

A BOOK IS A  
MAGIC  
PORTAL  
TO ANOTHER  
DIMENSION



## Reading Ideas for Y7 & Y8

All the books listed are available for loan from our school library.

Our school librarians, Mrs Dring and Miss Szczerbinska, are always happy to help students find just the right book for them.

You can email the library on [library@ripongrammar.com](mailto:library@ripongrammar.com) if you need any further help.

## Adventure

### Flood World by Tom Huddleston

Kara and Joe spend their days navigating the perilous waterways of a sunken city, scratching out a living in the ruins. But when they come into possession of a mysterious map, they find themselves in a world of trouble. Suddenly everyone's after them: gangsters, cops and ruthless Mariner pirates in their hi-tech submarines. The two children must find a way to fight back before Floodworld's walls come tumbling down.



### Wed Wabbit by Lissa Evans

You're called Fidge and you're nearly 11. You've been hurled into a strange world. You have three companions: two are unbelievably weird and the third is your awful cousin Graham. You have to solve a series of nearly impossible clues. You need to deal with a cruel dictator and three thousand Wimbley Woos (yes, you read that sentence correctly). And the whole situation - the whole, entire thing - is your fault.

A hilarious, madcap adventure!



### Lie, Kill, Walk Away by Matt Dickinson

Joe and Becca uncover a deadly secret: a lethal bioweapon is about to be unleashed and millions will suffer a terrible death. Now they are being hunted down. And their problems have only just begun.

### Where the World Ends by Geraldine McCaughrean

In the summer of 1723, 8 boys and 3 men were marooned on a rocky stack in the middle of the sea at the edge of the Outer Hebrides. This book tells the story of how they survived nine months of deadly storms, madness and starvation with only a few ropes and baskets, and their own fortitude and endurance to save them.

### Salt to the Sea by Ruta Sepetys

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. Four young people, each haunted by their own dark secret, narrate their unforgettable stories.

## Animals



### PAX by Tara Pennypacker

Pax was only a kit when his family was killed and he was rescued by 'his boy', Peter. Now the country is at war and when his father enlists, Peter has no choice but to move in with his grandfather. Far worse than leaving home is the fact that he has to leave Pax behind.

### Gorilla Dawn by Gill Lewis

Imara and Bobo are two children living with a band of rebel soldiers in the African jungle. When an orphaned gorilla is brought to their camp they swear to protect it. But in their war-ravaged world, can they ever find true safety?

### The Winter Horses by Philip Kerr

This children's book from New York Times bestselling author Philip Kerr is a WWII story of survival, for fans of War Horse. It tells of one girl's incredible bravery as she fights to save two rare horses from Nazi extermination. In the midst of another freezing winter, Max, the devoted caretaker of a wildlife reserve, must learn to live with the Nazis who have overrun his land. He must also learn to keep secrets, for there is a girl, Kalinka, who is hiding in the park. Kalinka has lost her home, her family, her belongings - everything but her life. Still, she has gained one small, precious gift: a relationship with the rare wild and wily Przewalski's horses that wander the reservation.

### When the Mountains Roared by Jess Butterworth

When Ruby's dad uproots her from Australia to set up a hotel in the mountains of India, Ruby is devastated. Not only are they living in a run-down building in the middle of the wilderness surrounded by scorpions, bears and leopards, but Ruby is sure that India will never truly feel like home - not without her mum there.

### My Family and Other Animals by Gerald Durrell

The azure skies, the olive groves and the mountains of Corfu provide the stunning setting for My Family and Other Animals. Here, the Durrell family live in chaotic harmony, welcoming a constant stream of eccentric visitors to their villa. This island paradise is exquisitely described by the keen young naturalist, Gerald. With a sense of wonder he evokes the magical world of the creatures he observes and collects: chameleon spiders, cicadas, tortoises, toads, fireflies and scorpions.

### The Wolf Wilder by Katherine Rundell

Feodora and her mother live in the snowbound woods of Russia, in a house full of food and fireplaces. Ten minutes away, in a ruined chapel, lives a pack of wolves. Feodora's mother is a wolf wilder, and Feo is a wolf wilder in training. A wolf wilder is the opposite of an animal tamer: it is a person who teaches tamed animals to fend for themselves, and to fight and to run, and to be wary of humans.



## Autobiography/Biography

### **Mud, Sweat and Tears** by Bear Grylls

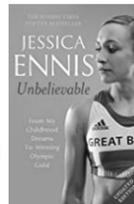
How did Bear Grylls become one of the world's toughest adventurers? This is the thrilling story of everyone's favourite real-life action man - from secret childhood missions to climb the town's school buildings and steeples, to starring in his own global TV series and becoming Chief Scout to the Scouting Association. Known and admired by millions, Bear Grylls has survived in dangerous environments few would dare to visit.

### **Chris Hoy: The Autobiography** by Chris Hoy

As the first Briton to win three Olympic golds at the same Games since 1908, Chris Hoy has become a beacon for British sporting achievement. His autobiography charts his life from a young BMX fanatic, supported by a devoted dad and his cycling club, through self-doubt and a major career overhaul, to the sport's holy grail.

### **Unbelievable: from my childhood dreams to winning Olympic Gold** by Jessica Ennis

In 2008 Jessica thought her career might be over when she was injured on the eve of the Olympic Games in Beijing. But she overcame this setback to rebuild her career and technique, becoming the world and European champion in successive years. 'Unbelievable' is the story of how the girl next door became London's poster girl, and how an ordinary woman used an extraordinary talent to claim the title of the world's greatest all-round female sports star.



### **First Man: The Life of Neil A Armstrong** by James R Hansen

In this authorized biography of Neil Armstrong, the first man on the moon, the author reveals it was the act of flying that had driven Armstrong rather than the pull of the destination, and describes Armstrong's career as a fighter pilot in the Korean War right through to his most famous mission.

### **Steadfast: My Story** by Lizzie Armistead and William Fotherington

Born in Otley, West Yorkshire, in 1988, Lizzie Armistead won her first medal in the Junior World Track Championships in 2005 after being talent spotted at school, before going on to win silver at the 2012 Olympics Games in London. Three years later she was World Road Race Champion and began 2016 as one of the favourites for a medal at the Rio Olympic Games. In 'Steadfast', Lizzie takes the reader to the heart of the most demanding of endurance sports and the challenges faced by one of its most gifted competitors.

## Classics

### **Treasure Island** by Robert Louis Stevenson

Following the demise of buccaneer Captain Flint, young Jim Hawkins finds himself with the key to a fortune. For he has discovered a map that will lead him to the fabled Treasure island.

### **Frankenstein** by Mary Shelley

Composed as part of a challenge between Byron and Shelley to conjure up the most terrifying ghost story, 'Frankenstein' narrates the chilling tale of a being created by a bright young scientist and the catastrophic consequences that ensue.

### **The Invisible Man** by H G Wells

H.G. Wells' classic tale of the dangers of science describes a man cast out from society by his own terrifying discovery. A brilliant scientist, obsessed with achieving invisibility, he is prepared to do anything to protect his discovery, and terrorizes the village where he has sought refuge in the process.

### **The Hound of the Baskervilles** by Arthur Conan Doyle



The greatest detective of them all is back ... 'Never in the delirious dream of a disordered brain could anything more savage, more appalling, more hellish be conceived than that dark form and savage face'. Death by natural causes? Sherlock Holmes knows that Sir Charles Baskerville's demise was due to no such thing. Was he killed by a phantom hound or is this the work of a calculating murderer?

### **The Hobbit, Or, There and Back again** by J R R Tolkien

The Hobbit is the unforgettable story of Bilbo, a peace-loving hobbit, who embarks on a strange and magical adventure.

### **Little Women** by Louisa May Alcott

In 1868 Louisa May Alcott began to write a novel based on her own childhood, in the hope of settling some of her father's mounting debts. 'Little Women' is a sensitive portrayal of the lives of four young sisters growing up during the American Civil War.



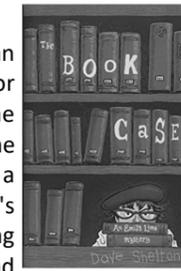
### **Jane Eyre** by Charlotte Bronte

Orphaned Jane Eyre grows up in the home of her heartless aunt. This troubled childhood strengthens Jane's natural independence and spirit - which prove necessary when she finds a position as governess at Thornfield Hall. However, there is great kindness and warmth in this epic love story, which is set against the magnificent backdrop of the Yorkshire moors. Ultimately the grand passion of Jane and Rochester is called upon to survive cruel revelation, loss and reunion, only to be confronted with tragedy

## Crime/Mystery

### **The Book Case** by Dave Shelton

Nothing is as it seems at St Rita's, an exclusive girls' boarding school. The floor has holes from canonballs, the smell in the dining room is disgustingly foul, and the librarian doesn't really exist. But there is a librarian's assistant, Emily Lime. And she's really a crime-solving genius, who's looking for a new assistant of her own. And booksmart Daphne is just the girl for the job.



### **Rooftoppers** by Katharine Rundell

Everyone thinks that Sophie is an orphan. True, there were no other recorded female survivors from the shipwreck which left baby Sophie floating in the English Channel in a cello case, but Sophie remembers seeing her mother wave for help. Her guardian tells her it is almost impossible that her mother is still alive, but that means still possible.

### **Girl Missing** by Sophie McKenzie

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?

### **The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night Time** by Mark Haddon

Narrated by a 15-year-old autistic savant obsessed with Sherlock Holmes, this dazzling novel weaves together an old-fashioned mystery, a contemporary coming-of-age story, and a fascinating excursion into a mind incapable of processing emotions.

### **Behind the Curtain** by Peter Abrahams

Too many things are amiss at 99 Maple Lane. What's bothering Ingrid's dad? Why has her brother Ty turned so moody? Meanwhile Ingrid stumbles upon some suspicious goings-on at the high school. She begins fishing around to find out who's really pulling the strings in Echo Falls.

### **Nowhere** by Jon Robison



Alyn, Jes, Ryan and Elsa are Nowhere. A concrete cube in the middle of a dense forest. Imprisoned inside are 100 teenagers from all over the country. They're all criminals. But none of them remember committing any crimes. Who has put them there. What do their captors want? And how will they ever break free?

## Eco-fiction/Cli-fi

### **Red Rock** by Kate Kelly

Melting ice caps, a strange red rock and a power-hungry space agency. Want to know more? Then read this captivating cli-fi thriller.

### **The Last Wild** by Piers Torday

Imagine a world where animals have almost entirely been wiped out. Imagine a world where the only food available to humans is a factory-produced concoction called Formula. Meet the human and animal heroes who fight to save the world.



### **Under the Weather: stories about climate change** by various authors

A selection of short stories on a variety of topics, from the effects of rising sea levels to changes in animal behaviour and human lifestyles. These powerful stories portray the issues surrounding climate change in personal terms and so bring them vividly to life. Whether read from cover to cover or dipped into for one or two stories, this book will enlighten and inspire everyone to consider how climate change will affect us all.

### **Song of the Dolphin Boy** by Elizabeth Laird

If you could swim with the dolphins, how would you protect them from the rubbish that floats out to sea? A moving adventure about the impact of plastic pollution on our seas, and the campaigning power of friendship.

### **Floodland** by Marcus Sedgwick

Imagine that a few years from now England is covered by water and Norwich is an island. Zoe, left behind in the confusion when her parents escaped, survives there as best she can. Join her dramatic escape in a story of courage and determination.

### **Momentum** by Saci Lloyd

London, the near future. Energy wars are flaring across the globe - oil prices have gone crazy, regular power cuts are a daily occurrence. The cruel Kossak soldiers prowl the streets, keeping the Outsiders - the poor, the disenfranchised - in check.



## Fantasy/Magical

### **Wolf Brother by Michelle Paver**

It's 6000 years ago and evil stalks the land. Only Torak, a 12-year-old boy, and his beautiful wolf cub companion can defeat it. In this adventure, Torak and Wolf are joined by an incredible cast of characters as they battle to save the world. The first in the **Chronicles of Darkness** series.



### **Ingo by Helen Dunmore**

In this magical adventure, storyteller Helen Dunmore writes the story of Sapphire and her brother Conor, and their discovery of Ingo, a powerful and exciting world under the sea.

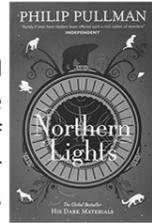
The first in the **Ingo Chronicles** series.

The first things to shift were the doll's eyes, the beautiful grey-green glass eyes. Slowly they swivelled, until their gaze was resting on Triss's face. Then the tiny mouth moved, opened to speak. 'What are you doing here?' It was uttered in tones of outrage and surprise, and in a voice as cold and musical as the clinking of cups. 'Who do you think you are? This is my family.'

When Triss wakes up after an accident, she knows that something is very wrong. Soon Triss discovers that what happened to her is more strange and terrible than she could ever have imagined, and that she is quite literally not herself...

### **Northern Lights by Philip Pullman**

Lyra Belacqua and her animal daemon live half-wild and carefree among scholars of Jordan College, Oxford. The destiny that awaits her will take her to the frozen lands of the Arctic, where witch-clans reign and ice-bears fight. Her extraordinary journey will have immeasurable consequences far beyond her own world...



A recently televised story which is the first in the **His Dark Materials** trilogy.

### **Magisterium: The Iron Trial by Cassandra Clare and Holly Black**

Most people would do anything to get into the Magisterium and pass the Iron Trial.

Not Callum Hunt. Call has been told his whole life that he should *never* trust a magician. And so he tries his best to do his worst – but fails at failing. Now he must enter the Magisterium.

It's a place that's both sensational and sinister. And Call realizes it has dark ties to his past and a twisty path to his future.

The first in **The Magisterium** series.

## Historical

### **Chains by Laurie Halse Anderson**

Set in 1776, against the backdrop of the American struggle for independence, this novel is also an adventure about one girl's struggle for freedom in a society in which she is considered someone else's property.



### **Ring of Roses by Mary Hooper**

Abby is delighted to be appointed to the position of nursemaid in the well-to-do Beauchurch household. But it's the summer of 1665, and soon whispers are spreading through London that the plague is returning. Can Abby keep herself and her small charge Grace safe, or will the disaster engulf them?

### **Hitler's Angel by William Osborne**

Otto and Leni have escaped to England from Nazi Germany. They thought they were safe, but now the British want them to go back. Dropped behind enemy lines, they embark on a secret operation codenamed Wolfsangel. Their mission is to find and kidnap a girl who could bring down Hitler.

### **Arthur: The Seeing Stone by Kevin Crossley-Holland**

The year is 1199, the place the Welsh Marches, where young Arthur de Caldicot practises his tilting and archery, learns to be a dutiful page to his father, and waits impatiently to grow up and become a



knight. One day his father's friend Merlin gives him a shining black stone. When Arthur starts to see stories in the stone, his life quickly becomes entwined with that of his namesake, the boy who pulls the sword from the stone. In this many-layered novel, King Arthur is seen as a figure for all time - an exemplar to his namesake, a mysterious presence influencing not just one time and place but many.

### **The Eagle of the Ninth by Rosemary Sutcliffe**

The Ninth Legion marched into the mists of northern Britain - and they were never seen again. Four thousand men disappeared and their eagle standard was lost. It's a mystery that's never been solved, until now... Marcus has to find out what happened to his father, who led the legion. So he sets out into the unknown, on a quest so dangerous that nobody expects him to return.

### **Death Ray by Craig Simpson**

Finn Gunnerson and his friends Loki and Freya, have been recruited by the enigmatic X as special agents, working for the Allies. Acting on information from the French resistance they are despatched on Operation Death Ray to aid in the sabotage of vital German technology.

## Horror/Ghosts

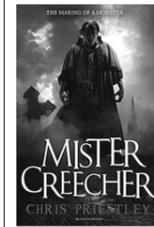
### **Rules for Vanishing by Kate Alice Marshall**

It's almost a year since Becca went missing. Everyone else has given up searching for her, but her sister, Sara, knows she disappeared while looking for Lucy Gallows. Determined to find her, Sara and her closest friends enter the woods. But something more sinister than ghosts lurks on the road, and not everyone will survive.

### **Oliver Twisted, or, The Witch Boy's Progress by J D Sharpe (and Charles Dickens)**

On the advice of a corpse, Oliver flees his ghastly orphan life to seek his destiny in the dark streets of old London Town. There, he meets the shadowy Dodger, the evil old soul-stealer Fagin, and the menacing Bill Sikes, who is more beast than man. But will Oliver be the world's salvation or its downfall?

### **Mister Creecher: A Novel in Three Parts by Chris Priestley**



Billy is a street urchin, pickpocket and petty thief. Mr Creecher is a monstrous giant of a man who terrifies all he meets. Their relationship begins as pure convenience. But a bond swiftly develops between these two misfits as their bloody journey takes them ever northwards on the trail of their target - Victor Frankenstein.

### **Haunted by Susan Cooper**

There's a lost ghost child trapped in a mirror and wanting to pull you in; an evil Soul Eater waiting for its next victim; a ghost walk with a haunting twist; and the spirit of a drowned boy who needs to be put to rest. These and many more spine-chilling tales will make you scream, shiver and gasp. Open if you dare...



### **Beast by Ally Kennan**

In the depths of a reservoir lives a monstrous creature. Its existence is unknown to anyone except the teenage boy who feeds it. Six years ago it was a vicious little baby. Now it has grown huge, and its rusting cage can't hold it much longer... Stephen is a boy with many secrets, and the Beast is the biggest.

## Humorous

### **The Accidental Timetraveller by Janis Mackay**

One ordinary day, Saul is on his way to the corner shop when a girl appears suddenly in the middle of the road. She doesn't understand traffic, or the things in shops, and she's wearing a long dress with ruffled sleeves. Her name is Agatha Black. Agatha Black is from 1812, and Saul needs to find a way to get her back there. With help from his mates Will and Robbie, he tries to work out how to make time travel happen. This pacy, time-travelling adventure from Janis Mackay, author of the Magnus Fin series, is full of funny misunderstandings and gripping action.



### **Skulduggery Pleasant series by Derek Landy**

Meet the great Skulduggery Pleasant: wise-cracking detective, powerful magician, master of dirty tricks and burglary (in the name of the greater good, of course). Oh yeah. And dead.

Then there's his wise-cracking sidekick, Stephanie. She's... well, she's a twelve-year-old girl. With a pair like this on the case, evil had better watch out...

### **Dark Lord: The Teenage Years by Jamie Thomson**

13-year-old schoolboy, Dirk Lloyd, has a dark secret - in fact he is a dark secret. Dirk - according to his own account - is the earthly incarnation of a Dark Lord, supreme ruler of the Darklands and leader of great armies of orcs and warriors, intent on destruction and bloody devastation.

### **The Name of this Book is Secret by Pseudonymous Bosch**

When investigators Cass and Max-Ernest set out to discover the history of the mysterious Symphony of Smells, they become embroiled in an experiment involving kidnapped children and the secret of eternal youth. Together they must come up with a plan to rescue their classmate from a hideous fate and escape the pyramid of the Midnight Sun.

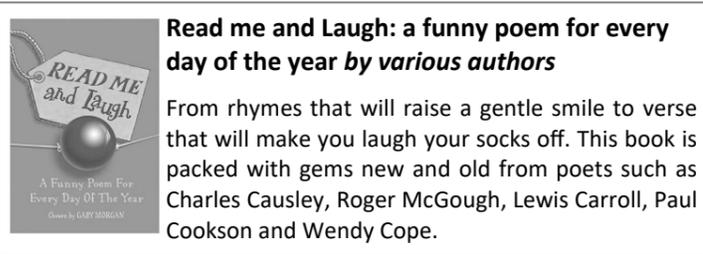
### **The Ministry of Strange, Unusual and Impossible Things by Paul Gamble**

It all begins with a shoe. Just one. In the middle of the road. Who loses one shoe? A one-legged person obviously. And who has only one leg? A pirate, of course. So that's how Jack gets an inkling that there are pirates about. Then there's this bear. It appears on the roadway and halts the traffic, including the school bus. All the drivers are cowering in their cars, but Jack gets out to investigate and manages to overcome the bear by brandishing a chair at it. There's a good reason why bears are afraid of chairs, but there's no time to explain right now. Because the next thing is that Jack gets recruited into the Ministry of SUITS - Strange, Unusual and Impossible Things.

### **The Secret Diary of Adrian Mole Aged 13¾ by Sue Townsend**

Teenager Adrian writes candidly about his parents' marital troubles, the dog, his life as a tortured poet and 'misunderstood intellectual'. His painfully honest diary makes hilarious and compelling reading.

## Poetry/Verse



### Read me and Laugh: a funny poem for every day of the year by various authors

From rhymes that will raise a gentle smile to verse that will make you laugh your socks off. This book is packed with gems new and old from poets such as Charles Causley, Roger McGough, Lewis Carroll, Paul Cookson and Wendy Cope.

### Heartbeat by Sharon Creech

A touching story about a young girl finding her identity and learning how it fits with the many rhythms of life. Annie loves running, drawing, and her family. She has a best friend called Max who also loves running, but things are not so great in Max's life. As the two come to terms with growing up and getting on and dealing with the many events and pressures around them a new and wonderful rhythm is established. Told in blank verse.

### Booked by Kwame Alexander

Nobody can stop Nick Hall - he's a star on the football team, and life is about to get a whole lot sweeter when he asks out the girl of his dreams. But then a bombshell announcement shatters his world. Nick will need all his courage, both on and off the pitch. Told in blank verse.

### Poems to Live your Life By, by Chris Riddell

Chris Riddell, political cartoonist for the Observer, has selected his very favourite classic and modern poems about life, death and everything in between. The book includes poems and is divided into sections covering - general musings, school and teenage years, family and roots, love, nonsense, magic and myth, wildlife, war and death. He brings them to life with his exquisite, intricate artwork in this anthology.

## Sci-Fi/Dystopian

### I am Number Four by Pittacus Lore

John Smith is not your average teenager. He regularly moves from small town to small town. He changes his name and identity. He does not put down roots. He cannot tell anyone who or what he really is. If he stops moving those who hunt him will find and kill him. But you can't run forever. The first in the *Lorien Legacies* series.

### Contagion by Teri Terry

An epidemic is sweeping the country. You are among the infected. There is no cure; and you cannot be permitted to infect others. You are now under quarantine. The 5% of the infected who survive are dangerous and will be taken into the custody of the army. Young runaway Callie survived the disease, but not the so-called treatment. Her brother Kai is still looking for her. And his new friend Shay may hold the key to uncovering what truly happened. The first in the *Dark Matter* series.

### Mortal Engines by Philip Reeve

London is hunting its prey. For too long, London has been hiding in the hills, safe from bigger, faster, hungrier cities. Now, London must feed. But as the chase begins, events within the walls take a sinister turn.

### The Time Machine by H G Wells

London is hunting its prey. For too long, London has been hiding in the hills, safe from bigger, faster, hungrier cities. Now, London must feed. But as the chase begins, events within the walls take a sinister turn.

### The Secret in Vault 13 by David Solomons

The Doctor has never faced a challenge quite like this... In the coldest spot in the universe is the Galactic Seed Vault. For generations it has existed to store and preserve examples of plant seeds from across the galaxy. And at its heart lies a secret. Vault 13. Unopened for millions of years, no one is sure what it contains.



### Frozen in Time, by Ali Sparkes

1956. Freddy and Polly agree to be put into cryonic suspension in an experiment conducted by their father. 2009. Ben and Rachel find a hidden underground vault in the garden - and inside it the frozen figures of a boy and a girl. Can Polly and Freddy adapt to the 21st century? And what happened to their father?



### My Name is O by Sam Enthoven

An epidemic is sweeping the country. You are among the infected. There is no cure; and you cannot be permitted to infect others. You are now under quarantine. The 5% of the infected who survive are dangerous and will be taken into the custody of the army. Young runaway Callie survived the disease, but not the so-called treatment. Her brother Kai is still looking for her. And his new friend Shay may hold the key to uncovering what truly happened.

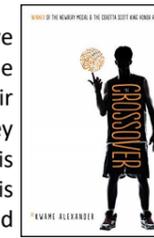
### Soulprint by Megan Miranda

Alina Chase has spent her entire life in confinement. With the science of soul-printing now a reality, she is 'protected' for her own safety - and the safety of others - because her soul has done terrible things ...or so she's told. When Alina finally breaks out of prison, helped by a group of people with unclear motives, she begins to uncover clues left by her past life that only she can decipher. And she may not be as innocent as she once believed. Can Alina change her future, or is she fated to repeat her past and face the consequences?

## Sporting Stories

### The Crossover by Kwame Alexander

Twelve-year-old Josh and his twin Jordan have basketball in their blood. They're kings of the court, star players for their school team. Their father used to be a champion player and they each want nothing more than to follow in his footsteps. Both on and off the court, there is conflict and hardship which will test Josh's bond with his brother.



### Kick by Mitch Johnson

Budi's going to play for the greatest team on earth, instead of sweating over each stitch he sews, each football boot he makes. But one unlucky kick brings Budi's world crashing down. Now he owes the Dragon, the most dangerous man in Jakarta. Soon it isn't only Budi's dreams at stake, but his life.

### The Penalty by Mal Peet

As the city of San Juan pulses to summer's sluggish beat, its teenage football prodigy El Brujito, vanishes without trace. Paul Faustino, South America's top sports journalist, is reluctantly drawn into the mystery. As a story of corruption and murder unfolds, he is forced to confront a bitter history of slavery, and the power of the occult.

### Ghost by Jason Reynolds

Running. That's all Ghost (real name Castle Cranshaw) has ever known. But Ghost has been running for the wrong reasons -until he meets Coach, an ex-Olympic Medallist who sees something in Ghost: crazy natural talent. If Ghost can stay on track, literally and figuratively, he could be the best sprinter in the city. Can Ghost harness his raw talent for speed, or will his past finally catch up to him?

### Slam Dunk by Donna King

Thirteen-year-old Ashlee Carson is a basketball star. Tall and blonde, she takes after her father, a former professional player. But her mother has ambitions that go beyond the basketball court. She wants Ashlee to focus on her studies. When Ashlee gets the chance to compete for a place on the national girls' team, she heads for Florida. Can she count on her deadbeat dad for support? And will her mother ever forgive her?

### When the Guns Fall Silent by James Riordan

Two friends, Jack and Harry, both keen footballers, are sent to fight in the trenches in World War I. The author brings to life the horror for both sides and ends with an account of the football match played in the Christmas truce of 1914.

## Thrillers

### Run, Zan, Run by Cathy MacPhail

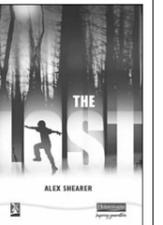
Ivy turned on her. 'I told you I'd get you, didn't I? Well,' her next words sent shivers through Katie. 'Tonight's the night.' Katie is being bullied at school - and cannot get anyone to believe her. She feels frightened and alone . . . until one day when she is cornered by Ivy and her fellow bullies on the town dump. Katie is terrified, there is nowhere left to run. But suddenly, as if by magic, a girl called Zan rises from the rubbish in the dump and leaps to Katie's defence. A gripping story that really brings the issue of bullying to a head.

### The Guggenheim Mystery by Robin Stevens

My name is Ted Spark. I am 12 years and 281 days old. I have seven friends. Three months ago, I solved the mystery of how my cousin Salim disappeared from a pod on the London Eye. This is the story of my second mystery. This summer, I went on holiday to New York, to visit Aunt Gloria and Salim. While I was there, a painting was stolen from the Guggenheim Museum, where Aunt Gloria works. Everyone was very worried and upset. I did not see what the problem was. I do not see the point of paintings, even if they are worth £9.8 million. Perhaps that's because of my very unusual brain, which works on a different operating system to everyone else's. But then Aunt Gloria was blamed for the theft - and Aunt Gloria is family.

### The Lost by Alex Shearer

In this atmospheric thriller, Jonah chases after a fire engine and mysteriously disappears. His best friend, Joe never stops believing that he is alive and that one day he will find him. Years later, Joe meets Anna. When he finds Jonah's rucksack on her land, he realises Anna has a terrifying secret.



### Split Second by Sophie McKenzie

Bound together by the devastating consequences of a terrorist attack on a London market, teenagers Charlotte (Charlie) and Nat appear at first to have much in common. But, as Charlie gets closer to Nat and his family, she begins to wonder if perhaps he knows more about the attack than he has let on. Split Second is an action-packed thriller that shifts between the perspectives of its two main characters as their courage and their loyalties are tested to the limit.

### Desert Angel by Charlie Price

He is waiting...He is watching...He will hunt her down. Angel is on the run. Her mother is dead, her body buried in a shallow grave by her latest boyfriend, Scotty, a ruthless, illegal hunter who is prone to violence and who now wants Angel dead before she can talk to the police. Angel has lived through more than a young girl should have but she's determined to stay alive. But in the scorching heat of the open desert, where can she hide?

## Traditional Tales

### **The House with Chicken Legs by Sophie Anderson**



This sparkling debut weaves the captivating folklore of Baba Yaga with the thrills of a classic venturing-out-into-the-world quest. Marinka dreams of a normal life, where her house stays somewhere long enough for her to make friends. But her house has chicken legs and moves on without warning. The only people Marinka meets are dead; they disappear when her grandmother, Baba Yaga, guides them through The Gate. Marinka wants to change her destiny, but her house has other ideas.

### **Cinder by Marissa Meyer**

Cinder, a gifted mechanic in New Beijing, is also a cyborg. She's reviled by her stepmother and blamed for her stepsister's sudden illness. But when her life becomes entwined with the handsome Prince Kai's, she finds herself at the centre of a violent struggle between the desires of an evil queen - and a dangerous temptation. A reworking of the traditional fairytale.

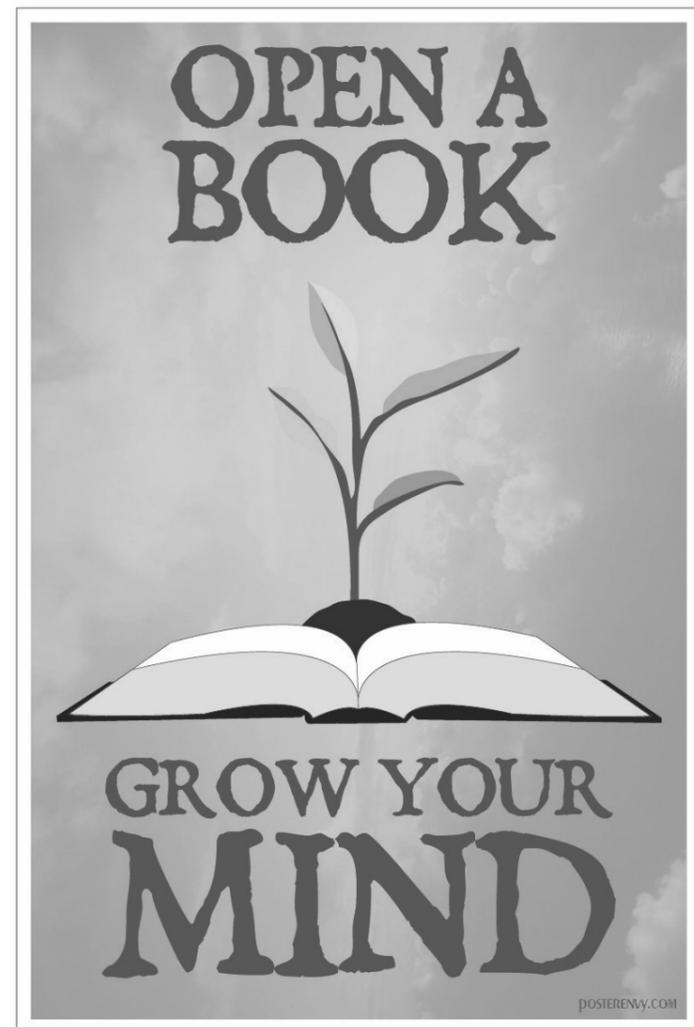
### **North Child by Edith Pitou**

Edith Pattou's epic story is partly inspired by the old Norwegian fairy tale 'East o' the Sun and West o' the Moon', though readers will also recognise elements of the more familiar 'Beauty and the Beast'.

Rose was born into the world facing north and superstition says she will travel far from home. This prophecy is fulfilled when a white bear takes her to a castle, where a silent stranger appears. Her curiosity overcomes her and she must travel east of the Sun and west of the Moon on an epic journey.

### **A Boy Called Christmas by Matt Haig**

You are about to read the true story of Father Christmas. It is a story that proves that nothing is impossible. If you are one of those people who believe that some things are impossible, you should put this book down right away. It is most certainly not for you. Because this book is full of impossible things. Are you still reading? Good. Then let us begin. A tale of adventure, snow, kidnapping, elves, more snow, and an 11-year-old boy called Nikolai, who isn't afraid to believe in magic.



*This is just a selection of the books in our school library.*

*If you can't find something here to read, please come and ask a librarian for help.*