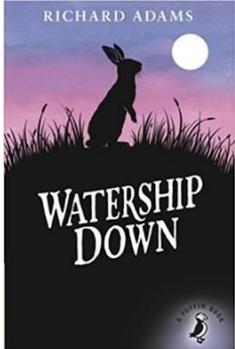


Year 5 reading list

Richard Adams Watership Down

Interest age: 12+

Reading age: 11+



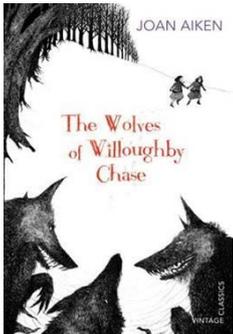
Young rabbit Fiver is convinced that a great evil is about to befall the warren where he lives - but no one will listen to him. At last he manages to persuade his brother Hazel and a few other brave rabbits to leave behind the safety of the warren, before it's too late. Chased by former friends, under threat from humans and hunted by dogs and foxes, their journey is a dangerous one - but the rabbits can still dream of a peaceful and safe new life at Watership Down.

In spite of its rabbit characters, there is nothing fluffy or gentle about this gripping tale of perilous adventure which won both the Guardian Children's Fiction Prize and the Carnegie Medal. Beautifully evoking the Berkshire countryside in poetic language, it is an exciting, moving and powerful novel.

Joan Aiken The Wolves of Willoughby Chase

Interest age: 10+

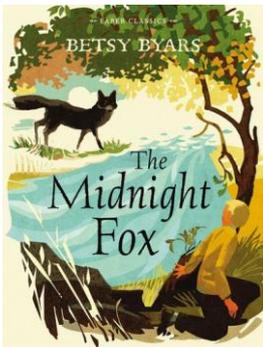
Reading age: 11



There are wolves outside the walls of Willoughby Chase, but for cousins Bonnie and Sylvia, the real danger lies inside. Their wicked governess Miss Slighcarp 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*.

Betsy Byars The Midnight Fox

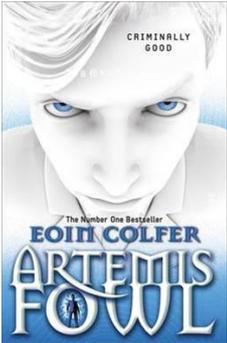


Tom, a town boy, is horrified when his parents tell him he has to stay on Aunt Millie's farm while they are away. He finds country life every bit as strange and uncomfortable as he feared. But soon, he discovers a rare black fox with green eyes, living with her cubs in the forest. Suddenly, the summer is full of excitement. That is, until Uncle Fred decides to go after the fox - will Tom save her and her family in time?

Eoin Colfer Artemis Fowl

Interest age: 8-12+

Reading age: 10+



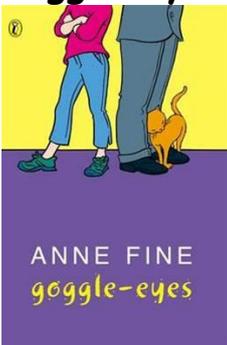
Twelve-year-old criminal mastermind, Artemis Fowl, hatches an ingenious plot to steal all the gold in fairy land. Although a little dubious about the plan - indeed not even quite believing in the existence of fairies - his trusty bodyguard and companion, Butler, is on hand to help. However, they have not reckoned on Captain Holly Short, who as first female officer in the Lower Elements Police Reconnaissance unit, or LEPrecon, has much to prove. When she is kidnapped by Artemis, she is determined to stand her ground and protect the fairy secrets.

This hilarious and exciting adventure story is a deserving favourite with young readers.

Anne Fine Goggle-Eyes

Interest age: 10+

Reading age: 10+



When Helen Johnston rushes out of registration in tears, Kitty Killin is sent after her. Kitty is not only a great storyteller, she is also the world's leading expert in mothers with unwanted boyfriends. So it is that Helen and Kitty spend a morning closeted together in the privacy of the Lost Property Cupboard, while Kitty tells the story of Goggle-Eyes, once the most unwanted boyfriend of them all. Goggle-Eyes is over fifty, grey-haired and gets in the way of Kitty's time with her mother. His greatest fault, though, is that he doesn't agree with their strong-held beliefs about nuclear disarmament, and doesn't mind telling them so.

This is a highly readable and amusing story dealing with a range of emotions and issues.

Comelia Funke Dragon Rider

Interest age: 8+

Reading age: 8+



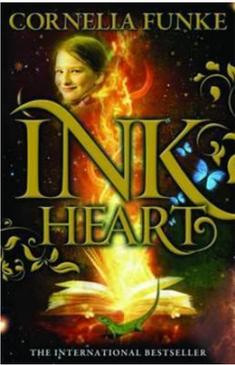
Together with his faithful brownie friend Sorrel and a boy called Ben, the brave young dragon Firedrake embarks on a magical journey across mountains, oceans and earth to find the legendary resting place of the silver dragons. But at their heels snaps a ruthless enemy intent on destroying every last dragon.

Comelia Funke

InkHeart

Interest age: 8+

Reading age: 9+



Cornelia Funke's magical fantasy adventure more than fulfils the promise of its prize-winning predecessor, *The Thief Lord*. 12-year-old Meggie and her father, Mo, a bookbinder, both love reading, but since the mysterious disappearance of Meggie's mother, they no longer read together. One night a stranger knocks at their door, prompting Mo to reveal his awful secret: he has the ability to breathe life into stories and literally bring their characters alive. Years ago, he accidentally conjured up a terrible villain called Inkheart, who now threatens to destroy him.

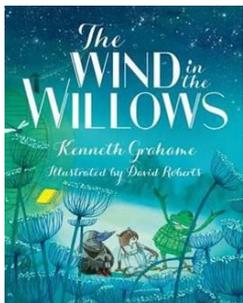
Only Meggie can find a way to change the course of the story and save the father she loves, but can she do so in time?

Kenneth Grahame

The Wind in the Willows

Interest age: 6+

Reading age: 8+



Leaving his spring-cleaning behind him, timid Mole ventures beyond the familiar comfort of his burrow and makes a new friend in Ratty, who lives by the riverbank. Together they spend long summer days enjoying the delights of the river; but when they meet the reckless Mr Toad, they find themselves caught up in a series of strange adventures in order to help Toad out of trouble, and return him to the safety of Toad Hall.

In this sumptuous new gift edition, award-winning illustrator David Roberts puts his own distinctive spin on a much-loved classic. Roberts' atmospheric, richly-coloured illustrations perfectly capture the timeless, wistful feel of Kenneth Graeme's text, and his animal characters are appealingly quirky and eccentric. A beautiful new edition of a favourite book to read together and to treasure.

Frances Hodgson-Burnett

The Secret Garden

Interest age: 9+

Reading age: 9+



When the spoilt and bad-tempered Mary is orphaned at the age of ten, she is sent from India to live with her hunchback uncle on the Yorkshire Moors. At first, she is utterly miserable, but gradually the friendship of her maid and the discovery of a secret garden in the grounds of the house begin to change her.

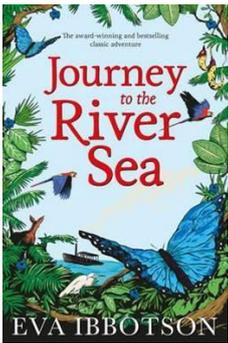
Then she finds another secret in the house - Colin, her sickly cousin, who is as self-centred and disagreeable as herself. This classic novel is a satisfying and absorbing read, and demonstrates the resilience of children even when they are surrounded by uncaring and flawed adults

Eva Ibbotson

Interest age: 9+

Journey to the River Sea

Reading age: 10+



This satisfyingly old-fashioned story is set in the early 1900s. Orphan Maia is thrilled to learn she is to live with relatives in South America. She cannot wait to experience the sights, sounds and smells of the Amazon and is particularly looking forward to meeting her twin cousins. When Maia arrives, however, the family is far from welcoming and she is saddened to see that they have blocked out all evidence of the rainforest from their stuffy home. Maia turns to her strict yet kindly governess, Miss Minton, for company, and strikes up some unusual and rewarding friendships.

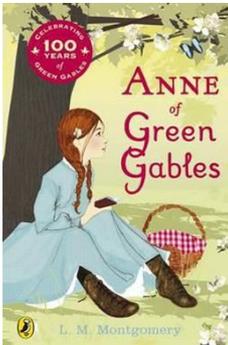
This enchanting story has all the trademarks of Eva Ibbotson's writing. Maia is a wonderful heroine, and Ibbotson weaves a charming, compelling and warm-hearted tale of friendship, our responsibility to those around us, and the importance of the natural world.

L M Montgomery

Interest age: 9+

Anne of Green Gables

Reading age: 9+



Anne Shirley, an opinionated and decidedly red-haired 11-year-old orphan, is mistakenly sent to Nova Scotia to live with a middle-aged brother and sister, Matthew and Marilla, at their farm, Green Gables. At first, stern Marilla is set to send Anne back to the orphanage. However, as Anne brightens up their quiet life, Marilla reconsiders...

Anne Shirley is one of literature's finest heroines, and this first book of her adventures is the perfect book about growing up, friendship and family. The bond that grows between Anne, Marilla and Matthew is incredibly touching. Anne's friendship with the shyer and more conventional Diana is also full of warmth, as Diana provides the (mostly) sensible foil to Anne's madcap schemes. Anne's relationship with the initially hated Gilbert Blythe, her rival at school, develops beautifully into a friendship in the tradition of a classic romance.

Jenny Nimmo

Interest age: 10+

Midnight Charlie Bone

Reading age: 10+



Charlie is unnerved to discover that he can hear people in photographs talking. His aunts take an unhealthy interest in his gift and send him to the notorious Bloor's Academy, where he meets other children with 'endowments' (magical powers).

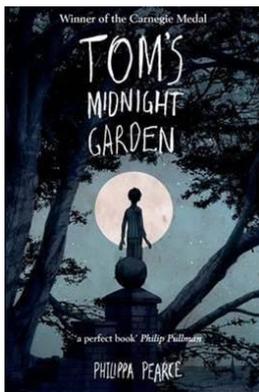
What happened to the girl in the photograph and why is everyone so interested in the metal case that Charlie has been given to look after? Charlie and his friends will need all their wits about them if they are to unravel the mystery before it is too late.

This gripping and imaginative fantasy has a fascinating cast of characters, and a tantalising 'to be continued' at the end will leave readers desperate for more.

Philippa Pearce Tom's Midnight Garden

Interest age: 9-12+

Reading age: 9+



Tom is sent away to stay with his aunt and uncle for the summer holidays. With no garden or children to play with, he feels lonely and unhappy, until one night he hears the clock striking thirteen and discovers a secret garden where he makes a new friend, Hatty. Yet it soon becomes clear that his new-found friend is living in another time altogether, and to her, Tom is a sort of ghost. Each time he visits the garden, Hatty has grown older. Finally, on a skating trip up the frozen river in the garden, Hatty and Tom begin to fade and become invisible to each other once more.

First published in 1958, this beautifully-written novel is a ghost story with a difference. A poignant examination of relationships, growing up and the passage of time, it is today considered one of the classics of children's literature.

Philip Pullman Northern Lights

Interest age: 10+

Reading age: 10+



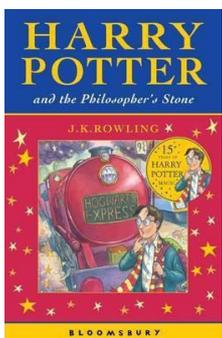
Lyra and her animal daemon live a carefree life amongst the scholars of Jordan College, Oxford. Yet the destiny that awaits her will take her far from her home, to the magical frozen lands of the Arctic, amongst the witch-clans and ice-bears. Here, she will discover the truth about her identity, which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

J K Rowling Harry Potter series

Interest age: 8-13+

Reading age: 10+



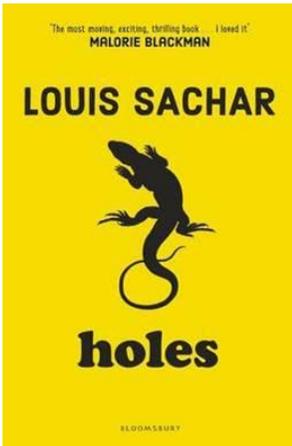
After the misery of life with his ghastly aunt and uncle, Harry Potter is delighted to have the chance to embark on an exciting new life at the Hogwart's School of Wizardry and Witchcraft. Learning about magic and making new friends, he has the chance to use his new-found wizarding skills to unravel some of the mysteries of his own past - and to uncover some shocking secrets about his teachers.

This brilliantly inventive, award-winning adventure story is the first in the phenomenally successful Harry Potter series. With shades of Diana Wynne Jones, Enid Blyton, Roald Dahl and Jill Murphy's *The Worst Witch*, this contemporary classic of children's literature is beloved by children and adults alike.

Louis Sachar
Holes

Interest age: 10+

Reading age: 10+



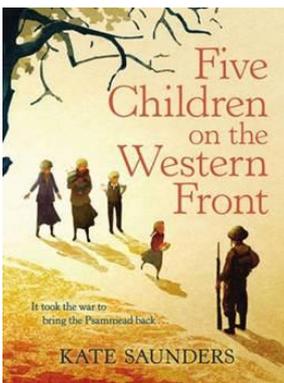
Stanley Yelnats' family has a history of bad luck, so he is not entirely surprised when a miscarriage of justice sends him to the Camp Green Lake Juvenile Detention Centre in the middle of the Texan desert. There is in fact no lake there at all and not much green either. Stanley soon discovers that his 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.

Kate Saunders
Five Children on the Western Front

Interest age: 10+

Reading age: 10+



In this highly acclaimed sequel to the much-loved *Five Children and It*, we rejoin the five children on the eve of World War I. The children have now grown up: Cyril is off to fight, whilst Anthea is at art college, Robert is a Cambridge scholar, Jane is at school, and even the Lamb is now the grown-up age of 11. The sand fairy of their childhood has become a creature of stories and memory - until he suddenly reappears. This time the Psammead is here for a reason, and before this last adventure ends, things will have changed for the five children forever...

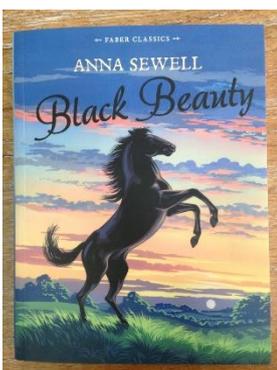
This moving and memorable homage to E Nesbit's classic story is no ordinary children's book. A heart-wrenching and poignant tribute to 'all the boys and girls, 1914-18', it is a must-read for children and adults alike, powerfully demonstrating the impact of World

War I on a whole generation of young people.

Anna Sewell
Black Beauty

Interest age: 9+

Reading age: 10+



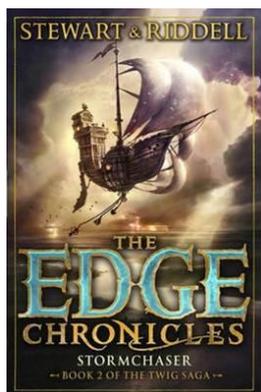
Black Beauty is a horse with a fine black coat, a white foot and a silver star on his forehead. Seen through his eyes, the story tells of his idyllic upbringing and the hardship and cruelty he suffers subsequently, before finding security and happiness in a new home.

Paul Stewart

The Edge Chronicles: Stormchaser

Interest age: 10+

Reading age: 10+



The second instalment in the bestselling Twig Saga, *Stormchaser* continues to explore the young hero of the saga, Twig, who finally gets to fulfil his dream of exploring the skies of the Edge on the sky ship the Stormchaser. However, the ship's quest is a perilous one which will test its crew to the limit - as they attempt to collect stormphrax - a valuable and magical ingredient which is produced inside the heart of a Great Storm, in order to save the floating city of Sanctaphrax from drifting away in the open sky when the chains attaching it to the Edge fail.

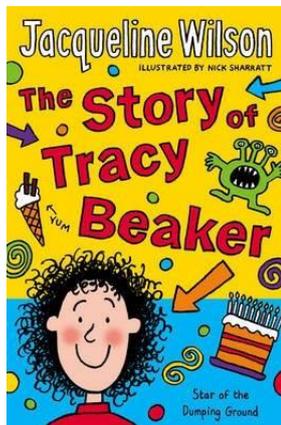
Paul Stewart's imaginative and original setting of the Edge is brought to life with lively illustrations by Chris Riddell, and packed with vivid and sometimes gruesome action which will keep readers of all ages captivated. Unusually for a children's story, there are also surprising moments of emotion at times, found in relationships such as between Twig and his sky pirate father, Cloud Wolf. Twig is a likeable protagonist who grows and develops throughout the story. We also meet new and memorable characters during his adventure, with strong characterisation throughout. Stewart also writes with a strong focus on descriptions, and overall this enchanting tale will leave readers eagerly anticipating the concluding tale in the trilogy

Jacqueline Wilson

The Story of Tracy Beaker

Interest age: 8+

Reading age: 8+



Tracy Beaker is a funny, imaginative and articulate ten-year-old girl, but she can also be angry, impulsive and a bit violent too. Tracy lives in a children's home but constantly hopes that her absent, glamorous mum will come and take her away.

One day Cam visits the home, to write a piece on the children. Tracy, being something of a writer herself, resolves to help out. The two form a bond and Tracy begins to wonder if Cam might represent a way out of the home for good.

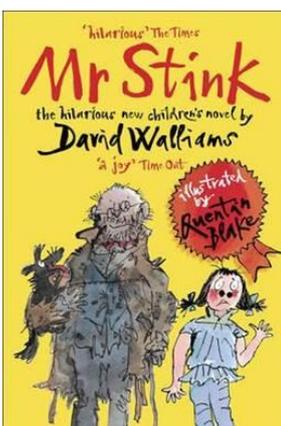
Tracy's story is told as a series of diary entries, liberally illustrated with doodles and drawings from the pen of Nick Sharratt. She is an endearing narrator and her bouts of temper serve only to make her seem more believable. Both funny and touching by turns, it is easy to see why Tracy's story has become a modern-day classic.

David Walliams

Mr Stink

Interest age: 9+

Reading age: 10+



Mr Stink, the filthy old tramp who is a permanent resident of a particular bench in the park, certainly lives up to his name.

However, his overwhelmingly awful whiff doesn't stop Chloe making friends with him and his dog and when it looks as though they may be run out of town she knows she has to do something fast and hides them in the garden shed.

As Chloe's family is quietly falling apart, Mr Stink unwittingly becomes the source of their redemption after a surprise TV appearance on Question Time.

Irreverent and charming, this is a hilarious and surprisingly touching story about secrets, love and life.
