



St. Bede's Catholic College Library

Love reading - great books for Year 8s & 9s. June 2026

We value Reading for Pleasure here at St Bede's and work hard to find the right book for your child. They are always welcome to talk to us in the Library about what they are reading and what they might like to read.

Our favourite books change constantly and our recommendations are obviously best targeted to a particular reader. There are reading lists for different year groups on our Library catalogue and we put our current reviews in the College newsletter.

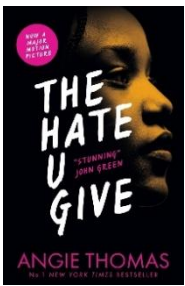
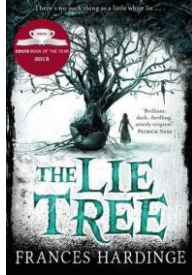
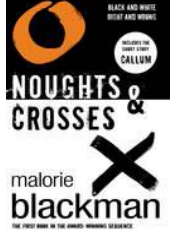
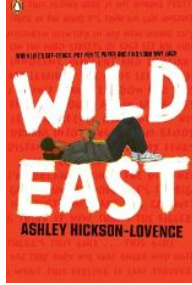
If you would like to ask us for any specific recommendations, please get in touch.

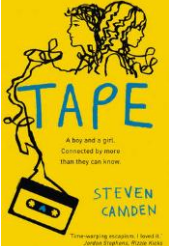
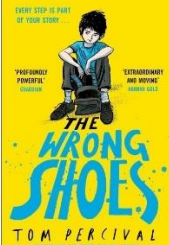
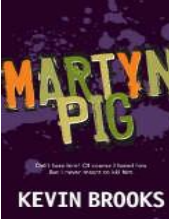
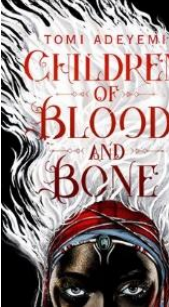
We have included links to ebook samples where available for your interest. These may be to companies selling the book, but all the books listed here are available to borrow from the College Library

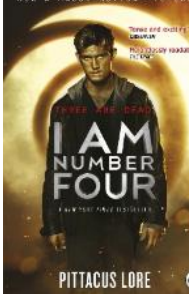
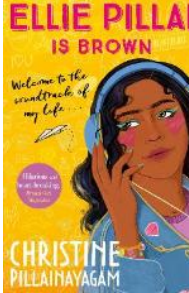
Mrs Hayman & Mrs Nicks librarydesk@stbcc.org

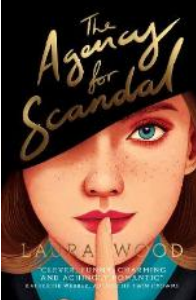
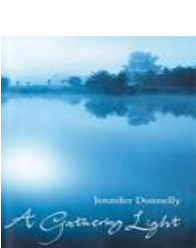
If your child already enjoys reading and is happy reading longer books then they might like....

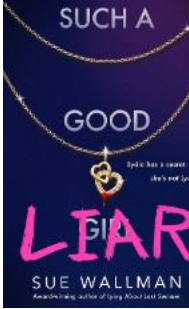
	Salt to the Sea by Ruta Sepetys Winner of the CILIP Carnegie Medal 2017 It's early 1945 and a group of people trek across Germany, bound together by their desperation to reach the ship that can take them away from the war-ravaged land. This inspirational novel is based on a true story from the Second World War. Other books: The Fountains of Silence; I Must Betray You; The Bletchley Riddle (slightly younger)
	Scythe by Neal Shusterman In a world where disease, war and crime have been eliminated, the only way to die is to be randomly killed ("gleaned") by professional scythes. Citra and Rowan are teenagers who have been selected to be Scythes' apprentices, and despite wanting nothing to do with the vocation, they must learn the art of killing and understand the necessity of what they do. Only one of them will be chosen as a scythe's apprentice and as Citra and Rowan come up against a terrifyingly corrupt Scythedom, it becomes clear that the winning apprentice's first task will be to glean the loser. In a perfect world, what is there left to fear? First in a series. Other Books: Game Changer, Dry, Challenger Deep

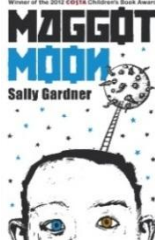
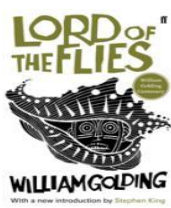
	The Hate U Give by Angie Thomas Sixteen-year-old Starr lives in two worlds: the poor neighbourhood where she was born and raised and her posh high school in the suburbs. The uneasy balance between them is shattered when Starr is the only witness to the fatal shooting of her unarmed best friend, Khalil, by a police officer. Now what Starr says could destroy her community. It could also get her killed. Inspired by the Black Lives Matter movement, this is a powerful and gripping novel about one girl's struggle for justice. Other Books: On the Come Up
	The Lie Tree by Frances Hardinge Faith's father has been found dead under mysterious circumstances, and as she is searching through his belongings for clues she discovers a strange tree. The tree only grows healthy and bears fruit if you whisper a lie to it. 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 girl realizes that she is good at lying and that the tree might hold the key to her father's murder, so she begins to spread untruths far and wide across her small island community. But as her tales spiral out of control, she discovers that where lies seduce, truths shatter . . . Other Books: Cuckoo Song, A Skinful of Shadows, Island of Whispers (illustrated novel)
	Noughts and Crosses by Malorie Blackman Sephy is a Cross - a member of the dark-skinned ruling class. Callum is a nought - a 'colourless' member of the underclass who were once slaves to the Crosses. The two have been friends since early childhood. But that's as far as it can go. Against a background of prejudice and distrust, highlighted by violent terrorist activity by Noughts, a romance builds between Sephy and Callum - a romance that is to lead both of them into terrible danger. First book in a series
	Wild East by Ashley Hickson Lovence Pen in one hand, on my wrist, a ticking clock I've got to make this work, just need a little luck... When fourteen-year-old Ronny's life is struck by tragedy, his mum decides it's finally time they move out of London. In his new city, as a Black teenager in a mostly white school, Ronny feels like a complete outsider and struggles to balance keeping his head down with his ambition of becoming a rapper. But when a local poet comes into class, Ronny discovers a world he's never considered before. Rap is like spoken word, bars equal poetry – and maybe the combination of both could be the key to achieving his dreams? Other Books: Your Show

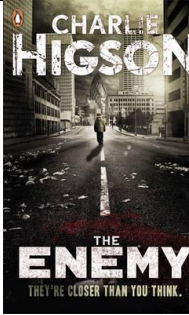
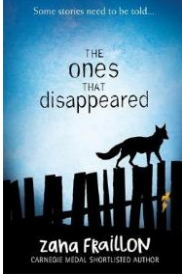
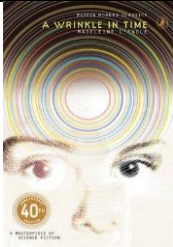
	Tape by Steven Camden Record a voice and it lasts forever...In 1993, Ryan records a diary on an old tape. He talks about his mother's death, about his dreams, about his love for a new girl at school who doesn't even know he exists. In 2013, Ameliah moves in with her grandmother after her parents die. There, she finds a tape in the spare room. A tape with a boy's voice on it - a voice she can't quite hear, but which seems to be speaking to her. Ryan and Ameliah are connected by more than just a tape. This is their story.
	The Wrong Shoes by Tom Percival Will has the wrong shoes - he's always known it but doesn't know how to change it. Navigating the difficulties of home and school when you feel you stick out is tough, but finding confidence with the help and empathy of friends can be all you need to see the way. A highly readable and beautifully illustrated look at child poverty
	Martyn Pig by Kevin Brooks Winner of the Branford Boase Award, shortlisted for the Carnegie. With his father dead, Martyn has a choice. Tell the police what happened - and be suspected of murder. Or get rid of the body and get on with the rest of his life. Simple, right? Not quite. One story leads to another. Secrets and lies become darker and crazier. And Martyn is faced with twist and turns that leave him reeling. Life is never easy. But death is even harder. Other Books: Being, Black Rabbit Summer
	Children of Blood and Bone by Tomi Adeyemi Zelie remembers when the soil of Orisha hummed with magic. When different clans ruled - Burners igniting flames, Tiders beckoning waves, and Zelie's Reaper mother summoning forth souls. But everything changed the night magic disappeared. Under the orders of a ruthless king, anyone with powers was targeted and killed, leaving Zelie without a mother and her people without hope. Only a few people remain with the power to use magic, and they must remain hidden. Zelie is one such person. Now she has a chance to bring back magic to her people and strike against the monarchy.
	The Haunting of Tyrese Walker by JP Rose After a shocking event leaves Tyrese struggling with grief, he's taken to visit family in Jamaica. From the first night, strange things start happening: impossible visions, blackouts, swarms of insects, and the discovery of a grave hidden deep in the forest... Tyrese can't explain what's going on and he's scared that he's losing his grip on reality. Then Tyrese is warned he's being hunted by the mysterious Shadow Man. Who can Tyrese trust when his own mind is falling apart and there's nowhere left to hide? A very creepy novel, full of Caribbean folklore. Warning, Tyrese is grieving the death of his father

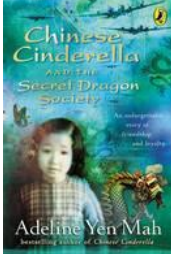
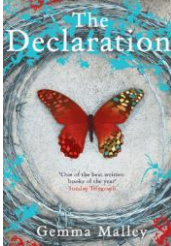
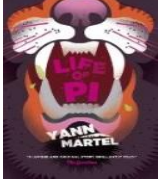
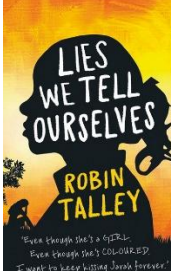
	I am Number 4 by Pittacus Lore In the beginning we were nine. We left when we were very young, almost too young to remember. Almost. And now... three are gone. We are here to keep our race alive, which was almost entirely obliterated. We're just trying to survive. Six are left. But we are hunted, and the hunters won't stop until they've killed us all. They caught Number One in Malaysia. Number Two in England. And Number Three in Kenya. I am Number Four. I know that I am next. First book in a series
	Ellie Pillai is Brown by Christine Pillainayagam My name is Ellie. Ellie Pillai...And I suppose I am a little bit weird, but then, aren't we all, just a little bit? Most days, Ellie Pillai is somewhere between invisible, and not very cool - and usually she's okay with that. But suddenly, Ellie feels different. Maybe it's the new boy at school who makes her brain explode into rainbows every time she sees him (and also happens to be going out with her best friend), or maybe it's her new drama teacher, the one who seems to have noticed she exists. Suddenly, her misfit style, her skin colour, her song-writing and all that getting lost in the music in her head seem to be okay too. Because maybe standing out isn't a bad thing after all. First in a series
	The Screaming Staircase by Jonathan Stroud When the dead come back to haunt the living, Lockwood & Co. step in... For more than fifty years, the country has been affected by a horrifying epidemic of ghosts. A number of Psychic Investigations Agencies have sprung up to destroy the dangerous apparitions. Lucy Carlyle, a talented young agent, arrives in London hoping for a notable career. Instead, she finds herself joining the smallest most ramshackle agency in the city, run by the charismatic Anthony Lockwood. When one of their cases goes horribly wrong, Lockwood & Co. have one last chance of redemption. Unfortunately, this involves spending the night in one of the most haunted houses in England, and trying to escape alive. Other books: The Outlaws Scarlett and Browne, The Bartimaeus Sequence. The Ghost of Shadow Vale (Dyslexia Friendly)
	The Hunger Games by Suzanne Collins 16 year old Katniss Everdeen regards it as a death sentence when she is forced to represent her district in the annual Hunger Games, a fight to the death on live TV. But Katniss has been close to death before and survival, for her, is second nature. The Hunger Games is set in a future with unsettling parallels to our present. First in a series

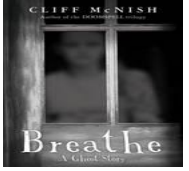
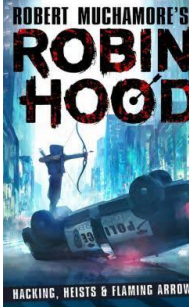
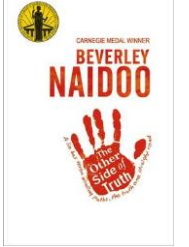
	What Happens Online by Nathanael Lessoré Existor is the most popular guy in school. Fred is the loser with no friends. And nobody knows they're the same person. Online, Fred goes by Existor@stmarks. His alter ego is the best gamer around - constantly on a winning streak, with tons of followers, and the confidence to go with it. But offline, Fred's life is miserable. His dad's always working, his mum's struggling, and at school, everyone looks straight through him. Until Existor's notoriety spreads to his school, and Fred sees an opportunity: everyone listens to what Existor has to say, so why not use that? Soon, Fred is coming up with outlandish rumours about his classmates, and everyone's lapping it up. His bullies are shunned, and people are finally taking notice of him. But it's a slippery slope and Fred struggles to keep track of all the stuff he's posted as his lies start to wreak unexpected havoc. Fred will have to answer for his crimes against reality, but will he ever find someone to like him for who he really is? Other books: Steady For This, King of nothing, Like A Brother
	The Agency for Scandal by Laura Wood An all-female detective agency righting wrongs at the end of the nineteenth century; infiltrating a scandalous upper class world straight out of Bridgerton and using their wit and bravery to unmask a villain. A young girl who works for a secret agency in 1890s London finds herself in a plot to take down a sinister politician Isobel Stanhope is keeping a lot of secrets. She's head over heels in love with a Duke who doesn't know she exists; her family's fortune is lost; and then there's her job at the Aviary, an investigative agency run by women that specializes in blackmailing powerful men. Other books: Under a Dancing Star, A Snowfall of Silver, A Sky Painted Gold. NB Laura Wood also writes books for adults.
	Spellslinger by Sebastien de Castell Kellen is moments away from facing his first mage's duel and the start of four trials that will make him a spellcaster. There's just one problem: his magic is gone. As his sixteenth birthday approaches, Kellen falls back on his cunning in a bid to avoid total disgrace. But when a daring stranger arrives in town, she challenges Kellen to take a different path. Ferius Parfax is one of the mysterious Argosi - a traveller who lives by her wits and the three decks of cards she carries. She's difficult and unpredictable, but she may be Kellen's only hope...The first in a rich and compelling fantasy series bursting with tricks, traps and a devious talking squirrel cat. First in a series
	A Gathering Light by Jennifer Donnelly Carnegie Medal Winner. When Mattie Gokey is given a bundle of letters to burn she fully intends to execute the wishes of the giver, Grace Brown. When Grace Brown is found drowned the next day, Mattie finds that it is not as easy to burn those letters as she had thought. And, as she reads, a riveting story emerges... (published as A Northern Light in the US) Other Books: Revolution, Stepsister, These Shallow Graves

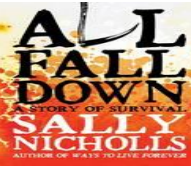
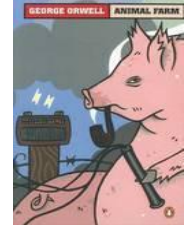
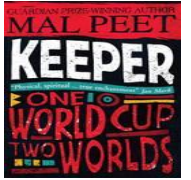
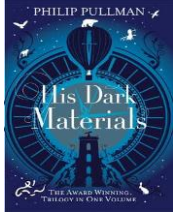
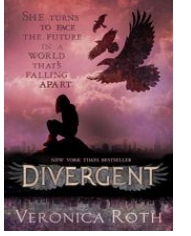
	Bog Child by Siobhan Dowd Winner of Carnegie Award. Set in Northern Ireland at the height of the Troubles, the story opens in 1981 close to the North-South border as teenager Fergus McCann makes an illicit raid to the South to gather peat and discovers a child's body buried in the bogs, perfectly preserved for 2,000 years. The child's history unfolds as Fergus struggles with the challenges of being a teenager, as well as the pressure on him to take sides in the conflict.
	Such a Good Liar by Sue Wallman Lydia Cornwallis arrives and finds acceptance, even adoration, from the close-knit social circle on the exclusive island of Fengari. But there are two girls in particular that Lydia simply can't wait to meet: the Harrington sisters. That's because Lydia's not really Lydia Cornwallis. And the Harringtons have hell to pay for what they've done. Other Books: Every Word a Lie, See How They Lie, Lying About Last Summer
	The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes by Arthur Conan Doyle Out of his smoke-filled rooms in Baker Street stalks a figure to cause the criminal classes to quake in their boots and rush from their dens of inequity. The 12 mysteries gathered in this first collection of Sherlock Holmes and Dr Watson's adventures reveal the brilliant detective at the height of his powers.
	The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy by Douglas Adams One Thursday lunchtime the Earth gets unexpectedly demolished to make way for a new hyperspace bypass. It's the final straw for Arthur Dent, who has already had his house bulldozed that morning. But for Arthur, that is only the beginning ...In the seconds before global obliteration, Arthur is plucked from the planet by his friend Ford Prefect - and together the pair venture out across the galaxy on the craziest, strangest road trip of all time. Other Books: The Restaurant at the End of the Universe, Life, the Universe and Everything, So Long, and Thanks for All the Fish.
	Mortal Engines by Philip Reeve It was a dark, blustery afternoon in spring, and the city of London was chasing a small mining town across the dried-out sea bed of the old North Sea... London is on the move again. The city has been lying low, skulking in the hills to avoid the bigger, faster, hungrier cities loose in the Great Hunting Ground. The great town moves off after its quarry as events within the walls begin to take a sinister turn... Other books: Here Lies Arthur, Rail Head, Utterly Dark, Goblins

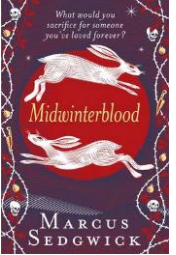
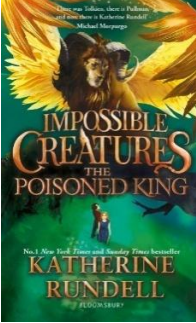
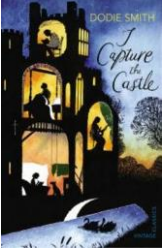
	The Breadwinner by Deborah Ellis The first in The Breadwinner series is an award-winning novel about loyalty, survival, families and friendship under extraordinary circumstances in Taliban Afghanistan. Other Books: Parvana's Journey, Mud City, My Name is Parvana
	Beautiful Creatures by Kami Garcia & Margaret Stohl A teen romance, now made into a film, with a twist of danger and the supernatural told with a sure touch that makes it a headlong read from start to finish. Typical teenager Ethan is bored by his life growing up in a small town where everyone knows everyone else. When a new girl arrives in the class, everything begins to change! First in a series
	Maggot Moon by Sally Gardner Winner Children's Costa Award & Carnegie Medal 2013 A ruthless regime is determined to beat its enemies in a race to the moon. But when his best friend Hector is suddenly taken away, it is up to unlikely hero Standish, his grandfather, and a small band of rebels, to confront and defeat the ever-present oppressive forces of the Motherland. Other Books: The Silver Blade; I, Coriander; Tinder; The Wind in the Wall
	Lord of the Flies by William Golding Golding's best-known novel is the story of a group of boys who, after a plane crash, set up a fragile community on a previously uninhabited island. As memories of home recede and the blood from frenzied pig-hunts arouses them, the boys' childish fear turns into something deeper and more primitive.
	Gone by Michael Grant In the blink of an eye, all the adults in Perdido Beach, California, disappear. Suddenly there are no adults, no answers and the world has no rules. Only those under 15 are left behind and they must do all they can to survive. But everyone's idea of survival is different. For Sam and Astrid it's a race against time as they try to solve the questions that now dominate their lives... What is the mysterious wall that has encircled them and trapped everyone within? Why have some kids developed strange super-human powers? And what will happen when they turn 15 - will they disappear too? Other Books: Hunger, Lies, Plague, Fear, Light
	The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time by Mark Haddon A murder mystery like no other, this novel features Christopher Boone, a 15 year old who suffers from Asperger's syndrome. When he finds a neighbour's dog murdered, he sets out on a journey which will turn his whole world upside down.

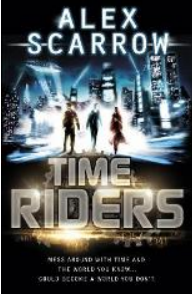
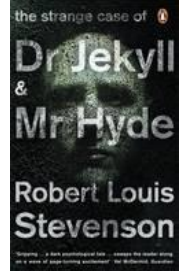
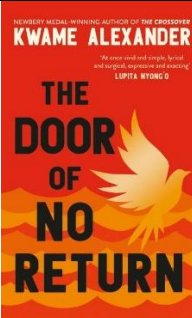
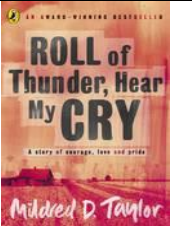
	The Enemy by Charlie Higson Charlie Higson has created a chilling world in his thrilling Zombie series. Not only have all the adults – older siblings and parents – lost their minds and become hopeless has-beens but there is the horrific danger of the Collector. How can the children survive in their broken world and how can they keep themselves safe from the child-seeking Collector? A delight for all those who like to be seriously scared. Other Books: Young Bond; Worst. Holiday. Ever,
	The Woman in Black by Susan Hill The haunting testimony of a young solicitor, Arthur Kipps, who records in detail the nightmarish events of his stay in a house on a marsh in northern England, and the terrible events that were to alter his life forever.
	The Ones That Disappeared by Zana Fraillon A moving and beautifully-written novel about child trafficking and the search for freedom. Kept by a ruthless gang, three children manage to escape from slavery. But freedom isn't just waiting on the outside. Separated, scared and looking after a small child, Esra will do whatever she can to reunite with her friend Miran, who was captured by the police - the police who she mustn't trust. Hiding in the shadows of the forest, Esra is found by a local boy, a boy with his own story. Together they will create a man out of mud. A man who will come to life and lead them through a dark labyrinth of tunnels until they finally have the courage to step above ground. Until they finally have the courage to speak their story. Until they finally have the courage to be free. Other books: The Bone Sparrow
	Cider with Rosie by Laurie Lee A wonderfully vivid memoir of childhood in a remote Cotswold village, a village before electricity or cars, a timeless place on the verge of change. Growing up amongst the fields and woods and characters of the place, Laurie Lee depicts a world that is both immediate and real and belongs to a now-distant past.
	A Wrinkle in Time by Madeleine L'Engle When Charles Wallace Murry goes searching through a 'wrinkle in time' for his lost father, he finds himself on an evil planet where all life is enslaved by a huge pulsating brain known as 'It'. How Charles, his sister Meg and friend Calvin find and free his father makes this a special and exciting mixture of fantasy and science fiction, which is dominated by the funny and mysterious trio of guardian angels known as Mrs Whatsit, Mrs Who and Mrs Which.

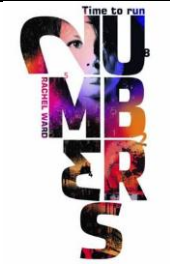
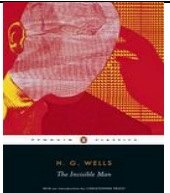
	Legend by Marie Lu A dystopian thriller. Los Angeles, California Republic of America. He is Day. The boy who walks in the light. She is June. The girl who seeks her brother's killer. On the run and undercover, they meet by chance. Irresistibly drawn together, neither knows the other's past. But Day murdered June's brother. And she has sworn to avenge his death. First in a series
	Chinese Cinderella and the Secret Dragon Society by Adeline Yen Mah During her lonely childhood in Shanghai, Adeline Yen Mah wrote adventure stories to escape from her terrible step-mother and cruel siblings. Here Adeline tells the story of Chinese Cinderella (CC), a young girl who, after being thrown out of her home, has to go out and seek her own destiny. CC decides her future after consulting an ancient book which helps to show her the way forward. And her choice takes her on a mission to save the lives of others. Based on a true-life incident during World War II, CC helps rescue a group of American pilots whose plane crashed after a bombing raid on Japan. Other Books: Chinese Cinderella
	The Declaration by Gemma Malley Anna Covey is a 'Surplus'. She should not have been born. In a society in which ageing is no longer feared, and death is no longer an inevitability, children are an abomination. Like all Surpluses, Anna is living in a Surplus Hall and learning how to make amends for the selfish act her parents committed in having her. She is quietly accepting of her fate until, one day, a new inmate arrives and Anna's life is thrown into chaos... Other Books: Resistance, The Legacy, The Killables
	Life of Pi by Yann Martell After the tragic sinking of a cargo ship, a solitary lifeboat remains bobbing on the wild blue Pacific. The only survivors from the wreck are a 16 year old boy named Pi, a hyena, a zebra (with a broken leg), a female orang-utan and a 450-pound Royal Bengal tiger. The scene is set for one of the most extraordinary works of fiction in recent years, and has been made into a film.
	Lies We Tell Ourselves by Robin Talley The battle for civil rights is raging. Robin Talley's first novel, Lies We Tell Ourselves, about two girls on the front lines of the school desegregation battle in 1959 Virginia. Other books: What We Left Behind

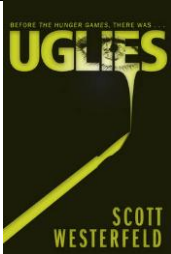
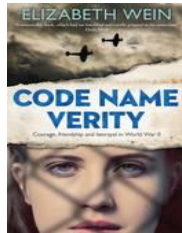
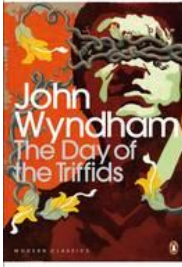
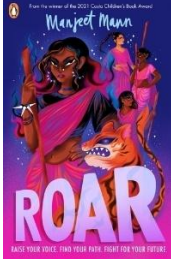
	Breathe: A Ghost Story by Cliff McNish Jack is used to danger. His asthma has nearly killed him more than once. But his new home has a danger he's never known before - the spirits of the dead. They can't breathe, but in Jack's house they chase, hide and scream. Only Jack can see them. Only he can hear them. And only he can learn their secrets in time to save himself. Other Books: Savannah Grey: A Horror Story
	Robin Hood by Robert Muchamore A very readable adventure story! A town. A forest. A hero. You can't go far without a quick brain and some rule-bending in a place like Locksley. After its vast car plants shut down, the prosperous town has become a wasteland of empty homes, toxic land and families on the brink. And it doesn't help that the authorities are in the clutches of profit-obsessed Sheriff of Nottingham, in cahoots with underworld boss Guy Gisborne. When his dad is framed for a robbery, Robin and his brother Little John are hounded out of Locksley and must learn to survive in the Sherwood forest, stretching three hundred kilometres and sheltering the free spirits and outlaws. But Robin is determined to do more than survive. Small, fast and deadly with a bow, he hatches a plan to join forces with Marion Maid, harness his inimitable tech skills and strike a blow against Gisborne and the Sheriff. First in a series
	The Other Side of Truth by Beverley Naidoo 12 year-old Sade and her brother Femi flee to Britain from Nigeria. Their father is a political journalist who refuses to stop criticising the military rulers in Nigeria. Their mother is killed and they are sent to London, with their father promising to follow. Abandoned at Victoria Station by the woman paid to bring them to England as her children, Sade and Femi find themselves alone in a new, often hostile, environment. Seen through the eyes of Sade, the novel explores what it means to be classified as 'illegal' and the difficulties which come with being a refugee.
	The Knife of Never Letting Go by Patrick Ness Book 1 in the Chaos Walking Trilogy. Winner of the Guardian Children's Fiction Prize and Booktrust Teenage Prize. Imagine you're the only boy in a town of men. And you can hear everything they think. And they can hear everything you think. Imagine you don't fit in with their plans. Todd Hewitt is just one month away from the birthday that will make him a man. But his town has been keeping secrets from him. Secrets that are going to force him to run. First in a series. Other Books: More than This, A Monster Calls

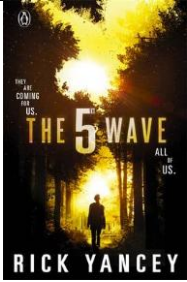
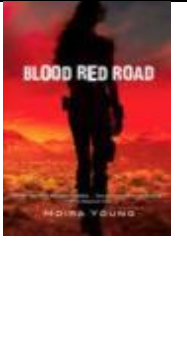
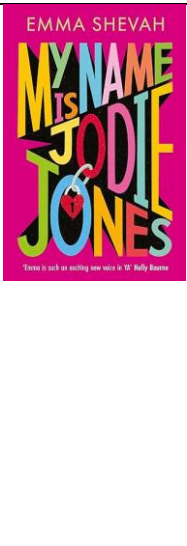
	All Fall Down by Sally Nicholls When Isabel's Yorkshire village is devastated by the Black Death, it seems that the world is ending in horror and fear. But for the survivors of the terrible plague, a new and freer society will rise from the destruction of the feudal system that enslaved her family. Other Books: Ways to Live Forever, Season of Secrets. The Silent Stars Go By
	Animal Farm by George Orwell Having got rid of their human master, the animals of Manor Farm look forward to a life of freedom and plenty. But as a clever, ruthless elite among them takes control, the other animals find themselves hopelessly ensnared in the old ways. Orwell's chilling story of the betrayal of idealism through tyranny and corruption, is as fresh and relevant today as when it was first published in 1945.
	Keeper by Mal Peet Winner of the Branford-Boase award & Bronze Nestle Smarties Book Award. Set in South America, this compelling adventure is told as an interview between a top sports reporter and the world's greatest goalkeeper. Not just for football fiction fans, this is masterful storytelling at its best. Other Books: Penalty, Exposure, Tamar
	His Dark Materials by Philip Pullman Winner Carnegie Medal, Guardian Children's Fiction Award, Whitbread Book of the Year. His Dark Materials is a trilogy including Northern Lights, The Amber Spyglass and The Subtle Knife. The extraordinary story moves between parallel universes. Beginning in Oxford, it takes Lyra and her animal-daemon Pantalaimon on a dangerous rescue mission to the ice kingdoms of the far North, where she begins to learn about the mysterious particles they call Dust - a substance for which a terrible war between different worlds will be fought. Other Books: The Firemaker's Daughter, Grimm tales for young and old
	Divergent by Veronica Roth For 16 year old Tris, the world changes in a heartbeat when she is forced to make a terrible choice. Turning her back on her family, Tris ventures out, alone, determined to find out where she truly belongs. Shocked by the brutality of her new life, Tris can trust no one. Yet she is drawn to a boy who seems to both threaten and protect her. The hardest choices may lie ahead! First in a trilogy

	Agent 21 by Chris Ryan An action-packed adventure series by a real-life SAS hero. When Zak Darke's parents die in an unexplained mass murder he's left alone in the world. That is until he's sought out by a mysterious man: 'I work for a government agency,' the man tells him. 'You don't need to know which one. Not yet. All you need to know is that we've had our eye on you. There's a possibility you could help us in certain operational situations.' Zak becomes Agent 21. What happened to the 20 agents before him? His life is about to change for ever... First in a series
	Midwinterblood by Marcus Sedgwick Shortlisted for the Carnegie Medal. When journalist Eric Seven arrives on Blessed Island with a mission to uncover a mystery he is immediately captivated by its breathtaking beauty. And by the beauty of Merle. Why does Eric feel he's met her before? And what are the secrets the islanders are keeping from him? Eric's story leads into stories set at other times on this idyllic place which hides a dark and bloody heart. Other Books: White Crow, Revolver, Blood Red, Snow White
	The Poisoned King by Katherine Rundell When Christopher Forrester is unexpectedly woken by a miniature dragon chewing on his face, his heart leaps for joy. For months he's dreamed of returning to the Archipelago - the secret islands where all the creatures of myth still live. But he did not know it would involve a rescue mission on the back of a sphinx, or a plan to enter a dragon's lair. Nor did he imagine it would involve a girl with a flock of birds at her side, a new-hatched chick in her pocket and a ravenous hunger for justice... For those who enjoyed reading Impossible Creatures in their English class Other Books: The Explorer, Wolf Wilder, Rooftoppers
	Frankenstein by Mary Wollstonecraft Shelley Victor Frankenstein is obsessed with the secret of resurrecting the dead. But when he makes a new 'man' out of plundered corpses, his hideous creation fills him with disgust. Rejected by all humanity, the creature sets out to destroy Frankenstein and everyone he loves. And as the monster gets ever closer to his maker, hunter becomes prey in a lethal chase that carries them to the very end of the earth.
	I Capture the Castle by Dodie Smith The diary of Cassandra Mortmain tells of her extraordinary family and their crumbling castle home. Cassandra's father was once a famous writer, but now he mainly reads detective novels while his family slide into genteel poverty. Her sister Rose is bored, beautiful and desperate to marry riches. But all their lives will soon be transformed by the arrival of new neighbours from America - and Cassandra finds herself falling in love...

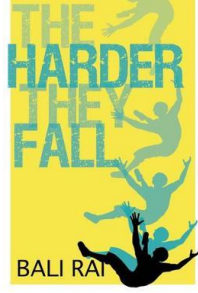
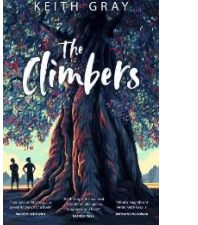
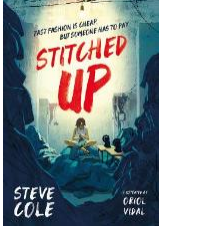
	Time Riders by Alex Scarrow Liam O'Connor should have died at sea in 1912. Maddy Carter should have died on a plane in 2010. Sal Vikram should have died in a fire in 2029. Yet moments before death, someone mysteriously appeared and said, 'Take my hand ...' But Liam, Maddy and Sal aren't rescued. They are recruited by an agency that no one knows exists, with only one purpose - to fix broken history. Because time travel is here, and there are those who would go back in time and change the past. That's why the Time Riders exist: to protect us. To stop time travel from destroying the world... First in a series
	The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde by Robert Louis Stevenson Everyone has a dark side. Dr Jekyll has discovered the ultimate drug. A chemical that can turn him into something else. Suddenly, he can unleash his deepest cruelties in the guise of the sinister Hyde. Transforming himself at will, he roams the streets of fog-bound London as his monstrous alter-ego. It seems he is master of his fate and in complete control. But soon he will discover that his double life comes at a hideous price. Other Books: Treasure Island, Kidnapped
	The Door of No Return by Kwame Alexander Shortlisted - Yoto Carnegie Medal for Writing 2024 Dreams are today's answers for tomorrow's questions. Eleven-year-old Kofi Offin has dreams of water, of its urgent whisper that beckons with promises and secrets. He has heard the call on the banks of Upper Kwanta, where he lives. He loves these things above all else: his family, the fireside tales of his father's father, a girl named Ama, and, of course, swimming. But when the unthinkable - a sudden death - occurs during a festival between rival villages, Kofi ends up in a fight for his life. What happens next will send him on a harrowing journey across land and sea, and away from everything he loves. Yet Kofi's dreams may be the key to his freedom... Other Books: Booked, Crossover, Rebound
	Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry by Mildred D. Taylor The Mississippi of the 1930s was a hard place for a black child to grow up in, but still Cassie didn't understand why farming his own land meant so much to her father. During that year, though, when the night riders were carrying hatred and destruction among her people, she learned about the great differences that divided them, and when it was worth fighting for a principle even if it brought even worse hardships.

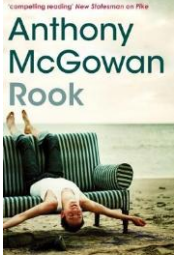
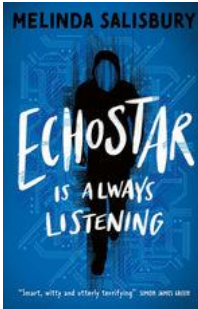
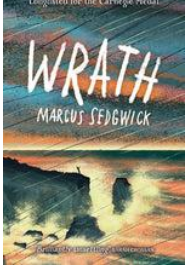
	Slated by Teri Terry Winner Leeds Book Awards. Kyla's memory has been erased, her personality wiped blank, her memories lost for ever. She's been Slated. The government claims she was a terrorist, and that they are giving her a second chance - as long as she plays by their rules. But echoes of the past whisper in Kyla's mind. Someone is lying to her, and nothing is as it seems. Who can she trust in her search for the truth? First in a series
	Finding Violet Park by Jenny Valentine 16 year-old Lucas Swain becomes intrigued by the urn of ashes left in a cab office. Convinced that its occupant -- Violet Park -- is communicating with him, he contrives to gain possession of the urn, little realising that his quest will take him on a voyage of self-discovery and identity, forcing him to finally confront what happened to his absent (and possibly dead) father! Winner of the Guardian Fiction Prize Other books: Broken Soup, The Ant Colony
	Numbers by Rachel Ward Since her mother's death, 15 year old Jem has kept a secret. When her eyes meet someone else's, a number pops into her head - the date on which they will die. Knowing that nothing lasts forever, Jem avoids relationships, but when she meets a boy called Spider, and they plan a day out together, her life takes a new twist and turn. Waiting for the London Eye, she sees everyone in the queue has the same number - something terrible is going to happen. First in a series
	When the Sky Falls by Phil Earle Not a difficult read, but packs an emotional punch! Inspired by a true story. It's 1940, and Joseph has been packed off to stay with Mrs F, a gruff woman with no great fondness for children. To Joseph's amazement, she owns the rundown city zoo where Joseph meets Adonis, a huge silverback gorilla. Adonis is ferociously strong and dangerous, but Joseph finds he has an affinity with the lonely beast. But when the bombs begin to fall, it is up to Joseph to guard Adonis's cage should it be damaged by a blast. Will Joseph be ready to pull the trigger if it comes to it? Other books: Bubble Wrap Boy; Edgar and Adolf (dyslexia friendly); Until the Road Ends; Mind the Gap (dyslexia friendly)
	The Invisible Man by H.G. Wells With his face swaddled in bandages, his eyes hidden behind dark glasses and his hands covered even indoors, Griffin the new guest at The Coach and Horses is assumed to be a shy accident-victim. But the true reason for his disguise is far more chilling: he has developed a process that has made him invisible, and is locked in a struggle to discover the antidote...

	Uglies by Scott Westerfeld Tally can't wait to turn 16 and become Pretty. 16 is the magic number that brings a transformation from a repellent Ugly into a stunningly attractive Pretty, and catapults you into a high-tech paradise where your only job is to have a really great time. But Tally's new friend, Shay, isn't sure she wants to be Pretty. She'd rather risk life on the outside. When Shay runs away, Tally learns about a whole new side of the Pretty world - and it isn't very pretty. The authorities offer Tally the worse choice she can imagine: find her friend and turn her in, or never turn Pretty at all. The choice changes her world forever. First in a series
	Code Name Verity by Elizabeth Wein Two young women become unlikely best friends during WWII, until one is captured by the Gestapo. Only in wartime could a stalwart lass from Manchester rub shoulders with a Scottish aristocrat, one a pilot, the other a special operations executive. Yet whenever their paths cross, they complement each other perfectly and before long become devoted to each other. But then 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. Truth or lies? Honour or betrayal? Everything they've ever believed in is put to the test...
	The Day of the Triffids by John Wyndham When Bill Masen wakes up blindfolded in hospital there is a bitter irony in his situation. Carefully removing his bandages, he realizes that he is the only person who can see: everyone else, doctors and patients alike, have been blinded by a meteor shower. Now, with civilization in chaos, the triffids - huge, venomous, large-rooted plants able to 'walk', feeding on human flesh - can have their day. The Day of the Triffids, published in 1951, expresses many of the political concerns of its time: the Cold War, the fear of biological experimentation and the man-made apocalypse. However, with its terrifyingly believable insights into the genetic modification of plants, the book is more relevant today than ever before.
	ROAR by Manjeet Mann A powerful verse novel, set in India. Rizu lives a comfortable life in the gated middle class suburbs of Delhi; her biggest worries are getting her homework done and keeping up with the mean girls at school. That is, until she's accused of being a witch and the hysteria that follows triggers a chain reaction. Alone and fearing for her life, Rizu runs away and joins a group of pink sari wearing, stick wielding women, known for their revenge vigilantism. Together they can help Rizu take back her life and seek justice against those who wronged her. Because sometimes you have to run through the streets and ROAR.

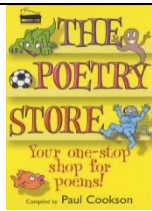
	The 5th Wave by Rick Yancey After the 1st wave, only darkness remains. After the 2nd, only the lucky escape. And after the 3rd, only the unlucky survive. After the 4th wave, only one rule applies: trust no one. Now, it's the dawn of the 5th wave. On a lonely stretch of highway, Cassie runs from Them. The beings who only look human, who roam the countryside killing anyone they see. Who have scattered Earth's last survivors. To stay alone is to stay alive, until Cassie meets Evan Walker. Beguiling and mysterious, Evan may be her only hope for rescuing her brother and even saving herself. Now she must choose: between trust and despair, between defiance and surrender, between life and death. To give up or to get up. Cassie Sullivan gets up.
	Blood Red Road by Moira Young Winner Costa Children's Book Award. The story's searing pace, its spare style, the excitement of its fabulously damaged world, its unforgettably vivid characters, its compelling but very accessible dialect, its violent action and glorious love story make this a sensational novel. The scope of the plot is epic and has unexpected twists. First in a series
	The Prince of Mist by Carlos Ruiz Zafon 1943. As war sweeps across Europe, Max Carver's father moves his family away from the city, to an old wooden house on the coast. But as soon as they arrive, strange things begin to happen: Max discovers a garden filled with eerie statues; his sisters are plagued by unsettling dreams and voices; a box of old films opens a window to the past. Most unsettling of all are rumours about the previous owners and the mysterious disappearance of their son. As Max delves into the past, he encounters the terrifying story of the Prince of Mist, a sinister shadow who emerges from the night to settle old scores, then disappears with the first mists of dawn ... a mesmerising tale of mystery, romance and adventure. Other Books: The Midnight Palace
	My Name is Jodie Jones by Emma Shevah Recommended by many St Bede's staff! A challenging but excellent read. Caution that it discusses the London Bridge terrorist attack. Jodie Jones is obsessed with words. Yet she can't find the ones to say what happened that day five years ago, with her mum, on the bridge. Struggling in school and at home, she takes comfort in her safe places: her books. Her best friend. And her brother's friend, Moses - who makes her feel something new. But when hidden family truths come to light and life starts to implode, can Jodie Jones find the words she needs to save herself? A compelling, witty, moving love letter to the magic of words.

Barrington Stoke specialise in books for reluctant, struggling and dyslexic readers. Their books are short and action-packed, with a font and paper colour to make reading easier for those with dyslexia. All Barrington Stoke book extracts can be found on their website <https://collins.co.uk/collections/barrington-stoke>. We hold a large collection of their titles in the Library.

	Jon for Short by Malorie Blackman This is a dramatic nightmare story, where a 14 year old recounts a grisly hospital experience in which he faces confusion, hostility and even amputation! What is going on? And why will no one tell him? Malorie Blackman uses a clever device to retell the key moment of drama in the story.
	The Traveller by Theresa Breslin As the old man at the bar tells his favourite tale of the traveller, whose fury at all he heard about the Kingdom to the West caused him to sally forth into a wild night in which he must surely have perished, another unknown traveller arrives. Who is the young man and what is his business?
	The Harder They Fall by Bali Rai Cal's family are proud to live in an 'analogue' world - no wifi in their house, just an ancient black-and-white TV. At school, Cal has no choice but to live in the 21st century, coping with a range of bullies and chancers on a daily basis. When Cal's mum decides to 'rebalance' the family with a stint as volunteers at a local foodbank, Cal inadvertently discovers new kid Jacob's secret, and Jacob flips. Other dyslexia friendly books: Dream on; The Royal Rebel
	The Climbers by Keith Gray Two boys compete to become the best tree climber in the village, but an ugly rivalry develops between them. In this compelling story of teenage rivalry and friendship, award-winning author Keith Gray captures the subtle agonies and reality of life growing up in a small town. Sully is the best climber in the village. He can scale the Twisted Sister's tangled branches and clamber up Double Trunker with ease. But when new kid Nottingham shows up and astonishes everyone with his climbing skills, Sully's status is under threat and there's only one way to prove who's best. Sully and Nottingham must race to climb the last unnamed tree. Whoever makes it to the top will become a legend. But something spiteful and ugly has reared its head in Sully... Is it worth losing everything just to reach the top? Other Books: You Killed Me!, The Return of Johnny Kemp, The Den
	Stitched Up by Steve Cole Tricked into working in an illegal garment factory in Hanoi, Hanh's life has become a daily hell. She is desperate to escape - but it's a path fraught with danger ... The horrific real-life cost of fast fashion is exposed in this gripping tale of survival. Other books: World Burn Down; Mind Writer. Plus, Young Bond in a non-dyslexia friendly format

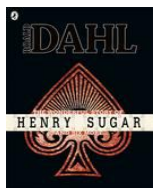
	Rook by Anthony McGowan When Kenny and Nicky rescue a rook left for dead, Kenny is determined to keep it alive. Nicky doubts the scruffy bird will make it, but then Nicky has plenty else to worry about. This time, it's not his dad or Kenny who need help – his dad's sorting his life out and Kenny's busy making plans with his new best mate. Now it's Nicky's turn to struggle – with a school bully, his first love, and the fact that everything is about to go very, very wrong. Bleak, but beautifully written. First in a series. Other books: I am the Minotaur
	EchoStar is Always Listening by Melinda Salisbury Ruby Brookes and her best friend Deva have won free places at the Ash Tree Foundation Performing Arts Camp over the summer, but only if their school grades seriously improve. So when Deva suddenly starts getting high marks in all their subjects, leaving Ruby behind, she is confused and jealous. Until she finds out Deva's success is down to EchoStar, a new app that's helping her get ahead. Ruby is desperate to start using it too, but there is much more to EchoStar than she has imagined. Because EchoStar is always watching and listening ... First in a series
	The Disconnect by Keren David How will a group of teenagers react when they are offered £1,000 to give up their mobile phone? Could you disconnect from your phone for six weeks? An eccentric entrepreneur has challenged Esther's year group to do just that, and the winners will walk away with GBP1,000. For Esther, whose dad, sister and baby nephew live thousands of miles away in New York, the prize might be her only chance to afford flights for a visit ... But can she really stay disconnected for long enough to win?
	Wrath by Marcus Sedgwick WRATH: extreme anger or rage Cassie Cotton has always been unusual, a bit different – but this only makes her more intriguing to her classmate Fitz. Cassie can hear a noise that most people don't notice or recognise, and she believes it's a sound that shows the Earth is in distress, damaged by human activity that is causing climate change. When this belief leads to her being ridiculed and bullied at school, Cassie disappears. Fitz is determined to find her, but he has no idea where to start looking, or if he'll be in time to help her... Other dyslexia friendly books: Ravencave; Dark Peak

Poetry, Short Stories, Graphic & Illustrated Novels



The Poetry Store by Paul Cookson

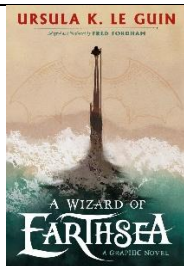
A one-stop collection of about 350 poems on a wide variety of themes such as school, home, brothers and sisters, parents, teachers, friends, hobbies, football, feeling happy, feeling sad, animals, nature, space, love, feeling angry, feeling afraid, our bodies, senses, festivals, seasons, food, weather, holidays, pets, sport, computers, television, toys, transport, magic ...



The Wonderful Story of Henry Sugar and Six More by Roald Dahl

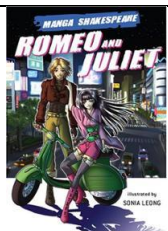
This book brings the magic of Dahl's writing to an older generation and is perfect for teens. There are 7 superb short stories, full of Roald Dahl's usual magic, mystery and suspense. Meet the boy who can talk to animals, the man who can see with his eyes closed, and find out about the treasure buried on Thistley Green.

Other Books: Tales of the Unexpected Skin & Other Stories



The Wizard of Earthsea by Ursula Le Guin, illustrated by Fred Fordham

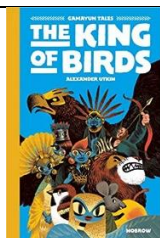
It follows the story of Ged, a poor smith's son, who discovers a magical talent and is sent away from home to a wizard school. During a duel with a fellow student, he summons a terrible shadow creature which he tries to banish, but it continues to haunt him long after he finishes his magical training. Finally he seeks advice from his old master Ogion, who tells him to confront the creature rather than flee it – that fears and shadows are to be faced, and that darkness is as much a part of us as the light.



Manga Shakespeare: Romeo and Juliet

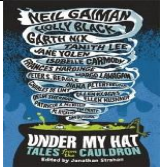
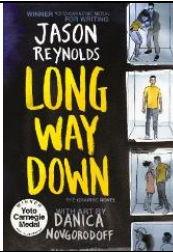
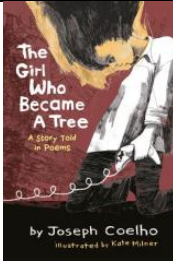
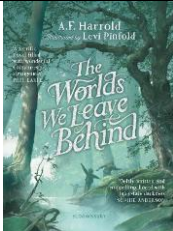
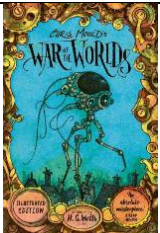
Everyone retells the Bard. But rising British manga star Leong delivers her adaptation with panache, creating an all-ages text likely to usher in new readers. Set in modern Tokyo, with the Capulets and Montagues recast as organized-crime rivals, and abridged enough to move quickly without sacrificing content or meaning, this retelling gets to the heart of the love story and the foolish rivalry that dooms it.

Other Books: Twelfth Night, Macbeth, The Tempest, A Midsummer Night's Dream



The King of Birds (The Gamayun Tales) by Alexander Utkin

Gamayun is a magical human-faced bird from Slavic mythology. Today I will tell you an amazing tale: the King of Birds. This is the story of how a small golden apple started a great battle. It all began with a mouse and a sparrow, but soon all the animals and birds were waging a mighty war. After all, the King of Birds forgives no one... but what will happen when he finds himself at the mercy of a plucky merchant? Enter a world of magic and adventure in this stunningly illustrated comic based on traditional Russian folklore.

	Under My Hat: Tales from the Cauldron by Neil Gaiman & Holly Black A stellar cast of acclaimed fantasy writers weave spellbinding short tales that bring the world of witches to life. Boasting over 70 awards between them, authors delve into the realm of magic to explore all things witchy
	A Change is Gonna Come Featuring top Young Adult authors and introducing a host of exciting new voices, this anthology of stories and poetry from BAME writers on the theme of change is a long-overdue addition to the YA scene. Contributors include Tanya Byrne, Inua Ellams, Catherine Johnson, Patrice Lawrence, Ayisha Malik, Irfan Master, Musa Okwonga and Nikesh Shukla. Plus introducing four fresh new voices in YA fiction: Mary Bello, Aisha Bushby, Yasmin Rahman and Phoebe Roy
	Long Way Down by Jason Reynolds, with art by Danica Novgorodoff Shortlisted for the Carnegie Award for illustration A boy is visited by ghosts of family and friends he knew as he takes the lift down from his family's flat to exact revenge on the person who shot his brother dead in a gangland attack. Other books: Ghost series; Suspended – a Spiderman novel
	The Girl Who Became a Tree by Joseph Coelho (Children's Laureate 2022-24), illustrated by Kete Milner Shortlisted for the Carnegie Award for Writing 2021 A poetic adaptation of the Greek myth of Daphne, who transformed herself into a tree to escape the god Apollo. The ancient legend is seamlessly woven into the modern-day tale of 14 year old Daphne, a girl who becomes lost in the tangled woods of her grief and anger after seeking solace in her local library following the death of her father.
	The Worlds We Leave Behind by AF Harrold Shortlisted for the Carnegie Award for Illustration 2023 A boy meets a mysterious old lady who gives him the chance to change history to erase a mistake he has made by erasing his adversary from history Hex never meant for the girl to follow him and his friend Tommo into the woods. He never meant for her to fall off the rope swing and break her arm. When the finger of blame is pointed at him, Hex runs deep into the woods and his fierce sense of injustice leads him to a strange clearing in the woods - a clearing that has never been there before - where an old lady in a cottage offers him a deal. She'll rid the world of those who wronged him and Hex can carry on his life with them all forgotten and as if nothing ever happened. But what Hex doesn't know is someone else has been offered the same deal... Other books: The Imaginary
	War of the Worlds. Adapted & illustrated by Chris Mould A stunning full-colour illustrated adaptation of H. G. Wells' sci-fi classic 1894. Across space, this earth is being watched by envious eyes. What seems to be a meteorite falls to earth, but from the debris unfolds a terrifying alien threat . . .