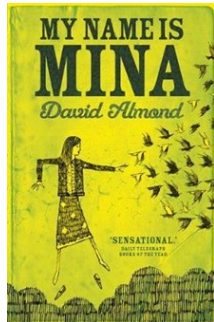
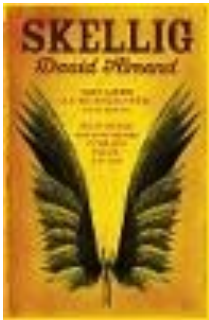


The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy by Douglas Adams

It's an ordinary Thursday lunchtime for Arthur Dent until his house gets demolished. The Earth follows shortly afterwards to make way for a new hyperspace express route, and his best friend has just announced that he's an alien. At this moment, they're hurtling through space with nothing but their towels and an innocuous-looking book inscribed, in large friendly letters, with the words: DON'T PANIC.

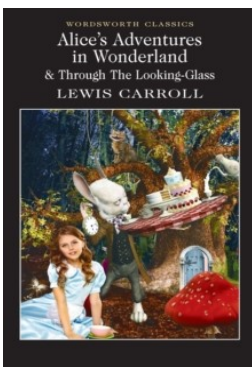


Skellig by David Almond

With a move to a new house and his baby sister's illness, Michael's world seems suddenly lonely and uncertain. Then, one Sunday afternoon, he stumbles into the ramshackle garage and finds something magical. A strange creature—part owl, part angel—who needs Michael's help if he is to survive. A magical classic.

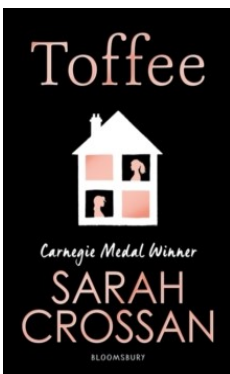
My Name is Mina

“Why should a book tell a tale in a dull straight line?” Here are Mina's own words: her stories and dreams, experiences and thoughts, her scribbles and nonsense, poems and songs. This vivid account of her life before Michael and Skellig is full of interesting pages and writing exercises for the reader to try.



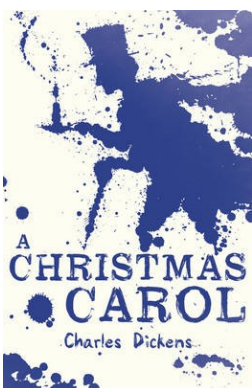
Alice's Adventures in Wonderland by Lewis Carroll

The simple language, dreamlike atmosphere, and fantastical characters are as appealing to young readers today as ever they were. However, these apparently simple stories have become recognised as adult masterpieces, and extraordinary experiments, years ahead of their time. This must-read book has influenced countless writers with its wordplay, parody, and logical and philosophical puzzles. Even if you think you know the story, there is much more in it than any adaptation can show.



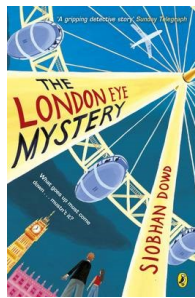
Toffee by Sarah Crossan

Allison has run away from home and finds herself hiding out in the shed of what she thinks is an abandoned house. But the house isn't empty. An elderly woman named Marla lives there, and she mistakes Allison for an old friend from her past. Allison is used to hiding who she really is and trying to be what other people want her to be. And so, Toffee is who she becomes. After all, it means she has a place to stay. But as their bond grows, she begins to ask herself: Where is home? What is a family?



A Christmas Carol by Charles Dickens

We all know that Ebenezer Scrooge is a miserly and mean-spirited old man. He treats family, co-workers, and strangers alike with distaste. But on Christmas Eve he receives a visit from the ghost of his dead business partner, Jacob Marley. Marley warns Scrooge that unless he learns to be less greedy and self-serving that Scrooge will be condemned to wander Earth weighed down with heavy chains. We also know that Scrooge gets another chance and forever after honours the spirit of Christmas with kindness, generosity and warmth.

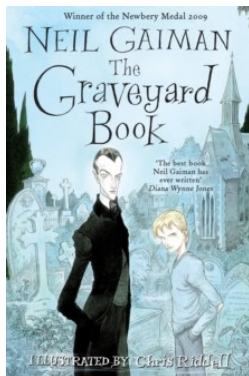


Bog Child by Siobhan Dowd

Digging for peat in the mountain with his Uncle Tally, Fergus finds the body of a child, and it looks like she's been murdered. As Fergus tries to make sense of the mad world around a little voice comes to him in his dreams, and the mystery of the bog child unfurls.

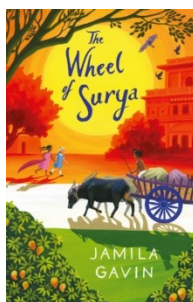
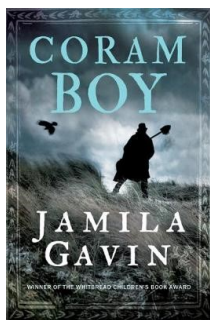
The London Eye Mystery

11.32am. Ted and his sister Kat watch their cousin Salim get on board the London Eye. The pod rises from the ground, high above the city. 12.02am. The pod lands and the doors open. Everyone exits - everyone but Salim. Police are baffled - so it's up to Ted to follow the clues across London and find Salim.



The Graveyard Book by Neil Gaiman

When a baby escapes a murderer intent on killing the entire family, who would have thought it would find safety and security in the local graveyard? Brought up by the resident ghosts, ghouls and spectres, Bod has an eccentric childhood learning about life from the dead. But for Bod there is also the danger of the murderer still looking for him - after all, he is the last remaining member of the family.

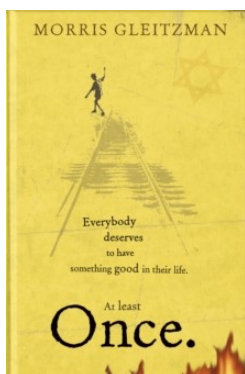


Coram Boy by Jamila Gavin

The Coram man takes babies and money from desperate mothers, promising to deliver them safely to a Foundling Hospital in London. Instead, he murders them and buries them by the roadside, to the helpless horror of his mentally ill son, Mish. The story of a dark time in English history

The Wheel of Surya

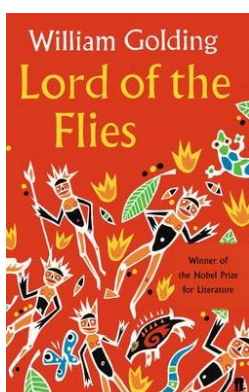
Fleeing from their burnt-out village as civil war rages, Marvinder and Jaspal are separated from their mother. Marvinder has saved her brother's life once, but now they both face a daily fight for survival. Together they escape across India and flee to England, to find a father they hardly know.



Once by Morris Gleitzman

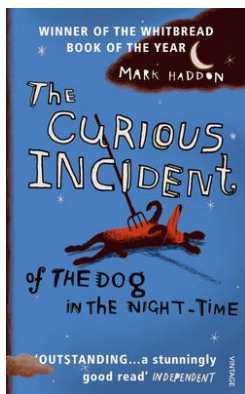
"Once I escaped from an orphanage to find Mum and Dad. Once I saved a girl called Zelda from a burning house. Once I made a Nazi with toothache laugh. My name is Felix. This is my story."

This is the first book in Gleitzman's series which also includes **Then; Now; After; Soon; Maybe**. All of these short and beautiful stories are available in the school library.



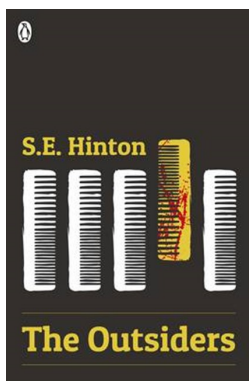
Lord of the Flies by William Golding

A plane crashes on a desert island and the surviving schoolboys assemble on the beach and wait to be rescued. By day they inhabit a land of bright birds and blue seas, but at night their dreams are haunted by the image of a terrifying beast. As the boys' delicate sense of order fades, their childish dreams are transformed into something more primitive, and their behaviour starts to take on a murderous, savage significance. One of the most widely read of modern classics in schools.



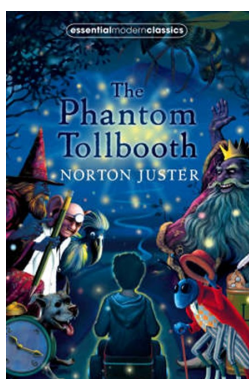
The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time by Mark Haddon

The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time is a murder mystery novel like no other. The detective, and narrator, is Christopher Boone. Christopher is fifteen and has Asperger's, a form of autism. He knows a very great deal about maths and very little about human beings. He loves lists, patterns and the truth. He hates the colours yellow and brown and being touched. He has never gone further than the end of the road on his own, but when he finds a neighbour's dog murdered he sets out on a terrifying journey which will turn his whole world upside down.



The Outsiders by S.E. Hinton

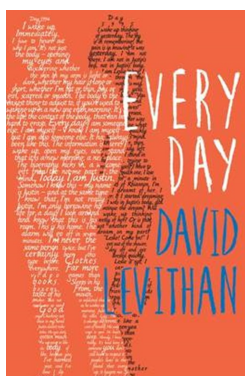
The Outsiders is an outstanding story of teenage rebellion, written when the author was only 17. Teenagers in a small Oklahoma town have split into two gangs, divided by money, tastes and attitude. The Socs' idea of having a good time is beating up Greasers like Ponyboy Curtis. Ponyboy knows what to expect and knows he can count on his brothers and friends - until the night someone takes things too far, and life is changed forever.



The Phantom Tollbooth by Norton Juster

Step through the Phantom Tollbooth and travel to lands beyond...

If you're feeling fed up with life, follow young Milo on his outlandish travels through the Tollbooth. His extraordinary voyage takes him into places such as the Land of Expectation, the Doldrums, the Mountains of Ignorance and the Castle in the Air. He meets the weirdest and most unexpected characters and, once home, can hardly wait to try out the Tollbooth again. But will it be still there when he gets back from school?



Every Day by David Levithan

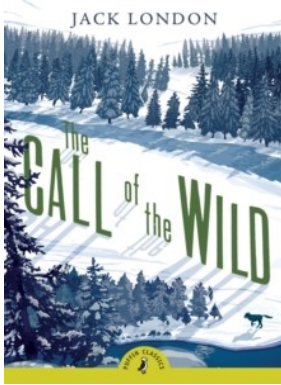
Librarian's Top Choice

Each morning, A wakes up in a different body. There's never any warning about who it will be, but A is used to that. And that's fine - until A wakes up in the body of Justin and meets Justin's girlfriend, Rhiannon. From that moment, the rules by which A has been living no longer apply. A stunningly original novel and a great introduction to this favourite YA author. You can also read Rhiannon's side of the story in **Another Day**, and find out what happens next in **Someday**.



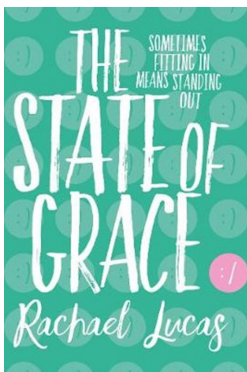
A Wrinkle in Time by Madeleine L'Engle

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 very special and exciting mixture of fantasy and science fiction, which all the way through is dominated by the funny and mysterious trio of guardian angels known as Mrs Whatsit, Mrs Who and Mrs Which.



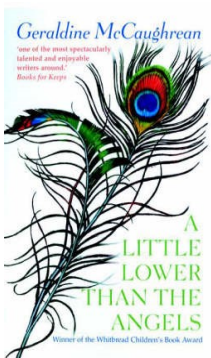
The Call of the Wild by Jack London

Life is good for Buck in Santa Clara Valley, where he spends his days eating and sleeping in the golden sunshine. But one day a treacherous act of betrayal leads to his kidnap, and he is forced into a life of toil and danger. Dragged away to be a sledge dog in the harsh and freezing cold Yukon, Buck must fight for his survival. Can he rise above his enemies and become the master of his realm once again?



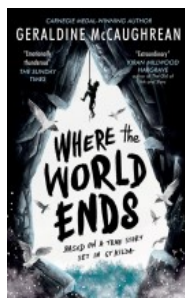
The State of Grace by Rachael Lucas

This is a heart-warming story of one girl trying to work out where she fits in, and whether she even wants to. Grace has her own way of looking at the world. She's got a horse, and a best friend who understands her, and that's pretty much all she needs. But when things start to change, the world doesn't make much sense any more. Suddenly everything threatens to fall apart, and it's up to Grace to fix it on her own.



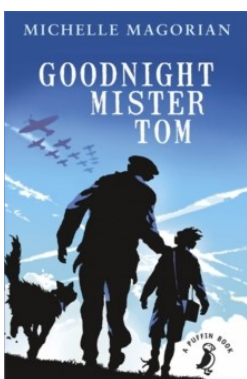
A Little Lower than the Angels

Gabriel has no idea what the future holds when he runs away from his apprenticeship with a bad-tempered stonemason. But God Himself, in the shape of playmaster Garvey, has plans for him. He wants Gabriel for his angel, but will Gabriel's new life be any more secure? This book is one of this prolific author's very best.



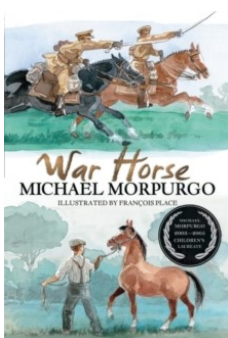
Where the World Ends

Every summer Quill and his friends are put ashore on a remote sea stac to hunt birds. But this summer, no one arrives to take them home. Surely nothing but the end of the world can explain why they've been abandoned. How will they survive? This award winning book is based on a true story.



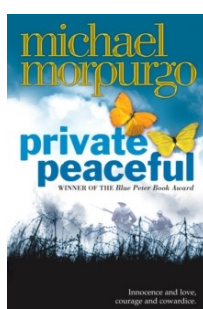
Goodnight Mister Tom by Michelle Magorian

This is the story of young Willie Beech, evacuated to the country as Britain stands on the brink of WWII. A sad, deprived child, he slowly begins to flourish under the care of old Tom Oakley, but his new-found happiness is shattered by a summons from his mother in London. Tom begins to worry when Willie doesn't answer his letters, so he goes to London to find him and makes a terrible discovery. This classic has delighted generations of children, as well as made adults weep.



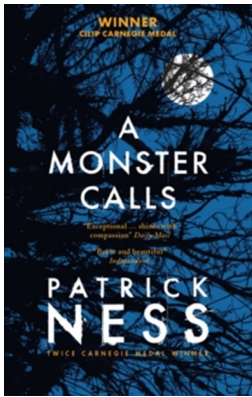
War Horse by Michael Morpurgo

In the deadly chaos of the First World War, one horse witnesses the reality of battle from both sides of the trenches. Bombarded by artillery, with bullets knocking riders from his back, Joey tells a powerful story of the truest friendships surviving in terrible times. Morpurgo's novel brings to life the sufferings of animals caught up in human warfare.



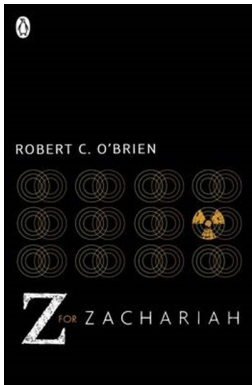
Private Peaceful

Heroism or cowardice? A stunning story of the First World War from a master storyteller. Told in the voice of a young soldier, the story follows 24 hours in his life at the front during WW1, and captures his memories as he looks back over his life. Full of stunningly researched detail and engrossing atmosphere, the book leads to a dramatic and moving conclusion.



A Monster Calls by Patrick Ness

Conor has the same dream every night, ever since his mother first fell ill, ever since she started the treatments that don't quite seem to be working. But tonight is different. Tonight, when he wakes, there's a visitor at his window. It's ancient, elemental, a force of nature. And it wants the most dangerous thing of all from Conor. It wants the truth.



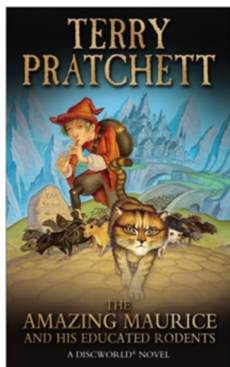
Z for Zachariah by Robert C. O'Brien

Ann Burden has been living alone in a valley for over a year - until Loomis, a scientist in a radiation-proof suit, arrives. She hopes they will be companions but his behaviour towards her becomes increasingly threatening as he attacks her and then cuts off her food supply and tries to bring her under his control. Although there may be no one else alive, Ann steals his suit and leaves the valley in search of humanity. A post-apocalyptic novel for any age group.



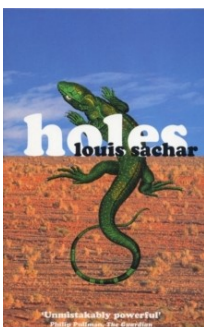
Animal Farm by George Orwell

Mr Jones of Manor Farm is so lazy and drunken that one day he forgets to feed his livestock. The ensuing rebellion under the leadership of the pigs Napoleon and Snowball leads to the animals taking over the farm. Vowing to eliminate the terrible inequities of the farmyard, the renamed Animal Farm is organised to benefit all who walk on four legs. But as time passes, the ideals of the rebellion are corrupted, then forgotten.



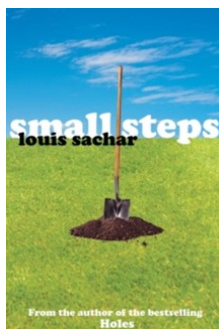
The Amazing Maurice and his Educated Rodents by Terry Pratchett

Maurice, a streetwise tomcat, has the perfect money-making scam. He's found a kid who plays a pipe, and he has his very own plague of rats—educated rats that he no longer thinks of as lunch. But when they reach the stricken town of Bad Blintz, their scam goes down the drain. Someone there is playing a different tune. A dark shadowy tune. Something very, very bad is waiting in the cellars.



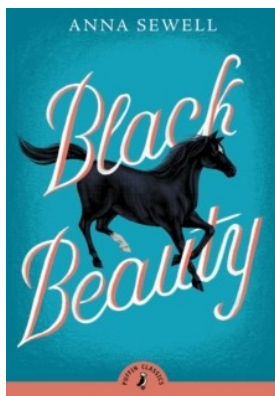
Holes by Louis Sachar

Stanley is not too surprised when a miscarriage of justice sends him to Camp Green Lake Juvenile Detention Centre. Nor is he very surprised when he is told that his daily labour is to dig a hole, and report anything that he finds. The warden claims that it is character building, but Stanley must dig up the truth.



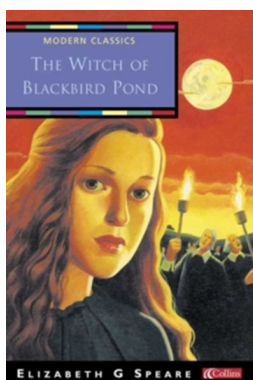
Small Steps

Armpit and X-Ray are living in Texas. It is three years since they left the confines of Camp Green Lake Detention Centre, and Armpit is taking small steps to turn his life around. He works for a landscape gardener because he is good at digging holes. But is he going to be able to stay out of trouble?



Black Beauty by Anna Sewell

Black Beauty is a handsome colt with a strong spirit. He is free to gallop in the fresh green meadows with his mother, Duchess, and their kind master. When his owners are forced to sell him, Black Beauty goes from a life of comfort and kindness to one of hard labour and cruelty. But Black Beauty has an unbreakable spirit and is determined to survive. Apart from being a great story, Black Beauty was instrumental in changing people's attitudes towards horses and domestic animals.



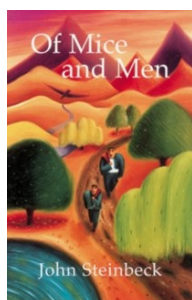
The Witch of Blackbird Pond by Elizabeth G. Speare

Alone and desperate, Kit Tyler has been forced to leave her beloved home on the island of Barbados and join a family she has never met. Kit's unconventional background and high-spirited ways immediately clash with the Puritanical lifestyle of her uncle's household. This award-winning American classic deserves to be widely read, especially alongside curriculum study of Arthur Miller's **The Crucible**.



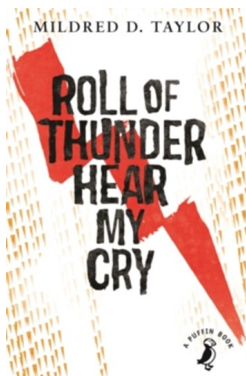
The Pearl by John Steinbeck

Kino, an Indian pearl-diver, finds 'the Pearl of the world,' and he believes that his life will be magically transformed. However, Kino is blind to the greed, fear and even violence the pearl arouses in him and his neighbours. A flawless parable about wealth and the evil it can bring.



Of Mice and Men

Streetwise George and his big, child-like friend Lennie are drifters, searching for work in the fields and valleys of California. They have nothing except the clothes on their back, and a hope that one day they'll find a home and live the American dream. But dreams always come at a price.



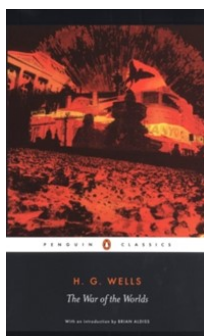
Roll of Thunder Hear My Cry by Mildred D. Taylor

Cassie Logan finds it hard to understand why the family farm means so much to her father. She finds it even harder growing up in a place like Mississippi in the 1930s. As she witnesses the prejudice and destruction all around her, Cassie sees why she must find strength in the people she loves. Mildred D. Taylor drew on her own family history and the stories her father told her about ordinary people who'd done nothing more outstanding than survive in a society designed for their destruction.



The Time Machine by H.G. Wells

When a Victorian scientist propels himself into the year 802,701 AD, he is initially delighted to find that suffering has been replaced by beauty, contentment and peace. However, in deep tunnels beneath their paradise lurks another race descended from humanity.



The War of the Worlds

The night after a shooting star is seen streaking through the sky, a cylinder is discovered. At first, locals approach the cylinder armed just with a white flag only to be killed by an all-destroying heat-ray, and terrifying invaders emerge. Soon the whole of human civilisation is under threat.

Ask your librarian and teachers for more suggestions!