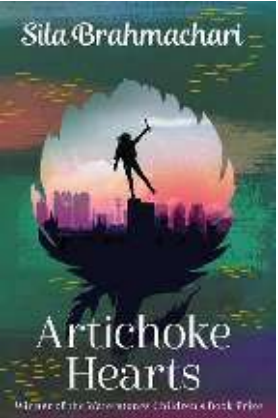
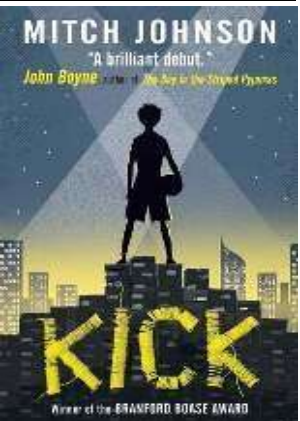
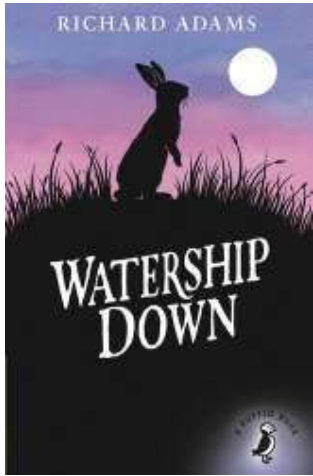


Recommended Reads
14 books to read before you are 14

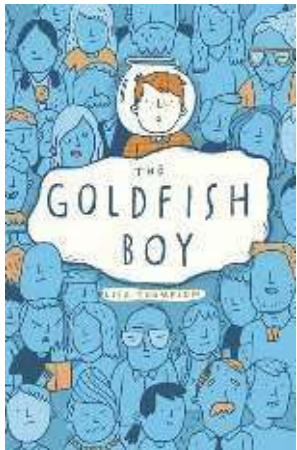
<u>Book Name and Author</u>	<u>Blurb</u>
<p><u>Artichoke Hearts by Sith Brahmachari</u></p> 	<p>Twelve-year-old Mira comes from a chaotic, artistic and outspoken family where it's not always easy to be heard. As her beloved Nana Josie's health declines, Mira begins to discover the secrets of those around her, and also starts to keep some of her own. She is drawn to mysterious Jidé, a boy who is clearly hiding a troubled past and has grown hardened layers - like those of an artichoke - around his heart. As Mira is experiencing grief for the first time, she is also discovering the wondrous and mystical world around her</p>
<p><u>Kick by Mitch Johnson</u></p> 	<p>Budi's plan is simple...</p> <p>He's going to be a star, instead of sweating over each football boot he makes, each stitche he sews, each box he packages. He's going to play for the greatest team on earth, rather than in the square behind the factory where he works.</p> <p>But one unlucky kick brings Budi's world crashing down, because now he owes the Dragon, the most dangerous man in all Jakarta. Soon it isn't only Budi's dreams at stake, but his life.</p>

Watership Down by Richard Adams



Set in England's Downs, a once idyllic rural landscape, this stirring tale of adventure, courage and survival follows a band of very special creatures on their flight from the intrusion of man and the certain destruction of their home. Led by a stouthearted pair of friends, they journey forth from their native Sandleford Warren through the harrowing trials posed by predators and adversaries, to a mysterious promised land and a more perfect society.

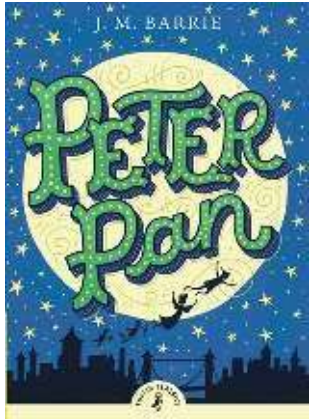
The Goldfish Boy by Lisa Thompson



12-year-old Matthew Corbin hasn't been to school for weeks. He passes much of his time observing the goings-on of the local neighbourhood from his bedroom window. He even makes little notes about neighbours' movements. Their everyday activity is nothing out of the ordinary - chatting, gardening, jogging, and going off to work or the shops.

Until, that is, a toddler goes missing, and Matthew realises he may be one of the few people who can help shed some light on the disappearance. However, Matthew has Obsessive Compulsive Disorder, and everyday life has become increasingly challenging. Can he possibly play a major role in an investigation into the abduction of a child, perhaps without even leaving his house?

Peter Pan by JM Barrie



One magical night, a young boy called Peter Pan flies in through Wendy, John and Michael's bedroom window, only to be shooed away by their mother, Mrs Darling.

Peter accidentally leaves his shadow behind and when he sneaks back to retrieve it, he begs the Darling children to accompany him to Neverland and meet his friends, the Lost Boys. They readily agree and are swiftly spirited away from their London home by fairy dust and happy thoughts. Arriving in Neverland, they have some remarkable adventures, involving fairies, mermaids and a band of dastardly pirates, led by the fearsome Captain Hook.

The Dark is Rising by Susan Cooper



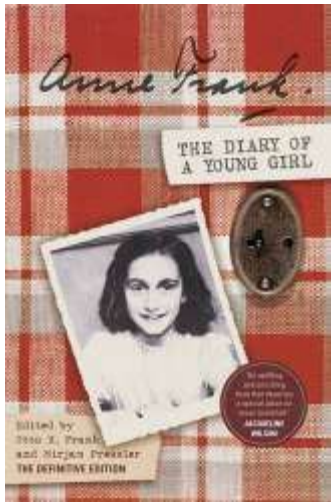
It's Midwinter's Eve, the day before Will's eleventh birthday. But there is an atmosphere of fear in the familiar countryside around him. This will be a birthday like no other. Will discovers that he has the power of the Old Ones, and that he must embark on a quest to vanquish the terrifyingly evil magic of the Dark.

The Seeing Stone by Kevin CrossleyHolland



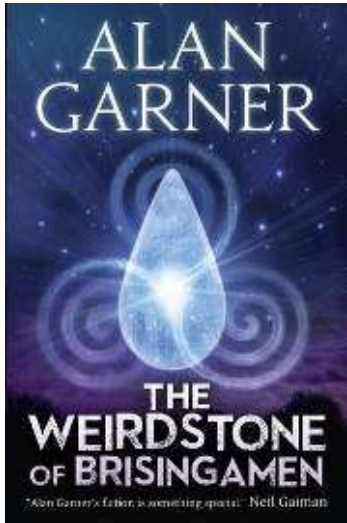
The year is 1199, the place the Welsh Marches. Young Arthur de Caldicot practices his tilting and archery, learns to be a dutiful page to his father, and waits impatiently to grow up and become a knight. One day his father's friend Merlin gives him a shining black stone. When Arthur starts to see stories in the stone, his life quickly becomes entwined with that of his namesake, the boy who pulls the sword from the stone.

The Diary of a Young Girl by Anne Frank



In 1942, with the Nazis occupying Holland, a thirteen-year-old Jewish girl and her family fled their home in Amsterdam and went into hiding. For the next two years, until their whereabouts were betrayed to the Gestapo, the Franks and another family lived cloistered in the “Secret Annexe” of an old office building. Cut off from the outside world, they faced hunger, boredom, the constant cruelties of living in confined quarters, and the ever-present threat of discovery and death. In her diary Anne Frank recorded vivid impressions of her experiences during this period. By turns thoughtful, moving, and surprisingly humorous, her account offers a fascinating commentary on human courage and frailty and a compelling self-portrait of a sensitive and spirited young woman whose promise was tragically cut short.

The Weirdstone of Brisingamen by Alan Garner



First published in 1960, Alan Garner's fantasy adventure follows Colin and Susan, who come to stay in a lonely farm in the eerie rural landscape of Cheshire's Alderley Edge. Pursued through the woods by mysterious creatures, they are unexpectedly rescued by a wizard, Cadellin Silverbrow, who takes them to safety through underground caves where he watches over the enchanted sleep of 140 knights, awaiting the time 'when England shall be in direst peril' when they will rise and fight again.

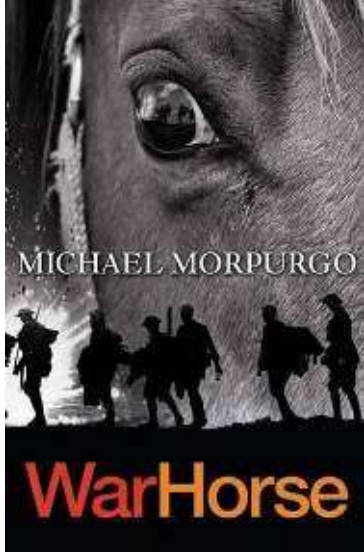
But Cadellin faces dangers of his own – he has lost the Weirdstone of Brisingamen, the stone which seals the magic protecting the knights, and the forces of evil are already beginning to close in. Can the children help Cadellin regain the Weirdstone of Brisingamen before it is too late?

A Wrinkle in Time by Madeleine L'Engle



Out of this wild night, a strange visitor comes to the Murry house and beckons Meg, her brother Charles Wallace, and their friend Calvin O'Keefe on a most dangerous and extraordinary adventure—one that will threaten their lives and our universe.

War Horse by Michael Morpurgo



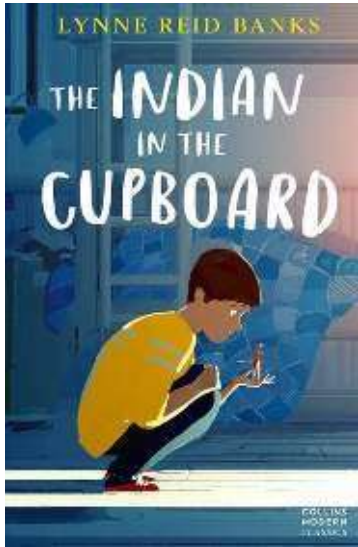
In 1914, Joey, a beautiful bay-red foal with a distinctive cross on his nose, is sold to the army and thrust into the midst of the war on the Western Front. With his officer, he charges toward the enemy, witnessing the horror of the battles in France. But even in the desolation of the trenches, Joey's courage touches the soldiers around him and he is able to find warmth and hope. But his heart aches for Albert, the farmer's son he left behind. Will he ever see his true master again?

Stone Cold by Robert Swindells



Homeless on the streets of London, 16 year old Link feels he has become an invisible outcast. When he meets streetwise Ginger, life becomes more bearable and he learns the tricks of survival. But when Ginger goes missing, Link feels a sickening sense of foreboding...

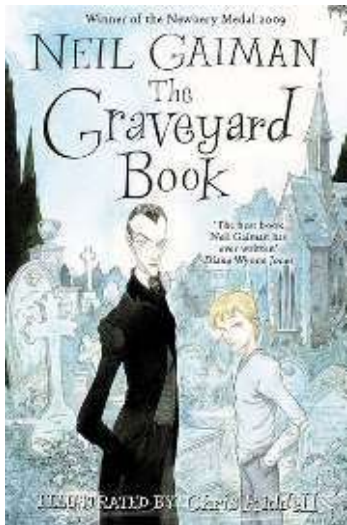
The Indian in the Cupboard by Lynne Reid Banks



At first, Omri is unimpressed with the plastic Indian toy he is given for his birthday. But when he puts it in his old cupboard and turns the key, something extraordinary happens that will change Omri's life for ever.

For Little Bear, the Iroquois Indian brave, comes to life...

The Graveyard Book by Neil Gaiman



Nobody Owens, known to his friends as Bod, is a perfectly normal boy. Well, he would be perfectly normal if he didn't live in a graveyard, being raised and educated by ghosts, with a solitary guardian who belongs to neither the world of the living nor the world of the dead.

There are dangers and adventures for Bod in the graveyard: the strange and terrible menace of the Sleer; a gravestone entrance to a desert that leads to the city of ghouls; friendship with a witch, and so much more.

But it is in the land of the living that real danger lurks, for it is there that the man Jack lives and he has already killed Bod's family.