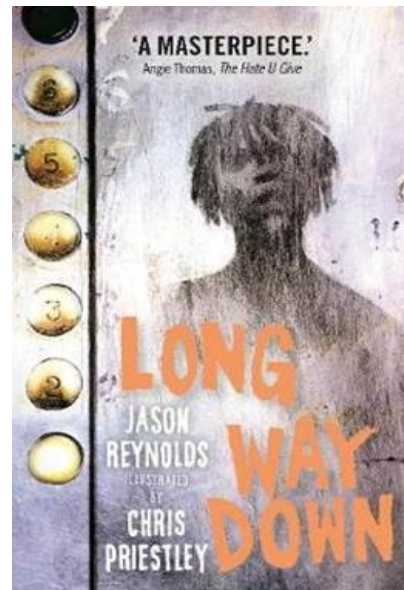


Book Suggestions for Year 9

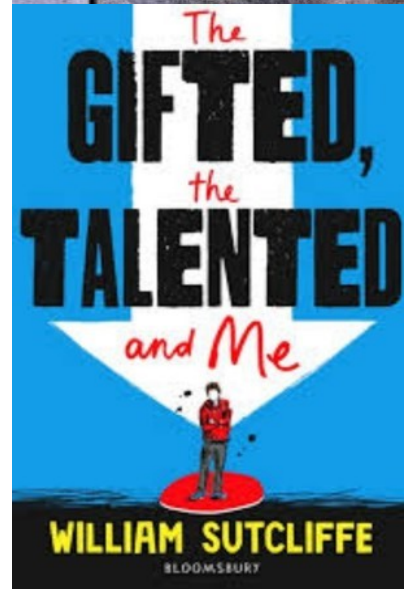
The book blurbs below are from BookTrust and Goodreads. All students must have a book to read at home, which can be one you own or from a local library or Hayesbrook's Learning Resource Centre. These titles are aimed at teenagers so some contain mature content. For additional recommendations ask Miss Kindregan.

Realistic Fiction



Long Way Down by Jason Reynolds

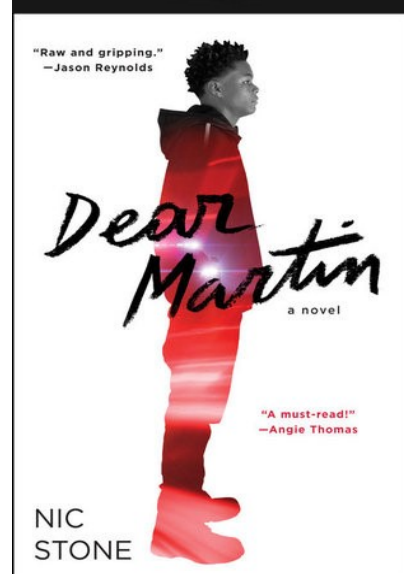
When Shawn, the beloved big brother of 15-year-old Will, is shot dead, Will is ready to follow "the rules" and get revenge. After finding his brother's gun, he gets in the lift from his home on the seventh floor with Shawn's gun—and so begins a surreal journey of discovery, guided by the ghosts of other dead people in Will's life. The entire action of the book takes place on that journey down to the ground floor...



The Gifted, The Talented and Me by William Sutcliffe

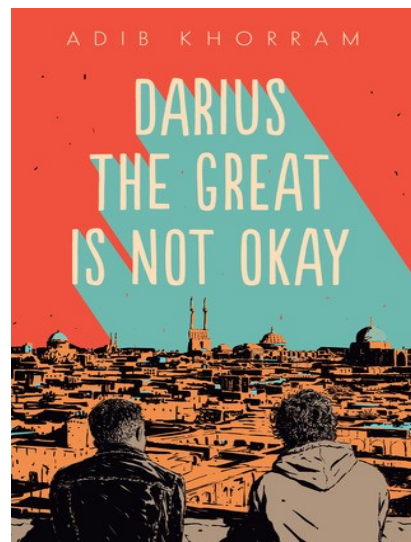
Fifteen-year-old Sam isn't special. He's not a famous vlogger, he's never gone viral, and he doesn't want to be the Next Big Thing. What he likes most is chatting to his friends and having a bit of a kick about.

None of which was a problem until Dad got rich and Mum made the whole family move to London. Now Sam is being made to go to the North London Academy for the Gifted and Talented, where every student is too busy planning Hollywood domination or starting alt-metal psychedelica crossover bands or making clothes out of bathmats to give someone as normal as him the time of day. Can Sam navigate his way through the weirdness and find a way to be himself?



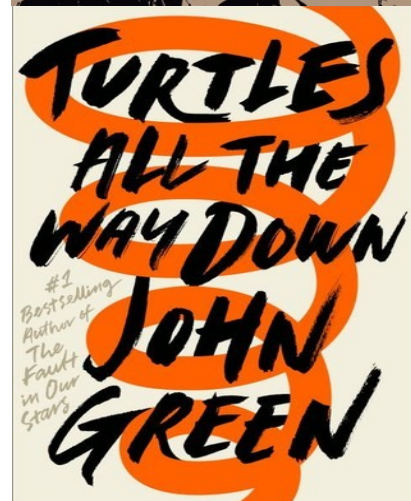
Dear Martin by Nic Stone

Justyce McAllister is top of his class and set for the Ivy League—but none of that matters to the police officer who just put him in handcuffs. And despite leaving his rough neighborhood behind, he can't escape the scorn of his former peers or the ridicule of his new classmates. Justyce looks to the teachings of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. for answers. But do they hold up anymore? He starts a journal to Dr. King to find out.



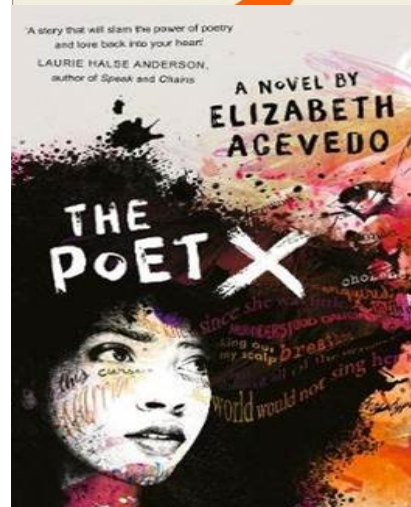
Darius the Great is Not Okay by Adib Khorram

Darius Kellner speaks better Klingon than Farsi, and he knows more about Hobbit social cues than Persian ones. He's about to take his first-ever trip to Iran, and it's pretty overwhelming--especially when he's also dealing with clinical depression, a disapproving dad, and a chronically anemic social life. In Iran, he gets to know his ailing but still formidable grandfather, his loving grandmother, and the rest of his mom's family for the first time. And he meets Sohrab, the boy next door who changes everything.



Turtles All The Way Down by John Green

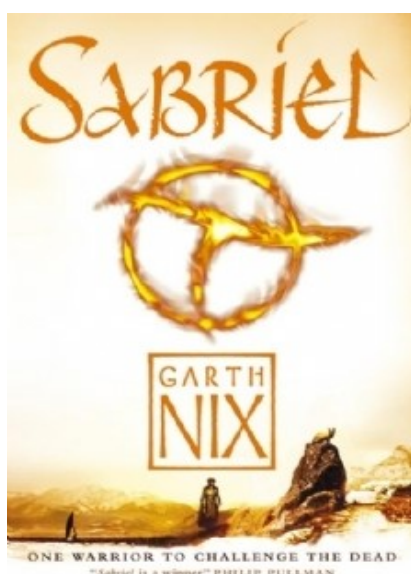
It all begins with a fugitive billionaire and the promise of a cash reward. *Turtles All the Way Down* is about lifelong friendship, the intimacy of an unexpected reunion, Star Wars fan fiction, and tuatara. But at its heart is Aza Holmes, a young woman navigating daily existence within the ever-tightening spiral of her own thoughts.



The Poet X by Elizabeth Acevedo

Xiomara, a fierce teenage girl of Dominican heritage, is starting to notice boys, but her strict Catholic parents have decided that there will be absolutely no contact with the opposite sex until marriage. Her twin brother, always the apple of their parents' eye, is also struggling with his own emergent attraction to another boy. Yet when Xiomara sits next to Aman in science class, she can't deny the attraction – and starts to question why she would want to. At the same time, a new teacher at school starts a slam poetry club, and Xiomara's notebook, filled with the poetry she is too shy to share with anyone, yearns to be shouted, sung, confessed.

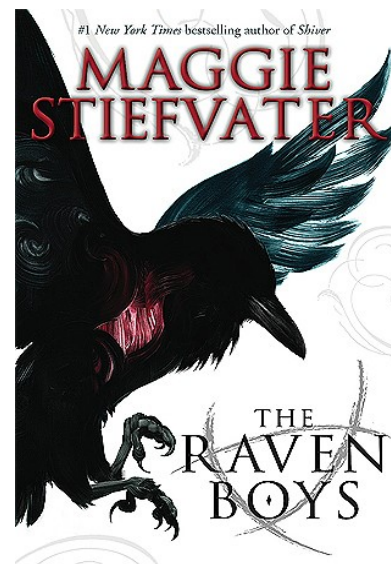
Fantasy



Sabriel by Garth Nix

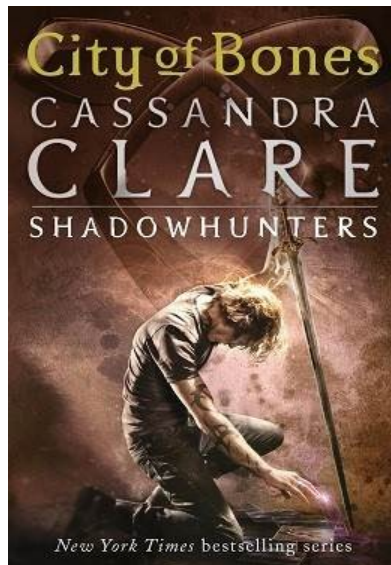
Sabriel is the daughter of the Mage Abhorsen. Ever since she was a tiny child, she has lived outside the Wall of the Old Kingdom--far away from the uncontrolled power of Free Magic, and away from the Dead who won't stay dead.

But now, her father is missing and Sabriel is called upon to cross into the world to find him, Leaving the safety of the school she has known as home, Sabriel embarks upon a quest fraught with supernatural dangers, with companions she is unsure of--for nothing is as it seems within the boundary of the Old Kingdom. There, she confronts an evil that threatens much more than her life, and comes face to face with her hidden destiny



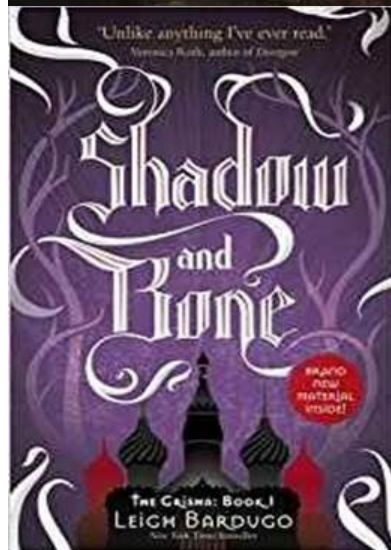
The Raven Boys by Maggie Stiefvater

Growing up in an oddball family of clairvoyants, 16-year-old Blue is used to taking the supernatural in her stride. But Blue is shaken on St Mark's Eve, when, following tradition, she goes to the freezing graveyard where the soon-to-be-dead will pass by. Usually it's just her clairvoyant mother who can see them, but this year, a boy emerges from the dark and falls at Blue's feet. It doesn't take Blue long to discover that his name is Gansey, and that he's a rich student from exclusive local private school Aligonby. Blue has always gone out of her way to avoid the spoiled, privileged Aligonby boys, known as the Raven Boys, but in spite of what she has seen, she finds herself drawn to the handsome, charismatic Gansey and his obsessive quest to discover the sleeping Owen Glendower, a Welsh King who disappeared in the early 15th century.



City of Bones by Cassandra Clare

An evening at a New York nightclub takes an unexpected turn for 15-year-old Clary when she witnesses what looks like a murder - but the victim's body has vanished into thin air. The next thing Clary knows, her mother has disappeared and a hideous monster is in her apartment. As she struggles to navigate a frightening new world in which werewolves roam the streets of China Town and vampires ride above the New York on flying motorbikes, Clary learns that she is one of the Shadowhunters - an ancient line of demon-hunters descended from angels. In dramatic circumstances she is thrown together with handsome young Shadowhunter Jace and his friends Isabelle and Alec, and together they set out to discover what has happened to Clary's mother, as well as to rescue the Shadowhunters' ancient and powerful Mortal Cup which has fallen into the wrong hands.



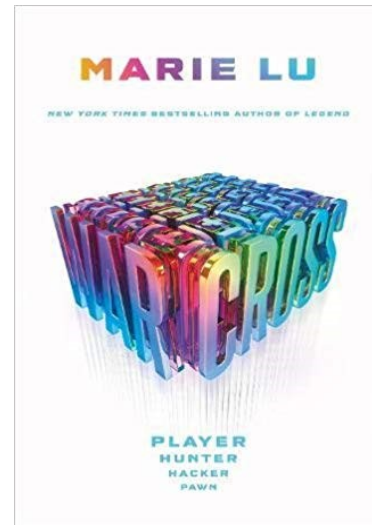
Shadow and Bone by Leigh Bardugo

The once great nation of Ravka, which is slowly being engulfed by the mysterious Shadow Fold, a swathe of impenetrable darkness. Orphan Alina lives a quiet life working as a trainee cartographer, until a dangerous journey through the Fold exposes her unique and remarkable powers, and transforms her life forever. Parted from her beloved childhood friend Mal, and thrust into the lavish, elegant and confusing world of the kingdom's magical elite, the Grisha, who are led by the powerful and charismatic Darkling, Alina struggles to understand and control her new abilities. Gradually, she realises that those around her believe that she may be the key to banishing the Shadow Fold for good, and setting Ravka free. But how can she unlock the full power of her gift - and what does the Darkling have planned for her?

Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children by Ransom Riggs

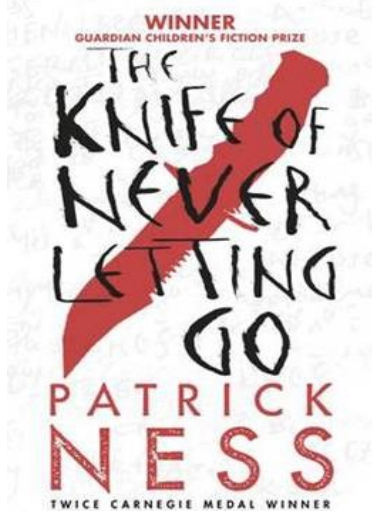
A mysterious island. An abandoned orphanage. A strange collection of very curious photographs. As our story opens, a horrific family tragedy sets sixteen-year-old Jacob journeying to a remote island off the coast of Wales, where he discovers the crumbling ruins of Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children. As Jacob explores its abandoned bedrooms and hallways, it becomes clear that the children were more than just peculiar. They may have been dangerous. They may have been quarantined on a deserted island for good reason. And somehow-impossible though it seems-they may still be alive.

Science Fiction



Warcross by Marie Lu

For the millions who log in every day, Warcross isn't just a game—it's a way of life. The obsession started ten years ago and its fan base now spans the globe, some eager to escape from reality and others hoping to make a profit. Struggling to make ends meet, teenage hacker Emika Chen works as a bounty hunter, tracking down players who bet on the game illegally. But the bounty hunting world is a competitive one, and survival has not been easy. Needing to make some quick cash, Emika takes a risk and hacks into the opening game of the international Warcross Championships—only to accidentally glitch herself into the action and become an overnight sensation.



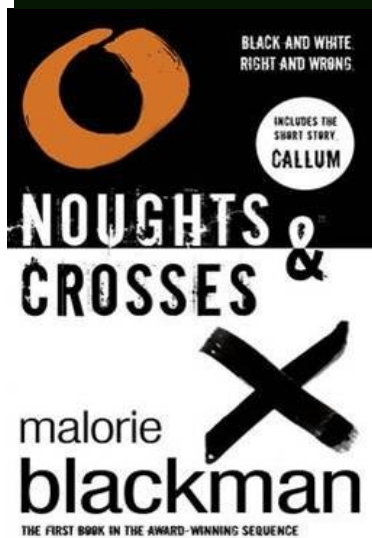
The Knife of Never Letting Go by Patrick Ness

Winner of the 2008 Booktrust Teenage Prize, the story begins in a small town where women have been banished and only men remain. Due to a virus, everyone can hear each other's thoughts, which they call 'Noise'. Todd Hewitt, the last boy in the town, is on the brink of manhood. Forced one day to flee through a nearby swamp, he stumbles upon a patch of silence and – surprisingly – the first girl he has ever seen. Despite their initial mistrust of each other, Todd and Viola team up to evade the men who are chasing him. As they flee he discovers much about himself, his family, about friendship and about prejudice.



Gone by Michael Grant

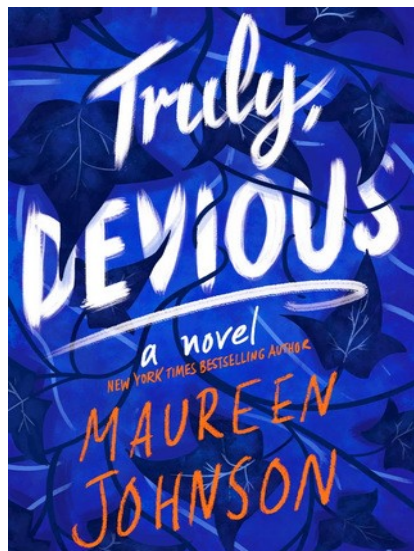
Fourteen year old Sam Templeton is having a completely normal day until his teacher disappears - poof! - in the middle of a class. He and his confused classmates soon discover that it isn't only their teacher who is gone - everyone over the age of fifteen has inexplicably disappeared from the small town of Perdido Beach, which has been isolated from the rest of the world by a mysterious forcefield. So what happens now? Sam and his friends Quinn, Edilio and Astrid attempt to restore order to the rapidly developing chaos and to work out what is happening to their town. But then a convoy of cars from the out-of-town school, Coates Academy appears, led by the charismatic and sinister Caine who quickly seizes power.



Noughts and Crosses by Malorie Blackman

In Malorie Blackman's groundbreaking novel, the population is divided into two: the white Noughts are second-class citizens, and the black Crosses are highly-revered and perceived as the superior race. 15-year-old Callum is a Nought, and his best friend, Sephy, as well as being a Cross, is also the daughter of one of the most influential politicians in the country. The story focuses on their relationship, which is frowned upon by society, and explores the discrimination they encounter at every turn. By reversing traditional racial stereotypes and presenting the White population as the oppressed race, Blackman has cleverly shown racial prejudice from a different perspective. As well as being a compelling tale of love and friendship, this is an outstanding and thought-provoking exploration of the futility of prejudice. A contemporary classic.

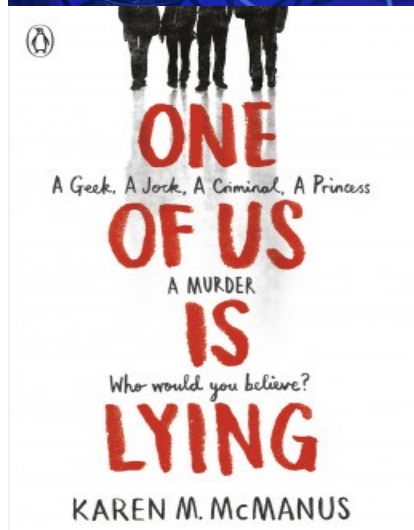
Mystery



Truly Devious by Maureen Johnson

Ellingham Academy is a famous private school in Vermont for the brightest thinkers, inventors, and artists. It was founded by Albert Ellingham, an early twentieth century tycoon, who wanted to make a wonderful place full of riddles, twisting pathways, and gardens. "A place" he said, "where learning is a game."

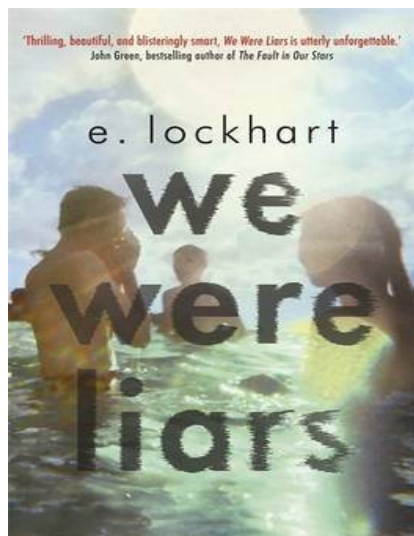
Shortly after the school opened, his wife and daughter were kidnapped. The only real clue was a mocking riddle listing methods of murder, signed with the frightening pseudonym, Truly Devious. It became one of the great unsolved crimes of American history.



One of Us is Lying by Karen M. McManus

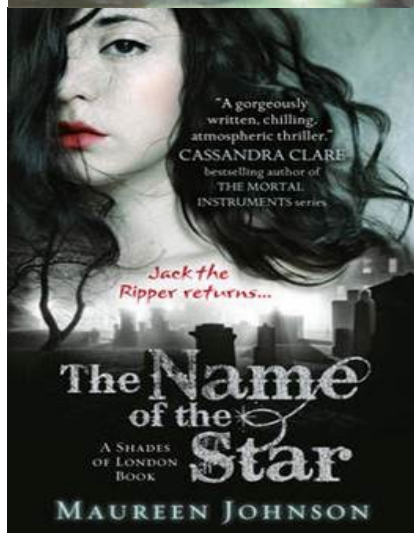
Yale hopeful Bronwyn has never publicly broken a rule. Sports star Cooper only knows what he's doing in the baseball diamond. Bad boy Nate is one misstep away from a life of crime. Prom queen Addy is holding together the cracks in her perfect life. And outsider Simon, creator of the notorious gossip app at Bayview High, won't ever talk about any of them again. He dies 24 hours before he could post their deepest secrets online. Investigators conclude it's no accident. All of them are suspects. Everyone has secrets, right?

What really matters is how far you'll go to protect them



We Were Liars by E. Lockhart

Seventeen-year-old Cady is one of the privileged, carefree, beautiful Sinclairs. She spends her summers on their luxurious private island on the coast of Massachusetts, where her family gather every year. Here she's spent many charmed summer vacations, long idyllic days by the ocean with her cousins Mirren and Johnny, and their friend Gat. But this summer, something is different...



The Name of the Star by Maureen Johnson

Louisiana teenager Rory is embarking on a new life at an East London boarding school. But even as she arrives at her new school for the first time, a terror is stalking the city streets. A series of brutal murders has broken out across London - crimes that mimic the infamous Jack the Ripper murders that took place more than a century ago.

As a fever of 'Rippermania' spreads across London, Rory finds herself unexpectedly entangled in these dark events when she alone sees the man who the police believe to be the prime suspect. But why didn't anyone else notice the sinister man - and is Rory herself about to become the next target?



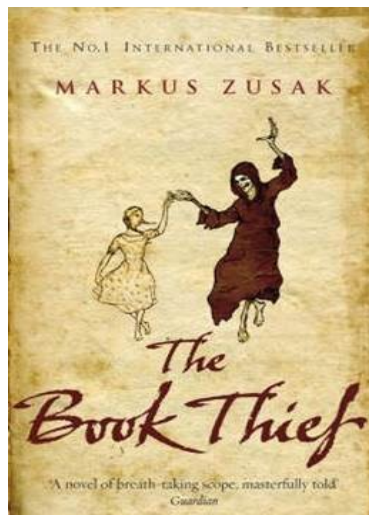
Orangeboy by Patrice Lawrence

Quiet, unassuming Marlon can't believe it when the hottest girl in school picks him as her date to the fair. It's too good to be true.

But when a mysterious tragedy strikes, Marlon is determined to reveal the chain that links him to the criminal underworld. He starts getting the wrong sort of attention, as investigations tangle him into a web of gangs.

Mystery, intrigue and a big cast of dangerous characters give this gritty thriller a sophisticated edge within the YA genre. It's a tightly woven plot with revenge at its core. Urban settings, street language and sensitively drawn situations make this a thoughtful and diverse read.

Historical Fiction

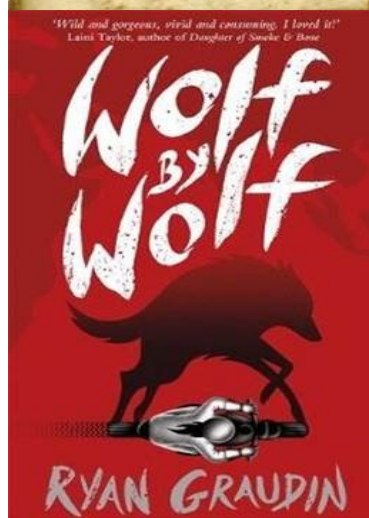


The Book Thief by Markus Zusak

HERE IS A SMALL FACT - YOU ARE GOING TO DIE. 1939. Nazi Germany. The country is holding its breath. Death has never been busier. Liesel, a nine-year-old girl, is living with a foster family on Himmel Street. Her parents have been taken away to a concentration camp. Liesel steals books. This is her story and the story of the inhabitants of her street when the bombs begin to fall.

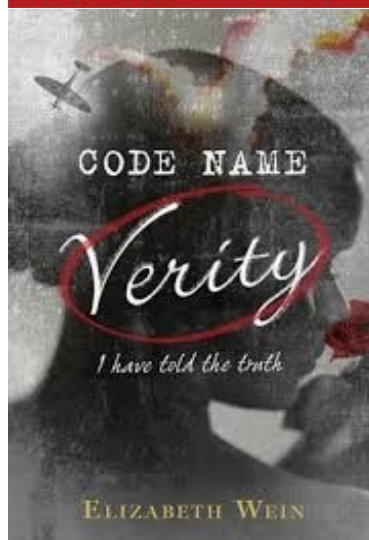
SOME IMPORTANT INFORMATION - THIS NOVEL IS NARRATED BY DEATH.

It's a small story, about: a girl, an accordionist, some fanatical Germans, a Jewish fist fighter, and quite a lot of thievery.



Wolf by Wolf by Ryan Graudin

It is 1956 and the Third Reich of Germania and Imperial Japan rule the world. To celebrate their victory in World War II, they host the Axis Tour, a motorcycle race across their continents, where the winner is awarded an audience with Adolf Hitler at the Victor's Ball. Death camp survivor Yael, who was subjected to cruel experimentation, is determined to use her shapeshifting ability to win the race and get close enough to Hitler to kill him. This is her only chance and she is playing a dangerous game. Can she fool everyone into thinking she is someone else entirely to achieve her goal?



Code Name Verity by Elizabeth Wein

Oct. 11th, 1943 - A British spy plane crashes in Nazi-occupied France. Its pilot and passenger are best friends. One of the girls has a chance at survival. The other has lost the game before it's barely begun.

When "Verity" is arrested by the Gestapo, she's sure she doesn't stand a chance. As a secret agent captured in enemy territory, she's living a spy's worst nightmare. Her Nazi interrogators give her a simple choice: reveal her mission or face a grisly execution.