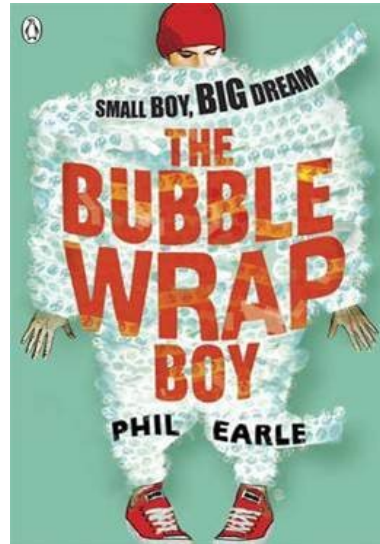


Book Suggestions for Year 8

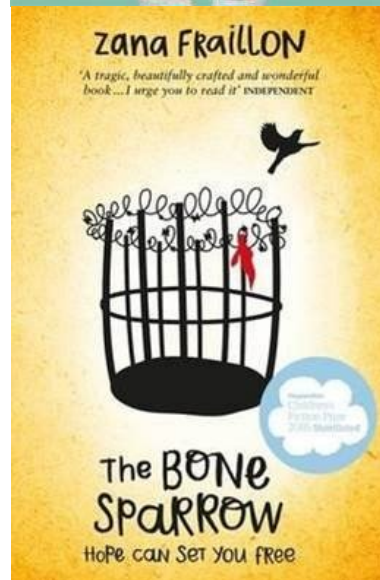
The book blurbs below are from BookTrust. All students must have a book to read at home, which can be one you own or from a local library or Hayesbrook's Learning Resource Centre. For additional recommendations ask Miss Kindregan.

Realistic Fiction



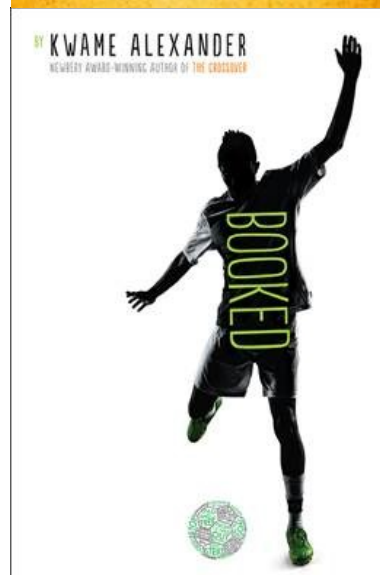
The Bubble Wrap Boy by Phil Earle

Charlie is teased at school and harassed at home by his over protective Mum. But he knows that if he can only discover that one special thing that he's good at, he will no longer feel like a laughing stock. While out doing his deliveries one day, Charlie spots a kid skateboarding and decides he wants to give it a try. However, things are never that simple and when his Mum finds out about his secret hobby, she is not very happy.



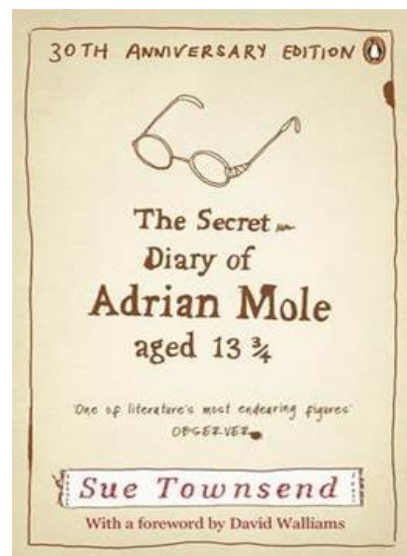
The Bone Sparrow by Zana Fraillon

Born in a refugee camp, Subhi has never seen the outside world. At night, he dreams that the sea finds its way to his tent, bringing with it unusual treasures. And one day it brings him Jimmie: an illiterate young girl who lives near the refugee camp. *The Bone Sparrow* is a beautiful, heartbreaking, hopeful and deeply moving novel that explores a tragic and relevant topic with incredible skill. Fraillon doesn't shy away from showing the bleakness of the refugee camp, but the novel is anything but. Subhi's irrepressible spirit brightens the camp, and the novel itself. Subhi and Jimmie's discovery of friendship is a joy to read, and Subhi's relationship with his older sister and closest friend in the camp are also wonderfully depicted.



Booked by Kwame Alexander

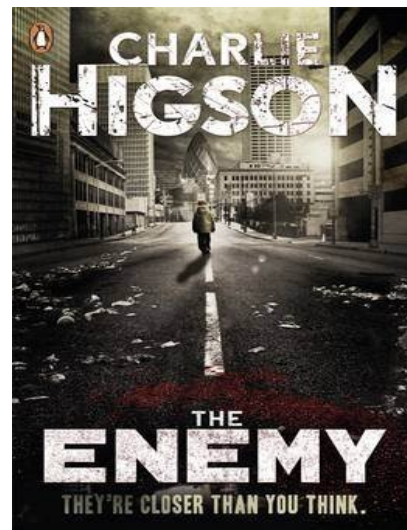
Twelve-year-old Nick is a star on the football pitch, but at home he's stuck with his linguistic professor father's "dictionary" that he has to read every day, and he hates it... until his prowess with words starts to win over the girl of his dreams. But it's not all smooth sailing as he has to deal with his parents' separation, school bullies and an injury that takes him off the pitch. Soon Nick is spending more time with books and his rapping school librarian Mr Mac as he makes his way through a rollercoaster year at school.



The Secret Diary of Adrian Mole aged 13 3/4 by Sue Townsend

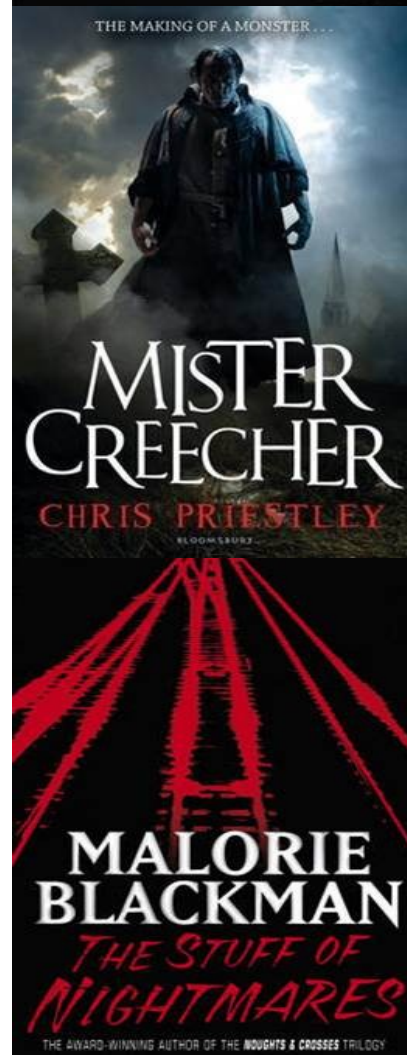
The first book in the Adrian Mole series, this was a publishing sensation back in the 1980s, but still has the power to entertain pre-teen, teen and even adult readers, and make them double up with laughter. Adrian Mole is an unforgettable character, but one that will resonate with many young people as they approach or reach puberty. Although aspects of the books have obviously dated a little, most of it remains refreshingly relevant. Through Adrian's diary, we hear him speak openly about spots, girls, school and a troubling family life: all the time, convinced that he is a genius and that nobody in the world can possibly understand him. As the series develops, the Adrian Mole books become increasingly satirical and poignant. However, they are all completely hilarious. A coming-of-age must-read.

Horror



The Enemy by Charlie Higson

When the sickness came, those under 14 were unaffected. The adults all became ill. The lucky ones died but many mutated into brainless, deformed monsters, oozing pus and blood and with a seemingly insatiable appetite - for children. Gangs of youngsters are holed up all over London, barely surviving and being picked off, one by one, by hungry, marauding grown-ups. Rumours of a safe place to hide initiate a dangerous trek across the city, past alleyways, deserted buildings and underground stations where the grown-ups lie in wait.



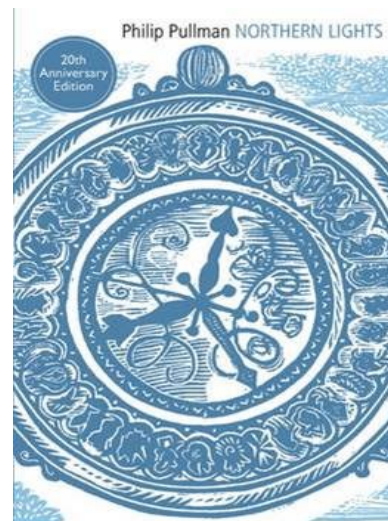
Mister Creecher by Chris Priestley

Billy is a street urchin, pickpocket and petty thief. Mister 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. Friendship, trust and betrayal combine to form a dangerous liaison in this moving and frightening new book from Chris Priestley.

Stuff of Nightmares by Malorie Blackman

Kyle and his mates are looking forward to a good day out on a school trip when their train is involved in an horrific crash and ends up dangling over a precipice. Kyle seems to be the only one conscious in the twisted and mangled wreckage, but how long can he survive when death is stalking the carriages looking for him? As he finds himself drawn into the nightmares of those around him, Kyle becomes aware that he is not the only one who knows about fear and terror, but will this give him the strength to face his demons or will he be consumed forever by the nightmares of his past?

Fantasy



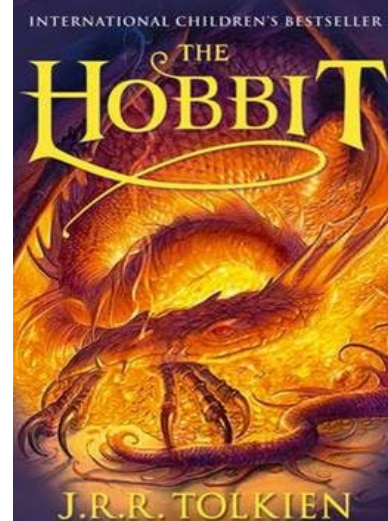
Northern Lights by Philip Pullman

Lyra and her animal daemon live a carefree life amongst the scholars of Jordan College, Oxford. Yet the destiny that awaits her will take her far from her home, to the magical frozen lands of the Arctic, amongst the witch-clans and ice-bears. Here, she will discover the truth about her identity, which will have immeasurable consequences reaching beyond her own world.



Skulduggery Pleasant by Derek Landy

Stephanie notices the stranger with the overcoat, sunglasses and frizzy hair at her uncle's funeral; the next time they meet, he's saving her life. Meet Skulduggery Pleasant, skeleton detective, fighting to save the world from wizard-gone-to-the-dark-side, Nefarian Serpine. Stephanie enters Skulduggery's shadowy netherworld and learns about the Ancients, the Faceless Ones, and the Sceptre they all seek. What's more, she'd choose life on the edge with wise-cracking Skulduggery to her old existence any day!



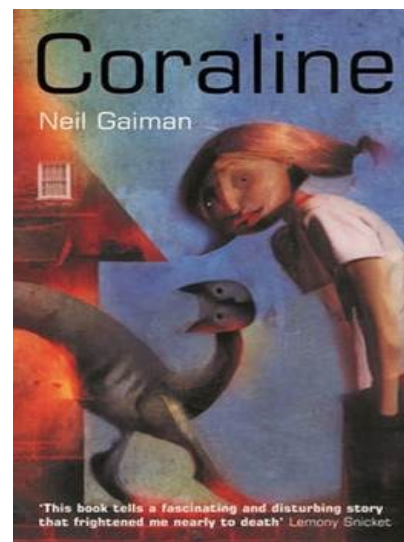
The Hobbit by J.R.R. Tolkien

This is the classic story of Bilbo Baggins - a home-loving hobbit who enjoys a quiet and contented life in his cosy hobbit hole and has no desire to travel afar. But then the wizard Gandalf and a band of dwarves arrive unexpectedly and enlist his services, and soon Bilbo finds himself part of an extraordinary expedition to raid the treasure-hoard of Smaug the Dragon - and on the way becomes the possessor of a very unusual ring. This well-loved fantasy has delighted both children and adults ever since its first publication in 1937. Full of magic, humour and adventure, it continues to offer plenty to entertain and engage today's young readers who are discovering it for the first time.



Raven's Gate by Anthony Horowitz

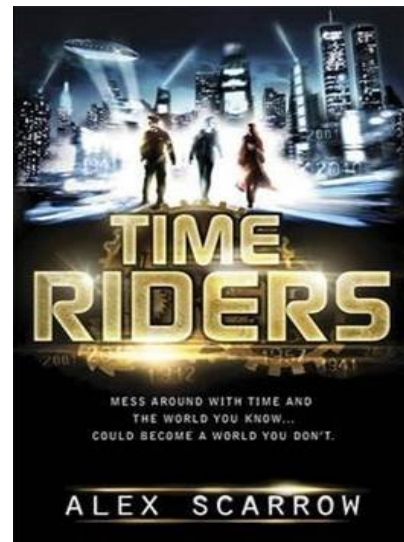
In trouble with the law and facing prison, Matt Freeman opts for an experimental fostering programme. But Lesser Malling is eerie, the villagers decidedly hostile and his new 'mother' emanates menace. Desperate to escape, Matt finds everyone he turns to ends up unpleasantly dead. Matt slowly uncovers a story of ancient dark powers held at bay by the mysterious Raven's Gate, the villagers hell-bent on releasing them. Only Matt, the four shadowy others he encounters in recurring dreams and the Nexus group can stop them.



Coraline by Neil Gaiman

One day Coraline unlocks a mysterious door that opens onto another world, a twisted parody of Coraline's own dimension. She discovers something very sinister about her 'other mother', who has trapped her real parents and plans to keep the family there forever. As Coraline tries to escape, she is faced with a fantastical series of macabre and bizarre situations. Excellently written, and superbly original, Coraline is well suited to those who enjoy reading about the weird and the wonderful with a dash of horror and humour. It is destined to become a classic modern fairytale.

Science Fiction



TimeRiders by Alex Scarrow

Maddy should have died in a plane crash. Liam should have died at sea when the Titanic sank. Sal should have died in a tragic fire. But a mysterious man whisked them away to safety. Maddy, Liam, and Sal quickly learn that time travel is no longer just a hope for the future; it is a dangerous reality. And they weren't just rescued from their terrible fates. . . they were recruited for the agency of TimeRiders created to protect the world from those seeking to alter the course of history for personal gain. By reliving the highly documented events in New York City on 9/11, they can closely monitor history for any deviations - large or small. When just such a change is detected, they are alerted that a threat is at hand unleashing the evil of the nazis to wreak havoc with earth's present and future. Can Maddy, Liam, and Sal fulfill their destinies as keepers of time to save the world from utter destruction?



Legend by Marie Lu

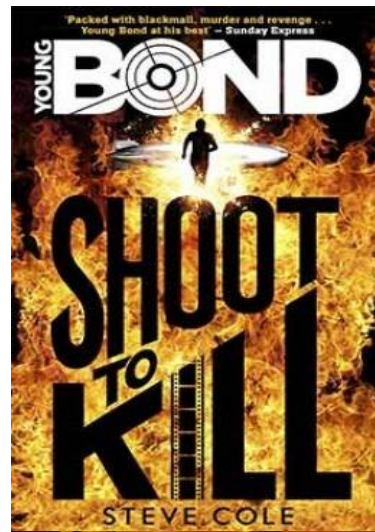
June and Day represent the two extremes of a dystopian, post-apocalyptic society in North America. One is privileged, a gifted soldier destined for greatness in the ruling military hierarchy. The other is disadvantaged, the most wanted criminal in the Republic fighting for the survival of his family. Both are highly intelligent and fiercely driven. A chance meeting when June is undercover looking for her brother's killer leads to an irresistible and unexpected alliance and the exposure of the shocking truth about how the military really keeps control.



Railhead by Philip Reeve

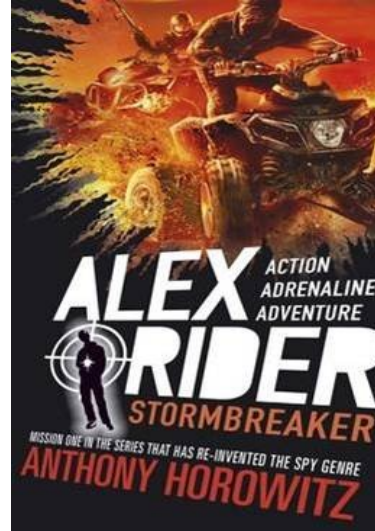
Zen Starling is a petty thief, hopping on and off the sentient trains that speed across the galaxy, hoping he won't get caught by a drone or one of the Guardians. When he is approached by the mysterious Raven to infiltrate the Emperor's train, he jumps at the chance of adventure, crossing the Great Network and dodging danger at every turn. But, in his thirst for excitement, does Zen really understand what he's getting into?

Action/Adventure



Shoot to Kill by Steve Cole

Young James Bond finds himself on another adventure that sees him flying on an airship from England to Los Angeles. With new-found friends Hugo, Boody and Dan, James discovers he has accidentally become involved in a murderous blackmail plot around a film reel. Mixing with the glamorous big shots of the Hollywood film industry, they find themselves in danger time and time again as they try to solve the mystery of the film reel.



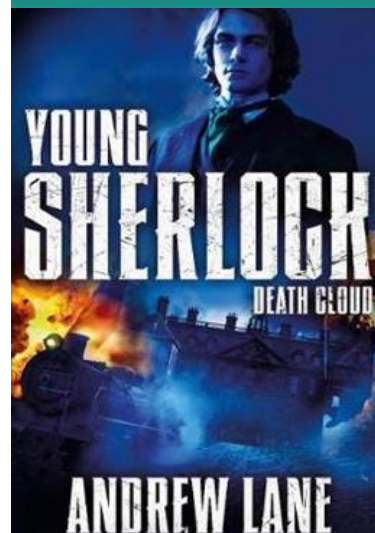
Stormbreaker by Anthony Horowitz

Fourteen-year-old Alex Rider finds his life turned upside down on discovering that his late uncle wasn't a mild-mannered banker, but instead a field agent for MI6. Soon, Alex himself is dragged into the world of espionage and intrigue.



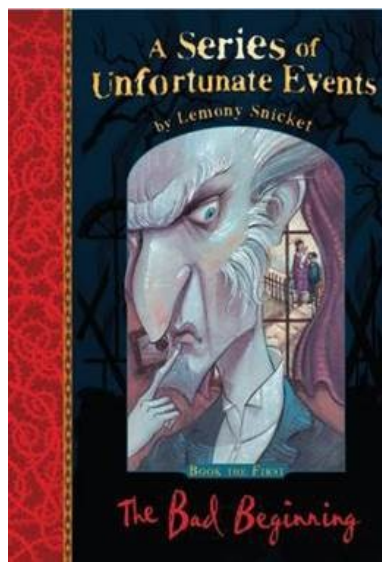
Flush by Carl Hiaasen

Noah's dad can be very impulsive and when he finds out someone is illegally dumping sewage in the sea, spoiling the beaches and endangering the wildlife, he sinks the boat responsible. With their Dad in prison, it is up to Noah and little sister Abbey to put together a plan to clear his name and stop the dumping. Noah's plan proves to be both difficult and dangerous, so it's a relief to have the help of some unusual and mysterious allies. This is an engaging and light-hearted thriller about issues that matter - justice, family and the environment. The Paine family are well-drawn and likeable, the pace easy and flowing and the villains not quite as wicked as we suspected.



Young Sherlock: Death Cloud by Andrew Lane

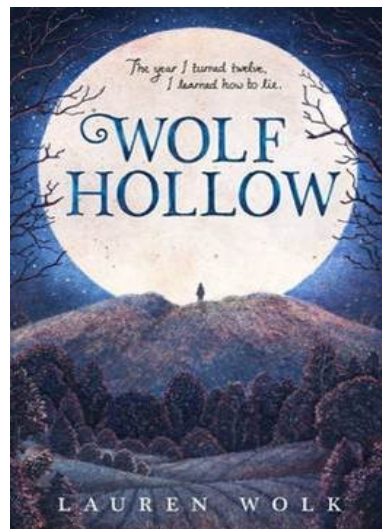
14-year-old Sherlock is at boarding school, and like most of his fellow pupils, is looking forward to returning home for the summer holidays. He is dismayed then to find out that instead of going back to his parents in London he will have to stay with his strange uncle and aunt in their huge house in Hampshire. However, it isn't long before the discovery of two dead bodies covered in pustules, and a new friendship with local boy Matty Arnatt lead Sherlock on a dangerous adventure that put his skills of observation and deduction to the test.



The Bad Beginning by Lemony Snicket

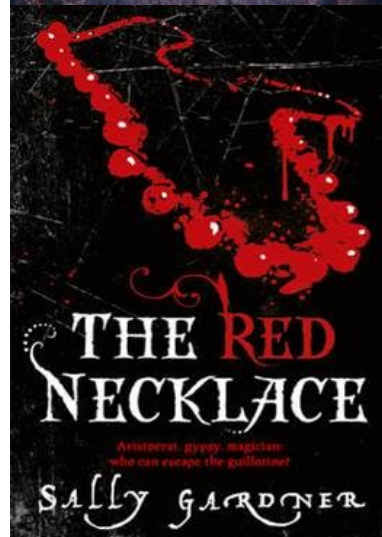
The comically dark tale centres around three children, Violet, Klaus and baby Sunny, whose parents are killed in a fire which also destroys their home - a tragic event which sets the tone for the rest of the book. Sent to live with Count Olaf, a distant relative, their unsettled lives take a turn for the worse. Count Olaf treats the children like slaves, ordering them to cook, clean, fetch and carry for him and forcing them to share a single, filthy bedroom, with only one bed. When Violet turns 18, she is set to inherit the family fortune and it soon becomes clear that Count Olaf is determined to get his hands on the inheritance, by whatever dastardly means necessary. It is up to the three plucky children to outwit the Count, but as all other adults seem to have been taken in by the evil man, this proves to be an extremely difficult task. Those anticipating a pleasant, happy read should avoid this series, for as Lemony Snicket states in the opening sentence, 'If you are interested in stories with happy endings, you would be better off reading some other book.'

Historical Fiction



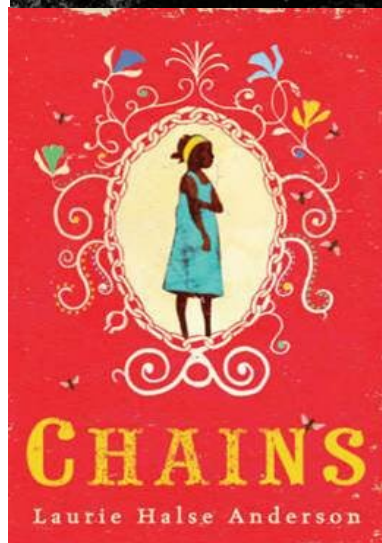
Wolf Hollow by Lauren Wolk

Annabelle is a target for school bully Betty for no good reason. When a mean trick turns sour, it begins a terrible chain of events. When Betty chooses the local loner as her scapegoat, Annabelle makes it her mission to prove his innocence. Wolk deals with heavy ideas with a light touch, and there is no unkind language or violence to upset younger readers mature enough to demand this sort of sensitive and thought-provoking story. It is not a new story, but it's a tale ever-timely. The post-war setting brings old problems into our more recent history, ready for a new generation of readers.



The Red Necklace by Sally Gardner

Set during the French Revolution, at the time of the Terror, Gardner's second novel incorporates magical elements into a swiftly moving adventure story of friendship, betrayal, greed and hardship. Yann, a boy of gypsy origin providing 'magic' in a Paris theatre, is unwittingly drawn into old feuds amongst the rich and powerful, and becomes involved in saving Sido, the daughter of a wastrel Marquis, from seduction by a mysterious and unprincipled Count. Gardner skillfully sets the scene, in which nothing is quite what it seems, extra-sensory abilities can be turned to many uses, and where good and evil, identity and destiny are not as clear cut as we might think. Historical atmosphere and evocative writing suffuse a gripping novel.



Chains by Laurie Halse Anderson

Set in New York during the American Revolution, Chains tells the story of Isabel and her sister Ruth, sold into slavery to the wealthy, Loyalist, Lockton family. In the name of freedom, the George Washington-supporting Patriots are fighting the British-supporting Loyalists, but Isabel is in search of a more personal freedom and cannot determine which faction is the most likely to help her. Mrs Lockton is devastatingly cruel to Isabel, and with little to rely on, Isabel becomes increasingly attached to Curzon, a slave who has set himself strongly in support of his own master's Patriot cause. A brilliantly told, exciting story, with a brave and dignified heroine, which reveals the complexities of this chapter of American history. The sequel is greatly anticipated.