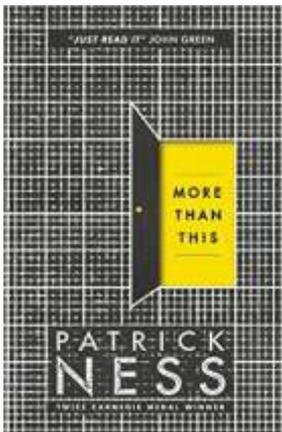


## Year 9 Reading List

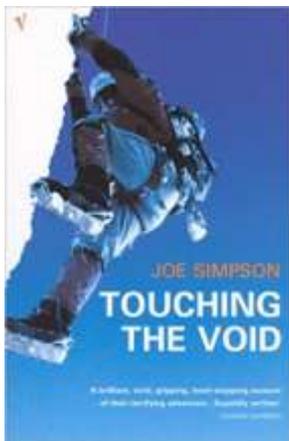
The books in this list have all been enjoyed by many students – read the synopses and the comments to decide which ones you would like to read.

### Adventure



Seth is drowning – he can feel his bones breaking as they’re dashed against the rocks and his lungs slowly fail him as they’re filled with water. But then he wakes. He’s confused and alone but that soon becomes the least of his problems.

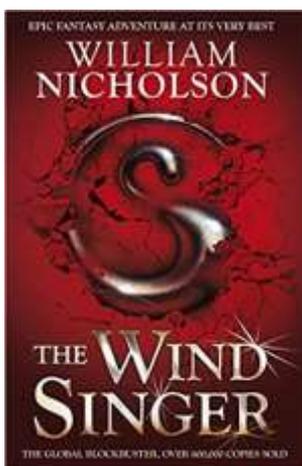
*“A gripping read – it had me guessing all the way through. Is it a supernatural story? Is he dead?”*



*Touching the Void* is a heart-stopping account of Joe Simpson's terrifying adventure in the Peruvian Andes. His climbing partner arrived at the base camp with the news that Joe had died on their journey.

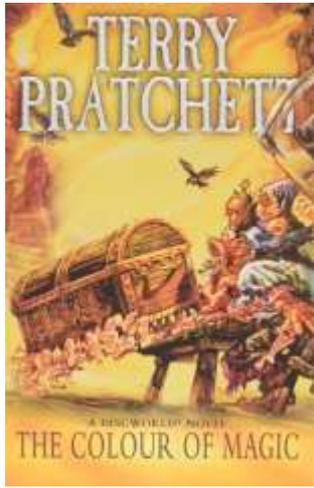
Joe’s survival is epic and inspirational. It’s based on their real experiences.

*“The fact that it actually happened makes it even scarier and tense”*



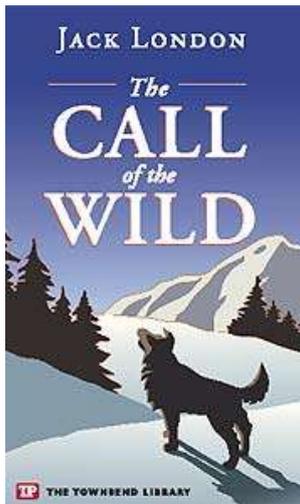
From the age of two, every citizen must sit regular examinations, the results of which dictate the entire family's social standing, right down to what they can wear. But there is no soul in Aramanth and Kestrel and her twin brother are becoming increasingly rebellious. Kestrel is drawn to the wind singer and believes she can save Aramanth if she restores its voice.

*“The Haths are my favourite fictional family!”*



The first novel in the *Discworld Series* is a parody of the adventure/fantasy genre. All the characters are hopeless and hilarious in their own way. It takes the stereotypical ingredients of a fairy-tale and applies them to real life situations and people. *The Colour of Magic* is a good first book in the *Discworld series*.

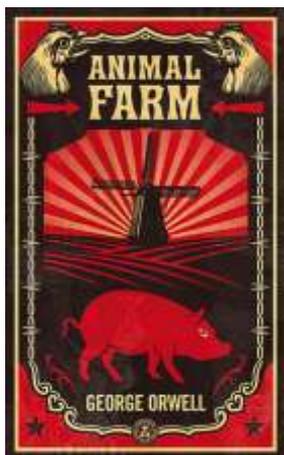
*“It’s so ridiculous and funny but he also describes the world and characters in vivid detail”*



This story first published in 1903 that made the struggling writer Jack London famous. It tells how Buck, a huge wolfhound, is stolen from his pampered Californian home and becomes a sled dog in the arctic wastes of the Yukon.

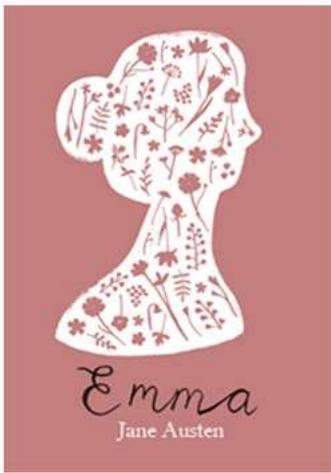
*“It is narrated by a dog so didn’t know what to expect... it’s wild and brutal and nothing like I’ve read before”*

## Classics



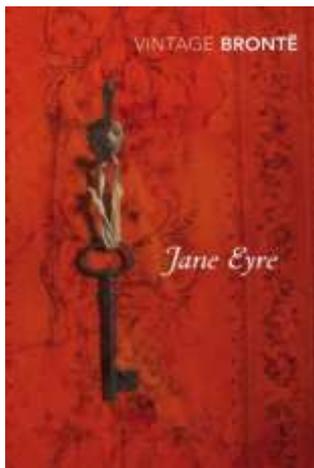
*Animal Farm* by George Orwell is an allegory of the early communist regime in Russia. It tells the story of a group of animals who overthrow the owner of their farm and make their own set of rules to govern their existence.

*“It’s still current and true today”*



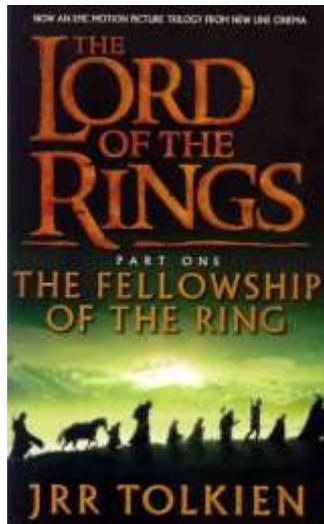
*Emma* is one of the famous novels by Jane Austen and was first published in 1816. Emma is unlike Austen's usual type of heroine; she has no interest in love or marriage for herself but likes to meddle in the relationships of others. But where will that lead her?

*"Emma grows a lot in novel and I find her character's journey interesting"*



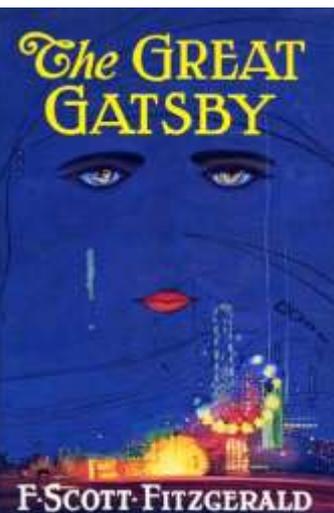
Jane is an orphan sent to live with her aunt. Her aunt and her children, especially her son, are cruel and hateful towards Jane. Her childhood is lonely and unpleasant. This leads her to the position of governess to the daughter of the mysterious, sardonic and attractive Mr Rochester.

*"My favourite chapter is when Jane is in the red room... it's chilling and dark"*



The first story in *The Lord of the Rings* trilogy. Sauron, the Dark Lord, has gathered to him all the Rings of Power – the means by which he intends to rule Middle-earth. All he lacks in his plans for dominion is the One Ring – the ring that rules them all – which has fallen into the hands of the hobbit, Bilbo Baggins. Then Frodo Baggins is given the immense task of destroying it...

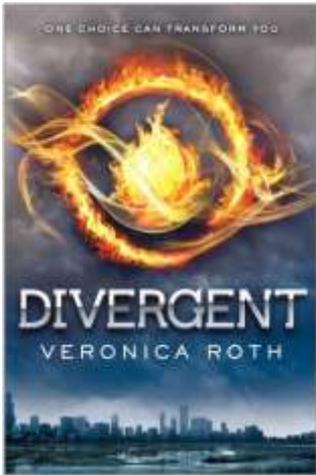
*"Frodo and Sam's adventure is truly terrifying but fascinating"*



Nick Caraway is fascinated and enthralled by Jay Gatsby. He's rich, charming and throws wildly glamorous parties. But Jay is hiding secrets and Nick soon discovers everyone has something to hide. A truly beautiful novel of love and life set against the backdrop of the roaring Jazz era.

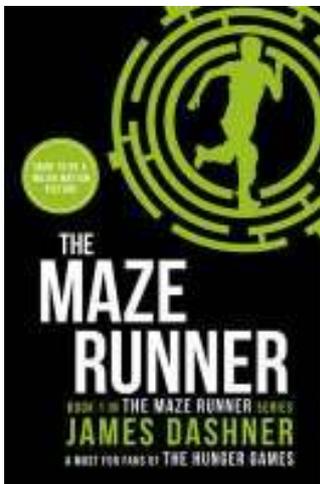
*"It's beautifully sad"*

## Dystopian Fiction



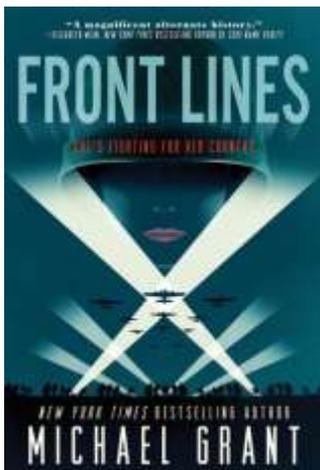
In the world of Divergent, society is divided into five factions – Candor, Abnegation, Dauntless, Amity and Erudite. Every year, all sixteen-year-olds must select the faction to which they will devote the rest of their lives. For Beatrice Prior, the decision is between staying with her family and being who she really is. Her choice shocks everyone, including herself.

*“From the moment Tris made her choice the story just takes off”*



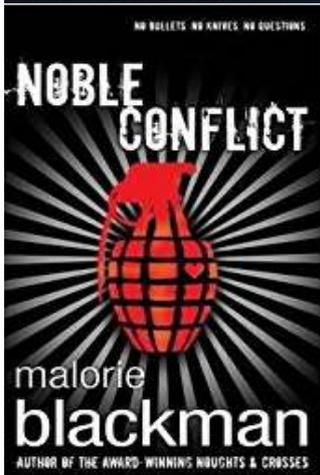
When the doors of the lift crank open, the only thing Thomas remembers is his first name. But he's not alone. He's surrounded by boys who welcome him to the Glade - a walled encampment at the centre of a bizarre and terrible stone maze. No one knows why they are there but each day they must risk everything to try and find a way out.

*“The battles are thrilling and the story intriguing... I went on to read all four books”*



An epic, genre-bending and transformative story that reimagines World War II with female soldiers fighting on the front lines. Three average girls sign up, each with different reasons for signing up. These three daring young women will play their parts in the war to defeat evil and save the human race. As the fate of the world hangs in the balance, they will discover the roles that define them on the front lines. They will fight the greatest war the world has ever known.

*“A compelling and emotional retell of WW2”*



Years after a violent war destroyed much of the world, Kaspar has grown up in a society based on peace and harmony. But beyond the city walls, a vicious band of rebels are plotting to tear this peace apart. It is up to the Guardians - an elite peacekeeping force - to protect the city, without ever resorting to the brutal methods of their enemy.

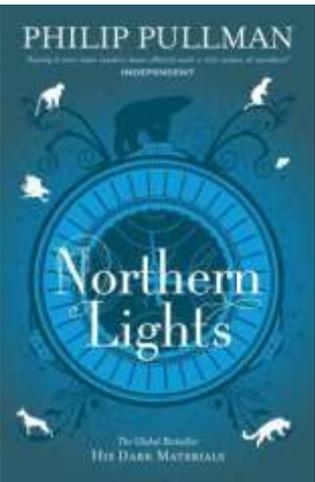
*“Totally gripping, epic and amazing work from Malorie Blackman”*

## Fantasy



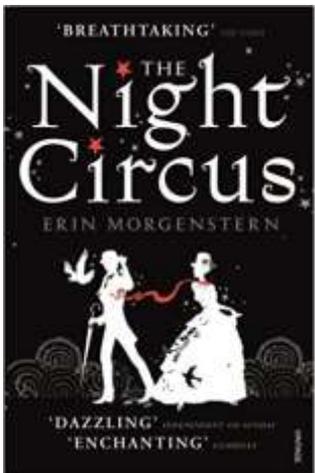
Beneath the streets of New York City live the Avicen, an ancient race of people with feathers for hair and magic running through their veins. Age-old enchantments keep them hidden from humans. All but one. Echo sees the Avicen people as her family, her only family. So when a centuries-old war crests on the borders of her home, she decides it's time to act.

“I love the world and the Avicens – how they look and the history behind them. It’s fascinating!”



Lyra Belacqua and her animal daemon live half-wild and carefree among scholars of Jordan College, Oxford. The destiny that awaits her will take her to the frozen lands of the Arctic, where witch-clans reign and ice-bears fight. Her extraordinary journey will have immeasurable consequences far beyond her own world...

*“Captivating fantasy, filled with excitement, suspense, and unusual characters”*



The circus arrives without warning. No announcements precede it. It is simply there, when yesterday it was not. The black sign, painted in white letters that hangs upon the gates, reads:

*Opens at Nightfall  
Closes at Dawn*

But when the sun goes down the sign changes:

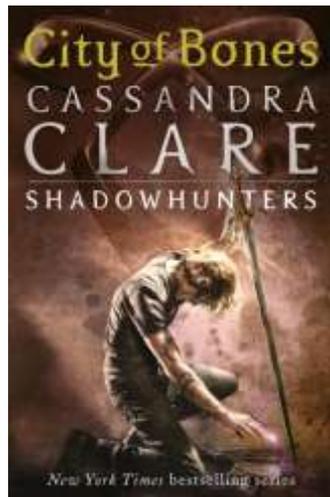
*Le Cirque des Rêves  
The Circus of Dreams.*



Something terrifying is waiting for Tessa Gray in London's Downworld, where vampires, warlocks and other supernatural folk stalk the gaslit streets. Tessa seeks refuge with the Shadowhunters, a band of warriors dedicated to ridding the world of demons. Tessa finds herself fascinated by – and torn between – two best friends...

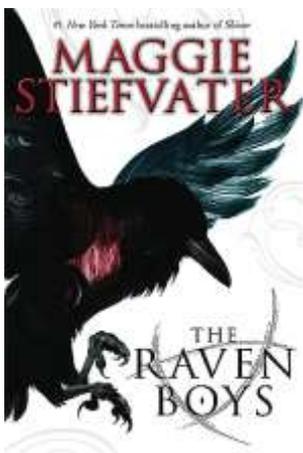
(Prequel to *The Mortal Instruments* series)

*“The best fantasy series!”*



When fifteen-year-old Clary Fray heads out to the Pandemonium Club in New York City, she hardly expects to witness a murder— much less a murder committed by three teenagers covered with strange tattoos and brandishing bizarre weapons. Then the body disappears into thin air. It's hard to call the police when the murderers are invisible to everyone else and when there is nothing—not even a smear of blood—to show that a boy has died. Or was he a boy?

*“An epic first book in an incredible series”*



When Blue meets Gansey's spirit on the corpse road she knows there is only one reason why - either he is her true love or she has killed him. Determined to find out the truth, Blue becomes involved with the Raven Boys, four boys from the local private school (lead by Gansey) who are on a quest to discover Glendower - a lost ancient Welsh King who is buried somewhere along the Virginia ley line.

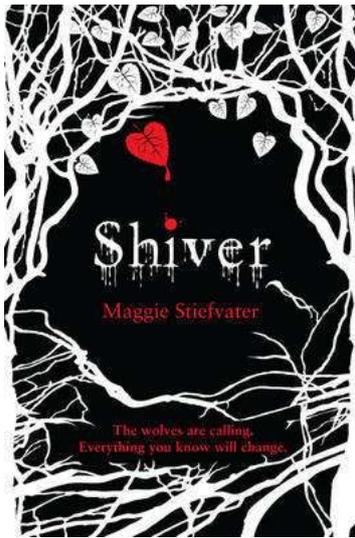
*“A fresh take on magic and adventure”*

## Gothic



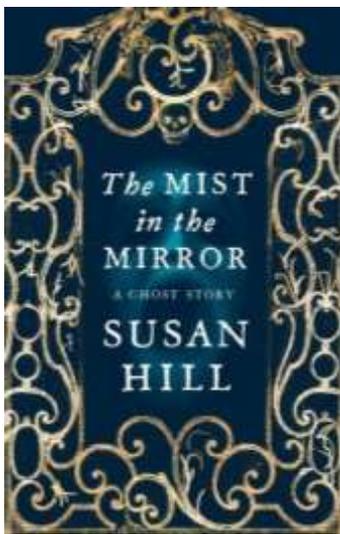
*The story's heroine is a Gothic novel-obsessed young woman who sees intrigue and mystery everywhere.*

*Visiting Bath with her friend Mrs. Allen, an older but flighty, irresponsible woman, Catherine Morland falls in love with Henry Tilney, a young clergyman. Believing her to be wealthy, Henry's father invites Catherine to Northanger Abbey, the Tilney home. Greatly influenced by her reading of Mrs. Radcliffe's novel *Mysteries of Udolpho*, Catherine sees *Nightmare Abbey* as a house of nightmarish mysteries.*



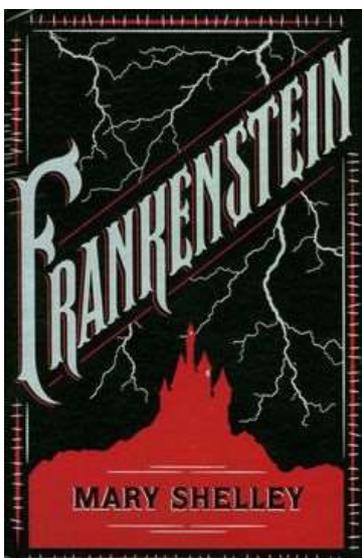
When a local boy is killed by wolves, Grace's small town becomes a place of fear. But Grace is fascinated by the pack, and finds herself drawn to a yellow-eyed wolf. There's something about him - something almost human. Then Grace meets a yellow-eyed boy whose familiarity takes her breath away...

*"The story is addictive"*



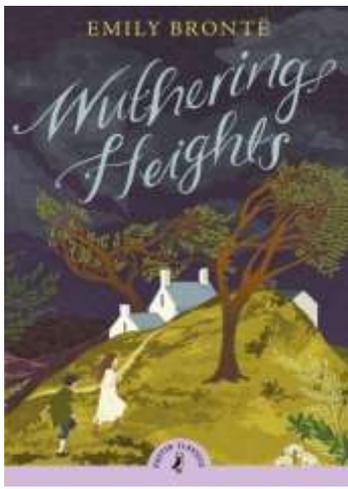
In an attempt to learn more about his hero, James Monmoth travels to Kittiscar Hall. But he soon begins to feel as though something is warning him away at every turn; there are the intense feelings of being watched and the strange apparitions of a sad little boy. And as he learns more about his hero's past, he discovers that they are only the beginning, for Kittiscar Hall is hiding terrible secret that will bind their lives together in ways he could never have imagined.

*"absolutely terrifying"*



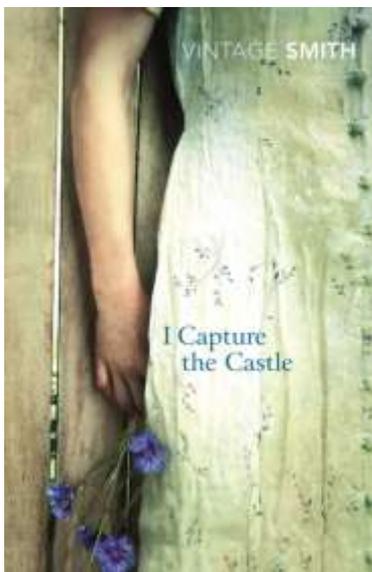
Victor Frankenstein is driven by the mad dream of creating his own creature, experiments with alchemy and science to build a monster stitched together from dead remains. Once the creature becomes a living breathing articulate entity, it turns on its maker and the novel darkens into tragedy.

Although first published in 1818, Shelley's masterpiece still maintains a strong grip on the imagination and has been the inspiration for numerous horror movies, television and stage adaptations.



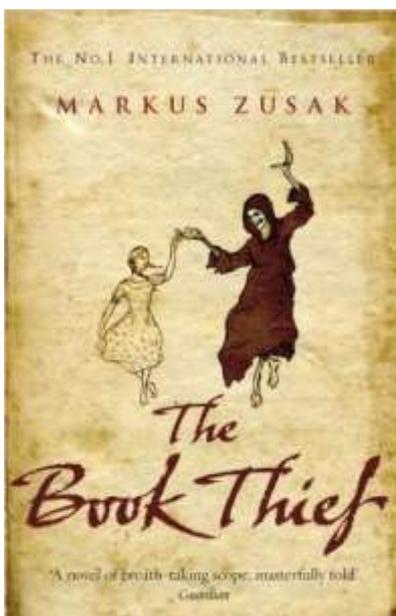
Raised together on the Yorkshire moors, Heathcliff and Catherine become soul mates so utterly inseparable that their destiny seems inevitable. But when Catherine's desire for social status results in her marriage to Heathcliff's wealthy rival, Heathcliff is consumed by revenge. And no one in his path will be spared.

## Historical Fiction



I write this sitting in the kitchen sink' is the first line of this timeless, witty and enchanting novel about growing up. Cassandra lives with her family in a crumbling castle. Every day is similar and nothing exciting really happens. However, all their lives are turned upside down when the American heirs to the castle arrive and Cassandra finds herself falling in love for the first time.

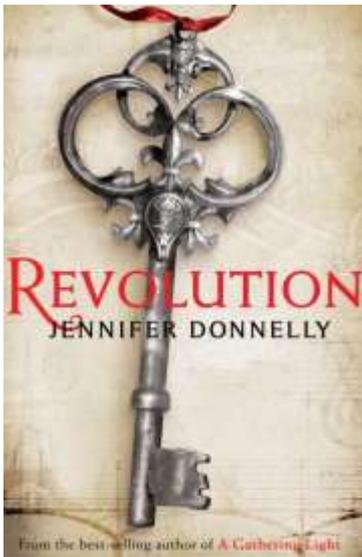
*"Her family is eccentric and quirky. I love the way she describes 'old' England"*



**SOME IMPORTANT INFORMATION - THIS NOVEL IS NARRATED BY DEATH**

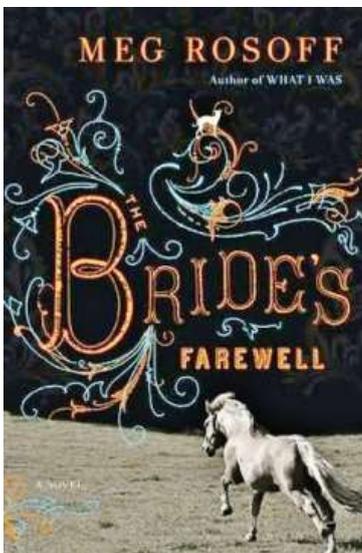
It's a small story, about:  
a girl  
an accordionist  
some fanatical Germans  
a Jewish fist fighter  
and quite a lot of thievery.

**ANOTHER THING YOU SHOULD KNOW - DEATH WILL VISIT THE BOOK THIEF THREE TIMES.**



Andi lives in New York and is dealing with the emotional turmoil of her younger brother's accidental death. Alex lives in Paris and is a companion to the dauphin, the young son of Marie-Antoinette and Louis XVI, during the violent days of the French Revolution. When Andi is sent to Paris to get her out of the trouble, their two stories collide. This is a heart-wrenchingly beautiful, evocative portrait of lives torn apart by grief and mended by love.

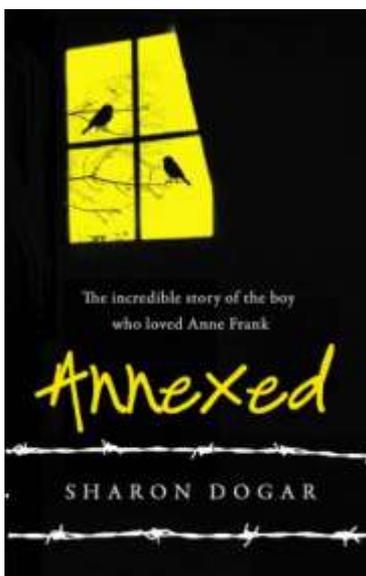
*“Moving and interesting”*



On the morning of her wedding, Pell Ridley creeps out of bed in the dark, kisses her sisters goodbye and flees - determined to escape a future that offers nothing but hard work and sorrow.

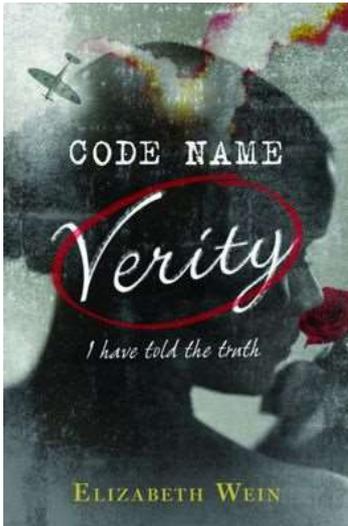
The road ahead is rich with longing, silence and secrets, and each encounter leads her closer to the untold story of her past.

*“Captivating... I was still thinking about it days later”*



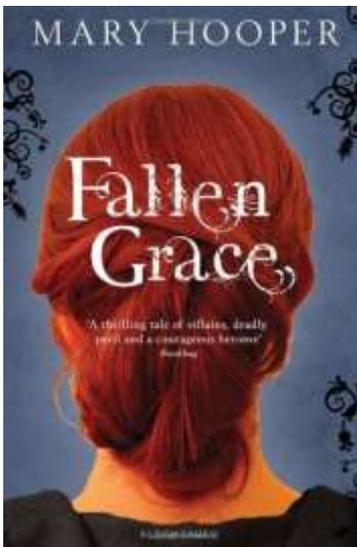
*Everyone knows about Anne Frank, and her life hidden in the secret annexe - or do they?* This is the story of Peter; he is trapped with the Franks and the rest of his family. His perspective is very different to the one we know and more, it does not end when Anne's does. Peter has a very different story to tell.

*“Heart breaking and real”*



A girl from Manchester and a Scottish aristocrat, one is a pilot and the other a special operations executive. When a vital mission goes wrong, and one of the friends has to bail out of a faulty plane over France, she is captured by the Gestapo and becomes a prisoner of war. The story begins in 'Verity's' own words, as she writes her account for her captors.

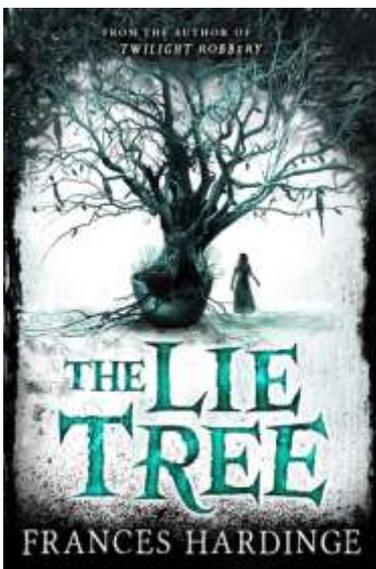
*"An exciting story... the friendship of the main characters is amazing"*



A stunning evocation of life in Victorian London, with vivid and accurate depictions, ranging from the deprivation that the truly poor suffered to the unthinking luxuries enjoyed by the rich: all bound up with a pacy and thrilling plot, as Grace races to unravel the fraud about to be perpetrated against her and her sister.

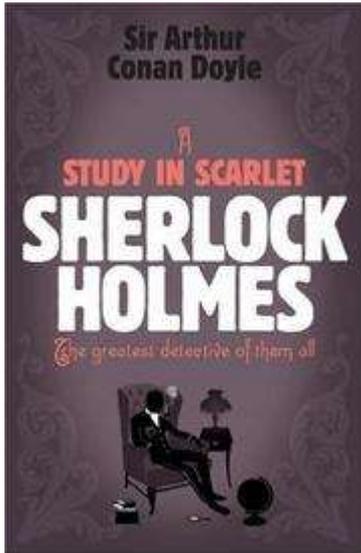
*"It's so sad at times but it makes Grace's survival more triumphant"*

## Mystery / Thriller



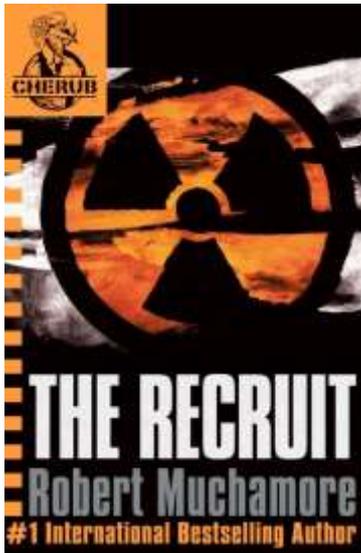
After her father's death, Faith finds a tree in his belongings that only grows when you tell it a lie. The fruit of the tree, when eaten, will deliver a hidden truth to the person who consumes it. The bigger the lie, the more people who believe it, the bigger the truth that is uncovered.

*"The vivid descriptions make the story atmospheric at times"*



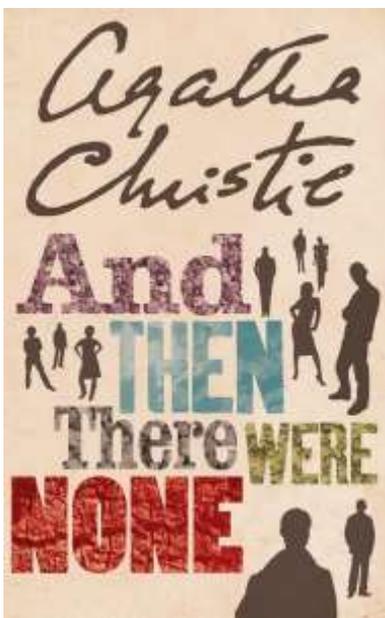
This is an excellent introduction into the world of Sherlock and Watson. Join them on their first case, *A Study in Scarlet*. The story is split into two parts; the first narrated by Doctor Watson and the second flashes back to 1847.

*"I really enjoyed reading how Holmes solved the case... how he put together all the clues"*



CHERUB agents are aged between ten and seventeen. They live in the real world, slipping under adult radar and getting information that sends criminals and terrorists to jail. The story focuses on James Choke... his start is anything but nice.

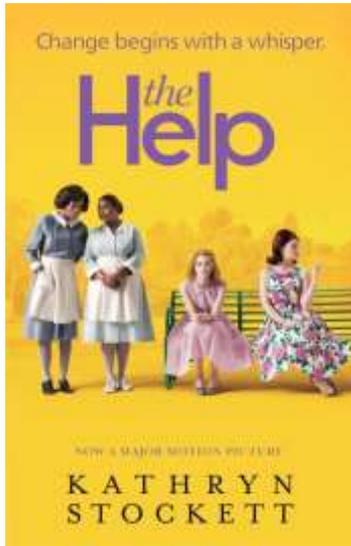
*"I absolutely love the CHERUB world"*



Ten strangers, apparently with little in common, are lured to an island mansion off the coast of Devon. One of the party is found murdered, and tension mounts as the survivors realize that the killer is not only among them, but is willing to strike again... and again.

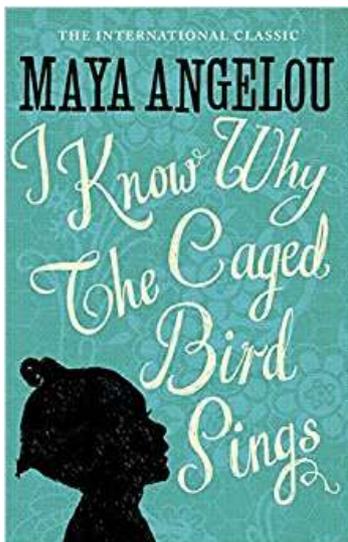
*"It kept me guessing"*

## Political and Social



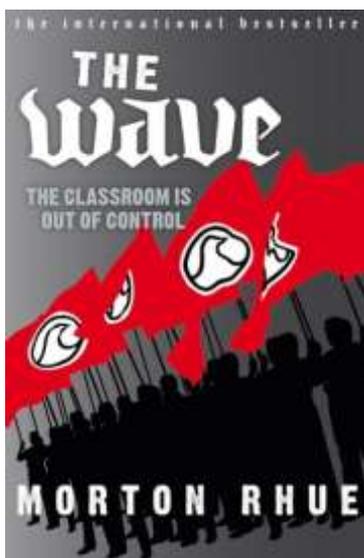
Enter a vanished and unjust world: Jackson, Mississippi, 1962. Where black maids raise white children, but aren't trusted not to steal the silver . . .

*"Each character has such an amazing story... this book made me feel so many emotions"*



Maya Angelou's seven volumes of autobiography are a testament to the talents and resilience of this extraordinary writer. Loving the world, she also knows its cruelty. As a Black woman she has known discrimination and extreme poverty, but also hope, joy, achievement and celebration.

*"Inspirational and real"*



This novel dramatizes an incident that took place in a California school in 1969. A teacher creates an experimental movement in his class to help students understand how people could have followed Hitler. The results are astounding. All will learn a lesson that will never be forgotten.

*"Truly terrifying"*



George has a secret she thinks she'll have to keep forever. Until her teacher announces they'll be doing a play and George has her heart set on playing the lead. There's just one problem... her teacher says no because the lead is a girl part and George is a boy.

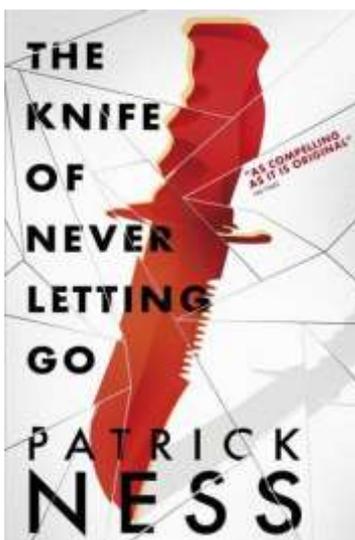
*"George is so moving and not what I expected... I loved it"*



The Art of Being Normal has been one of the big hitting YA reads of the year. Nominated for awards left, right and centre, it follows David Piper, a girl born in a boy's body. In many ways this can be classed as a coming of age novel, a story of self-discovery and self-acceptance. But Lisa Williamson has made David so utterly relatable, and in giving him Leo as a friend has created a unique bond which leaps off the page and into the reader's heart.

*"I cannot recommend this book enough. I've read it twice since"*

## Science Fiction



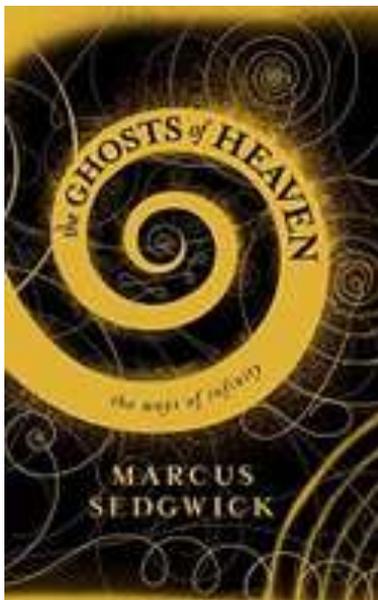
Todd is the only boy in his town and he's a little different. He can hear all of the men's thoughts. An unflinching story about fear and self-discovery.

*"Full of excitement and emotion. I couldn't put it down"*



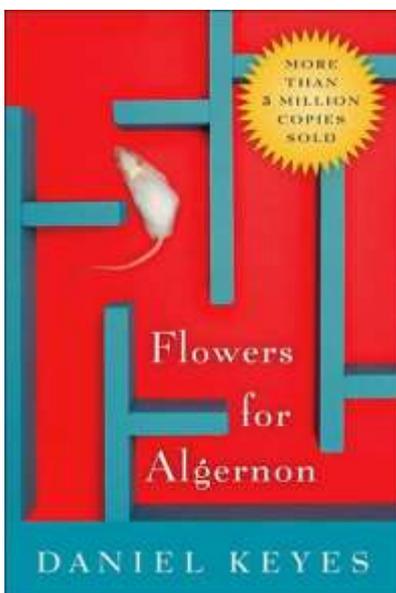
This is a unique story and it has lots of twists and revelations. Matt has always known he was different. His differences make him an outsider. Something disgusting. When a lord shows him compassion it changes his world. And maybe not for the better.

*“Warm, real, and compelling, this is one of those rare books that still makes you cry the second time you read it”*



Tales of witchcraft, the mentally insane, a cave girl from the beginnings of time to the futuristic account of a lonely spaceman aboard a ship seeking a new homeland. Imaginatively thought and creatively told. The Ghosts of Heaven is also an intelligent novel; it makes you think more than first realise and it will force you to carry on reading to discover the meaning of this never-ending spiral and why it means something to each of the quarter's protagonists.

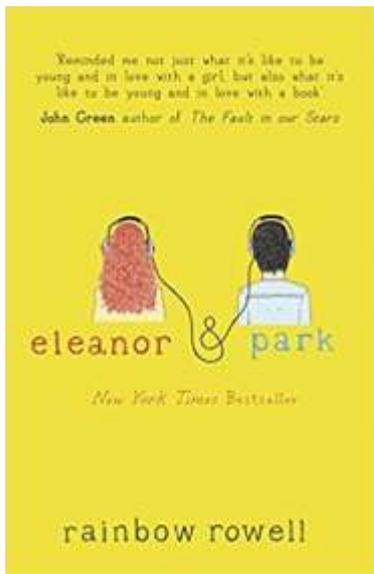
*“It's split into different stories. Each one is more brilliant!”*



The classic novel about a daring experiment in human intelligence Charlie Gordon, IQ 68, is a floor sweeper and the gentle butt of everyone's jokes - until an experiment in the enhancement of human intelligence turns him into a genius. But then Algernon, the mouse whose triumphal experimental transformation preceded his, fades and dies, and Charlie has to face the possibility that his salvation was only temporary.

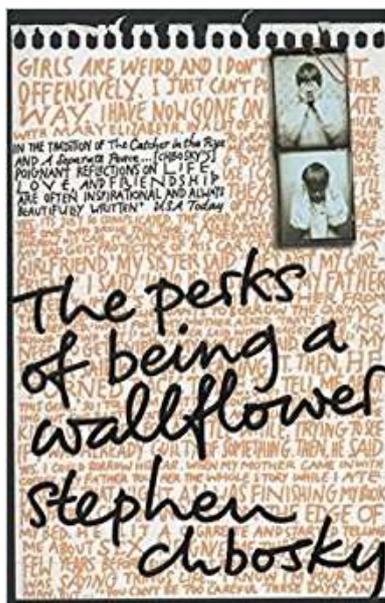
*“An original story... it's extremely moving”*

## Young Adult



Eleanor is new in town and has never felt more alone. Then she meets Park. He's quiet, careful and - in Eleanor's eyes - impossibly cool. The novel is set over one school year and it is incredibly moving.

*"All I can do is praise Rainbow Rowell for giving us such an amazing, awesome and utterly brilliant book"*



Charlie is shy, introspective, intelligent and socially awkward. He's just started college and needs to learn to not always stand at the edge watching others have fun. He needs to see life from the dancefloor.

*"Written in the form of letters, with some great twists. A great read I would read it again!"*



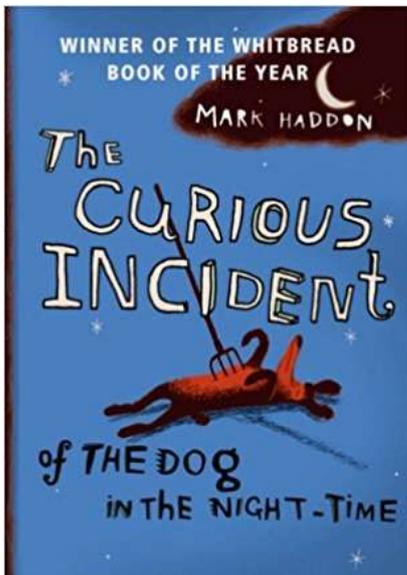
Auggie's story is brilliant, funny and moving. Auggie is born with a terrible facial abnormality, Auggie has been home-schooled by his parents his whole life. Now, for the first time, he's being sent to a real school - and he's dreading it. All he wants is to be accepted - but can he convince his new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

*"Auggie is true hero. The story is incredible"*



Maddy is allergic to the world; stepping outside the sterile sanctuary of her home could kill her. But then Olly moves in next door. And Maddy is ready to risk everything, *everything* to see where it leads.

*“Powerful and lovely”*



*The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* is a murder mystery novel like no other. The detective, and narrator, is Christopher Boone. Christopher is fifteen and has Asperger's Syndrome. He has to overcome many obstacles on an adventure that will change his life forever.

*“It’s beautifully written and insightful. It’s not what I expected”*