is. Until the year October turns eleven. That's the year October rescues a baby owl. It's the year Dad falls out of the biggest tree in their woods. The year the woman who calls herself October's mother comes back. The year everything changes.

**Francesca Gibbons - A Clock of Stars: The Shadow Moth** Imogen should be nice to her little sister Marie. She should be nice to her mum's boyfriend too. And she certainly shouldn't follow a strange silver moth through a door in a tree. But then... who does what they're told? Followed by Marie, Imogen finds herself falling into a magical kingdom where the two sisters are swept up in a thrilling race against time.

**Ben Miller - The Day I Fell Into a Fairytale** Lana loves stories. Especially the ones she and her brother, Harrison, share in their make-believe games. But when Harrison decides he's too grown-up to play with Lana she finds herself feeling lonely. Until something magical happens...

**Amy Timberlake – Skunk and Badger** A classic tale about an extraordinary and unlikely animal friendship. For fans of Paddington Bear and Wallace and Gromit.

## **SJBC LIBRARIAN TOP PICKS**

**David Almond – Skellig** An unusual being enters the life of Michael, a boy whose family has moved into a new house and whose baby sister is gravely ill. Michael's loneliness and isolation lead to a special friendship with the being called Skellig.

Interest level age 12+

Also try: **My Name Is Mina, Klaus Vogel and the Bad Lads, The Boy Who Swam with Piranhas**

**John Boyne - The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas** Bruno is a nine-year-old from Berlin who has three best Friends For Life, an elder sister who is a Hopeless Case, and an ambition to be an Explorer. One day in 1943 someone called The Fury decides that Bruno's soldier father is to be posted, together with the whole family, to somewhere called Out-With. Bruno knows nothing of the Final Solution and the Holocaust, until he meets Shmuel, a boy who lives a strange parallel existence on the other side of the adjoining wire fence and wears a uniform of striped pyjamas.

Interest level age 11+

Also try: **The Terrible Thing That Happened To Barnaby Brockett**

**Kevin Brooks – The Bunker Diary** A boy wakes up in a low-ceilinged rectangular building made entirely of whitewashed concrete. There are six rooms along the corridor. There are no windows. No doors. If he's right, the lift will come down in five minutes. Only it won't be empty.

Interest level age 14+

Also try: **Being, Martyn Pig, Born Scared, Black Rabbit Summer**

**Melvin Burgess – Junk** Tar loves Gemma, but Gemma doesn't want to be tied down to anyone or anything and heroin has the power to tie them both down. The plot contains mature themes.

Interest level age 14+

Also try: **Billy Elliot, Kite, The Cry of the Wolf**

**F. Cottrell-Boyce - Millions** When brothers Damian and Anthony unwittingly come into possession of the proceeds of a train robbery, they find themselves with millions of pounds to spend in the next 17 days.

Interest level age 9 -13

Also try: **Framed, Cosmic**

**Sarah Crossan – One** Grace and Tippi don't like being stared and sneered at, but they're used to it. They're conjoined twins - united in blood and bone. What they want is to be looked at in turn, like they truly are two people. But a heart-wrenching decision lies ahead for Tippi and Grace. One that could change their lives more than they ever asked for...

Interest level age 14+

Also try: **Apple and Rain, Breathe, Moonrise, The Weight of Water**

**Anne Frank – The Diary of a Young Girl** A precocious young girl is obliged by encroaching Nazi regime to live in enforced seclusion with family and friends. Interest level age 11+

**Anthony Horowitz – Stormbreaker** 14-year-old Alex Rider finds his life turned upside down on discovering that his late uncle wasn't a mild-mannered banker, but instead a field agent for MI6. Alex is then dragged into the world of espionage and intrigue himself. Book #1 in an action-packed book which won the New York Times Bestselling young adult novel.

Interest level age 12+

Also try: **Point Blanc, Skeleton Key, Eagle Strike, Scorpia, Ark Angel, Snakehead**

**Geraldine McCaughrean - Where the World Ends** In the summer of 1727, a group of men and boys are put ashore on a remote sea stack to harvest birds for food. No one returns to collect them. Why? And how can they survive, housed in stone and imprisoned on every side of the ocean?

Interest level age 12+

Also try: **A Pack of Lies**

**SF Said - Varjak Paw** Guided by the spirit of his legendary Mesopotamian ancestor, Jalal, Varjak Paw, a pure-bred cat, leaves his home and pampered existence and sets out to save his family from the evil Gentleman who took their owner, the Contessa, away.

Interest level age 9 -13

Also try: **The Outlaw Varjak Paw, Phoenix**

**Robert Swindells – Stone Cold** When he runs away from his stepfather, Link has to sleep rough. But children are disappearing from London streets. Will Link be next? Contains some violence and sexual innuendo.

Interest level 9 – 13

Also try: **Knife-Edge, Dosh, Blitzed**

**Alex Wheatle – Liddle Bit** What's worse than hiding a secret? Liddle Bit's about to find out... Venetia King is the hottest girl at school. Too bad Lemar is the second shortest guy in his year. Written by local, award winning children's author Alex Wheatle, a regular visitor to SJBC.

Interest level age 14+

Also try: **Crongton Knights, Straight Outta Crongton**

**Jason Wallace – Encounters** Zimbabwe, 1994. A group of children spot peculiar lights in the sky over the grounds of their school. From this moment on, six young people's lives are changed forever. In amongst these tangled, tortured lives, comes a group of psychologists to verify the spookily similar claims of every witness. Their daughter, Holly, can tell there's more to it than aliens or mass hysteria – can she reveal the dark truths that haunt them?

Also try: **Out of Shadows**

## SJBC LIBRARIAN TOP AUTHOR / SERIES PICKS

**Malorie Blackman** British writer who held the position of Children's Laureate from 2013 to 2015. She primarily writes literature and television drama for children and young adults.

**Roald Dahl** British novelist, short story writer, poet, screenwriter, and fighter pilot. His books have sold more than 250 million copies worldwide.

**Dan Freedman** 'Jamie Johnson' football series

**Michael Grant** American author of young adult fiction. He has written over 160 books including the 'Animorphs' and the 'Everworld' book series, as well as the 'Making Out' book series.

**Anthony Horowitz** English novelist and screenwriter specialising in mystery and suspense. His work for young adult readers includes 'The Diamond Brothers' series, the 'Alex Rider' series, and 'The Power of Five' series.

**C.S. Lewis** British novelist, poet, academic, medievalist, literary critic, essayist, lay theologian, broadcaster, lecturer, and Christian apologist. Author of the 'Narnia' series.

**Michael Morpurgo** English book author, poet, playwright, and librettist who is known best for children's novels such as 'War Horse', 'Private Peaceful', 'The Butterfly Lion', 'Kensuke's Kingdom', 'The Amazing Story of Aldophus Tips.'

**Robert Muchamore** English author, most notable for writing the 'CHERUB' and 'Henderson's Boys' novels.

**Tom Palmer** author of three Puffin football children's series, 'Football Academy', 'Foul Play' and 'The Squad.'

**Christopher Paolini** American author of the Inheritance Cycle, which consists of the books 'Eragon', 'Eldest', 'Brisingr', and 'Inheritance.'

**Philip Pullman** English novelist. He is the author of several best-selling books, including the fantasy trilogy 'His Dark Materials.'

**Rick Riordan** American author known for writing the 'Percy Jackson & the Olympians' series, about a twelve-year-old boy who discovers he is a son of Poseidon.

**Louis Sachar** American writer of children's books, best known for the 'Wayside School' series, 'Holes' and 'There's A Boy In The Girls' Bathroom.'

**David Walliams** David Edward Williams OBE, known professionally as David Walliams, is an English comedian, actor, author, and TV presenter.

## ACTION & ADVENTURE

**Jess Butterworth - Running on the Roof of the World** After 12-year-old Tash's parents are seized by soldiers, she and her best friend resolve to rescue them. But to do so, they must escape Tibet, cross the mountains and seek help from the Dalai Lama in India.

**Jack Cheng – See You In The Cosmos** Eleven-year-old Alex Petroski, along with his dog, Carl Sagan, makes big discoveries about his family on a road trip, and he records it all on a golden iPod he intends to launch into space.

**Suzanne Collins - The Hunger Games** A series of three adventure set in The Hunger Games universe, and follows young characters Katniss Everdeen and Peeta Mellark. Every year, children from the districts are selected to participate in a compulsory annual televised death match called The Hunger Games. The novels in the trilogy are titled **The Hunger Games** (2008), **Catching Fire** (2009), and **Mockingjay** (2010).

**James Dashner – The Maze Runner** When Thomas wakes up in the lift, the only thing he can remember is his name. He's surrounded by strangers—boys whose memories are also gone. Outside the towering stone walls that surround the Glade is a limitless, ever-changing maze. It's the only way out—and no one's ever made it through alive.

**Ele Fountain – Boy 87** Shif is an ordinary boy who likes chess, maths and racing his best friend home from school. But one day, soldiers with guns come to his door, and he is no longer safe. He is forced to embark on a dangerous journey through new lands and strange voices.

**Kiran Millwood Hargrave – The Girl of Ink and Stars** When a mysterious death shakes her island community, thirteen-year-old Isabella, daughter to the island's only mapmaker, joins a party of explorers who go into the forest in search of answers.

**Anthony Horowitz – Stormbreaker** An action-packed book which won the New York Times Bestselling young adult novel. It is written by British author Anthony Horowitz and the first novel in the Alex Rider series.

**Tanya Landman – Buffalo Soldier** After being freed from slavery, Charlotte decides to join the US army in the guise of a man and changes her name to Charley. She is sent to the American frontier to fight native American Indian tribes, where death is always near at hand.

**Robert Muchamore – The Recruit** James is going wrong in his life, with a dysfunctional family and a future of crime and prison. Until he is recruited into CHERUB, that is, where his dubious talents can be exploited to fight terrorism. Book #1

**Dave Shelton – A Boy and a Bear in a Boat** A Boy and a bear go to sea, equipped with a suitcase, a comic book and a ukelele for a short trip. But soon their boat encounters "unforeseen anomalies", strange storms, a terrifying sea monster and the rank remains of The Very Last Sandwich.

**Ali Sparkes – Wishful Thinking** When Kevin accidentally attracts an ancient god, he begins to worship him in the hope that some of his wishes will come true.

**Mark Walden - HIVE Series** In this story all the bright kids are sent to the Higher Institute of Villainous Education. Very good fun and born to be bad!

**Ross Welford – The 1,000 Year Old Boy** Alfie is like any other boy - except he's 1000 years old. When everything he knows is destroyed in a fire, the modern world comes crashing in. He embarks on a mission to find a different way to live, which means finding a way to make sure he will die.

# CLASSICS

**Louisa M Alcott - Little Women** First in the series of classic novels of 4 sisters growing up in 1860s America written from the point of view of Jo, who would dearly like to become a writer.

**Jane Austen – Pride & Prejudice** This classic story about eighteenth-century England features a glamorous, proud hero and a dashing, prejudiced heroine whose worth is slowly discovered.

**Richard Bach - Jonathan Livingston Seagull** Uplifting story of a young seagull's bid to live its life as free as possible. A beautifully crafted short read.

**J.M. Barrie – Peter Pan** The story of the boy who refuses to grow up follows the Darling children, Wendy, John and Michael, who befriend the magical Peter and are whisked away to Neverland, where the villainous Captain Hook and the brave Lost Boys await.

**Frances H Burnett - The Secret Garden** Escapism, innocence and beauty are all features of the secret garden. This book reads like a dream.

**Charles Dickens - Oliver Twist** Classic story of the orphan boy, life in crime and his quest to escape it all.

**Charlotte Bronte - Jane Eyre** Jane falls in love with her rich employer, only to find out he has a dark secret....Classic stuff that has thrilled generations.

**Sir Arthur Conan Doyle - Adventures of Sherlock Holmes** This is a great introduction to detective stories. Many of the best Holmes stories are in this collection.

**Erich Kastner – Emil and the Detectives** A young German boy who is robbed of money which he has set out to deliver to his grandmother in Berlin becomes involved in the pursuit of a notorious thief and his gang who are planning a bank robbery.

**Clive King – Stig of the Dump** Nobody believes Barney when he says he's discovered a boy living wild in the dump. But for Barney, Stig is totally real. They become great friends, learn each other's ways and embark on a series of exciting adventures.

**Kenneth Grahame – The Wind in the Willows** Adventure abounds in this classic story of friendship. Can Mole, Ratty and Badger save Toad from prison, and his home Toad Hall from the wicked Weasels and Stoats?

**Harper Lee – To Kill A Mockingbird** Scout's story is about justice. When Scout's father, a lawyer, agrees to defend a black man against an accusation by a white girl, he must battle the prejudice of the whole town.

**Mary Norton – The Borrowers** There are not many Borrowers left, as they like to live in quiet places. This is the story of the mysterious tiny people who live in old houses everywhere.

**Dodie Smith – I Capture The Castle** Life growing up in a crumbling castle, with her father who suffers from crippling writer's block, her glamorous but ineffectual step-mother and her vain but beloved sister Rose. When two visiting Americans arrive, all of their lives are turned upside down, and Cassandra experiences her first love.

**E.B. White – Charlotte's Web** The unforgettable story of a girl called Fern who loves a little pig called Wilbur. It tells how Charlotte A. Cavatica, a beautiful grey spider, saves Wilbur from the usual fate of nice fat pigs, by a wonderfully clever plan.

## FAMILY LIFE

**David Baddiel – The Parent Agency** After wishing for new parents, Barry find he has choice to choose a new set. Who will he pick?

**Berlie Doherty – Dear Nobody** Eighteen-year-old Chris struggles to deal with two shocks that have changed his life - meeting the mother who left him and his father when he was ten, and discovering that he has got his girlfriend pregnant.

**Jenny Han – It's Not Summer Without You** Teenaged Isobel "Belly" Conklin, whose life revolves around spending the summer at her mother's best friend's beach house, reflects on the tragic events of the past year that changed her life forever. The plot contains minor profanity. Book #2

**Jaco Jacobs – A Good Day For Climbing Trees** Marnus's older brother is good at breaking swimming records and girls' hearts. His younger brother is a crafty entrepreneur. But when a girl called Leila turns up on their doorstep one morning with a petition, it's the start of an unexpected adventure.

**MG Leonard – Beetle Boy** After his father goes missing, Darkus moves in with his eccentric uncle. He discovers that the beetles infesting their neighbour's home are an intelligent super-species in danger of extermination at the hands of a mad scientist. Book #1.

**Jenny McLachlan - Stargazing for Beginners** Meg's ambition is to one day become an astronaut, and winning a competition to visit NASA could be a big step towards achieving that dream. But when Meg's mum leaves her alone with her baby sister, Elsa, everything is thrown into chaos.

**Andy Mulligan – Trash** Fourteen-year-olds Raphael and Gardo team up with a younger boy, Rat, to figure out the mysteries surrounding a bag Raphael finds during their daily life of sorting through trash in a Third World country's dump.

**Sara Pennypacker – Pax** After being forced to give up his pet fox, Pax, a young boy named Peter decides to leave home and get his best friend back. The plot contains graphic violence.

**Sue Townsend – The Secret Diary of Adrian Mole Aged 13 ¾** Adrian is now 13 3/4 years old and coping with first love, his parents splitting up and the messy business of growing up.

**Jenny Valentine – Finding Violet Park** In possession of an urn with ashes, sixteen-year-old Lucas becomes convinced that its occupant, Violet Park, is communicating with him, initiating a voyage of self-discovery that forces him to confront the events surrounding his father's disappearance.

**Lara Williamson – A Boy Called Hope** After seeing his dad on television, Dan tries to get back in touch with him, with unexpected results.

**Amy Wilson – A Girl Called Owl** With a name like hers, Owl never expected her life to be normal, at home or at school. But when Owl finds out that she is Jack Frost's daughter, her world shifts beyond what she could ever imagine.

**Jaqueline Wilson – Clover Moon** Clover Moon lives in Cripps Alley, a grimy backstreet of Victorian London, with six other siblings, her father and his uncaring second wife. Despite her talents, she is condemned to a life as a household skivvy until a chance meeting changes everything.

## FANTASY / IMAGINATION

**Abi Elphinstone – The Dream Snatcher** Moll and her wildcat Gryff must fight back against dreamsnatcher Skull's dark magic before it's too late. Book #1.

**John Boyne - The Terrible Thing That Happened to Barnaby Rocket** From birth, Barnaby has failed to obey the law of gravity. When his parents tire of his floating and send him away, he finds himself travelling around the world on an adventurous journey, meeting many interesting people along the way.

**Lissa Evans - Wed Wabbit** Fidge is hurled into a strange world with two unbelievably weird companions and her awful cousin Graham. Between them, they need to solve a series of nearly impossible clues in order to get back home again.

**Alan Garner – The Weirdstone of Brisingamen** The Weirdstone of Brisingamen is lost and the forces of evil are closing in. Colin and Susan realise that they are the key to its return, but how can they defeat the powerful magic of the Morrigan and her deadly brood?

**Matt Haig – To Be A Cat** Barney wants to escape his life and problems. Things would be so much easier if he were a cat - right?

**Eva Ibbotson – Not Just a Witch** Determined to be more than just an ordinary witch, Heckie, whose speciality is changing people into animals, settles in a small town determined to use her powers for good.

**Derek Landy - Skulduggery Pleasant** When twelve-year-old Stephanie inherits her weird uncle's estate, she must join forces with Skulduggery Pleasant, a skeleton mage, to save the world from Nefarian Serpine's evil plans. Book #1

**Patrick Ness – A Monster Calls** Thirteen-year-old Conor awakens to find a monster outside his bedroom window--not the one from his recurring nightmare, but an ancient, wild creature that wants him to face truth and loss.

**Kenneth Oppel – The Nest** When wasps come to Steve in a dream offering to fix his sick baby brother, he thinks all he has to do is say yes. But yes may not mean what Steve thinks it means.

**Philippa Pearce – Tom's Midnight Garden** Late at night, when the clock strikes 13, Tom tiptoes downstairs to find a lush garden which is not there during the day.

**Terry Pratchett – Wintersmith** When Tiffany accidentally interrupts the Dance of the Seasons and awakens the interest of the elemental spirit of Winter, she requires the help of the six-inch-high, sword-wielding, sheep-stealing Wee Free Men to put the seasons right.

**J.R.R. Tolkien – The Hobbit** Whisked from his comfortable hobbit-hole by Gandalf the wizard and a band of dwarves, Bilbo Baggins finds himself caught up in a plot to raid the treasure hoard of Smaug the Magnificent, a large and very dangerous dragon ...

**Jessica Townsend – Nevermore: The Trials of Morrigan Crow** A cursed child destined to die on her 11th birthday is rescued and whisked away to a secret realm called Nevermoor and given the chance to compete for a place in a prestigious organisation called the Wondrous Society. The plot contains profanity. Book #1

## COMMUNITY LIFE / GANGS

**Richard Adams – Watership Down** A group of hardy Berkshire rabbits share many adventures together as they search for a safe place to establish a new warren after the destruction of their community.

**Narinder Dhami – 13 Hours** Anni arrives home one day to discover that her agoraphobic mum's biggest fear has come true. Masked strangers have invaded their house and it is up to Anni to find out why.

**Phil Earle – The Bubble Wrap Boy** Charlie Han found his secret talent: skateboarding. It's his one-way ticket to popularity. All he's got to do is practise, and nothing's going to stop him. Except Charlie isn't the only one in his family keeping a secret.

**Graham Greene – Brighton Rock** It is 1930s Brighton and gangs are in control of the town. When a journalist is murdered, a chance acquaintance, Ida Arnold sets out to track down the guilty and comes up against Pinkie Borwn, a teenage gang leader.

**Stephen Kelman – Pigeon English** Eleven-year-old Harrison Opoku, newly arrived in England from Ghana with his mother and older sister, starts his own murder investigation after a boy is knifed to death on the high street.

**Suzanne LaFleur – Eight Keys** When twelve-year-old Elise, orphaned since age nine, becomes disheartened by school and its bullies, changing relationships, and higher expectations, keys to long-locked rooms and messages from her late father help her cope.

**Jewell Parker Rhodes – Ghost Boys** After twelve-year-old Jerome is shot by a white police officer, he observes the aftermath of his death and meets the ghosts of other fallen black boys, including historical figure Emmett Till.

**Mitch Johnson – Kick** Budi's going to play for the greatest team on earth. But one unlucky kick brings Budi's world crashing down. Now he owes the Dragon, the most dangerous man in Jakarta. Soon it isn't only his dreams at stake, but his life.

**William Nicholson – The Wind Singer** After Kestrel Hath dares to rebel in school, the chief examiner humiliates her father and the family are sentenced to harsh punishment. Kestrel learns the secret of the wind singer and, together with her twin brother, sets out on a terrifying journey.

**Alex Wheatle – Liddle Bit** What's worse than hiding a secret? Liddle Bit's about to find out... Venetia King is the hottest girl at school. Too bad Lemar is the second shortest guy in his year.

**Alex Wheatle – Crongton Knights** Living on the South Crongton council estate has its worries - and life for McKay has been even tougher since his mum died. And now, having strayed off his turf on a 'heroic' mission to help out a girl, McKay finds himself facing a friend's crazy ex-boyfriend, some power-tripping hood-rats and a notoriously violent gangster with a vendetta which hits too close to home.

**Benjamin Zephaniah – Gangsta Rap** After being excluded from school, Ray and his mates Tyrone and Prem are given the opportunity to form a group and record hip-hop music. But their success seems to be the cause of a violent conflict between east and west Londoners.

## GIRL TALK

**Judy Blume - Are You There God? It's Me, Margaret** Margaret approaches adolescence with trepidation, but with the help of God and Nature, she makes a successful transition.

**Judy Blume – Forever** A graphic novel of a teenage love affair based primarily on sexual attraction.

**Meg Cabot - Jinx** Funny teen-look at a girl struggling to come to terms with her clumsiness.

**Cathy Cassidy - Indigo Blue** Indigo's mum has a secret... a reason to leave behind their lovely house and friends.

**Jennifer Donnelly – A Gathering Light** Mattie is torn between her family responsibilities, her desire to be a writer and her first romance. The tensions in her life are mirrored by the facts slowly revealed about the life of a young woman found drowned in a lake whose letters Mattie reads.

**Cathy Hopkins - Mates, Dates..(series)** Long running series of Lucy and her friends and their funny experiences of growing up.

**Eva Ibbotson - Journey to the River Sea** An orphaned school girl journeys to South America with her tough-as-old-boots nanny.

**Karen McCombie - Ally's World Series** Funny 12 book series looking at Ally, her life, friends and mishaps.

**Hilary McKay - Saffy's Angel** One of the best books of recent years. Saffy, when realising she is adopted, travels from America to Italy to trace her family.

**Jennifer Niven - All the Bright Places** A compelling and beautiful story about a girl who learns to live from a boy who wants to die.

**Louise Rennison - Georgina Nicholson** Recently concluded series, hilarious and written in diary form as the accident prone Georgina grows up. 10 books to read!

**Louise Rennison - Withering Tights** Comedy set over a long summer holiday in a drama school.

**Jerry Spinelli - Stargirl** Brilliant and brave novel about a teenager daring to be different in an American high school. Highly recommended.

**Sarah Webb - Amy Green** Teen Amy helps a relative who has taken over an aunt page in a teenage magazine with funny consequences.

**Rachel Wright - You're Got Blackmail** Comedy thriller that has the whole of the school in a tizz.

# GOTHIC NOVELS

## **Holly Black and Tony DiTerlizzi - The Spiderwick Chronicles Volume 1: The Field Guide**

As a just-chilling-enough gothic fantasy choice for younger readers, Spiderwick defeats Lemony Snicket with the richness of its imagined world, illustrated as if by a Victorian obsessive, and its freedom from adult knowingness.

## **Charlotte Brontë - Jane Eyre**

From the moment she is locked in the Red Room, Jane's journey is through gothic terrain of mystery and melodrama, complete with feverish dreams, deathbed scenes, a tormented hero and a mansion harbouring grotesque inhabitants. Although this book's significance stems from its observation of the Victorians' dismissive treatment of the genteel poor female from childhood, and the obstacles in the way of true love, the images that stay in the mind are from the gothic tradition.

## **Emily Brontë - Wuthering Heights**

The grandmother of 'Cold Comfort Farm', Wuthering Heights itself is the archetypal lower-class gothic dwelling and the weather on the gothically bleak moors with their tortured thorn trees is usually gothically tempestuous. The stranger who unleashes turbulence into the family fold is also a gothic figure (Mr Lockwood reasonably compares the adult Heathcliff to a ghoul or a vampire) and the passion and thirst for revenge that drives the story are key gothic themes.

## **John Harris Dunning and Nikhil Singh - Salem Brownstone: All Along the Watchtowers**

An impoverished young launderette owner is saved from a life in service washes by a legacy from his estranged father, goes to view his inherited mansion and discovers that he has also been bequeathed the task of defending the earth from other-worldly threats. This could lead readers to H P Lovecraft and Edward Gorey.

## **Kami Garcia and Margaret Stohl - Beautiful Creatures**

There is no padding in this doorstopper novel which works wonders with the well-worn theme of forbidden love between a mortal and a supernatural being. Crucially, Ethan and Lena, drawn together by a family curse, are characters we care about and the Southern Gothic setting is well realised. Gatlin, South Carolina, under the twin influences of the Daughters of the American Revolution and voodoo, is a stifling environment for teenagers but rich territory for the war between good and evil.

## **Matt Haig - The Radleys**

This account of the lives of reformed vampires (also known as 'abstainers' and 'vegetarians') in a contemporary English village is witty as well as deep. Mr and Mrs Radley are beset by guilt, that intensely gothic emotion. As well as remorse for their past dark deeds, there's parental guilt at denying the young Radleys their true nature.

## **Rachel Klein - The Moth Diaries**

For a 16-year-old grieving for a lost father, life at a girls' prep school on the East Coast of the US in the 1960s is traumatic in its claustrophobic intensity, even before she forms the theory that her best friend is the prey of a vampire masquerading as the aloof new girl down the corridor.

### **Mary Shelley - Frankenstein**

Composed as part of a challenge with Byron and Shelley to conjure up the most terrifying ghost story, Frankenstein narrates the chilling tale of a being created by a bright young scientist and the catastrophic consequences that ensue. Considered by many to be the first science-fiction novel, the tragic tale of Victor Frankenstein and the tortured creation he rejects is a classic fable about the pursuit of knowledge, the nature of beauty and the monstrosity inherent to man.

### **Robert Louis Stevenson - The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde**

Published as a 'shilling shocker', Robert Louis Stevenson's dark psychological fantasy gave birth to the idea of the split personality. The story of respectable Dr Jekyll's strange association with the 'damnable young man' Edward Hyde; the hunt through fog-bound London for a killer; and the final revelation of Hyde's true identity is a chilling exploration of humanity's basest capacity for evil.

### **Bram Stoker – Dracula**

When Jonathan Harker visits Transylvania to help Count Dracula purchase a London house, he makes horrifying discoveries in his client's castle. In an ensuing battle of wills between the sinister Count and a determined group of adversaries - led by the intrepid vampire hunter Abraham van Helsing - Bram Stoker created a masterpiece of the horror genre, probing into questions of identity, sanity and the dark corners of Victorian sexuality and desire.

## GROWING UP: HEADING INTO YOUR TEENS

**Becky Albertalli – What If It's Us** Romantic, realistic and sweet, this perfectly captures New York, teenage love and life in that gray area when you're not quite an adult and not quite a child either.

**Becky Albertalli - Simon vs. the Homo Sapiens Agenda** Sixteen-year-old, not-so-openly-gay Simon Spier is blackmailed into playing wingman for his classmate or else his sexual identity and that of his pen pal will be revealed. The plot contains pervasive profanity and sexual references.

**Anne Cassidy – Looking for JJ** Jennifer Jones is released from prison after serving six years for killing her best friend when she was just ten. She and the press want to know if she deserves happiness. A thought-provoking novel.

**Chris Higgins – A Boy Called Ocean** Kai has always been best friends with Jen; ever since he and his mum moved to Cornwall when he was small. But now his feelings are deepening. It's ridiculous to imagine Jen would feel the same, especially since she has been hanging out with surf-pro Macca, the guy everyone fancies.

**S.E. Hinton – The Outsiders** "The Outsiders transformed young-adult fiction from a genre mostly about prom queens, football players and high school crushes to one that portrayed a darker, truer world." A classic coming-of-age book.

**Sabina Khan – The Love and Lies of Rukhsana Ali** Seventeen-year-old Rukhsana Ali has always been fascinated by the universe around her and the laws of physics that keep everything in order. But her life at home isn't so absolute. Unable to come out to her conservative Muslim parents, she keeps that part of her identity hidden. And that means keeping her girlfriend, Ariana, a secret from them too.

**Rodman Philbeck - Freak the Mighty** Funny and touching about two misfit boys, who when they become friends, unite as Freak the Mighty!

**Meg Rosoff - Just in Case** Quirky and funny follow up to How I Live Now in which 15 year old David is obsessed Fate is out to get him.

**Rainbow Rowell - Eleanor & Park** Set over the course of one school year in 1986, this novel focuses on two star-crossed misfits who are smart enough to know that first love almost never lasts but brave and desperate enough to try. The plot contains profanity.

**Louis Sacher - There's a Boy in the Girls' Bathroom** Another highly entertaining (and funny) tale from the writer of Holes. Has much to identify with.

**Holly Smale – Geek Girl Series** The humorous fiction follows the life of Harriet Manners, a nerdy 15-year-old girl who tries out modelling to "reinvent herself".

**Zoe Sugg – Girl Online** The debut novel by English author and internet celebrity Zoe Sugg. The romance and drama novel is aimed at a young adult audience and focuses on a fifteen-year-old anonymous blogger and what happens when her blog goes viral.

**Benjamin Zephaniah - Face** Realistic story of how a boy is disfigured in a car accident and has to start living a new life with his disfigurement.

# HAVING A LAUGH: FUNNY BOOKS

**Douglas Adams - The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy** The Earth is due to be demolished to make way for a new hyperspace bypass and Arthur Dent and his best friend are hurtling through space with nothing but their towels and an innocuous-looking book inscribed with the big, friendly words: DON'T PANIC.

**F. Cottrell-Boyce - Framed** South Wales and art theft don't normally go together, except in this funny book!

**Roald Dahl – The Twits** Mr Twit is a foul and smelly man with bits of cornflake and sardine in his beard. Mrs Twit is a horrible old hag with a glass eye. Together they make the nastiest couple you could ever hope not to meet.

**Andy Griffiths - The 13-Storey Treehouse** Andy and Terry live in the WORLD'S BEST treehouse! It's got a giant catapult, a secret underground laboratory, a tank of man-eating sharks and a marshmallow machine that follows you around and shoots marshmallows into your mouth whenever you're hungry!

**Chris O'Dowd - Moone Boy: The Blunder Years** Martin Moone is eleven and completely fed up with being the only boy in a family of girls. He's desperate for a decent wingman to help him navigate his idiotic life.

**Terry Pratchett - Johnny Maxwell Trilogy** A brilliant trilogy. Johnny has special powers which help him see the world in a slightly different way from other boys.

**Terry Pratchett - The Witch's Vacuum Cleaner: And Other Stories** Fourteen fantastically funny stories from master storyteller Sir Terry Pratchett, full of food fights, pirates, wizards and crooks!

**Jim Smith – Barry Loser: I Am Not A Loser** A new boy arrives at Barry's school and makes his life different. Book #1

**Ross Welford - Time Travelling with a Hamster** On Al Chaudhury's twelfth birthday his beloved Grandpa Byron gives him a letter from Al's late father. In it Al receives a mission: travel back to 1984 in a secret time machine and save his father's life.

**David Walliams – Billionaire Boy / Gangsta Granny / The Boy In The Dress / Grandpa's Great Escape.** Walliams' books have achieved unprecedented critical acclaim and countless broadsheet reviewers have compared him to his all-time hero, Roald Dahl.

## LIVING IN A WARZONE

**Nina Bawden – Carrie’s War** It is the Second World War and Carrie and Nick are evacuated from London to a small town in Wales, where they are placed with strict Mr Evans and his timid mouse of a sister. Carrie and Nick are happy to visit their friend Albert there, until one day Carrie does a terrible thing - the worst thing she ever did in her life.

**John Boyne - The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas** Bruno knows nothing of the Final Solution and the Holocaust, until he meets Shmuel, a boy who lives a strange parallel existence on the other side of the adjoining wire fence and wears a uniform of striped pyjamas.

**John Boyne - The Boy at the Top of the Mountain** A powerful account of how one boy was seduced by Hitler and Nazism and paid the price.

**Anne Frank - The Diary of a Young Girl** Stunning story of bravery during the Second World War. Essential reading.

**Maurice Gleitzman - Once Trilogy** Captivating, and moving story, of two child friends growing up in Nazi occupied Poland.

**Judith Kerr - When Hitler Stole Pink Rabbit** For nine-year-old Anna, being a German Jew in 1933 did not mean anything until her father disappeared and the rest of her family had to flee the country.

**Elizabeth Laird – Welcome To Nowhere** Twelve-year-old Omar doesn't care about politics - all he wants is to be a successful businessman. But soon, bombs are falling and Omar's family have no choice but to flee with whatever they can carry.

**Michelle Magorian – Goodnight Mister Tom** Young Willie Beech is evacuated to the country as Britain stands on the brink of the Second World War. A sad, deprived child, he slowly begins to flourish under the care of old Tom Oakley - but his new-found happiness is shattered by a summons from his mother back in London.

**Andy McNab - Boy Soldier** McNab draws on his own vast SAS experience to write this exciting, partbiographical, account of his younger days in the SAS.

**Michael Morpurgo - War Horse** Thought provoking novel of the life of a horse and his thoughts during his numerous battles under different masters.

**Michael Morpurgo – Private Peaceful** Told in the voice of Private Tommo Peaceful, the story follows twenty-four hours at the front, and captures his memories of his family and his village life. Full of vivid detail and engrossing atmosphere, leading to a dramatic and moving conclusion, Private Peaceful is both a compelling love story and a deeply moving account of the First World War.

**Michael Morpurgo - The Amazing Story of Adolphus Tips** A heart-warming tale of courage and warmth, set against the backdrop of the second world war, about an abandoned village, a lifelong friendship and one very adventurous cat!

**Ian Serraillier – The Silver Sword** It was only a paper knife, but it became the symbol of hope and courage for four starving and deserted children during the Nazi occupation, and on the exhausting and dangerous journey from Poland to Switzerland.

**Sandi Toksvig – Hitler’s Canary** Ten-year-old Bamse and his Jewish friend Anton participate in the Danish Resistance during World War II.

# MONSTERS, DEMONS & VAMPIRES

**Stephanie Cole – Twilight Series** Bella Swan moves from Phoenix, Arizona to live with her father in Forks, Washington to allow her mother to travel with her new husband. After moving to Forks, Bella finds herself involuntarily drawn to a mysterious, handsome boy, Edward Cullen.

**Stephen Cole - Wereling Trilogy** Really enjoyable horror series about a family of werewolves and the teenage daughters fight against her changeover.

**Matt Haig - The Radleys** This account of the lives of reformed vampires (also known as 'abstainers' and 'vegetarians') in a contemporary English village is witty as well as deep. Mr and Mrs Radley are beset by guilt, that intensely gothic emotion. As well as remorse for their past dark deeds, there's parental guilt at denying the young Radleys their true nature.

**Rachel Klein - The Moth Diaries** For a 16-year-old grieving for a lost father, life at a girls' prep school on the East Coast of the US in the 1960s is traumatic in its claustrophobic intensity, even before she forms the theory that her best friend is the prey of a vampire masquerading as the aloof new girl down the corridor.

**Darren Shan – Cirque du Freak** Darren and his friend Steve are caught in a deadly trap. Darren must make a bargain with the one person who can save Steve. But that person is not human and only deals in blood...

**Robin Stevens - The Case of the Deepdean Vampire** "I do not believe in vampires - I am the Honourable Daisy Wells, after all. But when I heard the rumour that Camilla was seen climbing head-first down a wall, I knew it was time to investigate..."

# GHOST & CREEPY TALES THAT GO BUMP IN THE NIGHT

**Sophie Anderson – The House With Chicken Legs** Marinka dreams of a normal life, but her house has chicken legs and moves on without warning. Her grandmother is Baba Yaga, who guides spirits between this world and the next. Marinka longs to change her destiny but her house has other ideas...

**John Bellairs - The House With a Clock in Its Walls** As the clock can be heard ticking away in the house all the time, sometimes louder, sometimes quieter, sometimes faster, sometimes slower, it is up to the Barnavelts to find where it is hidden in the walls - and stop it. A true race against time...

**Malorie Blackman - Stuff of Nightmares** Frightening and scary novel which centers on the small, irrational fears that affect us all.

**Berlie Doherty – The Company of Ghosts** When Morag falls ill and Ellie finds herself alone on the island, day after day, she begins to sense another presence. Ellie notices small changes to her paintings... and when she's lost a fire lights her way home--is it just her fevered imagination?

**Neil Gaiman - Coraline** Stunning novel about a warped alternative universe hidden behind a door. Very weird and altogether creepy.

**Neil Gaiman - Graveyard Book** Horror/fantasy take on the Jungle book – a toddler whose family is murdered is raised by the dead in a graveyard.

**Matt Haig – The Dead Fathers Club** Philip Noble is an eleven-year-old in crisis. His pub landlord father has died in a road accident, and his mother is succumbing to the greasy charms of her dead husband's brother, Uncle Alan. The remaining certainties of Philip's life crumble away when his father's ghost appears in the pub and declares Uncle Alan murdered him.

**Catherine McPhail - Underworld** Utterly chilling novel set in the underground fear of a collapsed tunnel. This book is really, really scary!

**Andrew Norriss – Jessica's Ghost** Becoming best friends with the ghost of a girl named Jessica, young Francis meets two more friends who can also see Jessica and wonders what they all have in common.

**Darren Shan – Zom-B** B goes along with her father's racism to avoid being abused and must try to find students with whom to team up in order to fend off zombies. Contains strong language, racism, sexual references and graphic violence. Book #1

**Jonathan Stroud - Lockwood & Co: The Creeping Shadow** Ghouls and spectres beware! London's smallest (but best) psychic detection agency Lockwood & Co. is back with a fourth deliciously terrifying tale!

## MULTI-VOLUME FANTASY SERIES

**Tomi Adeyemi – Children of Blood and Bone** Seventeen-year-old Zélie, her older brother Tzain, and rogue princess Amari fight to restore magic to the land and activate a new generation of magi. Book #1

**Cassandra Clare - Magisterium: The Bronze Key (The Magisterium)** This tightly plotted story shines with imaginative twists and settings, sparks of humor, and a rich portrayal of friendship in the face of doubt.

**Eoin Colfer - Artemis Fowl** Find out what happens when a 12 year old criminal mastermind kidnaps a fairy. This long running series has enthralled children for almost 10 years now.

**Charlie Fletcher - Stone Heart Trilogy** The great statues of London spring to life in this epic fantasy romp!

**Derek Landy - Skulduggery Pleasant Series** Fantastic fantasy horror novel, wild, and full of imagination and excitement. Now 5 books.

**CS Lewis - Narnia Series** Perhaps the ultimate battle between Good and Evil? Classic tale of children trying to awaken an animal world from eternal winter.

**Cliff McNish - Doomspell Trilogy** Powerful fantasy series about children snatched from our world to satisfy the evil of a witch from a different dimension.

**James Patterson - Maximum Ride Series** Stunning 5 book sequence about a group of teenagers generically engineered to be 1% bird. It's cool to be able to fly!

**Michelle Paver – Gods and Warriors Series** Tells the story of Hylas, a 12-year-old goatherd, whose adventures take him to Ancient Crete and Ancient Egypt, and Pirra, the daughter of a high priestess with a crescent shaped scar on her cheek.

**Michelle Paver - Chronicles of Ancient Darkness Series** Chronicle the adventures of Torak, an adolescent boy from the Wolf Clan, and his friends Renn and Wolf. The main story arc revolves around Torak and his quest to defeat the Soul Eaters, a group of evil clan mages who seek out to destroy all life in the forest.

**Philip Pullman - His Dark Materials Trilogy** Staggering dark fantasy trilogy in which Lyra fights for survival in a Godless world. Quite brilliant fantasy series.

**Philip Reeve - Mortal Engines** Blinding fantasy novel where moving cities trawl the globe. Tom and Hester are thrown from "London" and try to get back on board.

**Rick Riordan - Percy Jackson Series** Entertaining fantasy series in which a teenage boy living in modern day America finds out he is the son of a God.

**Rick Riordan – The Trials of Apollo** How do you punish an immortal? By making him human. After angering his father Zeus, the god Apollo is cast down from Olympus. Weak and disoriented, he lands in New York City as a regular teenage boy.

**JK Rowling – Harry Potter Series** A series of fantasy novels written by British author J. K. Rowling. The novels chronicle the life of a young wizard, Harry Potter, and his friends Hermione Granger and Ron Weasley, all of whom are students at Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry.

## MYSTERIES / DETECTIVES

**Cornelia Funke – Inkheart** A story about characters from a book that become real when it is read by 12-year-old Meggie's father. She discovers that this is how her mother disappeared.

**Rohan Gavin – Knightly & Son** A father and son detective team investigates the mystery surrounding a book that makes its readers commit terrible crimes and a sinister organisation known as the Combination.

**John Green – Paper Towns** One month before graduating from high school, Quentin "Q" Jacobsen basks in the predictable boringness of his life until his beautiful and exciting classmate, Margo Roth Spiegelman, takes him on a midnight adventure and then mysteriously disappears.

**John Green – Turtles All The Way Down** The search for a fugitive billionaire is a springboard to an examination of sixteen-year-old Aza's anxiety disorder. The plot contains profanity and sexual references.

**Frances Hardinge - The Lie Tree** When Faith's father dies under mysterious circumstances it is up to her to uncover the truth with the help of one of her father's plants: a tree that feeds on lies.

**Anthony Horowitz – The Falcon's Malteser** When Johnny Naples entrusts Tim Diamond with a package worth over a million pounds he's making a big mistake. For Tim is probably the worst detective in the world. Next day, Johnny's dead, Tim gets the blame and his brother, Nick, has the package.

**Erich Kästner – Emil & The Detectives** A young German boy who is robbed of money which he has set out to deliver to his grandmother in Berlin becomes involved in the pursuit of a notorious thief and his gang who are planning a bank robbery.

**Karen M. Mcmanus – One Of Us Is Lying** When the creator of a school gossip app mysteriously dies in front of four high-profile students, all four become suspects. It is up to them to solve the case. The plot contains profanity, sexual references, and negative stereotypes.

**Robert Muchamore – Man vs. Beast** In James' most dangerous mission yet, he has to infiltrate a group of animal rights activists ... Book #6

**Chris Riddell - Ottoline and the Yellow Cat** Ottoline and Mr Munroe investigate a string of burglaries and the disappearance of several lapdogs.

**J.K. Rowling - Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows** Harry discovers what fate truly has in store for him as he inevitably makes his way to the final meeting with Voldemort. Book number 7.

**Robin Stevens - Murder Most Unladylike**

Hazel Wong and Daisy Wells, the founding - and only - members of their school's Detective Society, discover the body of their science teacher in the school gymnasium. Unsatisfied with the work of the investigating officers, Hazel and Daisy decide to do their own detective work, and quickly draw up a long list of suspects.

## SCHOOL STORIES

**David Baddiel – Head Kid** Ryan is the naughtiest kid in Bracket Wood School. When he goes too far, the head teacher walks out. The new head arrives and is really strict. Then he and Ryan swap bodies, leaving Ryan in charge. Bracket Wood School soon goes off the rails.

**Judy Blume - Blubber** Tale of mob cruelty as ring-leader Wendy and the kids in her class make life miserable for hapless Linda.

**Meg Cabot - The Princess Diaries (Princess Diaries Series #1)** Mia Thermopolis didn't think life could get more complicated when your mom dates your algebra teacher until she found out she was princess of Genovia.

**Roald Dahl – Matilda** Matilda applies her untapped mental powers to rid the school of the evil, child-hating headmistress, Miss Trunchbull, and restore her nice teacher, Miss Honey, to financial security.

**Jenny McLachlan – Flirty Dancing** Bea Hogg is in deep trouble. She entered a TV dance competition with a mystery partner and it turned out to be the unbelievably hot Ollie Matthews, boyfriend of the school's meanest girl. Now she has to face Pearl Harris at school.

**John Green – Looking For Alaska** Miles "Pudge" Halter is done with his safe life at home. His whole life has been one big non-event, and his obsession with famous last words has only made him crave "the Great Perhaps" even more. He heads off to the sometimes crazy and anything-but-boring world of Culver Creek Boarding School, and his life becomes the opposite of safe. Because down the hall is Alaska Young.

**Karen M. McManus – One Of Us Is Lying** When the creator of a school gossip app mysteriously dies in front of four high-profile students, all four become suspects. It is up to them to solve the case. The plot contains profanity, sexual references, and negative stereotypes.

**R J Palacio – Wonder** Born with a terrible facial abnormality, Auggie has been home-schooled by his parents his whole life. Now, for the first time, he's being sent to a real school - and he's dreading it. All he wants is to be accepted - but can he convince his new classmates that he's just like them, underneath it all?

**Louise Rennison - Angus, Thongs and Full-Frontal Snogging (Confessions of Georgia Nicolson Series #1)** Brilliantly funny, teenage angst author Louise Rennison's first book about the confessions of crazy but lovable Georgia Nicolson.

**Rachel Renee Russell – Dork Diaries Series** The personal diary of 14-year-old Nikki Maxwell. They feature drawings, doodles and comic strips that chronicle the daily drama of her life in (and outside of) middle school.

**Sara Shepard – Pretty Little Liars** After one of their group mysteriously disappears, four high school girls find their friendship strained when they begin receiving taunting messages from someone who seems to know their secrets. The plot contains profanity and sexual situations.

**Lisa Williamson – The Art of Being Normal** David wants to be a girl. Leo wants to be invisible. When Leo stands up for David in a fight, an unlikely friendship forms.

# SCIENCE FICTION & THE UNEXPLAINED

**Margaret Atwood – The Handmaid’s Tale** In the futuristic Republic of Gilead, which is being ruled and policed by men, women are divided into classes based on their household functions.

**Malorie Blackman – Pig-Heart Boy** Your heart transplant is with a pig! Find out what difference it makes in this gripping read.

where adults disappear into thin area. Anarchy follows!

**Suzanne Collins – The Hunger Games** In a future North America, where rulers of Panem maintain control through an annual survival competition, 16 year old Katniss's skills are tested when she voluntarily takes her sister's place. The plot contains graphic descriptions of violence. Book #1

**James Dashner – The Maze Runner** Sixteen-year-old Thomas wakes up with no memory in the middle of a maze and realizes he must work with the community in which he finds himself if he is to escape. The plot contains violence. Book #1

**Polly Ho-Yen – Boy in the Tower** Ade loves living at the top of a tower block, but one day other tower blocks start falling down around him. Strange, menacing plants appear. And now his tower isn't safe any more. Ade and his mum are trapped and there seems no way out.

**Madeline L'Engle – A Wrinkle in Time** Meg Murry and her family receive a surprise visit from an unearthly stranger out of another dimension in time.

**Ransom Riggs – Hollow City: The Second Novel of Miss Peregrine's Peculiar Children** Jacob Portman and his newfound friends travel to war-torn 1940 London where they use their unusual talents to find a cure for Miss Peregrine, the beloved headmistress of their orphanage, who has been trapped in the body of a bird. Book #2

**Veronica Roth – Divergent** In a future Chicago, 16-year-old Beatrice must choose among a faction, a decision made more difficult when she discovers that she is a does not fit into any one group. The plot contains graphic violence. Book #1

**SF Said – Phoenix** In a galaxy where Humans and Aliens are at war, can Lucky, along with an Alien warrior girl, save the worlds?

**David Thorpe - Hybrids** Hybrids are human victims of a technology virus which infects the nation in this entertaining thriller.

**Rick Yancy – The 5th Wave** A gripping SF trilogy about an Earth decimated by an alien invasion... the question of what it means to be human is at the forefront.

**John Wyndham – The Day of the Triffids** After recovering from eye injuries, Bill Masen faces a deathly silence. He finds civilisation has come to an end. His greatest threat comes from plants genetically engineered who feed on human flesh. They quietly escape and seize their day.

## SPORT STORIES

**Kwame Alexander – The Crossover** Fourteen-year-old twin basketball stars Josh and Jordan wrestle with highs and lows on and off the court as their father ignores his declining health.

**Narinder Dhani – Bend It Like Beckham** If you are 18, love football and can bend a ball like Beckham, you've got it made - haven't you? Not if you are 18, Indian and girl. An account of one football-obsessed girl's desire to play the game she loves.

**Narinder Dhani – Hannah's Secret** Hannah has five new mates and plenty of football, so she should feel like a champion. But Hannah also has a secret.

**Dan Freedman - Kick Off Trilogy** Funny look at a school football team, with Jamie desperate to be the star, by book 3 he's a teen prodigy!

**Nick Hornby – Fever Pitch** As a young boy, growing up in London and watching his parents' marriage fall apart, Nick Hornby had little sense of home. Then his dad took him to Highbury. Arsenal's football ground would become the source of many of the strongest feelings he'd ever have: joy, humiliation, heartbreak, frustration and hope.

**Mitch Johnson – Kick** Budi's going to play for the greatest team on earth. But one unlucky kick brings Budi's world crashing down. Now he owes the Dragon, the most dangerous man in Jakarta. Soon it isn't only his dreams at stake, but his life.

**Michael Morpurgo - The Fox and the Ghost King** Under a garden shed lives a family of foxes who love to watch football. But their favourite team keeps losing, and it seems like things will never look up. Daddy Fox then finds the ghost of a king who promises to help them in exchange for being released.

**Tom Palmer – Football Academy Series** Stories about a Premier League under-twelve side – about what it's like to play the game at the top.

**Tom Palmer – Foul Play Series** The Foul Play books are about a fourteen-year-old boy called Danny Harte who wants to solve football crimes. In the first book Foul Play, Danny stumbles across the kidnap of his favourite player and it all starts there.

**Tom Palmer – Roy of the Rovers** Roy Race has it all: all the skill, all the talent, and all the eyes on him now he's broken into the Melchester Rovers first team at only 16 years old. Except, of course, there's more to life than football. His dad's in a wheelchair and needs looking after, his mum is working all hours, and his sister? His sister wants to play football too, and she won't leave Roy alone until he helps her do something about it...

# FANTASY

**James M. Barrie – Peter Pan** Wendy, John, and Michael Darling share the endless adventures of Peter Pan in Neverland, a world where children never have to grow up and meet storybook creatures, the pirates, Captain Hook and The Lost Boys.

**Cassandra Clare – City of Bones** Suddenly able to see demons and the Shadowhunters who are dedicated to returning them to their own dimension, fifteen-year-old Clary is drawn into this bizarre world when her mother disappears and Clary herself is almost killed by a monster.

**Eoin Colfer – Artemis Fowl** Twelve-year-old Artemis Fowl is a brilliant criminal mastermind. But even he doesn't know what he's taken on when he kidnaps a fairy - Captain Holly Short of the LEPrecon Unit. These fairies are armed and they are dangerous.

**Neil Gaiman – The Graveyard Book** Nobody Owens is a normal boy, except that he has been raised by ghosts and other denizens of the graveyard.

**Lucy Hawking - George's Secret Key to the Universe** With the help of his new friends, Annie and Eric, George discovers a key that opens the universe to him and must eventually use his knowledge to help save Eric from within a black hole.

**Diana Wynne Jones – Howl's Moving Castle** In the land of Ingary, where cloaks of invisibility exist, Sophie Hatter attracts the unwelcome attention of the Witch of the Waste and is put under a curse. Determined to make the best of things, Sophie travels to the one place where she might get help.

**Garth Nix - Shade's Children** Dark science fiction fantasy where children are killed off before they reach adulthood. Those who escape hide under the banner of the mysterious Shade. Nix is one of the best fantasy writers around.

**Terry Pratchett - Nation** Wild comedy fantasy about the survivors of a tidal wave creating a new world for themselves. Startlingly original Pratchett comedy.

**Phillip Pullman - Northern Lights/The Golden Compass** Set in a parallel universe, it features the journey of Lyra Belacqua to the Arctic in search of her missing friend, Roger Parslow, and her imprisoned uncle, Lord Asriel, who has been conducting experiments with a mysterious substance known as "Dust".

**Ransom Riggs - Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children** When sixteen-year-old Jacob discovers an abandoned orphanage, he learns the children who lived there may have been dangerous and quarantined and may also still be alive. The plot contains mild profanity, sexual references, and violence. Book #1

**Rick Riordan - The Red Pyramid** One curse, two heroes and an evil that wont stay buried. New fantasy romp from the creator of Percy Jackson.

**J.K. Rowling - Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix** Witches and wizards regroup to stand against the Dark Lord and his Death Eaters, while at Hogwarts Harry Potter secretly teaches other pupils defence against the dark arts. Teenage angst and love interest add to the brew. Fifth book in the series.

## THRILLERS

**Malorie Blackman - Hacker** One of Blackman's most popular books. Two computer whiz-kids try to prove their father is innocent of bank theft.

**Eion Colfer - Half Moon Investigations** After completing a dodgy online course 10 year old Fletch reckons he's a fully fledged detective! Chaos follows in this great thriller.

**Joseph Craig - Jimmy Coates Series** 11 year old Jimmy realises he has super-powers, which his parents have hidden from him, and this leads to an exciting mystery of intrigue and suspense.

**Narinder Dhani - Bang Bang You're Dead** When a mysterious gunman takes a class hostage Mia suspects her brother might be involved in this tense thriller.

**Michael Grant – Hunger** It's been three months since all the adults disappeared. Gone. Food ran out weeks ago and starvation is imminent. Meanwhile, the normal teens have grown resentful of the kids with powers. And when an unthinkable tragedy occurs, chaos descends upon the town. There is no longer right and wrong. Each kid is out for himself and even the good ones turn murderous.

**Michael Grant – Lies** It's been seven months since all the adults disappeared. Gone. It happens in one night: a girl who died now walks among the living; Zil and the Human Crew set fire to Perdido Beach; and amid the flames and smoke, Sam sees the figure of the boy he fears the most: Drake. But Drake is dead—or so they thought.

**Matt Haig – The Possession of Mr Cave** Terence Cave, owner of Cave Antiques, has already experienced the tragedies of his mother's suicide and his wife's murder when his teenage son, Reuben, is killed in a grotesque accident. His remaining child, Bryony, has always been the family's golden girl and Terence comes to realise that his one duty in life is to protect her from the world's malign forces, whatever that may take.

**Robert Muchamore – CHERUB Series** A series of young adult spy novels, written by the English author Robert Muchamore, focusing around a division of the British Security Service called CHERUB, which employs children, predominantly orphans, under the age of 17, as intelligence agents.

**Alex Rider – Stormbreaker** They told him his uncle died in a car accident. But fourteen-year-old Alex knows that's a lie, and the bullet holes in his uncle's windshield confirm his suspicions. But nothing could prepare him for the news that the uncle he always thought he knew was really a spy for MI6-Britain's top secret intelligence agency.

**Marcus Sedgwick - Floodland** Gripping story of global warming and the pockets of survivors who live in the "High Lands" near Norwich. A fast brilliant read.

## TRUE STORIES

**Floella Benjamin – Coming To England** Compared to London, with its cold weather, noise and dirt of the traffic, Trinidad had been a paradise. But when Floella started school, she was shocked and upset by the taunting and rejection.

**Roald Dahl – Boy: Tales of Childhood** Roald Dahl writing about his own childhood is a treat for any Dahl fan - young or old. These stories are warm, touching, funny and show the development of one of our most treasured children's writers.

**Gerald Durrell – My Family & Other Animals** With snakes in the bath and scorpions on the lunch table, the family home on the Greek island of Corfu is a bit like a zoo so they should feel right at home... Gerald joyfully pursues his interest in natural history in the midst of an unconventional and chaotic family life - all brilliantly retold in this very funny book.

**Jacqueline Wilson – Jacky Daydream** Jacky Daydream was a childhood nickname given to the mega-bestselling former Children's Laureate Jacqueline Wilson, as she often quietly drifted away into her own imagination as a child, making up stories from a very early age.

**Andy McNab – Payback** The second book in the Boy Soldier sequence is another explosive, fast-moving and thrilling adventure, packed with authentic detail from Andy McNab's SAS expertise.

**Malala Yousafzai – I Am Malala** Malala Yousafzai describes her fight for education for girls under Taliban rule, the support she received from her parents to pursue an education and how the Taliban retaliated against her by trying to kill her.