

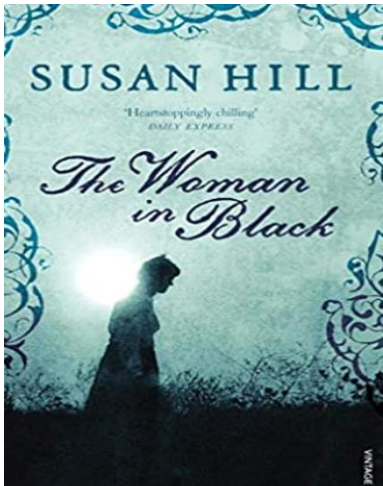
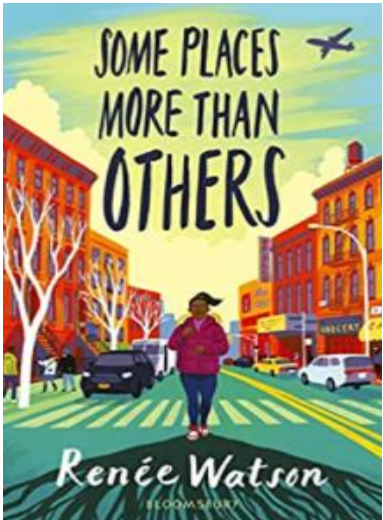
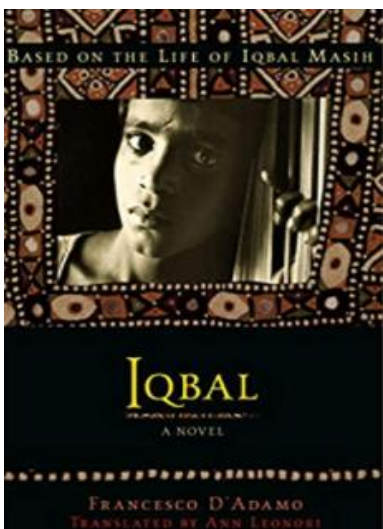


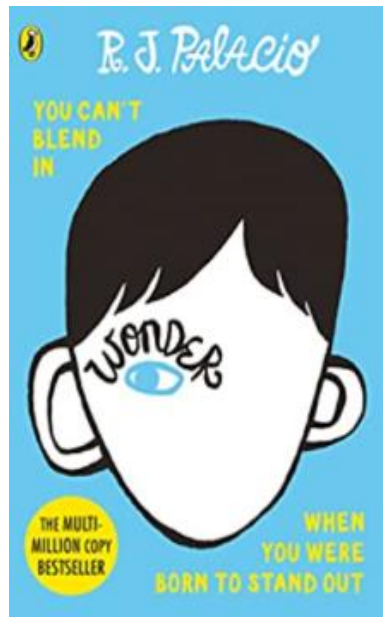
WIDER READING IN ENGLISH

In addition to the texts pupils are exposed to as part of the English curriculum offer, the following initiatives are also used to encourage students to read widely:

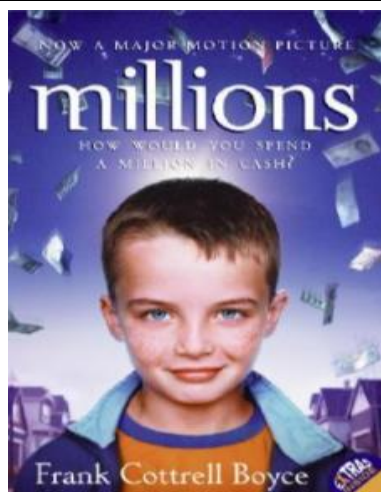
- Bedrock at KS3 (Years 7-9) allows all students to read widely and develop their linguistic repertoires
- The use of a class reader for all classes in Years 7-9 means that, on average, students read two additional books a year in class under the guidance of their teacher
- This year, the school has launched a reading enrichment programme for those students who study one modern foreign language. The focus on this initiative is three-pronged: teaching critical reading skills, reading for pleasure and reading with a parent
- Wider reading articles are embedded within all SOLs to ensure challenge at both key stages and a continued exposure to academic language
- All KS3 classes have scheduled library visits so that borrowing remains high
- In January 2022, the department launched the use of class readers for all Year 10 classes to help combat the reduction in library visits/borrowings. This text will be used to set additional wider reading homework, with staff using low-stakes quizzes to check student engagement and understanding
- The department has created a bank of resources at KS4 which include extracts from our favourite novels. This is a way of giving students a flavour of additional seminal literature that is not part of their GCSE Literature course and encouraging them to read the books in their entirety
- In addition, and in line with our curriculum, the following texts are promoted at KS3 with class readers for each year group chosen from this selection.

Year 7 Class Readers

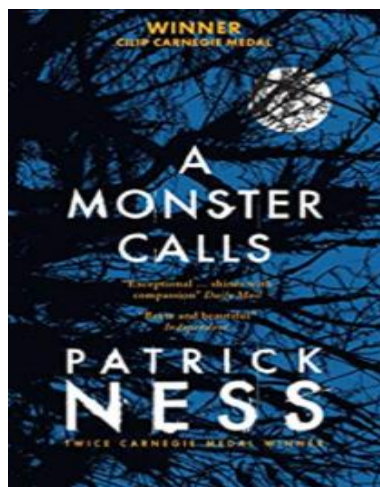
Novel	Description
	<p>The Woman in Black is a ghost story by Susan Hill, in which Arthur Kipps relates his haunting experiences at Eel Marsh House. Link to Gothic in HT 4.</p>
	<p>Some Places More Than Others is a beautiful novel about family and forgiveness, about the memories we carry with us wherever we go, and the places our hearts call home.” Link to My Identity in HT 1.</p>
	<p>Iqbal tells the story of how a new child named Iqbal arrives and convinces the other children that they must be responsible for their own escape from a carpet factory or remain slaves forever. Links to Identity in HT1 as well as Heroes in HT3. Nice preparatory work for the theme of poverty explored throughout Year 8.</p>



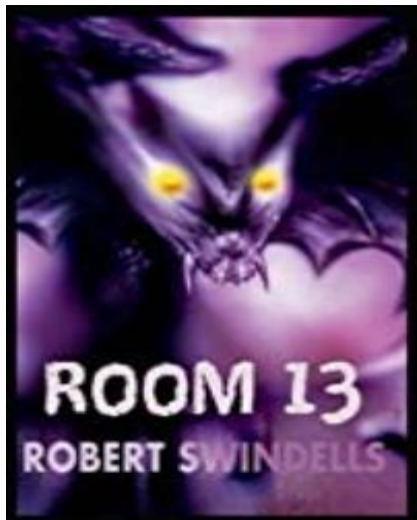
Wonder by R.J. Palacio is a story of a ten-year-old boy named **August Pullman**. He had multiple surgeries to correct his facial deformity so he was home schooled. However, his parents decide to send him to a school before he starts studying for fifth grade. The book covers his experiences and struggles in his new school. **Links to Identity in HT1 as well as the idea of heroes and villains in HT3.**



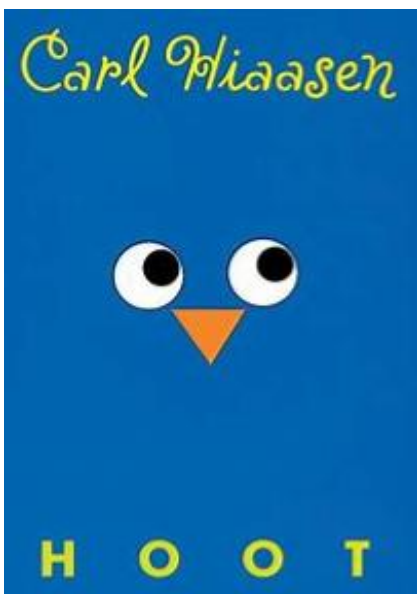
In **Millions**, kids find money, argue about the best way to spend it, and finally get the help of adults to dispose of it. **Clear links to Identity in HT1 as well as perspectives in HT2.**



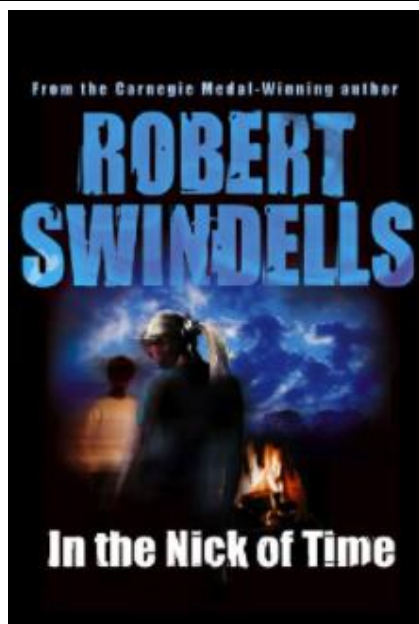
A Monster Calls is set in present-day England, it features a boy who struggles to cope with the consequences of his mother's illness. He is repeatedly visited in the middle of the night by a monster who tells stories. **Clear links to the notion of heroes and villains in HT3 and the Gothic Genre in HT4.**



Room 13 is a Gothic-horror children's novel written by the acclaimed award-winning children's author Robert Swindells. Published in 1989; it was awarded the Red House Children's Book Award. The novel centres around a group of friends on a school trip, who stay in a creepy guest house on Whitby's West Cliff. **Clear links to elements of the Gothic Genre explored in HT4.**



Hoot is about a boy named Roy who moves with his family to Florida. He faces bullies, meets new friends, and tries his best to save some endangered owls that are about to lose their habitat. **Links to the concept of heroic figures who fight for what they believe in (HT3)**



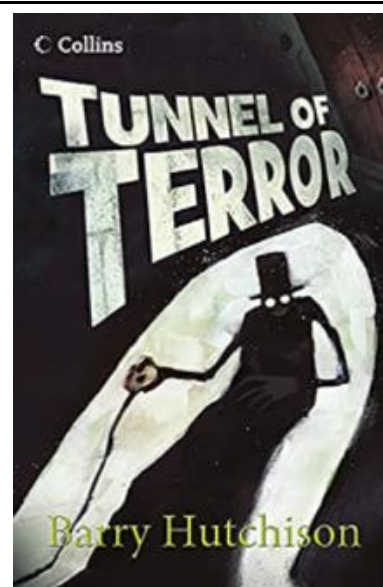
In the Nick of Time ... Charlotte is out in the woods on her own one day when something mysterious happens - she walks along a row of stones laid like stepping stones on the forest floor. . . and finds herself in another age. She has somehow slipped back to 1955, and is now, in the same woods, on the site of a very unique school, an open-air school for sick city children. **Links to Identity in HT1 and perspectives explored in HT2.**



Children of Winter ... Catherine and her family are out for a walk when a sudden storm blows up. The children take shelter in a deserted barn which seems strangely familiar, although they have never been there before. As the daylight fades, Catherine senses the secrets of the surrounding hills press in upon her, secrets from another, older time. A great novel which reveals the horrors of the plague village of Eyam. **Clear links to the Heroes unit in HT3.**



The Spook's Apprentice ... The plot centres on a 13-year-old farm boy named Tom who lives in the countryside of the county, loosely based on the English county of Lancashire, where the author resides^[1] with his large family. As Tom is the seventh son of a seventh son, he is able to see things others cannot, such as boggarts, ghaists, ghosts and others. **Clear links to the Gothic Genre explored in HT4 as well as the Heroes unit of HT3.**



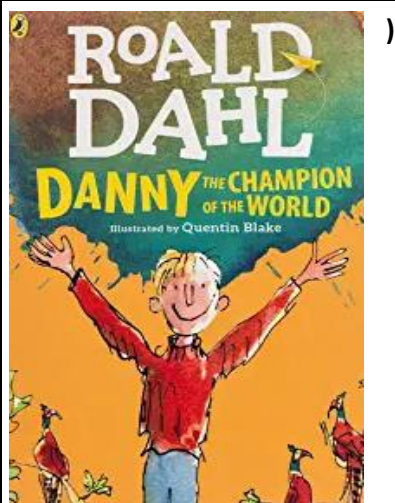
Tunnel of Terror ... Best friends Jim and Karl sneak out to the midnight launch of a new ride, the Tunnel of Terror. Expecting a rollercoaster, they are disappointed to discover it is just a boring looking ghost train. But, as they fasten their seatbelts, little do they realise they're in for the ride of their lives. **Links to the Gothic Genre in HT4.**



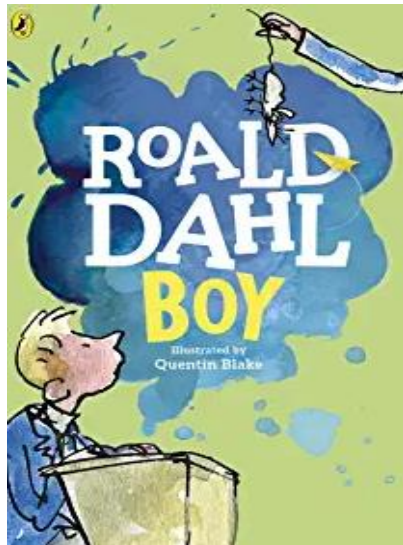
Koyasan (lower) ... The boys and girls in the graveyard were shouting, but Koyasan no longer heard them. The world had become a wide, grey void. She could hear deep rasping sounds, the breath of creatures which had been human once but weren't any more... Koyasan is too scared to cross the bridge and play in the graveyard like the other children. But when her sister's soul is stolen, she must find the courage to enter a realm of evil, shape-shifting spirits. And the spirits are waiting... **Links to the Gothic Genre in HT4 and the Heroes unit in HT3.**



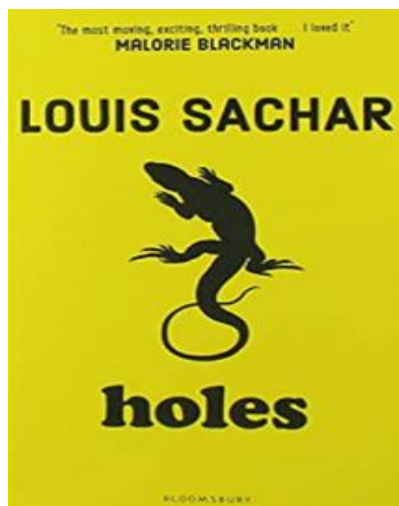
Two weeks with the Queen (lower) ... Colin Mudford, a 12 year old Australian, is sent to stay with his uncle Bob, aunt Iris and cousin Alistair in London while his brother, Luke, is being treated for cancer. In England, Colin, wanting to ask the Queen for good doctors, attempts to break into Buckingham Palace with Alistair, only for them both to get caught by the police. **Links to the Heroes unit in HT3.**



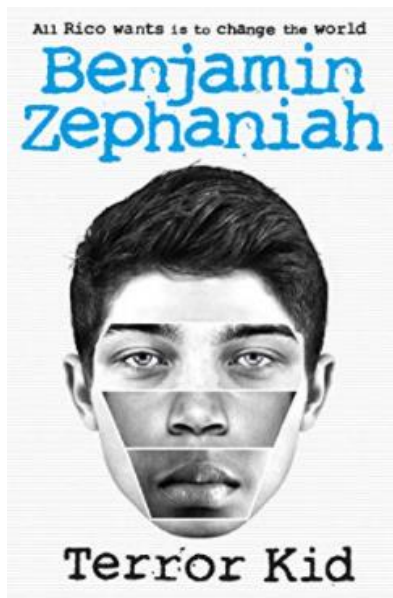
Danny the Champion of the World (lower) is a 1975 children's book by Roald Dahl. The plot centres on Danny, a young English boy with a big wagon, and his father, William, who live in a Gypsy caravan fixing cars for a living and partake in poaching pheasants. **Links to Identity in HT1.**



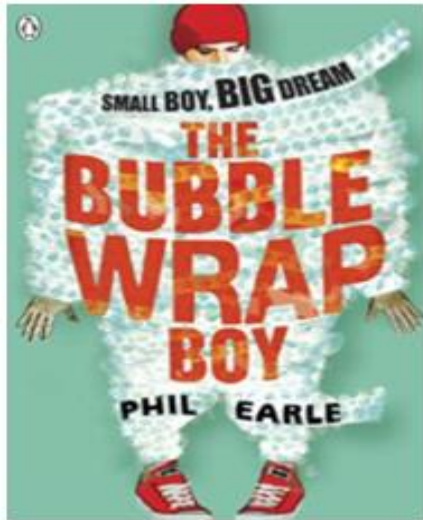
Boy ... Tales of Childhood (1984) is an autobiography written by British writer Roald Dahl.^[1] This book describes his life from early childhood until leaving school, focusing on living conditions in Britain in the 1920s and 1930s, the public school system at the time, and how his childhood experiences led him to writing children's books as a career. **Links to Identity in HT1.**



Holes ... Stanley Yelnats is sent to Camp Green Lake, a correctional boot camp in a desert in Texas, after being falsely accused of theft. The plot explores the history of the area and how the actions of several characters in the past have affected Stanley's life in the present. **Links to Identity in HT1, perspectives in HT2 and heroes in HT3.**



Terror Kid (lower) ... What is a terrorist? A shocking, moving and timely novel about the choices that shape us. Rico knows trouble. He knows the look of it and the sound of it. He also knows to stay away from it as best he can. Because if there's one thing his Romany background has taught him, it's that he will always be a suspect. Despite his efforts to stay on the right side of the law, Rico is angry and frustrated at the injustices he sees happening at home and around the world. **Links to Identity in HT1.**

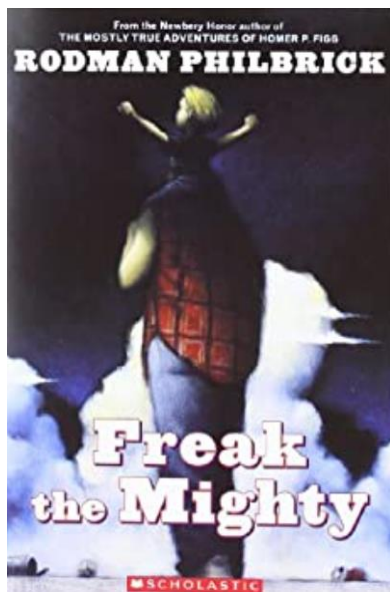


The Bubble Wrap Boy by Phil Earle Charlie is known at school at the little, clumsy kid. His mother is very overprotective and won't let him do anything. Needless to say, Charlie's newfound love of skateboarding would not meet Mom approval so he hides it from her. He soon learns that his mother has been hiding one heck of a secret from him. [Links to Identity in HT1 as well as Heroes in HT3.](#)

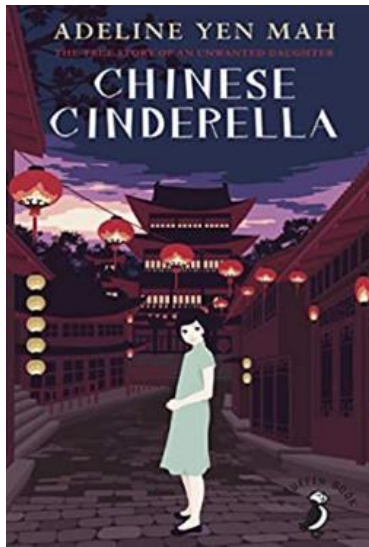


Girl, Missing ...

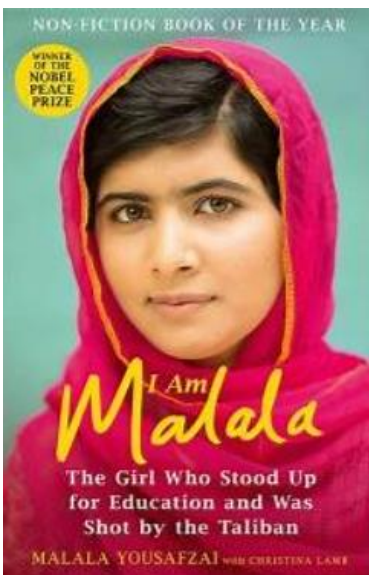
Lauren has always known she was adopted but when a little research turns up the possibility that she was snatched from an American family as a baby, suddenly Lauren's life seems like a sham. How can she find her biological parents? And are her adoptive parents really responsible for kidnapping her? [Links to Identity in HT1 as well as Heroes in HT3.](#)



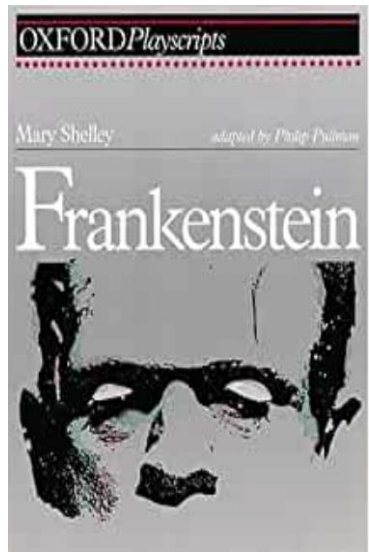
Freak the Mighty ... The primary characters are friends Maxwell Kane, a large, developmentally disabled, but kind-hearted boy, and Kevin Avery, nicknamed "Freak", who is physically disabled but very intelligent. Kevin is diagnosed with Morquio syndrome. [Links to Identity in HT1 as well as Heroes in HT3.](#)



Chinese Cinderella a non-fiction book by Chinese-American physician and author Adeline Yen Mah describing her experiences growing up in China. **Links to Identity in HT1 as well as Heroes in HT3.**



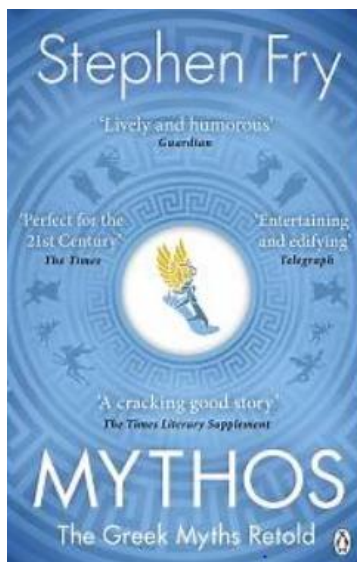
I Am Malala: The Story of the Girl Who Stood Up for Education and was Shot by the Taliban is an autobiographical book by **Malala Yousafzai**, co-written with Christina Lamb. **Links to Identity in HT1 as well as Heroes in HT3.**



Frankenstein playscript ... Based on Shelley's classic, this play explores the consequences of scientific advancement and explores what it truly means to be human. **Links to the Heroes unit in HT3 and the Gothic Unit in HT4.**

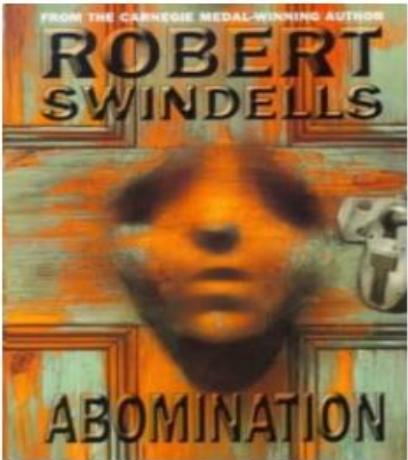
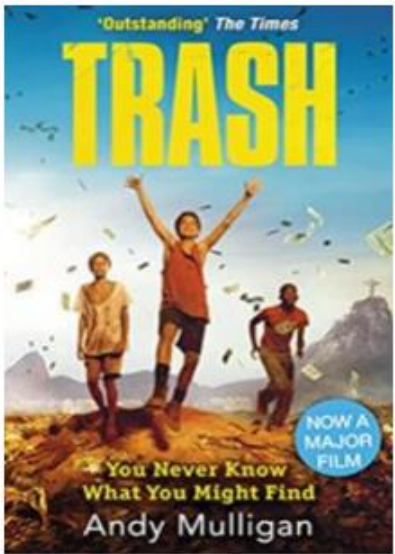
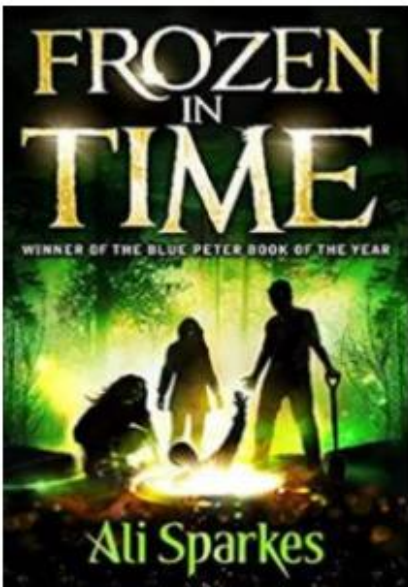


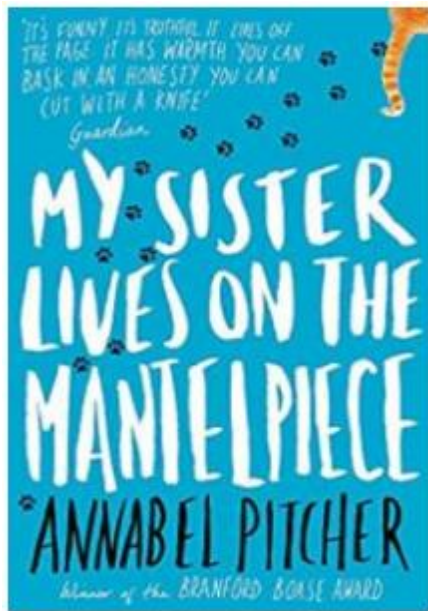
The Haunting of Aveline Jones ... Aveline is not looking forward to spending half term with her austere Aunt Lilian in Malmouth, a windswept village on the Cornish coast. Despite her fondness for ghost stories, she finds the town a little creepy, particularly when sinister scarecrows appear outside people's homes in the lead up to Halloween. [Links to the Gothic unit of HT4.](#)



Mythos is a modern collection of Greek **myths**, stylishly retold by legendary writer, actor, and comedian **Stephen Fry**. [Links to the Heroes unit of HT3.](#)

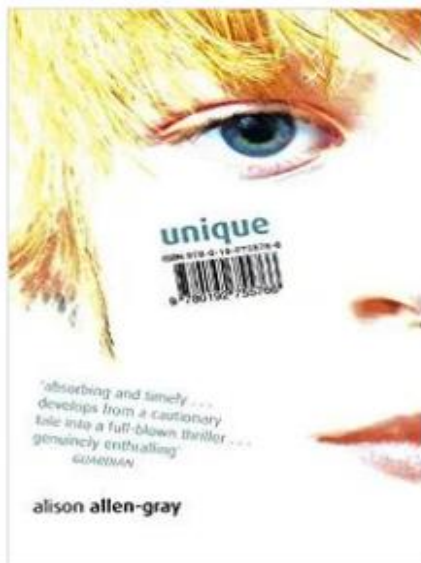
Year 8 Class Readers

Novel	Description
	<p>Abomination is a novel by the author Robert Swindells, dealing with themes of Religious extremism, Adolescence, Bullying, and relationships, as well as integrating the intriguing question of what its title refers to. Further exploration of the theme of Identity and perspectives explored in Year 7 and a nice look at the issue of parental control explored in Year 9.</p>
	<p>Trash is a young adult novel and is based on the lives of 3 boys who make a living out of sorting through garbage in an unnamed country. The author states in the acknowledgements that the Behala dumpsite is based on a place he visited while in Manila. Clear link to the theme of poverty explored in HT1-3. Also a great text for exposing students to new places and cultures (Travel Writing HT 4)</p>
	<p>Frozen in Time is a book by author Ali Sparkes. It has won two Blue Peter Awards. Set in 2009 Britain, the story researches cryonic suspension and life in 1956 Britain. Links to the Dystopian unit in HT5.</p>



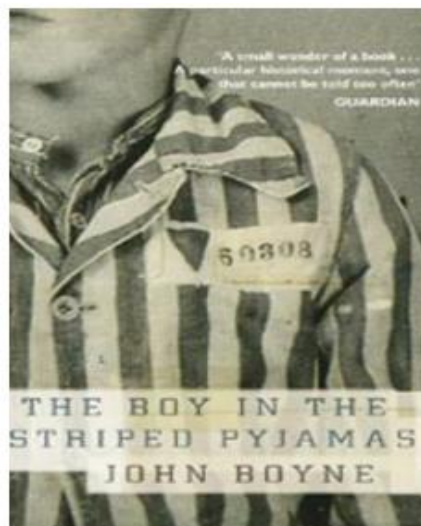
My Sister Lives on the Mantelpiece ... Ten-year-old Jamie Mathews and his family, consisting of his sister, Jasmine, who is 15, and his father, an alcoholic, moves to the Lake District from London after Jamie's mother has an affair and leaves. Sitting on the Mantelpiece in their new home is the ashes of Rose, Jas's twin sister, who was killed on September 9 in the London Bombings, five years earlier. Jas has been deeply troubled by the death of her sister, yet it doesn't bother Jamie since he was too young to really know Rose and thus he hasn't cried since. At his new school, a Church of England school, Jamie befriends Sunya, who is a Muslim. Jamie knows his father wouldn't approve of their friendship, as he hates Muslims and blames Rose's death on the entire Muslim population.

A text which explores the themes of identity and perspective explored in Year 7 as well as looking at the issue of parental control in Year 9.

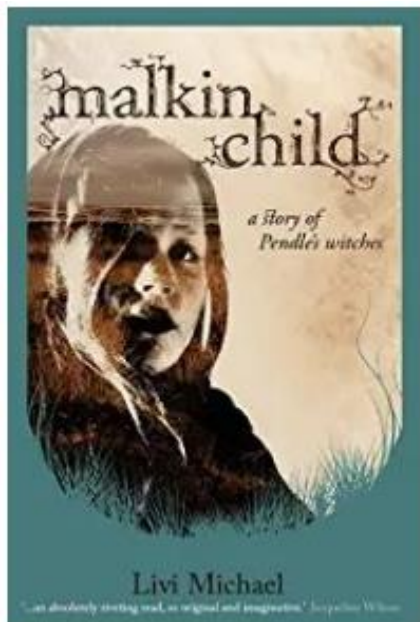


Unique ... Dominic decides to try to find out about his brother, but he discovers more than he bargained for. Their father had Dominic's dead brother cloned, and Dominic is the result. How can he live with this mind-blowing discovery? If the truth is ever made public, it could put people's lives in danger - including his own.

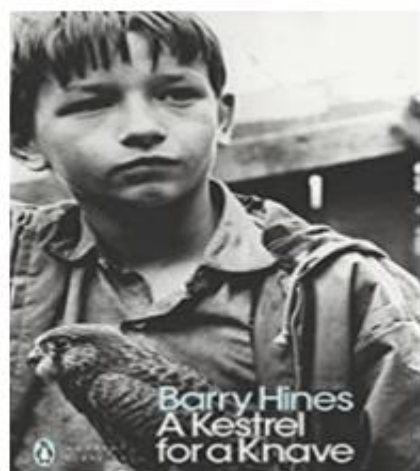
Links to the Dystopian unit in HT5.



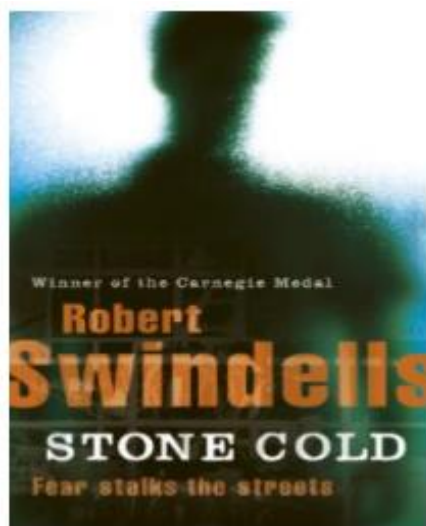
The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas ... Set in World War II, the Holocaust drama relates the horror of a Nazi extermination camp through the eyes of two eight-year-old boys: Bruno (Asa Butterfield), the son of the camp's Nazi commander, and Shmuel (Jack Scanlon), a Jewish prisoner. **A text which explores the themes of identity and perspective explored in Year 7 as well as introducing students to the consequences of war (Year 9 Term 1)**



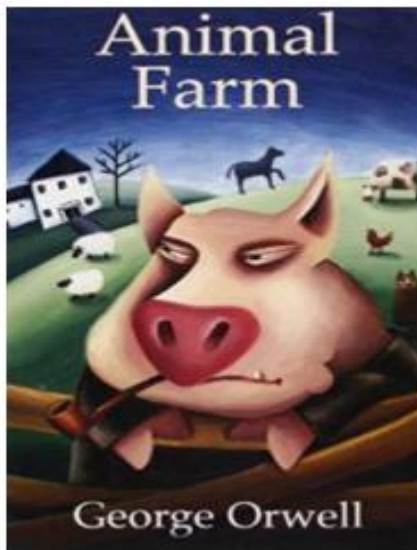
Malkin Child ... Jennet's family all believe they are witches. Other folk think they are too. But 1612 is a dangerous time to be a witch. When her family are imprisoned and put on trial in Lancaster Castle, Jennet's evidence will decide their fate. [Links to the Dystopian unit in HT5.](#)



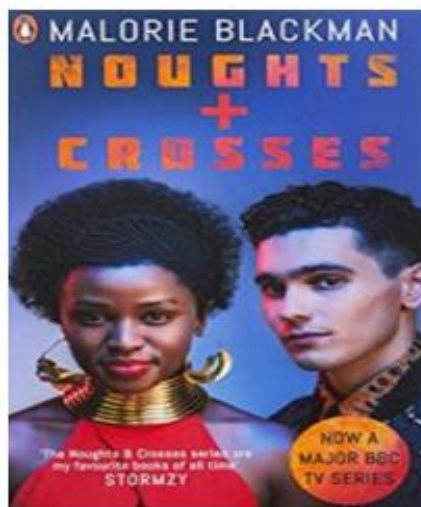
Set in Yorkshire in the 1960s, **A Kestrel for a Knave** is a day in the life of **Billy Casper**. Billy is a boy about to leave school, destined for work in the pit, like his half-brother Jud. Billy comes from a broken home and lives in something close to poverty. [Clear links to the themes of poverty and hardship explored in HT1-3](#)



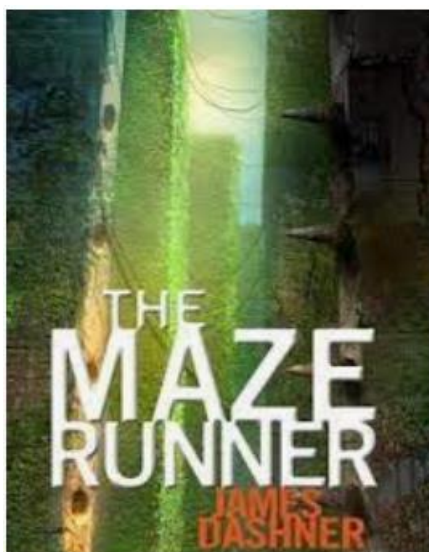
Stone Cold ... Set on the streets of London, the first-person narrative switches between Link, a newly-homeless young man adjusting to his situation, and Shelter, an ex-army officer scorned after being dismissed from his job, supposedly on "medical grounds". [Clear links to the theme of poverty and hardship explored in HT1-3](#)



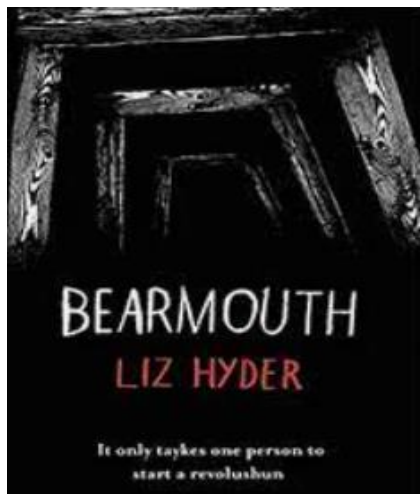
Animal Farm is a satirical allegorical novella by George Orwell, first published in England on 17 August 1945.^{[1][2]} The book tells the story of a group of farm animals who rebel against their human farmer, hoping to create a society where the animals can be equal, free, and happy. Ultimately, the rebellion is betrayed, and the farm ends up in a state as bad as it was before, under the dictatorship of a pig named Napoleon. [Links to the Dystopian unit in HT5.](#)



In **Noughts + Crosses**, colonialist Africans, called "Crosses," rule over native white Britons who are called "Noughts." The Noughts live as an oppressed race in Great Britain. [Links to the Dystopian unit in HT5.](#)



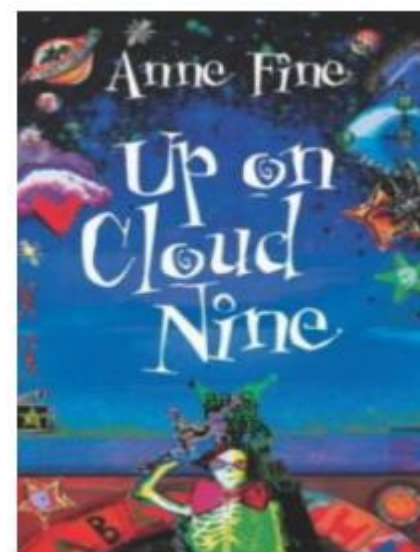
The Maze Runner ... Thomas is deposited in a community of boys after his memory is erased, soon learning they're all trapped in a **maze** that will require him to join forces with fellow "runners" to try and escape. [Links to the Dystopian unit in HT5.](#)



Life in **Bearmouth** is one of hard labour, the sunlit world above the mine a distant memory. Reward will come in the next life with the benevolence of the Mayker. New accepts everything - that is, until the mysterious Devlin arrives. **Clear links to the theme of poverty and hardship explored in HT1-3**



Rat ... When his mum is sent back to prison, Al knows exactly who's to blame. Mr Brayker, who lives downstairs, has been making trouble for Al's mum ever since they moved in, and Al's determined to get his revenge. Ignoring advice from his gran and sister, Plum, Al takes things into his own hands with a plan that involves the only two creatures he can rely on: his pet rats, Venom and Vulture. But things don't turn out exactly as he'd imagined... Written by award-winning author, Patrice Lawrence, this is a moving story of community, loneliness, and how you never quite know what's going on in someone else's life. **Clear links to the theme of poverty and hardship explored in HT1-3**

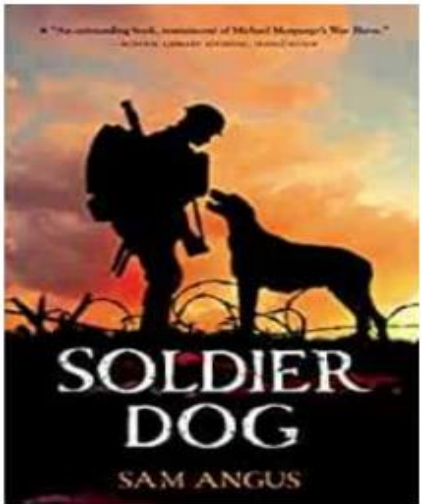
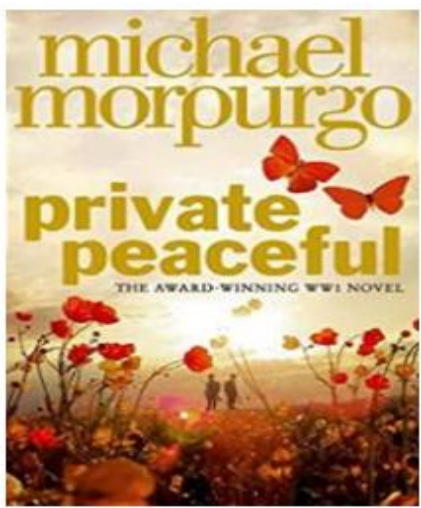
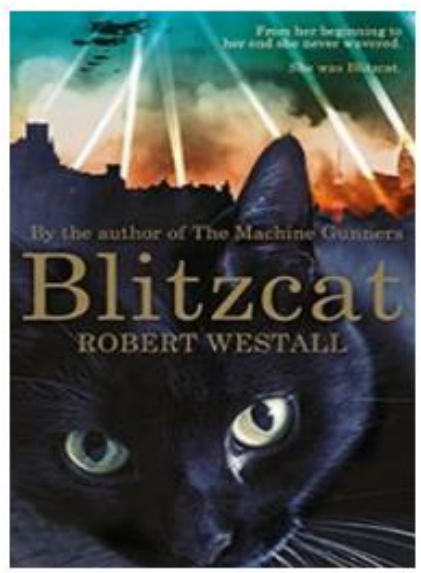


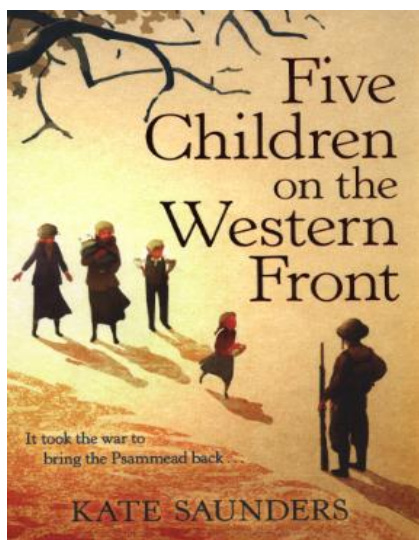
Up on Cloud Nine ... Stolly has fallen out of a top-floor window and lies, unmoving and unconscious, in a hospital bed. Keeping watch are his best friend Ian and Ian's mum. While he watches, waits and hopes for Stolly to wake up, Ian decides to write about Stolly's unusual life. Normally, Stolly is full of life, words and ideas; he is full of enthusiasm. So why is it that sometimes he seems to be just teetering on the edge of this world? Why is he always having accidents and ending up in hospital? This is a witty, touching and memorable novel. **Further exploration of the theme of Identity and perspectives explored in Year 7 and a nice look at the issue of parental control explored in Year 9.**



Rain ... They don't believe it at first. Crowded in Zach's kitchen, Ruby and the rest of the partygoers laugh at Zach's parents' frenzied push to get them all inside as it starts to drizzle. But then the radio comes on with the warning, "It's in the rain! It's fatal, it's contagious, and there's no cure." **Links to the Dystopian unit in HT5.**

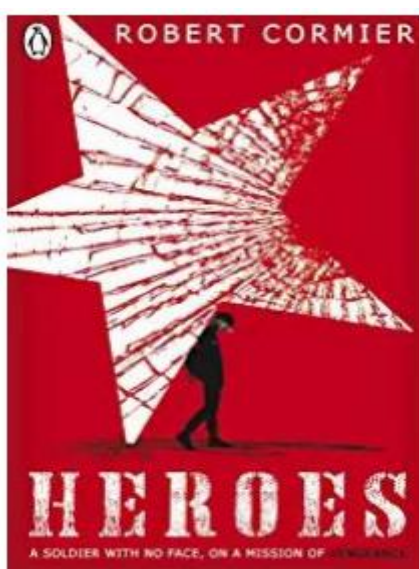
Year 9 Class Readers

Novel	Description
	<p>Soldier Dog ... It's 1917 and Stanley Ryder is one of many young boys enlisting in the army in spite of the fact that he is underage. Leaving his difficult family life behind him, he is soon assigned to working with messenger dogs and is drafted to the Western Front. Here, amidst the shelling and gas attacks of the front line, the deep bond between Stanley and his dogs is tested to the limit. But will their loyalty extend to making the ultimate sacrifice in order to save countless lives? This touching and harrowing story is based on real events, and explores a little-known but vital aspect of communication during World War I.</p> <p>Clear links to the War unit of Term 1</p>
	<p>Private Peaceful ... Thomas - 'Tommo' - Peaceful recalls his young life to date: growing up on the country estate owned by the Colonel; family life with his spirited mother and older brothers Charlie and Big Joe; love for Molly; enlisting in the army at the outbreak of war. Then military training, fighting alongside Charlie in the trenches of the Western Front and the events that will bring his narrative to its final painful conclusion.</p> <p>Clear links to the War unit of Term 1</p>
	<p>Blitzcat is a 1989 novel by Robert Westall, and recipient of the Nestlé Smarties Book Prize. Plot Blitzcat is told through the point of view of a black domestic cat, called Lord Gort, as she travels across England during the Blitz in search of her owner, who is serving with the RAF.</p> <p>Clear links to the War unit of Term 1</p>



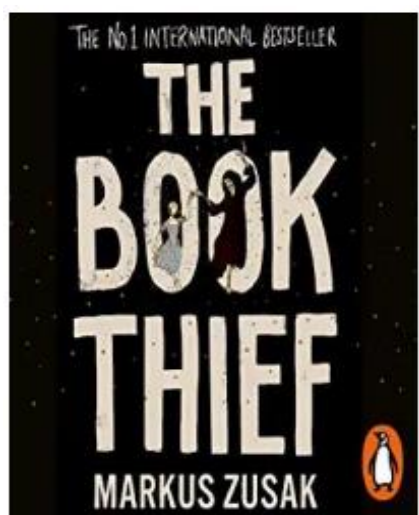
In Kate Saunders award-winning sequel to E Nesbit's **Five Children and It**, the First World War is breaking out and, while Anthea is at Art School, Cyril is heading off to war. With the original protagonists all grown up, the action falls to their younger siblings, Lamb and Edie. When the Psammead - an ancient, magical sand fairy - appears for the first time in ten years, their adventures really begin.

Clear links to the War unit of Term 1



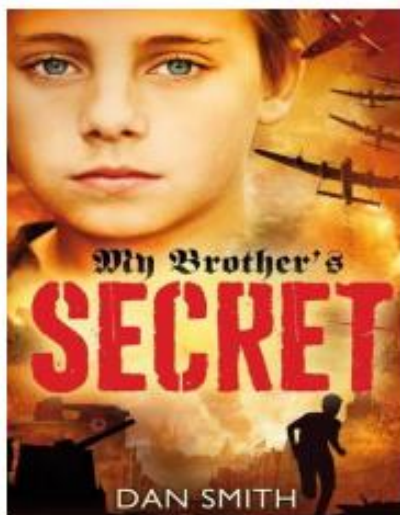
Heroes ... The novel is centred on the character Francis Cassavant, who has just returned to his childhood home of Frenchtown, Monument (in Massachusetts), from serving in the Second World War in France and has severe deformities as a result of an incident during the war. The structure of the novel involves the use of flashbacks to Francis's childhood in Frenchtown and the events in Frenchtown following the war, when Francis returns.

Clear links to the War unit of Term 1



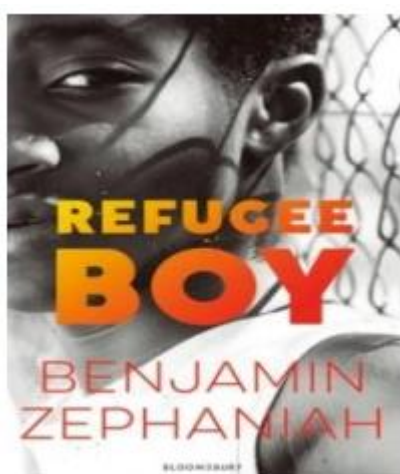
The Book Thief ... It is 1939. Nazi Germany. The country is holding its breath. Death has never been busier, and will be busier still. By her brother's graveside, Liesel's life is changed when she picks up a single object, partially hidden in the snow. It is The Gravedigger's Handbook, left behind there by accident, and it is her first act of book thievery. So begins a love affair with books and words, as Liesel, with the help of her accordion-playing foster father, learns to read. Soon she is stealing books from Nazi book-burnings, the mayor's wife's library, wherever there are books to be found. But these are dangerous times. When Liesel's foster family hides a Jew in their basement, Liesel's world is both opened up, and closed down.

Clear links to the War unit of Term 1



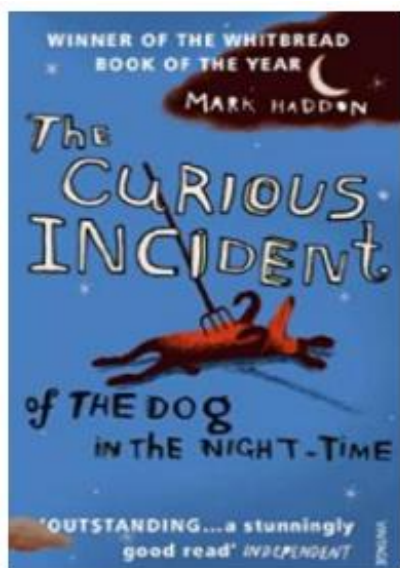
Secret ... A fascinating new perspective on World War II; a fictitious, personalized take on the real-life rebel German youth group, the Edelweiss Pirates. Karl Friedman is only twelve, but like all boys his age in Germany, he's already playing war games, training to join the Hitler Youth. Stefan, Karl's nonconformist older brother, wants nothing to do with it. Then their father is killed, and what had been a game suddenly becomes deadly serious. Karl's faith in the Fuhrer is shaken: Is Hitler a national hero--or a villain?

Clear links to the War unit of Term 1



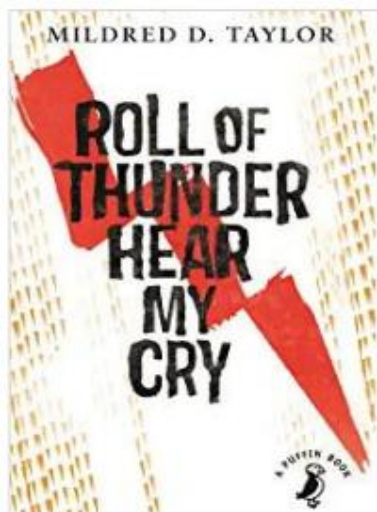
Refugee Boy is a teen novel written by Benjamin Zephaniah. It is a book about Alem Kelo, a 14-year-old refugee from Ethiopia and Eritrea. It was first published by Bloomsbury on 28 August 2001 . The novel was the recipient of the 2002 Portsmouth Book Award in the Longer Novel category.

Clear links to the War unit of Term 1



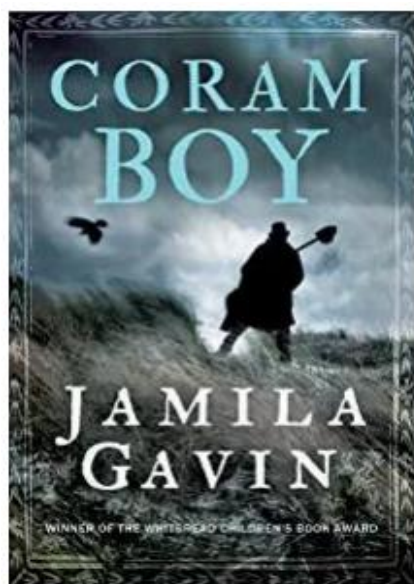
The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time ... A bestselling novel that tells the story of Christopher Boone, a 15-year-old boy with Asperger's, who, after the vicious killing of his neighbour's dog, embarks on a investigation à la his hero Sherlock Holmes.

Clear links to the issues of identity and perspectives covered in previous years as well as a nice insight into the issue of paternal control (Term 2)



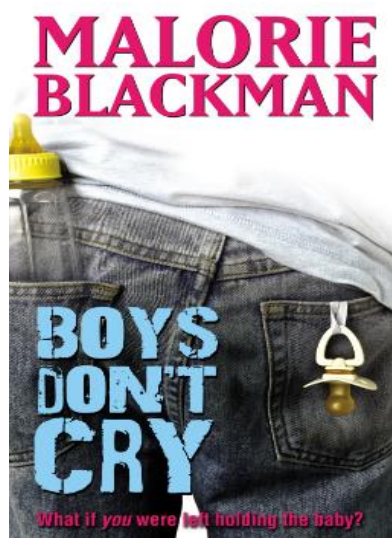
Roll of Thunder ... In the book, Taylor explores struggles of African Americans in 1930s Mississippi through the perspective of nine-year-old Cassie Logan. The novel contains several themes, including Jim Crow segregation, Black landownership, sharecropping, the Great Depression, and lynching.

Clear links to OMAM and Suffering and Survival in Term 3.



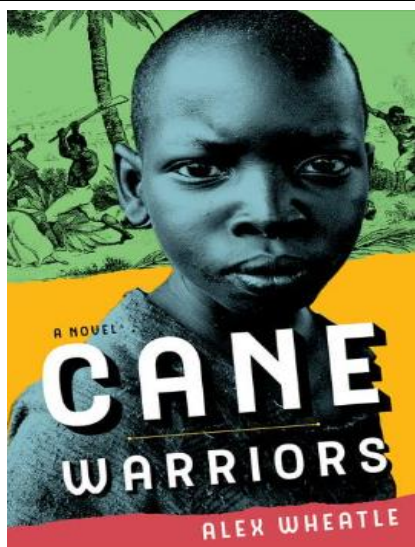
Coram Boy ... For in the late 1700s your circumstance of birth meant everything. Toby and Aaron may both find themselves living at Captain Thomas Coram's Hospital for parentless children, but their histories are as far apart as they could possibly be. Toby has been rescued from a life of slave labour in a faraway country; Aaron is the illegitimate son of the heir to a large country estate. They are watched over by Mish--a simple soul who has been with them since their arrival. His devotion to them is absolute, but his motives are not altogether straightforward. Could this curious man really be Meshak, the son of a wicked child-killer who was hanged at the gallows for his crimes?

Links to Suffering and Survival in Term 3.



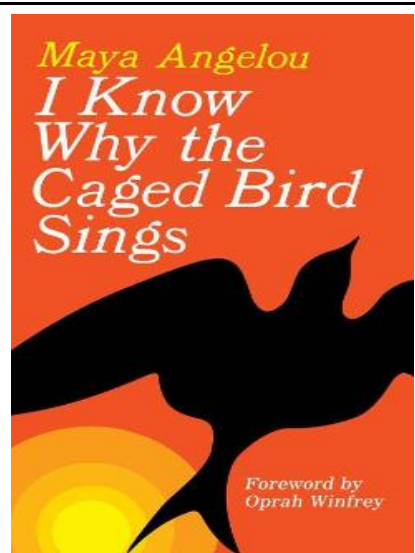
In **Boys Don't Cry**, bestselling author Malorie Blackman explores the uncharted territory of teenage fatherhood. You're waiting for the postman - he's bringing your A level results. University, a career as a journalist - a glittering future lies ahead. But when the doorbell rings it's your old girlfriend; and she's carrying a baby. Your baby. You're happy to look after it, just for an hour or two. But then she doesn't come back - and your future suddenly looks very different. Malorie's dramatic new novel will take you on a journey from tears to laughter and back again.

Links to Paternal Control in Term 2 as well as Suffering and Survival in Term 3.



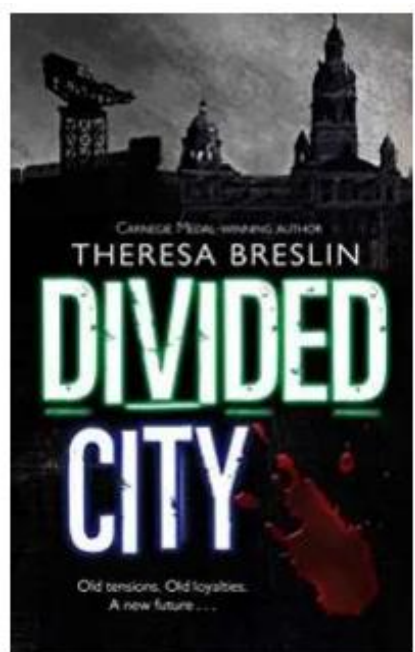
Cane Warriors ... This story is inspired by a real life rebellion in British-owned slave plantations in Jamaica in 1760. 14 year old Moa's dad warns him not to join in the rebellion being plotted by charismatic leader Tacky because he can't bear to lose another son, but Moa makes the decision to become a Cane Warrior and join the resistance - even a glimmer of hope of freedom is better than the horrendous life he is forced to live on the plantation.

Clear links to OMAM and Suffering and Survival in Term 3.



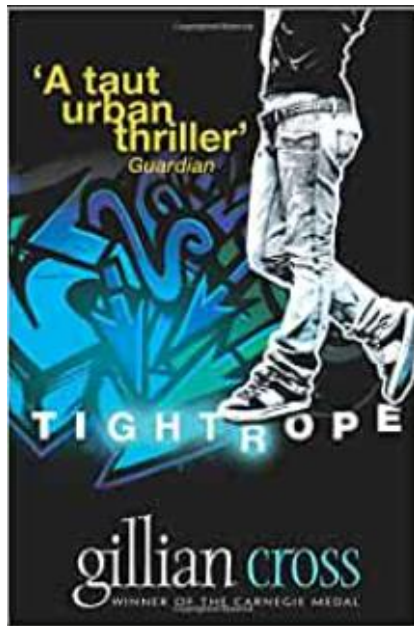
I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings is a 1969 autobiography describing the young and early years of American writer and poet Maya Angelou. The first in a seven-volume series, it is a coming-of-age story that illustrates how strength of character and a love of literature can help overcome racism and trauma. The book begins when three-year-old Maya and her older brother are sent to Stamps, Arkansas, to live with their grandmother and ends when Maya becomes a mother at the age of 16. In the course of Caged Bird, Maya transforms from a victim of racism with an inferiority complex into a self-possessed, dignified young woman capable of responding to prejudice.

Clear links to OMAM and Suffering and Survival in Term 3.



Divided City is a novel written by **Theresa Breslin** and published on 5 May 2005 by Doubleday. The novel is written for teenagers and adults concerning the problems of sectarianism in Glasgow and racism against asylum seekers. The main characters are young boys called Graham, a Protestant supporting Rangers.

Clear links to Romeo and Juliet in Term 2.



Tightrope is a children's novel by Gillian Cross, published in 1999. It was shortlisted for the Carnegie Medal. It is about a teen girl named Ashley who does well at school and helps her sick mother through the day. However, she leads a double life. Her other name is Cindy, and Cindy likes to sneak out and graffiti her name on large, untouched walls; it's her release. Unfortunately, someone discovers her secret and is leaving nasty letters and horrible things in her backyard. Will she ever be able to live normal life again? Without these fears she will die and never ever live a happy life again.

A nice opportunity to revisit the issue of identity explored in previous years as well as the issue of paternal; control explored in Term 3.