

PINNER

HIGH SCHOOL

Summer Reading Booklet: 2019



It is really important that you keep reading over the summer holidays. By reading, you will keep your mind active and you might even enjoy yourself too!

Reading doesn't need to take up lots of your time. You could read for just twenty minutes each day. The more you read, the bigger the benefit.

We know that the biggest problem will be finding the right books to read, so we have compiled this guide for you. Members of staff have recommended books for you to read over the summer.

Some of these are books we read as children and some of them are books we read more recently. Reading just one of these books would be a brilliant way to spend some time over the summer holidays.

We'd love to hear what you think about them when we return in September.

Have a great summer!

Pinner High School
July 2019

Ms. Selvendran



The World of David Walliams

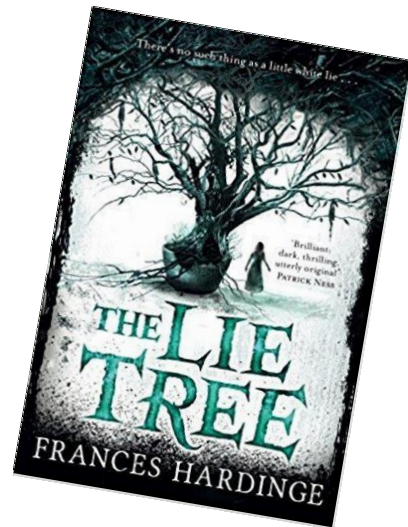
David Walliams' books bring out the mischievous child in every story. It is aimed for younger children but definitely a good one to read with younger siblings!

I can't pick my favourite one; I would love to hear what yours is!

Mrs. Tarling

'The Lie Tree' by Frances Hardinge

It's a brilliant mystery story with a strong female lead and a host of other interesting characters. The book has an intriguing supernatural element and explores lots of ideas including scientific progress, the place of women in society, human nature and the importance of family.



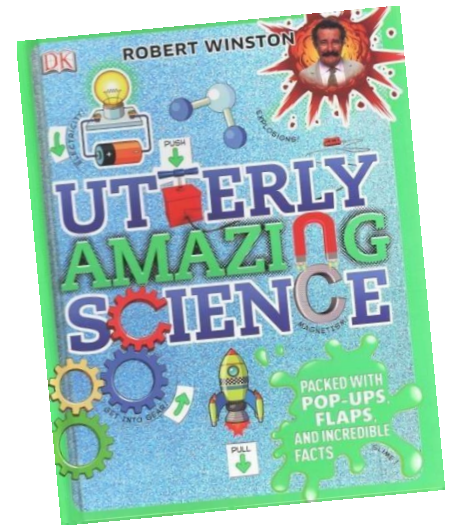
'Cogheart' by Peter Bunzl



Another mystery story – this one with airships, a mechanical fox and some not quite human baddies. Action packed and absorbing.

Mrs. Brown

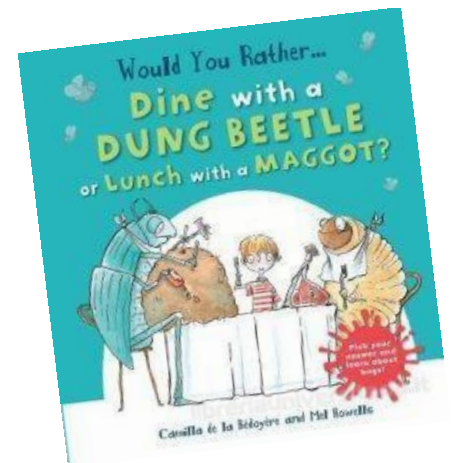
'Utterly Amazing Science' by Robert Winston



'Operation Ouch!: Your Brilliant Body' by Dr. Chris van Tulleken, Dr. Xand van Tulleken



'Would You Rather: Dine with a Dung Beetle or Lunch with a Maggot?' Camilla de la Bedoyere, Mel Howells



Mr. Allaway

'Treasure Island' by Robert Louis Stevenson



This is a challenging book, with a particularly difficult first chapter, but it is a brilliant story. It is full of adventure, mystery and danger. If you like stories with twists and turns throughout, you will love this book.

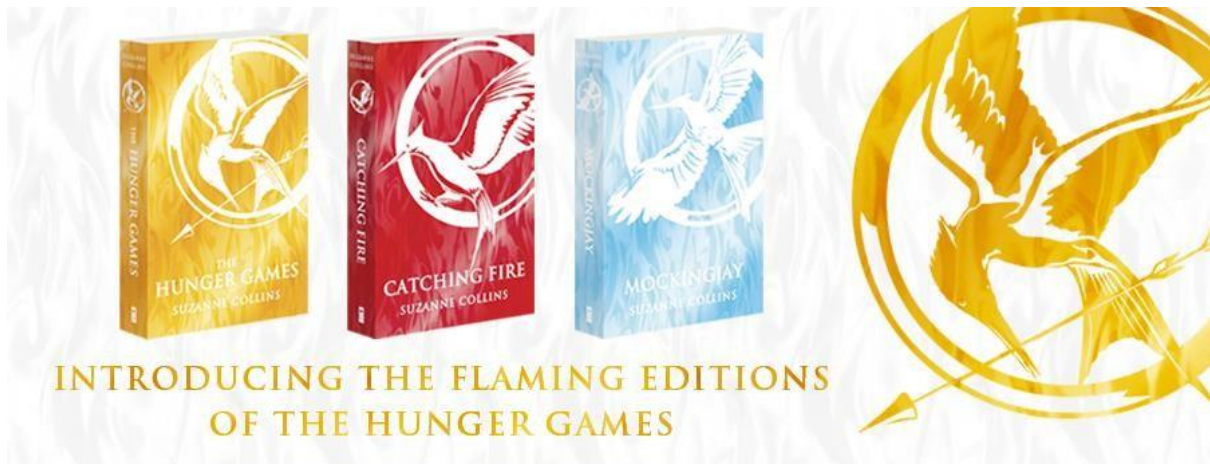
Great to read in preparation for reading nineteenth century fiction in Year 8!

'Holes' by Louis Sachar

'Holes' is a funny, heart-warming story about friendship in difficult circumstances. When Stanley Yelnats is sent to Camp Green Lake as a punishment for a crime he didn't commit, he knew it would be tough. The reality, however, turns out to be far worse than he could have imagined.



Mrs. Wallwork



'The Hunger Games Trilogy' by Suzanne Collins

I was uncertain about reading these books as I had seen the first film and thought it was so horrible that I would hate the books. However, I was encouraged to read them by my daughter and an adult friend. I have read them all within a couple of weeks. They were so good I wanted to know what happened.

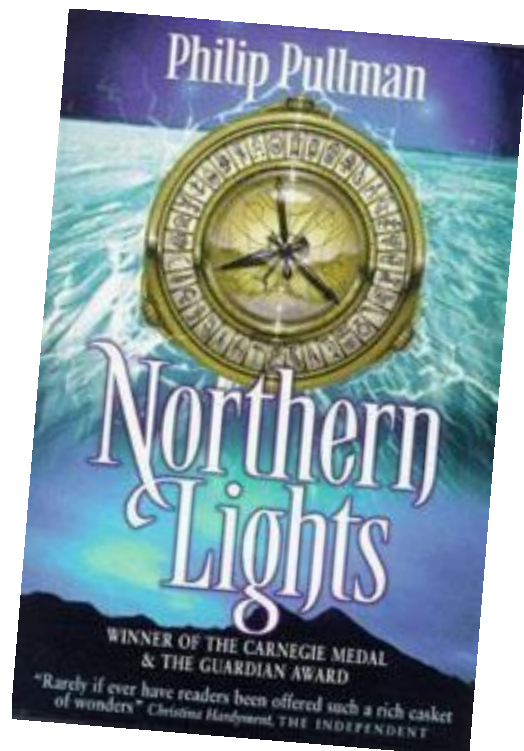
They are an easy and hard read at the same time. They are easy to read because of the style and they are so well written. They are hard to read because of the subject matter. It's difficult to understand a society where teenagers are selected to be a part of a deadly game where there can only be one winner. Or can there? All in the name of entertainment!

They made me think of gladiators in the Roman Empire having to fight to survive in an arena, again in the name of entertainment. Also of the oppression by, and within societies, which still goes on today. They weren't necessarily a pleasant read but they are definitely thought provoking so if you want to challenge yourself this holiday, give these a go!

Mr. Woolf

'Northern Lights' by Phillip Pullman

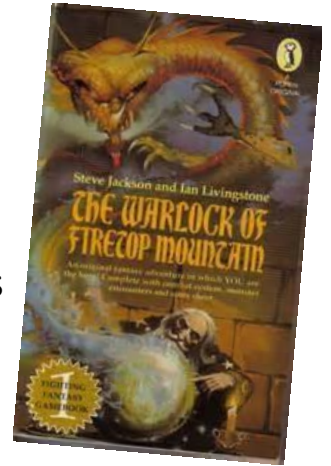
Brilliant books open windows to the world. 'Northern Lights' by Phillip Pullman manages to do this to new worlds beyond our own, as if you were just visiting the next room. This story is part adventure, not sci-fi, but set in an alternate universe. Parts are familiar, parts completely new. All of it is absorbing and compelling and sure to get you thinking about complex questions about the world, the people in it, truth and religion in ways that you may not have done before. It is the first of a trilogy, so there is plenty to keep you busy all summer!



Mr. Knowles

Fighting Fantasy Novels by Steve Jackson & Ian Livingstone

From the moment I first discovered these books I was hooked. They are written in 2nd person and give YOU the chance to be the hero of the story. They allow you to make choices at the end of each chapter and to complete puzzles as you read. My favourite of the series was 'The House of Hell', which guided you through a haunted mansion; I always found it delightfully spooky. Many of these books have recently been rereleased, and I still pick one up every now and then.



'The Chronicles of Narnia' by C. S. Lewis



Just like Lucy going into Narnia through the wardrobe in 'The Lion, The Witch and the Wardrobe', I always felt that starting one of these books was like disappearing into a magical world. These novels were the first books I read that made me forget where I was; that made me feel like I was actually in this wonderful world of lions and witches. I am always promising myself that I will reread them one day - I wonder if they would still have the same effect on me?

Miss Smyth

'When Hitler Stole Pink Rabbit' by Judith Kerr

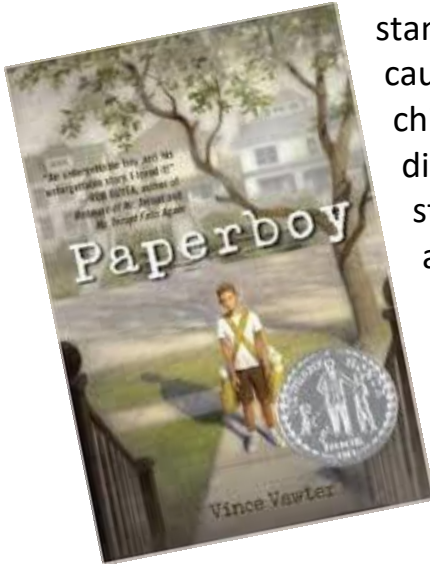


Reading this book helped me realise that fictional novels can be about real-life events and that we can develop our understanding of history by reading stories.

Also, reading about The Second World War from the point of view of child made the event (and the story!) seem even more powerful.

Mrs. Ford

'Paperboy' by Vince Vawter



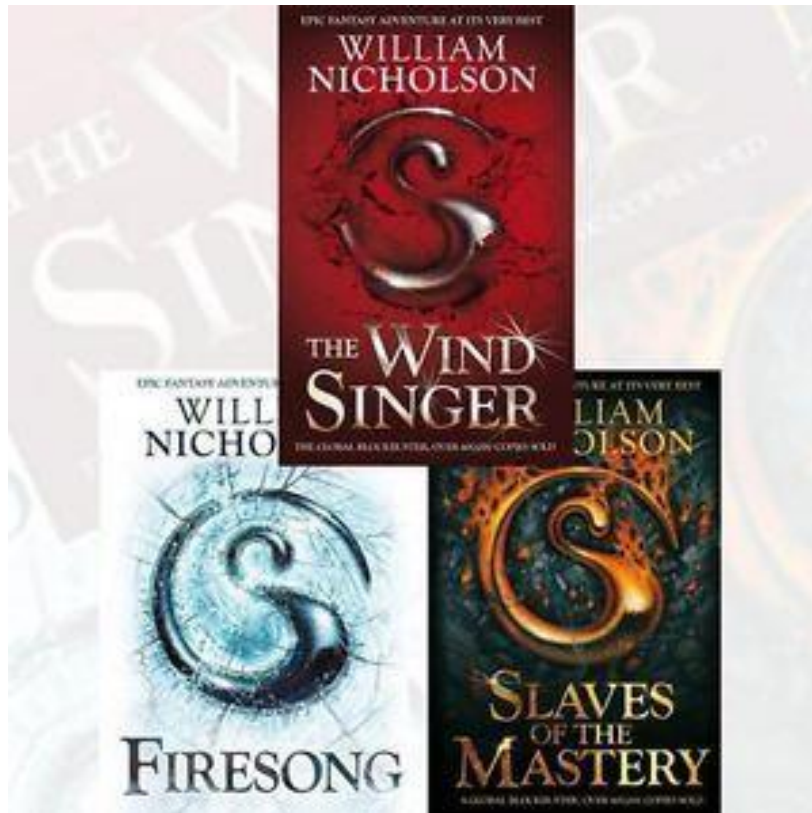
It's a wonderful book about a boy, around 11 years old, who has a stammer. I was drawn to it because my dad had a stammer which caused him a lot of anxiety as he was growing up and I wanted my children to read it, perhaps to pass on some of what my dad, who died before the children were born, had told me. It's a lovely story of how the little boy rubs along one long summer - partly about his stammer, partly just about growing up - about situations he struggles with, situations he deals with, people and friends he makes along the way. It's a story of small triumphs, gently written and without punctuation, reflecting the boy's fears of hard breaks and pauses in his flow of speech.

Skylarks' War by Hilary McKay

Skylarks' War by Hilary McKay tells a tale covering a decade or so, up to and just beyond the First World War. The main characters are a brother and sister, Clarry and Peter, their idolised older cousin, Rupert, and the friends and family with whom their lives are interwoven. On one level, it is just a good story, sad and happy, exciting and mundane, well told. But it is also about the relationships between the characters - some close, some emotionally distant - and their relationships with themselves - sometimes highly self-aware, sometimes less so. Partly set in Cornwall and partly set in London, I began reading it aloud with my children (aged 9, 13 and 15) in Cornwall, and we all finished it off reading alone, one by one, in London! It is a book written for children, probably 12+, but the fact that my whole family enjoyed it tells you that it appeals on many different levels. It is both a compelling story of growing up with plenty of (in places, quite traumatic) historical detail, and a subtle exploration of not-at-all historical issues - sexuality, gender roles, privilege, abandonment, and PTSD, to name but a few. I highly recommend this book for anyone - students, teachers and parents alike!



Ms. Hindmarsh

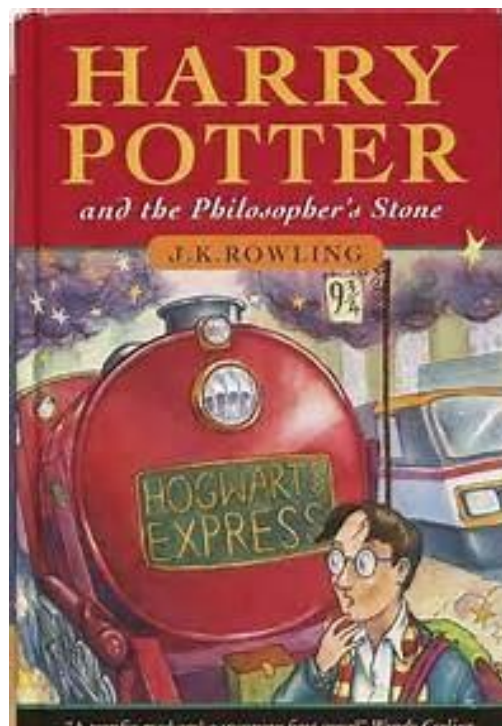


I loved 'The Wind on Fire' series by William Nicholson. So addictive!

Mr. Anderton

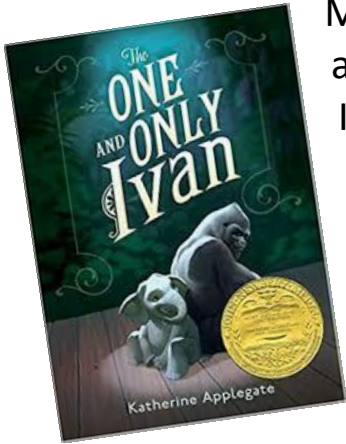
'Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone' by J. K. Rowling

J. K. Rowling takes you on an incredible adventure full of laughter and excitement with Harry Potter. When I first read this book I was instantly hooked and drawn in with my imagination. I could not wait for 'The Chamber of Secrets' to be released.



Mrs. Farhall

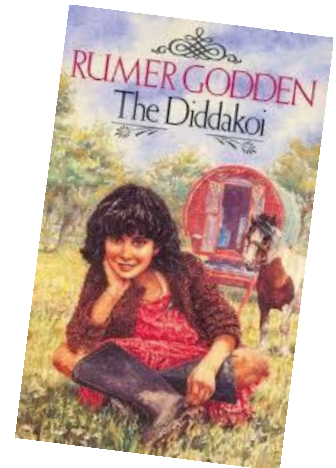
The One and Only Ivan by Katherine Applegate



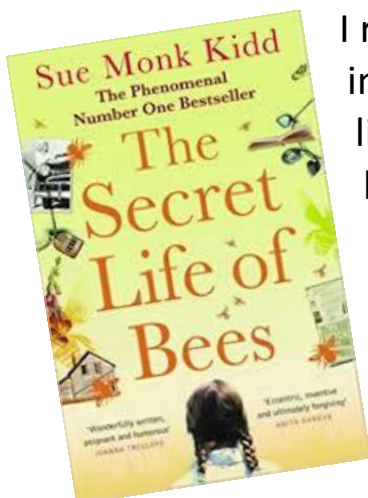
My daughter read this in Year 6 and loved it. A lovely story about Ivan the gorilla who lives captive near a shopping mall. Ivan is the narrator of the story. It is a tale of friendship and life from his perspective especially through art. Emotional yet uplifting. A quick read!

The Diddakoi by Rumer Godden

The story of a girl who is left alone after her grandmother dies. She struggles to be accepted by the community and resists conforming to the standards of the town, trying to maintain her own identity. A short read and a great story.



Secret Life of Bees by Sue Monk Kidd

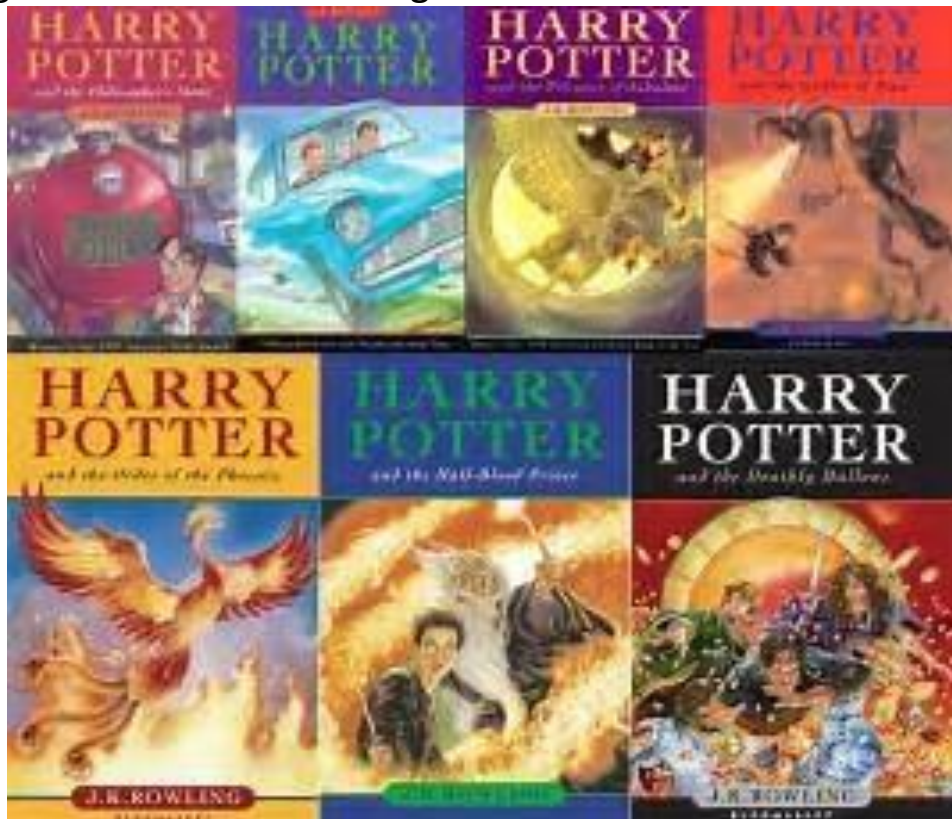


I read this then passed it on to my niece who also loved it. Set in South Carolina in 1964, a coming of age story of a white girl living in a black household. A short read but would still be a little challenging.

Miss Lowder

'Harry Potter' by J. K. Rowling

I would recommend the Harry Potter series – all of them – as they capture the imagination of people of all ages. This series truly shows how conflict, love and friendship can shape people as they grow up, all as you get lost in a world of magic!

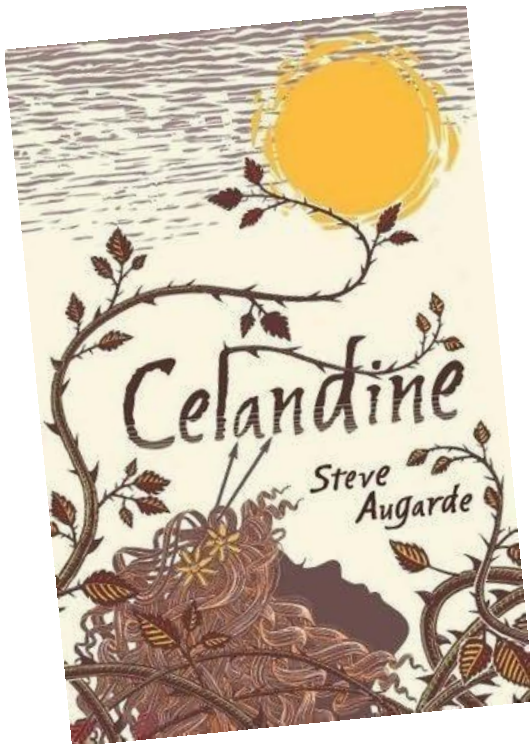


Mrs. Perkins

Celandine by Steve Augarde

Set in 1915, during the First World War, this book follows 12-year-old Celandine Howard as she grows up and encounters difficult situations: being bullied, losing loved ones, and having everyone think she's crazy (to name only a few).

I loved this book because:



- There are fairies! But they're far more interesting and far more realistic than fairies usually are.
- Although bad things keep happening to Celandine, she always manages to escape from them – and gets revenge on her enemies at the same time. It's very satisfying!
- It's set in the past, in a real place, but it has magic in it too – this is exactly what I like reading, and it's nearly always what I end up writing.

[By the way – technically this is the sequel to a book called “The Various”, but I think this one is better and it still works if you read this one first.]

Mr. Surridge



'To Kill a Mockingbird' by Harper Lee

This book changed my life.

'To Kill a Mockingbird' deals with some very difficult themes, such as the racism that was once seen as normal in America. It would be best to read this alongside a parent or other adult so that you can discuss what you read with them.

Miss Belfield

Now is the Time for Running by Michael Williams

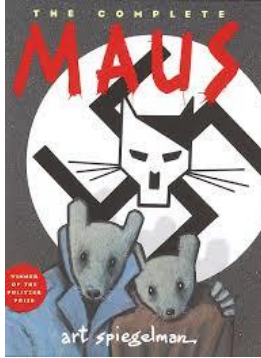


It is a day like any other . . . until the soldiers arrive and Deo and Innocent are forced to run for their lives, fleeing the wreckage of their village for the distant promise of safe haven. Along the way, they face the prejudice and poverty that await refugees everywhere, and must rely on the kindness of people they meet to make it through. But when tragedy strikes, Deo's love of soccer is all he has left. Can he use that gift to find hope once more?

I really enjoyed reading this book because it taught me about the political issues that the people of Zimbabwe were facing and the amount of children and adults emigrating to other African countries to escape them. At times this is a very sad story of two refugee orphans, however it is also a story about resilience, family and ambition. It will make you appreciate the privileged lives we live and encouraged to be more empathetic towards others.

Miss Eidal

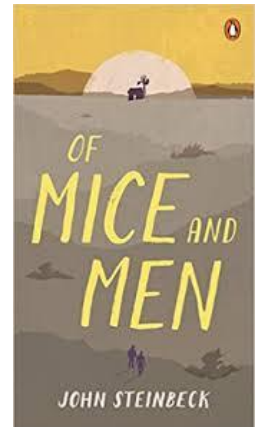
Maus by Art Spiegelman



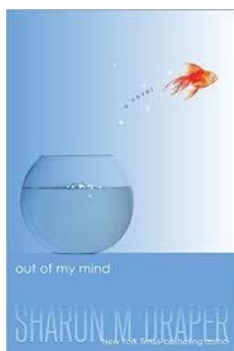
This is a graphic novel telling of the Nazi treatment of Jewish people in Germany and Poland during World War 2. Based on the true story of Art Spiegelman's father's, Vladek, experiences during the war through interviews Art Spiegelman had with him. The topics covered and what Vladek went through was dark and monstrous, but all the characters are drawn using animals: Jewish mice, German cats, American dogs and Polish pigs. Maus is a complex story covering tough topics like racism, identity and memory. Maus was the first graphic novel to win a Pulitzer Prize.

Of Mice and Men by John Steinbeck

When I was young, I did not like reading. This is the first book that hooked me in. It is about two migrant workers, George and Lennie, in the 1930s in California. They have gotten off a bus miles away from the farm where they are due to work. The story is about the two walking to the farm talking to each other. We discover who George and Lennie are, a bit about their past and what their hopes are for the future. Despite their differences, they become good friends. But trouble follows Lennie and George has the tricky job of keeping him safe. Spoiler Alert: keep tissues with you, as the ending is very sad.



Out of My Mind by Sharon Draper



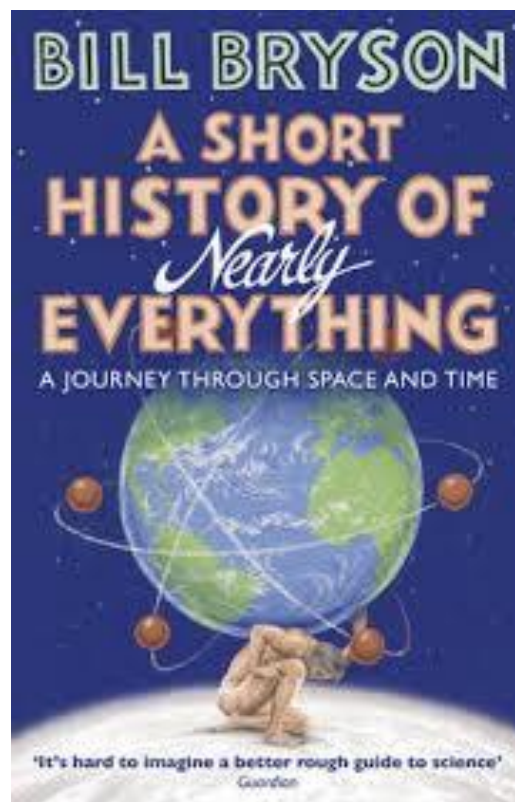
If you liked Wonder, you'll probably like Out of My Mind. It is about a girl, Melody Brooks, who is ten years old with a photographic memory, a love country music, books on tape and her family. She is a highly talented girl, but she has cerebral palsy; the same disease Stephen Hawking had. This means her body is very stiff and she has difficulty controlling it, so on first impression people think is not very clever. Through the book we discover who her true friends are and how she overcomes obstacles sometimes deliberately put in her way.

Miss Amrania

A short History of Nearly Everything by Bill Bryson

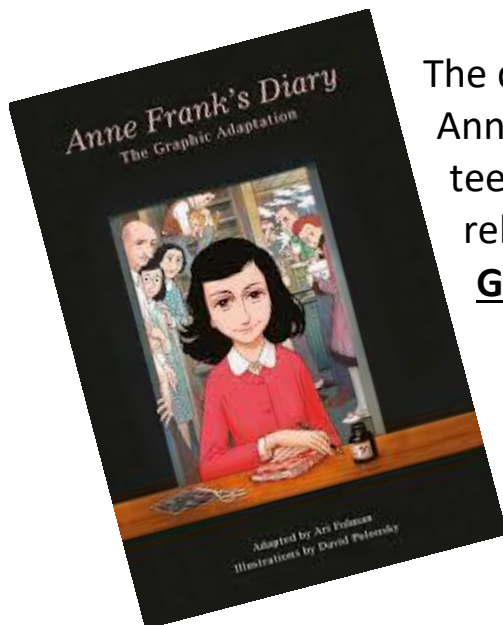
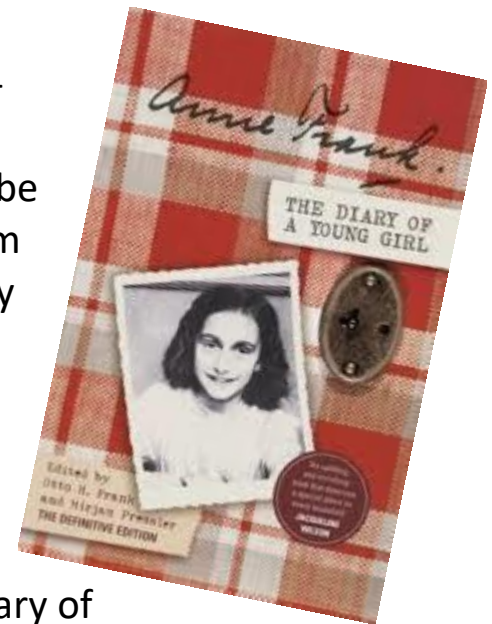
A tough read but incredibly fascinating. It takes you on a thrilling journey through time from how and when the Earth began to what life is like now.

There are plenty of fun facts along the way. It's a book for everyone, whether you have an interest in science or not.



Mrs. Hargreaves-March

The Diary of Anne Frank is an engrossing fight-for-survival tale, a light-hearted chick-flick, and a sobering historical document, all at once. You will be surprised by how much you can relate to a girl from the 1940s, as you read about all her crushes, family drama, and celebrity obsessions. But you will also gain insight into the horrors of one of the darkest chapters in European history.

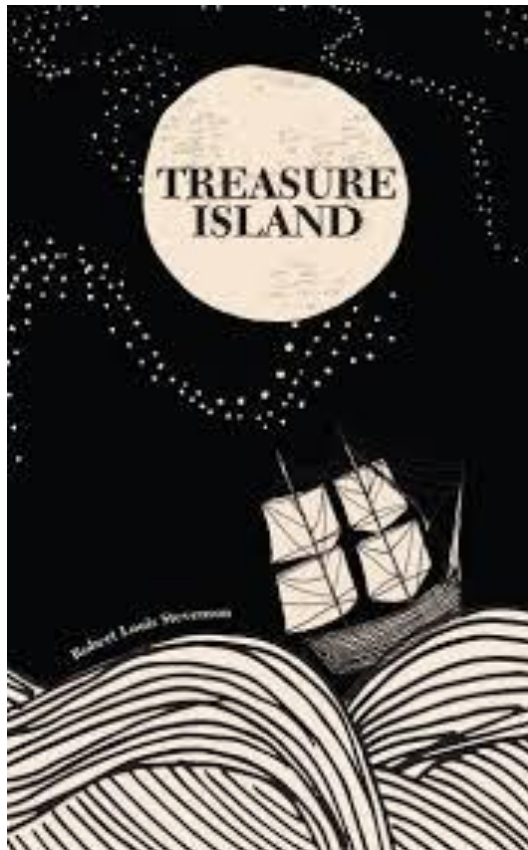


The definitive edition of The Diary of Anne Frank was one of my favourite books as a teenager, but I also highly recommend the recently released graphic novel, Anne Frank's Diary: The Graphic Adaptation.

Mr. Metcalfe

Treasure Island by RL Stevenson

Exciting read for children and adults alike. I loved it when I was young and re-read it recently, lots of great characters and nail biting moments. Great at taking you away from London in your mind.



Mrs. Daley

A Series of Unfortunate Events by Lemony Snicket



The series of books follow the Baudelaire Orphans, who stay with various 'aunts and uncles' (who are members of a secret organization called the VFD), following the death of their parents. Violet, Klaus and Sunny are pursued by the villain of many disguises, Count Olaf, who, accompanied by his gruesome 'Theatre Troupe', constantly invents ridiculous ways to inherit the orphans' fortune, which usually involves an elaborate plan of trying to murder them.

I enjoyed reading the books because, despite the dark subject matter, they are full of humour and suspense. Each book finishes on a cliffhanger, so you have to keep on reading to find out what will happen to the Baudelaires next. I love the way the mysterious narrator, Lemony Snicket uses complicated words and explains their meanings, so you can really improve your vocabulary. The characters all have their talents and funny catch phrases, which are repeated throughout the stories. Netflix have made the series into a TV Box Set, which is incredible but I think you get a lot more out of reading the written word.

I would highly recommend A Series of Unfortunate Events, Cake Sniffers!

Mrs. Kabel

Island by Nicky Singer



What happens when you unplug and end up on an Artic Island? Follow Cameron's adventure as he meets an Inuit girl who teaches him about the power of nature and our connection to the land. Learn some Inuit words, such as 'nuannapoq', the extravagant pleasure of living, and 'ilira' the fear that accompanies awe, along the way, and discover what happens when Cameron meets a polar bear.

Books for Teens by Carl Hiaasen

The central characters of these books are all teens discovering how they can make a difference to the often endangered wildlife where they live. Fast paced and full of action, these books are a great way to transport yourself away to the Sunshine State and discover some of Florida's fantastic wildlife.



Mrs. Darnell

Children of Eden by Joey Graceffa



If you like dystopian fiction, like I do, you'll love this book! I couldn't put it down once I started reading.

The main character is a teenage girl growing up in a world without animals or plants, after mankind almost destroyed the planet. She is a second child in a world where only one child is allowed. So she lives a secret life, hidden from the world, for 16 years. But everything is about to change...

Best of all, if you like the book, there are two more books in the series.

The Art of Being Normal by Lisa Williamson

This book is about being a teenager. It charts the ups and downs of school life, friendships and family, as well as an extra dimension: gender identity.

I loved the book because the characters felt so real to me. Also because it's so rare to find books that talk about gender identity and have a positive message.

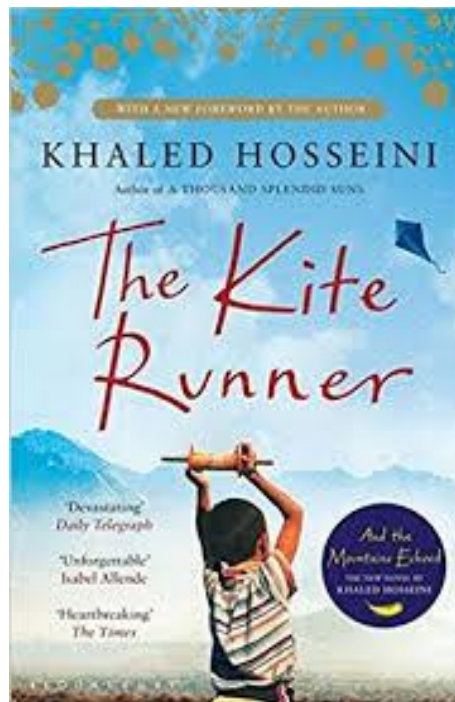
I'd love to know what you all think of the book.



Mrs. Burhan

The Kite Runner by Khaled Hosseini

The Kite Runner is an inspirational book about a young boy growing up in Afghanistan. It covers his childhood and his relationships with friends, family member, and the effect they have on him in later life. It is a book which explores how our past, upbringing and relationships make us who we are today.



Ms. Kunchwar

Rocket Science for the Rest of Us by Ben Gilliland



This book has explained some difficult but fascinating concepts of science like black hole and dark matter in a simplified way that anyone can understand. People who are never good at science would also enjoy reading this book.

Girls Think of Everything: Stories of Ingenious Inventions by Women by Catherine Thimmesh

This book shows that women have made just as many incredible contributions in the world of inventions as men, from things that we use every day - like windshield wipers to inventions that keep people safe like Kevlar. This book features women inventors like Ruth Wakefield, Mary Anderson and more.

