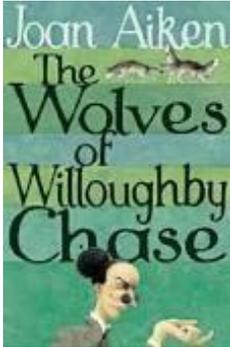


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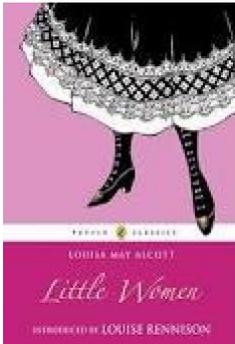


The books in this list have all been enjoyed by many students at St Edward's Academy. Read each synopsis and the comments to decide which book you would like to read.



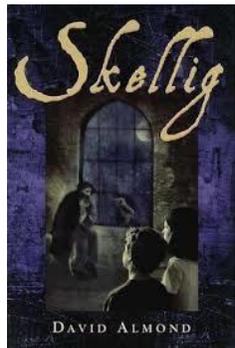
Joan Aiken's 'The Wolves of Willoughby Chase' is set in an alternative 19th Century England during the reign of James III. This tells the story of the adventures of cousins Bonnie and Sylvia and their friend Simon as they seek to thwart the evil schemes of their teacher Miss Sighcarp.

"A tale of double-dyed villainy, with all that is right triumphing at the end."



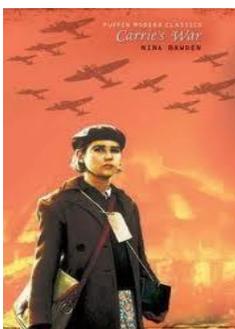
One of the original "coming of age" novels written in by Louisa M Alcott 1868/9 "Little Women" follows the lives, loves and tribulations of four sisters growing up during the American Civil War and is one of the best loved books of all time.

"I loved this book, even though it made me cry!"



David Almond's Skellig is about Michael and the mysterious being he finds in the garage of his new house. Together with Mina from across the road, they help the creature get stronger and in turn Michael learns to deal with a new school and problems at home.

"I think this is a powerful and moving book because you feel like you are right there"

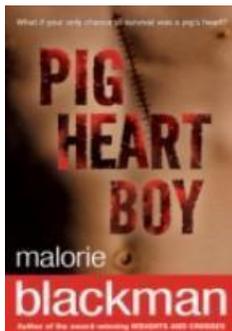


Nina Bayden's Carrie's War is about two evacuees during the Second World War.

"Nick was frightened of ogres and spiders and crabs and cold water and the dentist and dark nights, but he wasn't afraid of Mr Evans, even after that first dreadful night, because Mr Evans had false teeth that clicked when he talked."

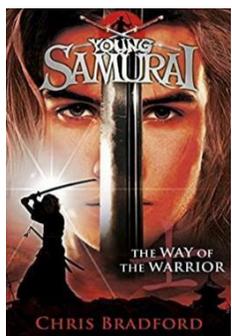
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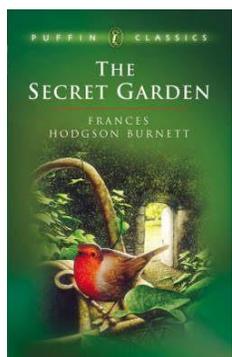
Cameron Kelsey has only a few months to live, and is no longer able to play sport, swim or live his normal life in any way. With no suitable human donor available, he agrees to try a revolutionary new process and is given a new heart, from a pig.

“A bizarre yet strangely realistic book”



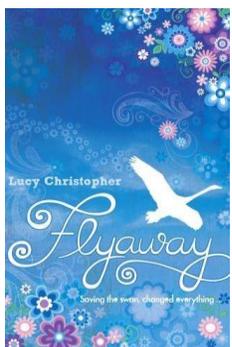
Jack is shipwrecked off the coast of Japan and the rest of the crew, including his father are killed by Ninja pirates. To survive he trains to become a Samurai Warrior.

“An action-packed martial arts adventure”



Mary Lennox was horrid. Selfish and spoilt, she was sent to stay with her uncle in Yorkshire. She hated it. But when she finds the way into a secret garden and begins to tend it, a change comes over her. *The Secret Garden* is one of the most popular stories of all time.

“A wonderful story that I could think myself into”

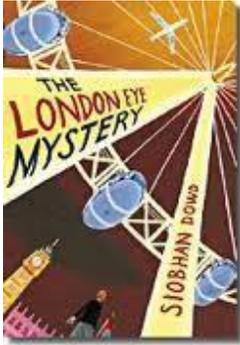


Isla loves being outside and finds an injured bird – if she helps the swan fly again perhaps her friend Harry, the only person who understands her but who is in hospital, will get better too.

“This book will harness wings to your imagination and fly you through a wondrous tale”

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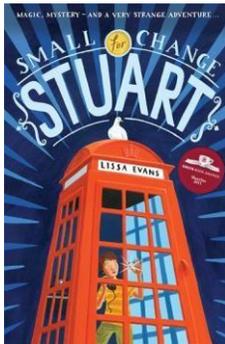
Ted and Kat watched their cousin Salim get on board the London Eye. After half an hour it landed and everyone trooped off - but no Salim. Where could he have gone? How on earth could he have disappeared into thin air?

"An un-put-downable spine-tingling thriller"



A spellbinding magical adventure. This is the story of Sapphire and her brother Conor and their discovery of INGO, a powerful and exciting world under the sea.

"A totally believable and parallel world. I wish I could go there."



The strangest adventure of Stuart's life is finding his great-uncle's lost workshop: a place of trickery and magic. With clues to follow and puzzles to solve, but the fun ends up as danger and Stuart realises that he can't finish the task by himself . . .

"A fast-moving blend of comedy and magic."

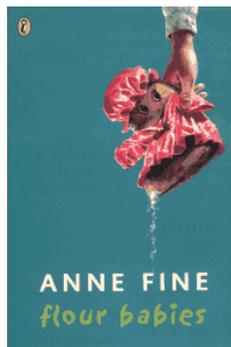


Shortly after moving into an old house with other strange tenants, Coraline discovers a big, carved, brown wooden door in the corner of the drawing room.

"Sometimes funny, always creepy, genuinely moving, this marvelous spine-chiller will appeal to readers from nine to ninety."

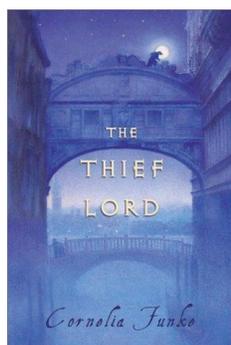
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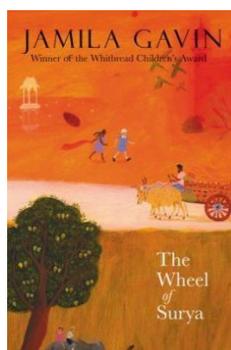
When the annual school science fair comes round, Mr Cartwright's class don't get to work on the Soap Factory, the Maggot Farm or the Exploding Custard Tins. To their disgust they get the Flour Babies - sweet little six-pound bags of flour that must be cared for at all times.

"Let chaos reign!!"



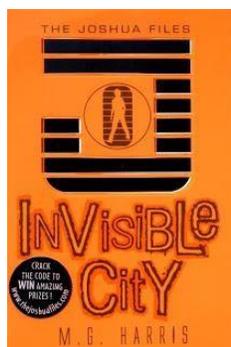
Two orphaned children are hiding among the crumbling canals and misty alleyways of Venice. Befriended by a gang of street children and their mysterious leader, they shelter in a disused cinema but threatening the boys' new-found freedom is something from a forgotten past.

"I now want to see if Venice is really like this!"



In 1947, to escape the violence of the civil war in the Punjab, India, Jaspal and Marvinder are sent to live with their father who is studying in England. They find themselves in a completely different fight for survival.

"The most important book I have ever read"

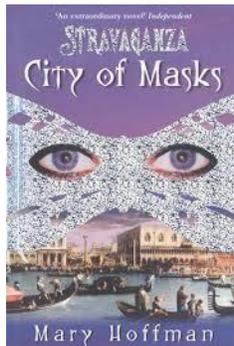


When his archaeologist father goes missing after an air crash in Mexico, Josh suspects alien abduction. But after he discovers his dad was murdered, Josh is caught up in a race to find the Ix Codex -- a lost book of the ancient Maya and a prophecy about the end of the world...

"Amazing – a must for adventure fans"

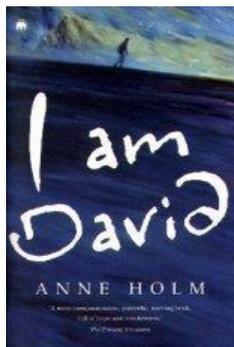
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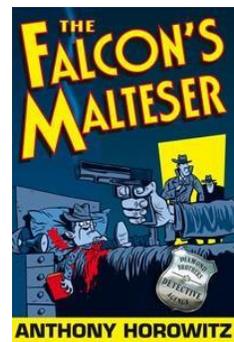
Set in Talia, a parallel world like 16th Century Italy, Lucien, who in our world is very ill and is given a marbled notebook to use as a diary. This is the unexpected means that transports him to a dangerous new world; one that thrills with intrigue and where a life can be snuffed out with a flash of a blade.

“Sad and exciting at the same time!”



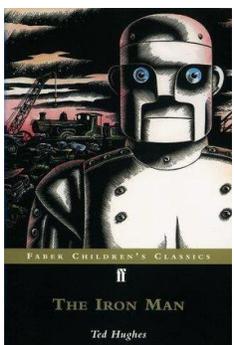
A young boy's journeys through Europe after escaping from the camp. The sea, and flowers, the taste of fruit, people laughing and smiling - all are new to David. His polite manner, his haunted eyes and his thin features are also strange to other people.

“Makes you realise how thankful many of us should be for the lives we lead.”



When a visitor comes in and leaves a package, Tim Diamond, the world's worst private detective, is faced with his toughest case yet. The office is ransacked and the package is found to contain simply a box of Maltesers. Who was the mystery leaver of the package and why was he murdered shortly after his visit?

“Wonderful!, full of allusions to, and parodies of detective films and stories.”

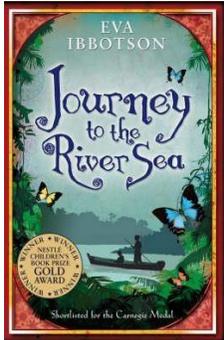


This classic science fiction novella by British Poet Laureate Ted Hughes is also a superb modern fairytale. Read how a man made of scrap metal befriends a small boy and helps to save mankind.

“A good mix of fantasy and real-life adventure”

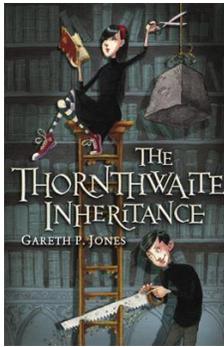
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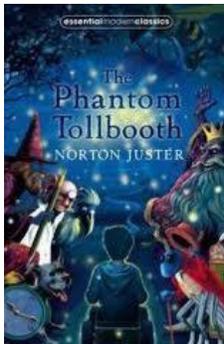
Recently orphaned Maia has been sent from England to South America to stay with distant relatives. Her journey up the Amazon with an eccentric and secretive governess is a real adventure and opens up a whole new world.

"Eva Ibbotson is a fantastic writer."



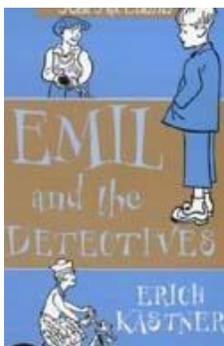
Orphaned twins Ovid and Lorelli are trying to kill each other, but why? A delightfully twisted and humorous gothic tale for fans of mayhem, mishap and misadventure. Ideal for readers with a flare for the mischievous and an appreciation of deadly whodunits.

"It was full of laughs & nasty tricks"



This is a surreal story about a boy called Milo who is transported to the Kingdom of Wisdom with companions Rhyme and Reason. You will enjoy this if you like funny stories which are full of puns

"If you have ever been bored – read this book!"

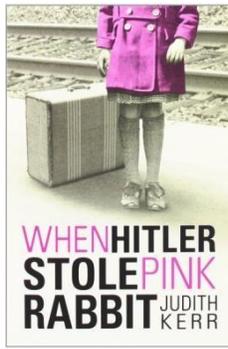


This was the only book by this author to escape Nazi censorship and is about a boy (with a lot of money) who meets a mysterious man on a train in Berlin.

"The perfect introduction to the world of fictional crime detection"

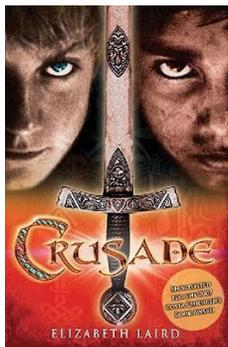
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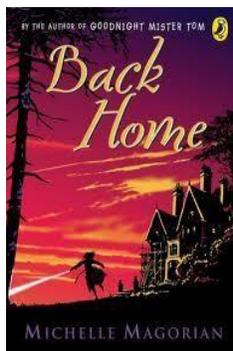
This is the semi-autobiographical story of a young Jewish girl, Anna, who is forced to flee her home in Germany in 1933 with her family to escape the Nazis because her father (a journalist) has been critical of Adolf Hitler.

“A compassionate introduction to the whole subject of World War II.”



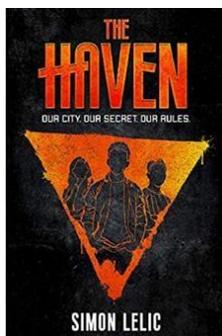
The story of two young boys at the siege of Acre during the Crusades. Muslim Salim is working for a Jewish doctor and Adam is English. We read about their families and values, including how they meet and ultimately help each other.

“One of the first books that made me question right and wrong.”



Rusty comes back from America where she has been staying with relatives and is immediately sent to a strict English Boarding School where she finds it difficult to make friends and is extremely lonely and unhappy.

“A sad story but it just tells you that you can do anything if you are determined and put your mind to it.”

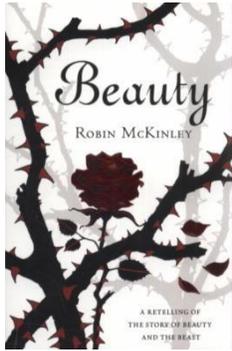


Our City Our Secret Our Rules: Underneath the city there's a secret organisation, far from adult eyes, where kids are in control. But there is also a battle to stop the destruction of the city above and time is running dangerously short.

“What a cool idea, modern street kids doing it themselves”

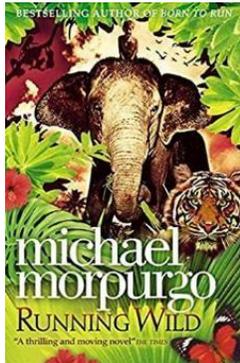
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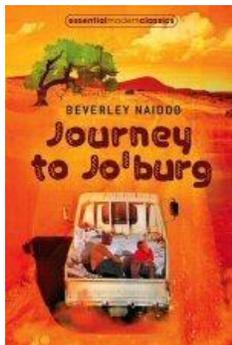
Beauty is a retelling of the fairy story 'Beauty and the Beast' where the author creates a magical world in which curses abound and you forget you already know the story! But this retelling is full of so much more and even the ending is different without being changed.

"Beauty is, very simply, a well-written retelling of Beauty and the Beast."



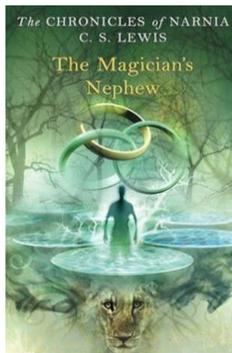
Will's life in Indonesia changes forever one day when there is a tsunami and with Oona the elephant he ends up in the jungle with nothing but a bottle of water. But is it enough to survive?

"A lovely story, a mix of emotions to stir the spirit"



Frightened that their baby sister Dineo will die, Naledi and her brother Tiro run away to Johannesburg to find their mother, who works there as a maid. Their journey illustrates the grim realities of apartheid – the pass laws, racism, the breakdown of family life.

"This book is a can't put down book"

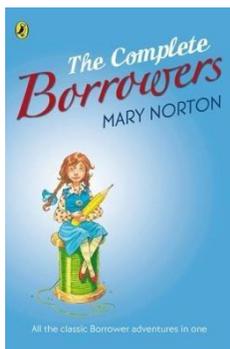


The book that sets the scene for The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe with the creation of Narnia by Aslan the Lion. Digory, the nephew of a minor magician, and Polly get transported into a different world by touching some rings.

"Pure enchantment."

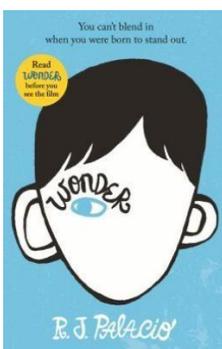
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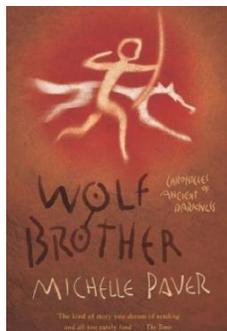
The Borrowers are a family of tiny people who live secretly in the walls and floors of an English house and "borrow" from the big people in order to survive.

"I loved this book so much that I invented a game based on its characters!"



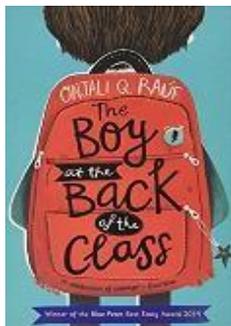
"I'm August. I won't describe what I look like. Whatever you're thinking, it's probably worse." Auggie wants to be a 'normal' kid. But ordinary kids don't make other kids run away screaming.

"A funny, frank, astonishing, moving book to read in one sitting.



This is the first book in the series *Chronicles of Ancient Darkness* and takes place 6000 years ago during the New Stone Age, and tells the story of twelve-year-old Torak, a boy of the Wolf Clan.

"I love fantasy books, but Wolf Brother had a mix of reality in it as well"

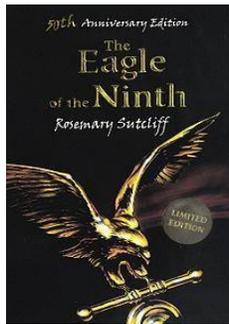


There used to be an empty seat at the back of the class, but now there is a new boy called Ahmet sitting there. He's a refugee, from a real war and the more the children in his new class find out about Ahmet, the more they want to help him.

"The more you read, the more you love the book. It's happy and sad."

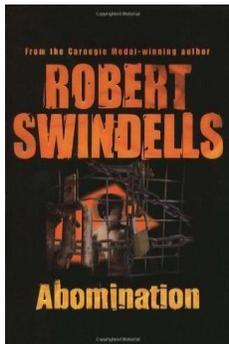
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The Ninth Legion marched into the mists of Northern Britain - and they were never seen again. Four thousand men disappeared and their eagle standard was lost. It's a mystery that's never been solved, until now . . .

'A beautifully written and exciting tale of a young man's mission to save the reputation of his dead father'



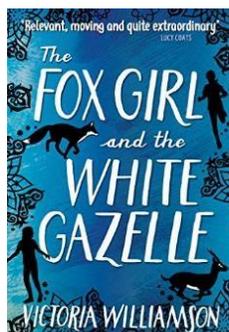
Martha is twelve - and very different from other kids, because of her parents. Strict members of a religious group - the Brethren - their rules dominate Martha's life. And one rule is the most important of all: she must never ever invite anyone home.

"Nightmarish, yet somehow disturbingly and inexplicably comfortable!"



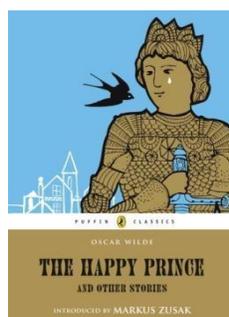
Lord Gort is a female black cat, growing up in England during World War Two. She is quite happy in lazing in and around the house of her owner, until the young man disappears to fulfil his duties of war. Reluctantly, she leaves the suddenly deserted home and begins her search for her companion.

"Robert Westall is an excellent story teller"



Refugee Reema is struggling in Glasgow, her new home with a new language to learn and without her brother. When she and her unlikely friend Caylin discover an injured fox, they realise that they have more in common than they thought.

"A beautiful, lyrical story of displacement and belonging."



A haunting, magical fairy-tale collection by Oscar Wilde with a Happy Prince who was not so happy after all, a Selfish Giant who learned to love little children and a Star Child who did not love his parents as he should. Each of the stories shines with poetry and magic and will be enjoyed by children of every age.

"Magical stories"