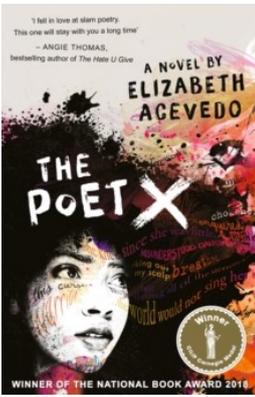
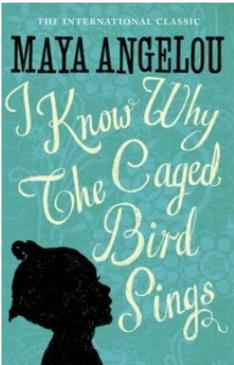


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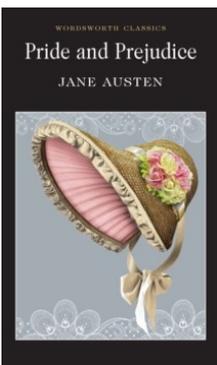
Poet X by Elizabeth Acevedo

Xiomara has always kept her words to herself. When it comes to standing her ground in her Harlem neighbourhood, she lets her fists and her fierceness do the talking. But X has secrets: her feelings for a boy in her bio class, the notebook full of poems that she keeps under her bed, and a slam poetry club that will pull those secrets into the spotlight. In spite of a world that might not want to hear her, Xiomara refuses to stay silent. A novel about finding your voice and standing up for what you believe in, no matter how hard it is to say.



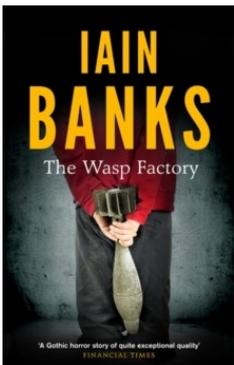
I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings by Maya Angelou

In this first volume of her six books of autobiography, Maya Angelou beautifully evokes her childhood with her grandmother in the American south of the 1930s. "I write about being a Black American woman, however, I am always talking about what it's like to be a human being. This is how we are, what makes us laugh, and this is how we fall and how we somehow, amazingly, stand up again." Angelou remains an inspiration to many.



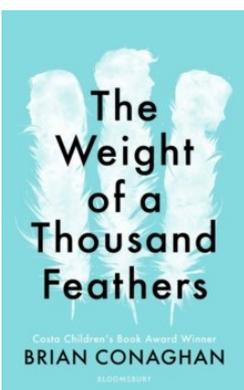
Pride and Prejudice by Jane Austen

Pride and Prejudice, which opens with one of the most famous sentences in English Literature, is an ironic novel of manners. Mrs Bennet has only one aim - finding a good match for each of her five daughters. In this she is mocked by her cynical and indolent husband. With its wit, its social precision and, above all, its irresistible heroine, this has proved one of the most enduringly popular novels in the English language.



The Wasp Factory by Iain Banks

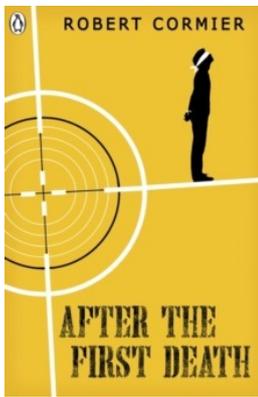
The Wasp Factory is bizarre, imaginative, disturbing, and darkly comic. Enter the extraordinary private world of Frank, just sixteen and unconventional, to say the least. "That's my score to date. Three. I haven't killed anybody for years, and don't intend to ever again. It was just a stage I was going through." With a narrator you'll never forget, and an ending you won't expect, Banks' first novel remains one of his (and Scotland's) greatest books.



The Weight of A Thousand Feathers by Brian Conaghan

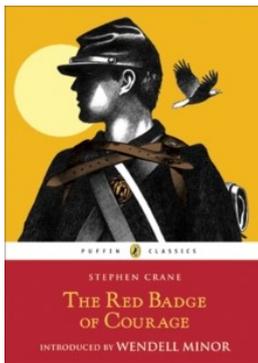
Angry, stirring and tender, this is a bold, questioning exploration of the lengths to which we'll go for the people we love. Bobby Seed has questions. What's another word for 'thesaurus'? How can I tell Bel I want her as my girl friend, not my girlfriend? How much pain is Mum in today? Has she taken her pills? And why won't Mum's stupid illness just GO AWAY? But Mum's question for Bobby could turn everything on its head. It's the Big One. The Unthinkable One. If Bobby agrees, he won't just be soothing her pain. He'll be helping to end it. Would he? Could he?

Visit your school library for these and many other great books!



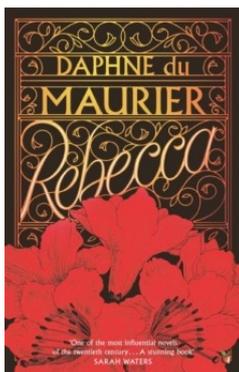
After the First Death by Robert Cormier

On the outskirts of a small American town, a bus-load of young children is being held hostage. At the centre of the battle are three teenagers: Miro the terrorist with no past and no emotions, Kate the stand-in bus driver, caught up in the nightmare, and Ben, the General's son and unwilling go-between. Author of **The Chocolate War**, Cormier wrote several young adult novels acclaimed for their uncompromising examination of contemporary issues, and this one, first published in 1979, feels more relevant than ever.



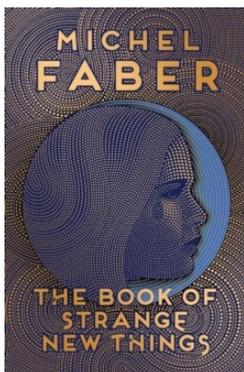
The Red Badge of Courage by Stephen Crane

Henry Fleming dreamed of the thrill of battle and of performing heroic deeds in the American Civil War. Now he's a raw recruit, Henry experiences both fear and self-doubt, and his illusions are shattered when he comes face to face with the bloodshed and horrors of war. Will war make Henry a coward or a hero? A vivid fictionalised account of an ordinary innocent young soldier on the battlefields.



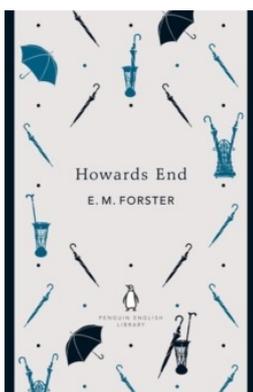
Rebecca by Daphne du Maurier

Working as a lady's companion, life looks very bleak for the protagonist of this classic novel. Then, on a trip to the South of France with her employer, she meets Maxim de Winter, a handsome widower whose sudden proposal of marriage takes her by surprise. Home in the brooding Manderly, the new Mrs de Winter finds Max a changed man. The forbidding Mrs Danvers keeps the memory of Rebecca alive, but you'll have to read on to find out what really happened to her.



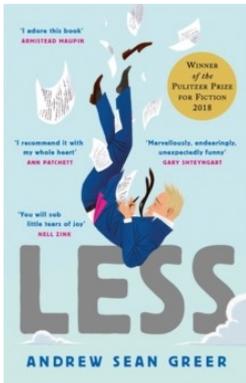
The Book of Strange New Things by Michel Faber

Leaving behind his beloved wife, Bea, Peter sets out on a quest to take the word of God to the farthest corners of the galaxy. His mission will challenge everything: his faith, his endurance, and the love that can hold two people together, even when they are worlds apart. As Peter gets further involved with his mission, the messages he receives from home are more and more worrying. What is going on back on Earth, and how can he decide where is he most needed?



Howards End by E.M. Forster

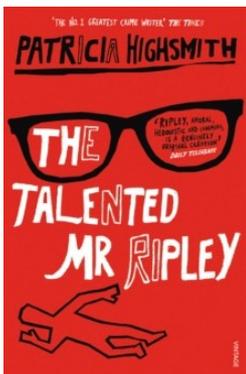
'Only connect' is the idea at the heart of this book, a heart-breaking and provocative tale of three families at the beginning of the twentieth century: the rich Wilcoxes, the gentle, idealistic Schlegels and the lower-middle class Basts. As the Schlegel sisters try desperately to help the Basts, and educate the close-minded Wilcoxes, the families are drawn together in love, lies and death. **Howards End** brilliantly explores class warfare, conflict, and the English character.



Less by Andrew Sean Greer

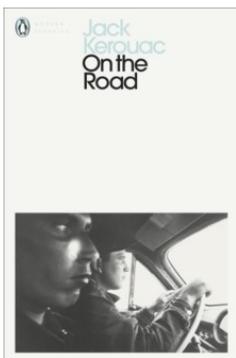
Librarian's Top Choice

Arthur Less is a failed novelist about to turn fifty. A wedding invitation arrives in the post from an ex-boyfriend of nine years who is engaged to someone else. Arthur can't say yes—too awkward; he can't say no—looks like defeat. So, he begins to accept the invitations on his desk to literary events around the world. From France to India, Germany to Japan, Arthur almost falls in love, almost falls to his death, and puts miles between him and the plight he refuses to face. It may be a cliché to claim a book will make you laugh and cry; this really will. Perfect!



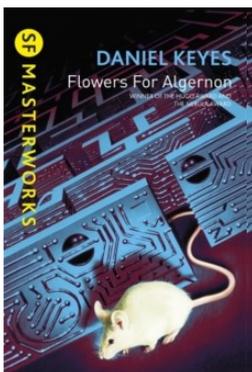
The Talented Mr Ripley by Patricia Highsmith

Tom Ripley is struggling to stay one step ahead of his creditors and the law when an unexpected acquaintance offers him a free trip to Europe and a chance to start over. When his new-found happiness is threatened, his response is as swift as it is shocking. One of the BBC's 100 Novels That Shaped Our World and the basis for Anthony Minghella's film starring Matt Damon and Jude Law.



On the Road by Jack Kerouac

Sal Paradise, young and innocent, joins the slightly crazed Dean Moriarty on an, exuberant ride back and forth across the United States. Their search for fulfilment becomes an exploration of personal freedom and a test of the limits of the American Dream. A blend of fiction and autobiography, this novel has had tremendous impact on readers and writers since. Kerouac's 'spontaneous prose' records the life of an American traveller and the firsthand experiences of the Beat Generation.



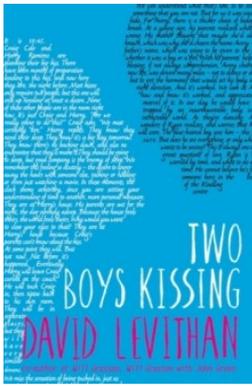
Flowers for Algernon by Daniel Keyes

Charlie Gordon, IQ 68, is a floor sweeper, and the gentle butt of everyone's jokes, until an experiment in the enhancement of human intelligence turns him into a genius. But then Algernon, the mouse whose triumphal experimental transformation preceded his, fades and dies, and Charlie has to face the possibility that his salvation was only temporary. This masterwork is perfect for readers who think they don't like Science Fiction.



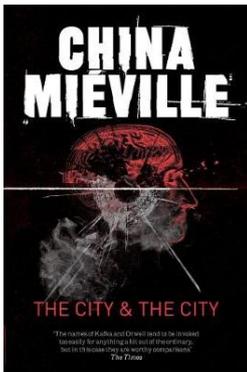
Solaris by Stanislaw Lem

When Kris Kelvin arrives at a space station off the planet Solaris, he is forced to confront the painful memories embodied in the physical likeness of a long-dead lover. His colleagues receive their own 'visitors,' and speculation rises among scientists that the planet's ocean may be a massive brain that creates incarnate memories. Its purpose for doing so, however, remains a mystery. An SF classic that forces us to consider whether we could ever hope to understand a consciousness that is truly alien to our own.



Two Boys Kissing by David Levithan

The two boys kissing are Craig and Harry. They're hoping to set the world record for the longest kiss. They're not a couple, but they used to be. Peter and Neil are a couple. Avery and Ryan have only just met and are trying to figure out what happens next. Cooper is alone. He's not sure how he feels. As the marathon progresses, these boys, their friends and families evaluate the changing nature of feelings, behaviour and this crazy thing called love under the watchful eyes of a Greek chorus of a generation of men lost to AIDS. This is a truly beautiful book.



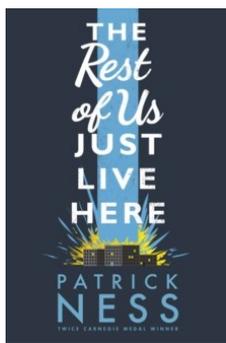
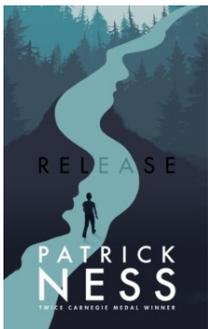
The City and the City by China Mieville

When the body of a murdered woman is found in the decaying city of Beszel, somewhere at the edge of Europe, it looks like a routine case for Inspector Tyador Borlu of the Extreme Crime Squad. But as he probes, the evidence begins to point to conspiracies far stranger, and more deadly, than anything he could have imagined. Soon his work puts him and those he cares for in danger, and Borlu must travel to the only metropolis on Earth as strange as his own, across a border like no other.



Beloved by Toni Morrison

It is the mid-1800s and as slavery looks to be coming to an end, Sethe is haunted by the violent trauma it wrought on her former enslaved life at Sweet Home, Kentucky. Her dead baby daughter, whose tombstone bears the single word, Beloved, returns as a spectre to punish her mother, but also to elicit her love. Told with heart-stopping clarity, melding horror with beauty, **Beloved** is Toni Morrison's enduring masterpiece.

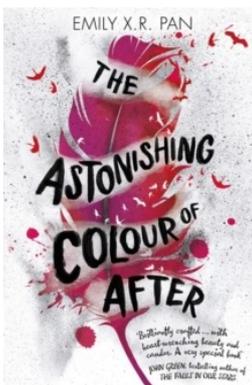


Release by Patrick Ness

It's Saturday, it's summer, and, although he doesn't know it, everything in Adam Thorn's life is about to fall apart. Relationships will change, he'll change, but maybe, just maybe, he'll find freedom in the release.

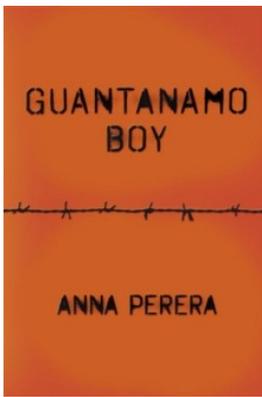
The Rest of Us Just Live Here

What if you weren't the Chosen One? The one who's supposed to fight the zombies, or the soul-eating ghosts, or whatever the new thing is. What if you just live in the same town? A brilliant twist on the teen heroes who usually save the world.



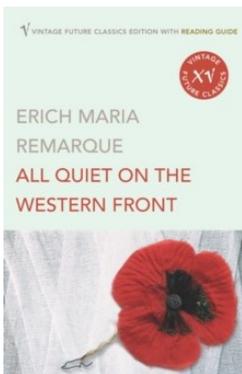
The Astonishing Colour of After by Emily X.R. Pan

Leigh Chen Sanders is sixteen when her mother dies by suicide, leaving only a scribbled note: 'I want you to remember'. Leigh doesn't know what it means, but when a red bird appears with a message, she finds herself travelling to Taiwan to meet her maternal grandparents for the first time. Far from home, and from her best friend Axel, who she stupidly kissed on the night her mother died, Leigh retreats into her art and into her memories, where colours collide and the rules of reality are broken.



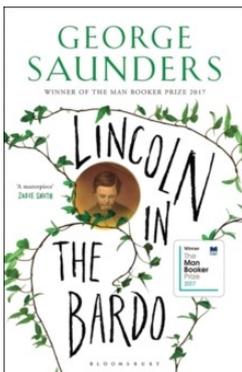
Guantanamo Boy by Anna Perera

Khalid, a fifteen-year-old Muslim boy from Rochdale, is abducted from Pakistan while on holiday with his family. He is taken to Guantanamo Bay and held without charge, where his hopes and dreams are crushed under the cruellest of circumstances. An innocent denied his freedom at a time when Western boys are finding theirs, Khalid tries and fails to understand what's happening to him and cannot fail to be a changed young man.



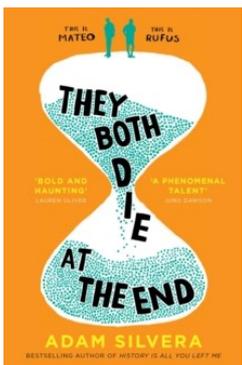
All Quiet on the Western Front by Erich Maria Remarque

Possibly the most famous anti-war novel ever written, this is the story of a young 'unknown soldier' in the trenches of Flanders during the First World War. Through his eyes we see all the realities of war: under fire, on patrol, waiting in the trenches, at home on leave, and in hospitals and dressing stations. There is no sense of adventure here, only the feeling of youth betrayed and a deceptively simple indictment of war - of any war - told for a whole generation of victims.



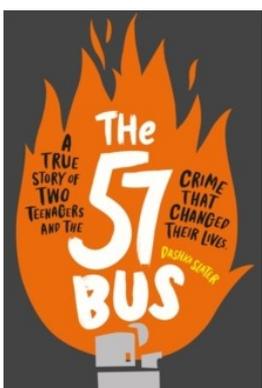
Lincoln in the Bardo by George Saunders

The American Civil War rages while President Lincoln's beloved eleven-year-old son lies gravely ill. In a matter of days, Willie dies and is laid to rest in a Georgetown cemetery. Newspapers report that Lincoln returns to the crypt several times to hold his boy's body. From this seed of historical truth, spins an unforgettable story of familial love and loss that breaks free of realism, entering a supernatural domain both hilarious and terrifying. Also try Saunders short story collection, **The Tenth of December**.



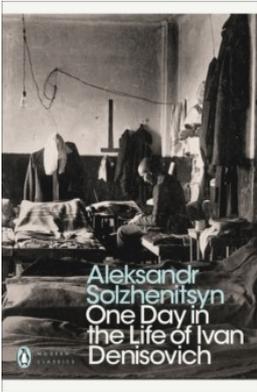
They Both Die at the End by Adam Silvera

Despite the spoiler in the title, this is a tear-jerker. On September 5th, a little after midnight, DeathCast calls Mateo Torrez and Rufus Emeterio to give them some bad news: they're going to die today. Mateo and Rufus are strangers, but, for different reasons, they're both looking to make a new friend on their End Day. The good news: there's an app called Last Friend, and through it, Rufus and Mateo are about to meet up for one last great adventure and live a lifetime in a single day.



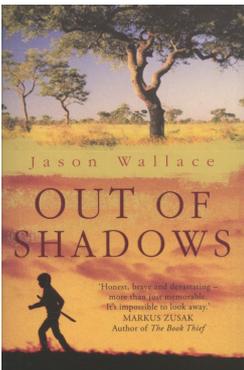
The 57 Bus by Dashka Slater

One teenager in a skirt. One teenager with a lighter. One moment that changes both their lives forever. Two teenagers growing up in Oakland, California. They have no reason to meet, except for eight minutes every day, they catch the same bus home. One day, messing about, Richard spies Sasha napping. He flicks the flame of his lighter to Sasha's skirt, and Sasha wakes up in a ball of flame. What happens next is a story of recovery, reconciliation, forgiveness and, above all, hope.



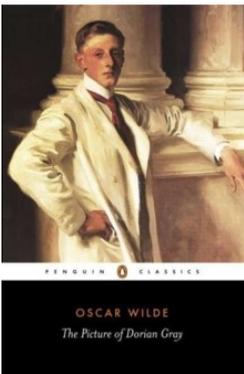
One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich by Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn

This brutal, shattering glimpse of the fate of millions under Stalin shook Russia and shocked the world when it first appeared. Discover the importance of a piece of bread or an extra bowl of soup, the incredible luxury of a book, the ingenious possibilities of a nail, a piece of string or a single match in a world where survival is all. Reading it, you enter a world of incarceration, brutality, hard manual labour and freezing cold. It is the struggle of men to survive both the terrible rigours of nature and the inhumanity of the system.



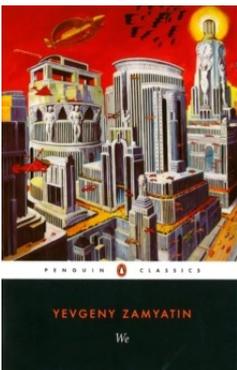
Out of Shadows by Jason Wallace

Zimbabwe, 1980s. The fighting has stopped, independence has been won and Robert Mugabe has come to power offering the end of the Old Way and promising hope for black Africans. For Robert Jacklin, it's all new: new continent, new country, new school. Quickly he learns that for some of his white classmates, the sound of guns is still loud, and their battles rage on. Boys like Ivan. He wants things back to how they were. Winner of the Costa, the UKLA and the Branford Boase Awards.



The Picture of Dorian Gray by Oscar Wilde

Enthralled by his own exquisite portrait, Dorian Gray exchanges his soul for eternal youth and beauty. Influenced by his friend Lord Henry Wotton, he is drawn into a corrupt double life; indulging his desires in secret while remaining a gentleman in the eyes of polite society. Only his portrait bears the traces of his decadence. Wilde's novel has lost none of its power to fascinate and disturb.



We by Yengeny Zamyatin

Read **1984** and **Brave New World**? Try this Russian forerunner of them both. In a glass-enclosed city of absolute straight lines, ruled over by the all-powerful Benefactor, citizens of the totalitarian society of OneState live out lives devoid of passion and creativity. But with help, D-503, a mathematician who dreams in numbers, makes a discovery: he has an individual soul. It was suppressed for many years in Russia and remains a resounding cry for individual freedom.



The Book Thief by Marcus Zusak

1939. Nazi Germany. The country is holding its breath. Death has never been busier. Liesel, a nine-year-old girl, is living with a foster family on Himmel Street. Her parents have been taken away to a concentration camp. Liesel steals books. This is her story and the story of the inhabitants of her street when the bombs begin to fall.

Ask your librarian and teachers for more suggestions!