

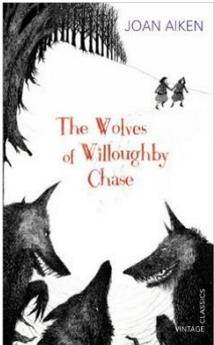
Year 6 reading list

Joan Aitken

The Wolves of Willoughby Chase

Interest age: 9+

Reading age: 9+



There are wolves outside the walls of Willoughby Chase, but for cousins Bonnie and Sylvia, the real danger lies inside. Their wicked governess Miss Slightcarp is working with a network of criminals, forgers and snitches to carry out a terrible plan. Bonnie and Sylvia must use all their wits if they are to escape their cruel governess - and the wolves.

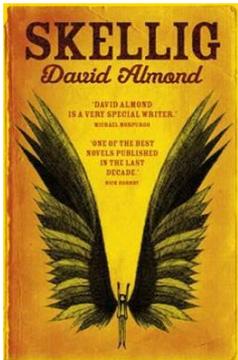
Set in an alternative 1832, in which Good King James III is on the throne, and Britain is ravaged by wolves which have migrated through the newly-opened Channel Tunnel, *The Wolves of Willoughby Chase* is a brilliantly inventive and imaginative offering from classic children's author Joan Aiken. Young readers who enjoy this story will relish the other wonderfully idiosyncratic stories in this series, which continues with *Black Hearts in Battersea*.

David Almond

Skellig

Interest age: 10+

Reading age: 11



When a move to a new house coincides with his baby sister's illness, Michael's world seems suddenly lonely and uncertain. Then, exploring a ramshackle garage with new-found friend Mina, he finds something magical. A strange creature - part owl, part angel, a being who needs Michael's help if he is to survive.

With Mina's help, Michael nourishes Skellig back to health. The creature is ill-mannered, with questionable personal hygiene, but persevering in their kindness towards him, Michael and Mina find a bond forms between them that will change their lives forever.

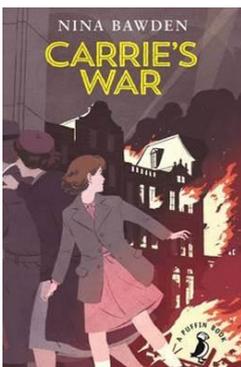
This unusual and captivating novel from critically-acclaimed children's author David Almond won both the Carnegie Medal and the Whitbread Children's Book Award. A contemporary classic, it has the power to captivate both adults and children alike.

Nina Bawden

Carrie's War

Interest age: 9+

Reading age: 10+



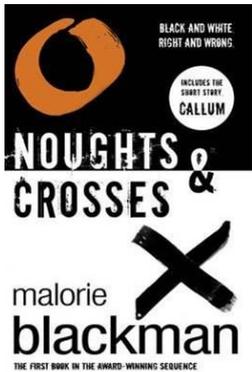
During World War II, Carrie and her younger brother Nick are evacuated to Wales and billeted with the fierce old shopkeeper Mr Evans and his mousy sister, Louise. Unhappy in their new home, they are delighted to have the chance to visit fellow evacuee Albert Sandwich at Druid's Bottom, the strange household of Hepzibah Green, who knows magical stories, and Mister Johnny, who speaks a language all his own. But then Carrie makes a mistake - which has terrible, unforeseen consequences.

Inspired by Nina Bawden's own experiences of living as an evacuee in a Welsh mining valley as a child, *Carrie's War* is now considered a modern classic. Funny, sad and thought-provoking, it provides young readers with an insight into some of the complexities and ambiguities of the adult world - albeit with a heartwarming happy ending.

Malorie Blackman Noughts and Crosses

Interest age: 12+

Reading age: 12+



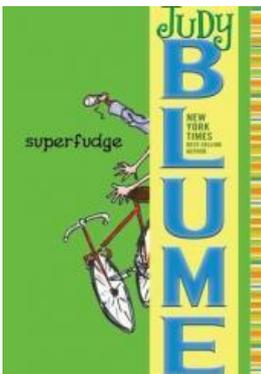
In Malorie Blackman's groundbreaking novel, the population is divided into two: the white Noughts are second-class citizens, and the black Crosses are highly-revered and perceived as the superior race. 15-year-old Callum is a Nought, and his best friend, Sephy, as well as being a Cross, is also the daughter of one of the most influential politicians in the country.

The story focuses on their relationship, which is frowned upon by society, and explores the discrimination they encounter at every turn. By reversing traditional racial stereotypes and presenting the White population as the oppressed race, Blackman has cleverly shown racial prejudice from a different perspective.

Judy Blume Superfudge

Interest age: 10+

Reading age: 10+

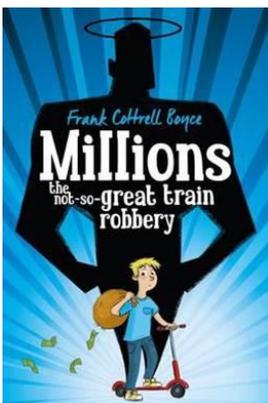


SUPERFUDGE is the third book in Judy Blume's "Fudge" series of comedic middle-grade novels. In this installment, the Hatcher family move from Manhattan to Princeton, N.J., for a year to find out how they enjoy suburban life. Amid his usual disagreements with his parents, and annoyance at his little brother Fudge's wild antics, Peter Hatcher has to adjust to some very big changes: making new friends, leaving old ones behind, and

Frank Cottrell Boyce Millions

Interest age: 9+

Reading age: 9+



Since the death of his mother, Damian has become obsessed by saints. In order to escape the trappings of the material world, he builds a hermitage out of cardboard boxes near the railway line.

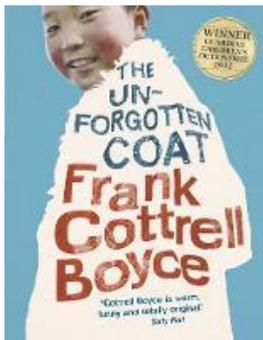
One night, a bag containing £229,370 falls from the sky and flattens the hermitage. Damian is convinced it is a gift from God, and contemplates with his older brother Anthony the best way to spend it. But with only 17 days left before the national currency switches to Euros and the money becomes worthless, this proves to be much more difficult than they had anticipated...

Funny, thought-provoking and thoroughly entertaining, this outstanding novel was a deserving winner of the 2004 CILIP Carnegie Medal.

Frank Cottrell Boyce The Unforgotten Coat

Interest age: 13+

Reading age: 12+

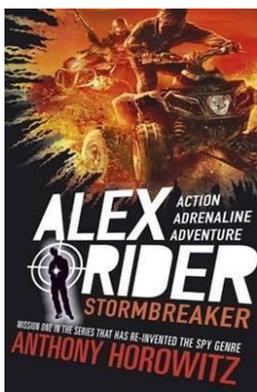


Winner of the 2012 Guardian Children's Fiction Prize, this is a stunning and magical story of a summer of friendship which also explore the plight of refugees. From the award-winning author of Millions comes a story of friendship in the midst of adversity. Winner of the 2012 Guardian Children's Fiction Prize, this magical and poignant book is enriched by stunning and atmospheric Polaroid photos. Two refugee brothers from Mongolia are determined to fit in with their Liverpool schoolmates, but bring so much of Mongolia to Bootle that their new friend and guide, Julie, is hard-pressed to know truth from fantasy. Told with the humour, warmth and brilliance of detail which characterizes Frank Cottrell Boyce's writing, readers will be transported from the streets of Liverpool to the steppe of Mongolia.

Anthony Horowitz Stormbreaker

Interest age: 13+

Reading age: 12+



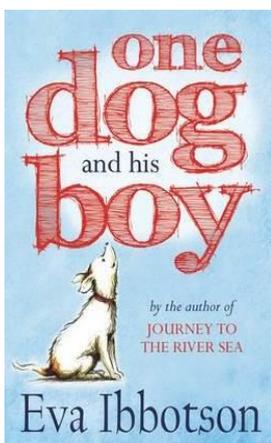
Fourteen-year-old Alex Rider finds his life turned upside down on discovering that his late uncle wasn't a mild-mannered banker, but instead a field agent for MI6. Soon, Alex himself is dragged into the world of espionage and intrigue.

This well-written and action-packed story is the first in the bestselling Alex Rider series about a daring teenage spy. Cleverly plotted and full of excitement, the combination of spy gadgets and undercover escapades will ensure this story is completely irresistible to young fans of action and adventure.

Eva Ibbotson One Dog and His Boy

Interest age: 8+

Reading age: 8+



But a dog would damage the expensive carpets in Hal's glamorous home, and his wealthy parents refuse to consider one. Then they discover Easy Pets, a convenient dog-rental agency. Terrier Fleck arrives on Hal's birthday, but when Hal discovers that his dog must be returned, he runs away. Hal and Fleck are joined by a group of pedigree breeds joyfully escaping from Easy Pets - among them is Otto, the wise and sombre St Bernard, and the fierce and excitable Pekinese Li-Chee. A large reward is offered for the missing boy, and soon Hal and his dogs are being chased across the country by ruthless pursuers. Helped by a travelling circus, and the sympathetic children from an orphanage, they race for their freedom in a classic adventure in the tradition of 101 DALMATIANS. Every dog-loving child will adore this irresistible story from a truly great and much-loved children's author.

Rudyard Kipling

Interest age: 12+

Jungle Book



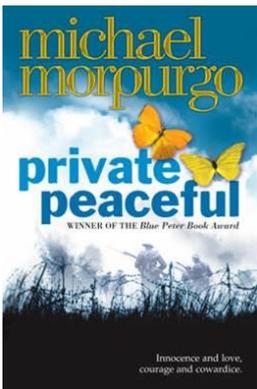
Rudyard Kipling's classic book of short stories *THE JUNGLE BOOK* contains several pieces about Mowgli, the "mancub," who was taken from his human parents and ends up being raised by a wolf family. The book also includes stories about animal characters: "Rikki Tikki Tavi," about a brave mongoose; "The White Seal" about a young seal that swims the Bering Strait; and "Toomai of the Elephants," about a young elephant handler. All of the stories personify animals, and they show the complex relationship between creatures that hunt and fear each other in the wild. In Mowgli's stories, the most well-known *Jungle Book* tales, the young boy grows up surrounded by his wolf family and his loyal friends Baloo the bear and Bagheera the panther. Mowgli struggles for acceptance in the wolf pack while trying to learn the ways of the jungle, avoid being tricked by mischievous monkeys, and evade Shere Khan the tiger, who's always lurking in the shadows.

Michael Morpurgo

Interest age: 9+

Private Peaceful

Reading age: 10+



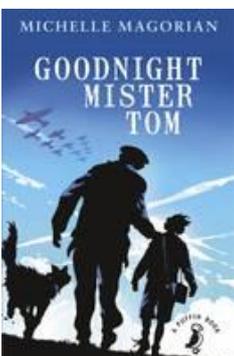
Set during World War I, *Private Peaceful* charts eight hours in the life of Tommo, a young soldier at the Front, as he looks back over the formative events of his life: his father's early death, his relationship with his loving mother and brothers, Big Joe and Charlie, and their beloved schoolfriend Molly - all set among an evocative and beautifully realised rural landscape. Passionate, beguiling and moving, this award-winning story is also an unflinching examination of the horrors of war and the injustice surrounding the execution of soldiers by firing squad, on the - often false - grounds of desertion or cowardice. Former Children's Laureate Michael Morpurgo uses all his superb storytelling skills to weave this powerful, poignant tale of the horrors of World War I, which will touch readers of all ages.

Michelle Magorian

Interest age: 9+

Goodnight Mister Tom

Reading age: 10+



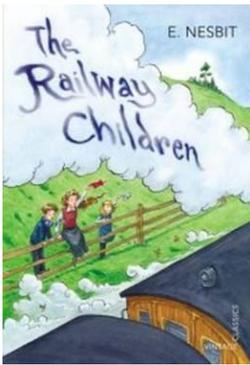
Willie Beech is evacuated to a tiny English village in the country just before the outbreak of World War II. A lonely and deprived child, he finds himself living with the reclusive, gruff old widower, Thomas Oakley. Although the two find it hard to adjust to their life together at first, they gradually develop a strong, mutual bond. Willie begins to enjoy life and make new friends in the village. However, everything is thrown into confusion when Willie is suddenly recalled to London by his neglectful and abusive mother. After several weeks with no letter from Willie, Tom Oakley becomes concerned for his welfare and sets out to London in search of him. Michelle Magorian's classic wartime story is a superbly written and deeply moving tale, which shows that even the most unlikely people can become exceptional parents.

Edith Nesbit

Interest age: 9-13

The Railway Children

Reading age: 9+



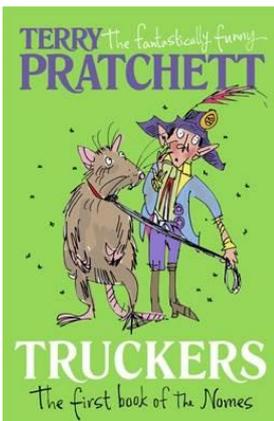
Now nearly 100 years old, this story centers on the lives of three children whose comfortable, middle-class existence ends when their father has to go away unexpectedly. Roberta, Peter and Phyllis leave their London home and move with their mother to a small cottage in the country where life is very different. With their mother now busy writing to earn money, the railway becomes a source of fascination and solace to the children. They make friends with Perks the Porter and the station master, and discover new and exciting things about the trains. However, mystery remains - where is their father? Then the terrible truth is discovered. This charming story deals sensitively with the subject of an absent parent, and the challenges of living in changing circumstances.

Terry Pratchett

Interest age: 9+

Truckers The First Book of the Nomes

Reading age: 10+



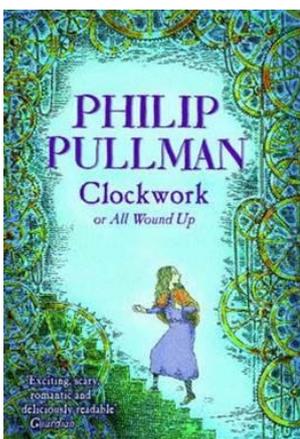
'Outside! What's it like?' Masklin looked blank. 'Well,' he said. 'It's sort of big- To the thousands of the tiny nomes who live under the floorboards of a large department store, there is no Outside. Things like Day and Night, Sun and Rain are just daft old legends. Then a devastating piece of news shatters their existence: the Store - their whole world - is to be demolished. And it's up to Maskin, one of the last nomes to come into the Store, to mastermind an unbelievable escape plan that will take all the nomes into the dangers of the great Outside...The first title in the *Bromeliad* trilogy, this is a funny and enchanting fantasy from favourite author Terry Pratchett. Young readers will be captivated by the world of the nomes and eager to follow their adventures after they leave their underground home in the sequels *Diggers* and *Wings*.

Philip Pullman

Interest age: 10+

Clockwork

Reading age: 9+



Apprentice clock-maker Karl must craft a new figure for the great clock in town - but he is exceedingly short on inspiration. When a mysterious little clockwork character appears from nowhere, Karl seems to have found the answer to his prayers.

In fact he is in for a terrible shock. An intriguing and magical fantasy that will captivate readers.

Philip Pullman Northern Lights

Interest age: 10+

Reading age: 10+



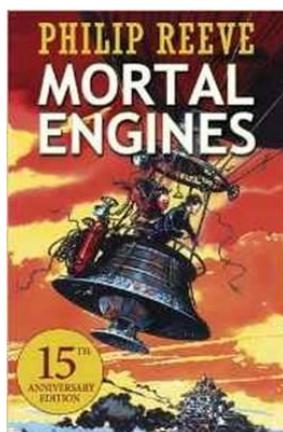
Lyra and her animal daemon live a carefree life amongst the scholars of Jordan College, Oxford. Yet the destiny that awaits her will take her far from her home, to the magical frozen lands of the Arctic, amongst the witch-clans and ice-bears. Here, she will discover the truth about her identity, which will have immeasurable consequences reaching beyond her own world.

This extraordinary fantasy is the first book in Philip Pullman's multi-award-winning *His Dark Materials* trilogy. Exciting, original and enormously powerful it is an incredible feat of imagination, and one of the classics of 20th century children's literature.

Philip Reeve Mortal Engines

Interest age: 11+

Reading age: 11+



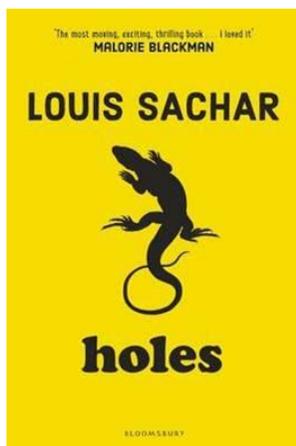
London is on the move again: the traction city trawls the world on wheels, capturing and eating smaller towns. But when he is thrown off the city by his childhood hero Valentine, young hero Tom joins forces with the mysterious Hester, and is soon forced to reassess life as he knows it.

Set in a captivating futuristic landscape, this hugely imaginative story is a vivid blend of action, romance, mystery, crime and horror. Packed full of colourful characters and locations, it is a whirlwind adventure that challenges both Tom and the reader to reexamine their attitudes and preconceptions.

Louis Sachar Holes

Interest age: 10+

Reading age: 10+

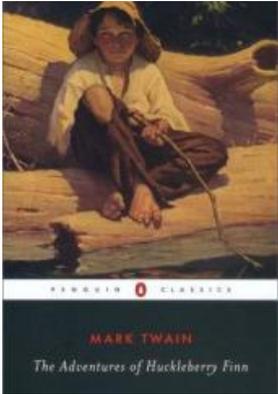


Stanley Yelnats' family has a history of bad luck, so he is not entirely surprised when a miscarriage of justice sends him to the Camp Green Lake Juvenile Detention Centre in the middle of the Texan desert. There is in fact no lake there at all and not much green either. Stanley soon discovers that his work at the camp will be to dig a deep hole each day, and to report back about anything he finds there. Stanley gets to work - but he soon discovers there's more to the task he's been given than merely an exercise in character-building.

This witty, inventive and utterly compelling novel from Louis Sachar is a must-read for children and adults too. A deft mixture of seriousness and humour, it is told in a direct, simple style that belies the clever construction of Sachar's powerful narrative.

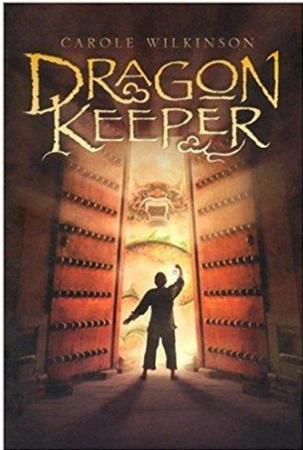
Mark Twain
The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn

Interest age: 10+
Reading age: 10+



Huck Finn, cruelly abused by his drunken father, joins up with Jim, a runaway slave, and heads down the Mississippi River on a raft. Along the way, they encounter a deadly feud, a pair of con artists, and other characters from the pre-Civil War South. All the while, Huck's conscience and basic decency wrestle with his society-bred ideas about race and slavery and right and wrong.

Carole Wilkinson
Dragon Keeper



Ancient China, Han Dynasty. A slave girl saves the life of an ageing dragon and escapes her brutal master. Pursued by a ruthless dragon hunter, the girl and the dragon make an epic journey across China carrying a mysterious stone that must be protected.

This is the story of a young slave girl who believes she is not worthy of a name but finds within herself the strength and courage to make this perilous journey — and do what must be done.
