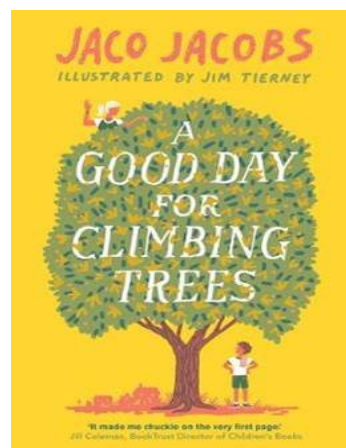


Book Suggestions for Year 7

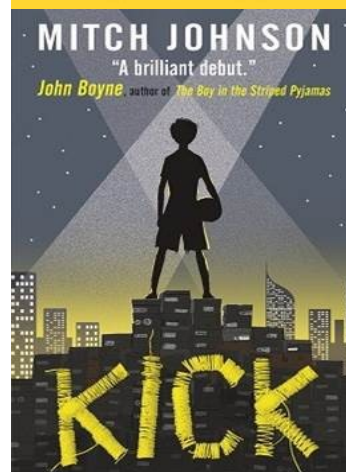
The book blurbs below are from BookTrust. All students must have a book to read at home, which can be one you own or from a local library or Hayesbrook's Learning Resource Centre. For more challenging titles or additional recommendations ask Miss Kindregan.

Realistic Fiction



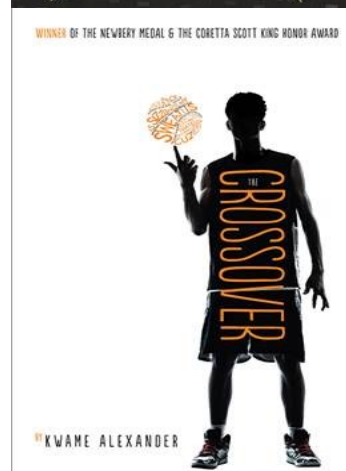
A Good Day for Climbing Trees by Jaco Jacobs

Thirteen-year-old Marnus is tired of being overshadowed. His older brother is a star athlete who gives girls kissing lessons, and his younger brother is a crafty entrepreneur who has tricked Marnus into doing the dishes all summer. It's while Marnus is bemoaning his predicament to himself that a girl named Leila shows up at their front door with a petition to save a tree. Soon Marnus finds himself at the centre of a protest as he and Leila camp out in the tree to prevent it from being cut down by developers laying a pipeline. Their protest inspires the town and its residents who come to visit them, and Marnus finally has the chance to be noticed.



Kick by Mitch Johnson

Budi works in a footwear factory in Indonesia, making the football boots he longs to wear but is unlikely to ever afford. His ambition is to be a famous football player for a team like Real Madrid, but Budi's reality is rather different. The conditions in the sweatshop are appalling, and instead of the luxurious life enjoyed by his idols, Budi has to go without food to manage on his tiny salary and live under constant threat of abuse and intimidation from the factory foreman. And when Budi attracts the notice of the dangerous Dragon, it seems less and less likely that he will ever achieve his dream.



The Crossover by Kwame Alexander

Josh and his twin brother JB are mad about basketball. They're stars of their school team and being on the court is everything. Although different from each other, the two brothers have always been as close as can be. But things are changing. JB's more interested in spending time with the new girl at school than with Josh, and as the fractures in their brotherhood widens, Josh just isn't sure where he fits anymore. Especially after he gets suspended from the team. Can he figure out how to fix things in time for the basketball championships final?



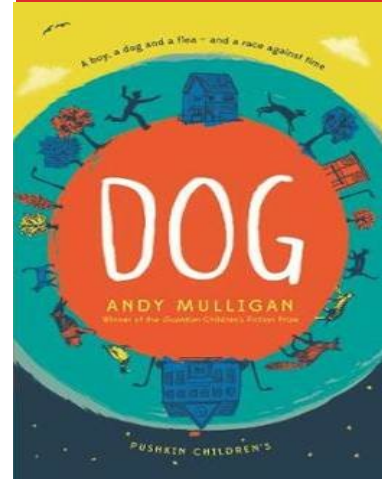
Max Kowalski Didn't Mean it by Susie Day

Max might tend to get into trouble now and again, but isn't that just what boys do? That's how his dad, Big Pete, sees it – and Max is just a smaller version of him, after all. Yet when Big Pete does one too many not-quite-legal jobs for Nice Jackie, he leaves Max in charge of looking after his three sisters. Trying to cope with feeding, clothing and reassuring his sisters is hard, though, especially when Dad hasn't said how long he'll be gone. So when Max finds a key to a remote Welsh cottage belonging to his friend's family, he makes a plan.



Pig-Heart Boy by Malorie Blackman

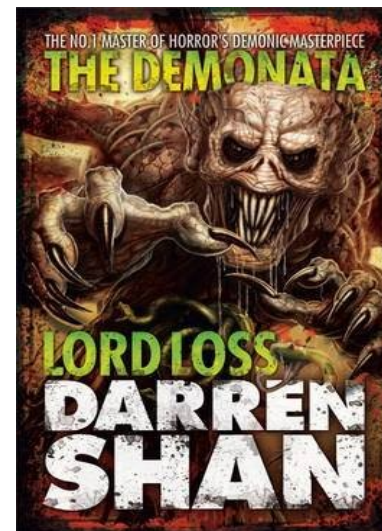
Cameron desperately needs a new heart when he is offered the opportunity to take part in a radical and controversial experiment involving the transplant of a pig's heart. While Cameron soon comes to terms with the idea, he finds the world around him less accepting.



Dog by Andy Mulligan

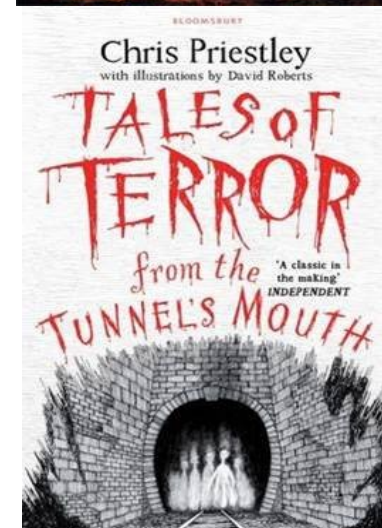
This is the story of a dog. We first meet him when he is just 11 weeks old and from the very start, his circumstances make him a very insecure puppy. As the last in his litter to be taken, and in the end given away because nobody chose to buy him, he's unwanted - or at least that's what a sinister talking spider tells him. This spider travels along with the dog to his new home with 12-year-old Tom, who ends up calling his new puppy Spider due to his long legs. Tom is going through a tough time at home with his parents separating and some really horrible bullying at school. When Spider and Tom get separated, things get much more challenging.

Horror



Lord Loss by Darren Shan

Grubbs Grady thinks he's having a bad day when he's caught smoking and sent home from school. Very soon however, he learns that this is the least of his worries. On opening his bedroom door, Grubbs finds not the bedroom but Hell and the dead bodies of his father, mother and younger sister, all murdered by Lord Loss and his demons. From here, life is never the same but Grubbs finds that there is magic that can fight and defeat the demons, if not Lord Loss himself.



Tales of Terror from the Tunnel's Mouth by Chris Priestley

Priestley's writing and Roberts' spooky illustrations perfectly create a late nineteenth / early twentieth-century setting, in which children rebel against their uncaring or dictatorial parents, but suffer ghastly supernatural punishments for their own cruel or thoughtless behaviour. The nine tales are contained within an other tale, each as delightfully horrible as the next, and perfect for dark winter nights, to be read out loud or to oneself.

Fantasy



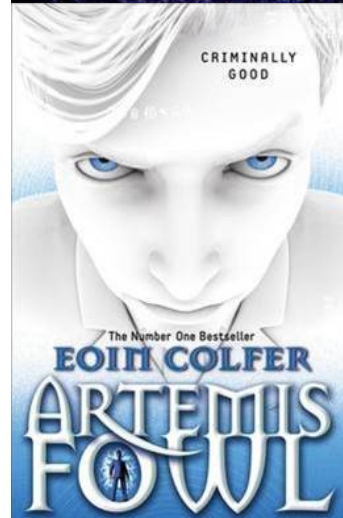
The House with Chicken Legs by Sophie Anderson

Every night is party night at Marinka's house. There's food, drink, music and lively conversation... But all the guests are dead. Marinka's grandmother is a Yaga, someone who guides the recently dead through The Gate so they can make their way back to the stars they came from. Marinka is expected to follow in her grandmother's footsteps but she is desperate for a normal life, where she can make friends with the living. But can she really change her destiny or is her fate predetermined and unalterable?



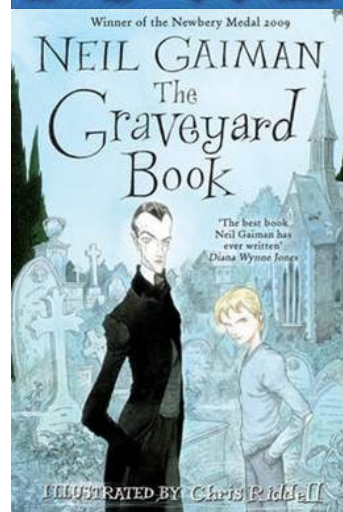
The Wizards of Once by Cressida Cowell

Wish is a girl from a warrior tribe and Xar is a boy from a wizard tribe, living in a world loosely based on Ancient Britain at the beginning of the Iron Age. It's a time of real magic: magic that is despised by the warrior tribe, whose very fierce leader (Wish's mother Queen Sychorax) has sworn to remove from the world. But Wish has got her hands on a secret magical object that she'll do anything to hide (and Xar will do anything to get his hands on). *The Wizards of Once* is the thrilling story of what happens when Wish and Xar meet.



Artemis Fowl by Eoin Colfer

Twelve-year-old criminal mastermind, Artemis Fowl, hatches an ingenious plot to steal all the gold in fairy land. Although a little dubious about the plan - indeed not even quite believing in the existence of fairies - his trusty bodyguard and companion, Butler, is on hand to help. However, they have not reckoned on Captain Holly Short, who as first female officer in the Lower Elements Police Reconnaissance unit, or LEPrecon, has much to prove. When she is kidnapped by Artemis, she is determined to stand her ground and protect the fairy secrets.



The Graveyard Book by Neil Gaiman

After his family are killed, Bod is brought up in a graveyard by ghosts – an array of century-spanning characters who care for him, impart wisdom and even teach body-fading skills. But Bod sometimes goes beyond the graveyard into the world of the living – and here his life is under threat from the sinister man Jack, who has pursued him since he was a baby.



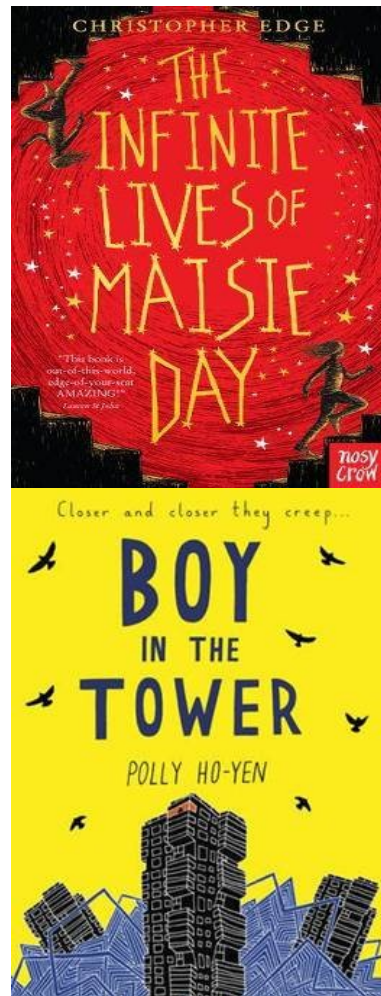
The Spook's Apprentice by Joseph Delaney

The Spook's Apprentice is a fantasy book set in the north of England where Thomas Ward, the seventh son of a seventh son, must prove himself capable of facing ghosts and witches if he is to take on the mantle of The Spook, the people who keep the county safe from the darkness. But the role is as unpopular as it is necessary and Tom has to decide whether he wants to leave his family for a life of danger and isolation.

Percy Jackson and the Lightning Thief by Rick Riordan

In this leftfield comic fantasy novel, 12-year-old Percy Jackson discovers that the Greek gods of Olympus are alive and living in modern-day New York, and that his true father is Poseidon, the Greek god of the sea. At Half Blood Hill, a summer camp dedicated to training demigods, Percy learns that his fate is to undertake a dangerous quest across the United States to retrieve Zeus' stolen lightning bolt and avert a War of the Gods. Along the way Percy must face a host of mythological enemies determined to get in his way.

Science Fiction



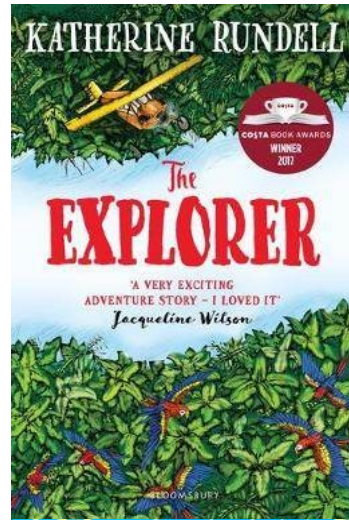
The Infinite Lives of Maisie Day by Christopher Edge

Maisie is no ordinary 10-year-old: she passed her maths GCSE at age six and is now studying for a degree. For her tenth birthday, she's hoping for some essential ingredients to help her build a nuclear reactor. Yet a horrified Maisie finds that her family have disappeared - and outside her house, a dense blackness has appeared which she has no explanation for. How will she find her parents and her sister and bring them back home - and what does all this have to do with her experiment?

The Boy in the Tower by Polly Ho-Yen

From the seventeenth floor of the tower block where he lives with his mother, Ade watches as the buildings fall around him. The Bluchers - a strange and terrible kind of plant - are taking over the city, and everyone is being forced to evacuate, but his mother is refusing to leave her room. And so Ade watches alone as the city slowly empties, and the Bluchers creep ever closer.

Action/Adventure



The Explorer by Katherine Rundell

Fred, Con, Lila and little Max's plane is on the way to Manaus when it falls out of the sky. Now, lost in the Amazon rainforest, they must figure out the basics of survival: water, shelter, food. Do they wait for rescue, or find a way to rescue themselves? As they get bolder and explore further afield, they see more traces of another human inhabitant, too – and then they find the map. Who was here before and where will the map take them?



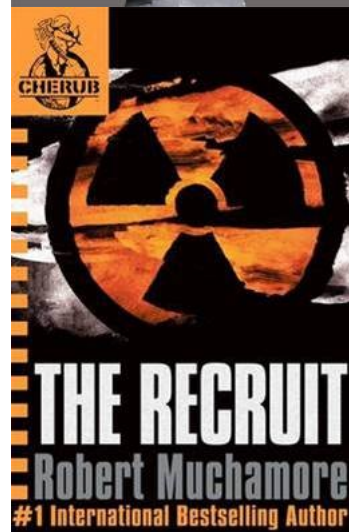
The London Eye Mystery by Siobhan Dowd

Ted likes the weather, he also likes statistics and routine but his life is thrown into disarray when his Aunt Gloria and cousin Salim arrive, like a hurricane, to stay in London en-route to a new life in New York. Ted and his older sister Kat arrange to take Salim on the London Eye but although they watch him go up in a pod, he never comes down again. Salim is missing. Ted's analytical mind becomes an asset as he and Kat piece together the information surrounding their cousin's disappearance and begin to unravel the mystery.



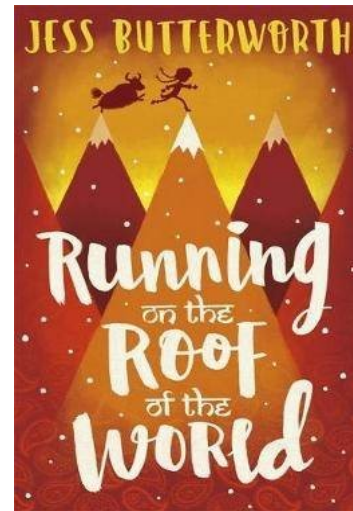
Silverfin by Charlie Higson

Meet Bond. James Bond. But not as you will have seen him before... James is a recently orphaned boy starting his first term at Eton. He is popular and adept at school but his only stumbling block is the bully George Hellebore, son of the boorish Lord Hellebore. When James goes to stay in rural Scotland with his Aunt and Uncle, he befriends 'Red' Kelly, who is in Scotland to investigate the mysterious disappearance of his young cousin, last seen fishing in Lord Hellebore's nearby estate. James sets out on a path of investigation which soon leads him to Hellebore's castle and the terrifying experiments happening within...



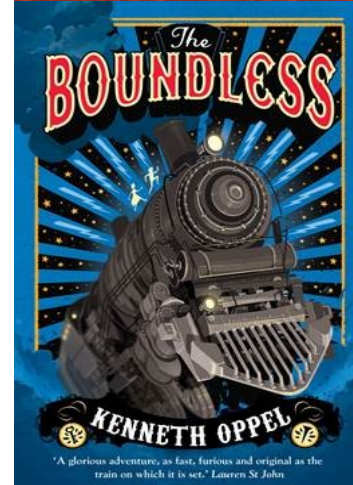
The Recruit by Robert Muchamore

James Choke comes from a dysfunctional family, and is often in trouble at school. When his mother dies, James is sent to a children's home, but here he is recruited into the ranks of CHERUB - a secret organisation established during World War II, which trains children between ten and seventeen as spies. CHERUB agents live in the real world, slipping under the adult radar and collecting information that sends criminals and terrorists to jail - and for official purposes, these children do not exist.



Running on the Roof of the World by Jess Butterworth

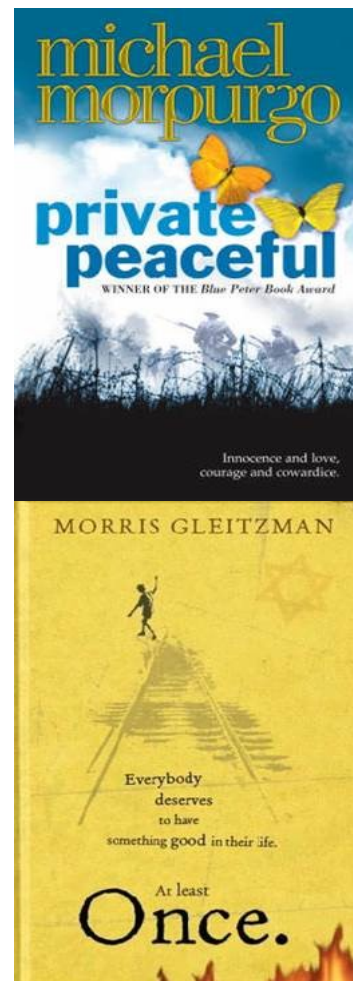
Tash and her best friend Sam have grown up used to following the rules in occupied Tibet. But when a man sets himself on fire as an act of protest, Tash barely escapes after her house is raided and her parents are arrested. She, Sam and their two yaks set out on a dangerous journey across the Himalayas to reach India and the Dalai Lama, who she hopes will be able to save her parents.



The Boundless by Kenneth Oppel

Will is on the journey of a lifetime as he accompanies his father on an epic journey across the vast, 19th-century Canadian countryside. Travelling on a gigantic and stunning train, The Boundless, Will soon learns that, as well as hundreds of passengers and treasures beyond belief, the train has ever-more exciting and sometimes dangerous things to discover. When he witnesses a brutal murder, it is up to Will to save the train. Racing through the endless carriages and aided by his escape artist friend Maren and the amazing circus ringmaster Mr Dorian, Will experiences the adventure of a lifetime. Though, with dastardly murderers not far behind, that lifetime might not last long.

Historical Fiction



Private Peaceful by Michael Morpurgo

Set during World War I, *Private Peaceful* charts eight hours in the life of Tommo, a young soldier at the Front, as he looks back over the formative events of his life: his father's early death, his relationship with his loving mother and brothers, Big Joe and Charlie, and their beloved schoolfriend Molly – all set among an evocative and beautifully realised rural landscape.

Once by Morris Gleitzman

Felix has lived in a Catholic orphanage for over three years but always hopes that his Jewish bookseller parents to come for him. Alarmed by the sight of what he assumes are official 'librarians' burning Jewish books in the orphanage, he sets off in search of his parents to warn them of the danger. On his travels Felix uses his natural optimism and storytelling gift to explain away the horrific events he witnesses in Nazi-occupied Poland. His stories bring hope to the children of a ghetto and ultimately comfort to them on their final train journey.