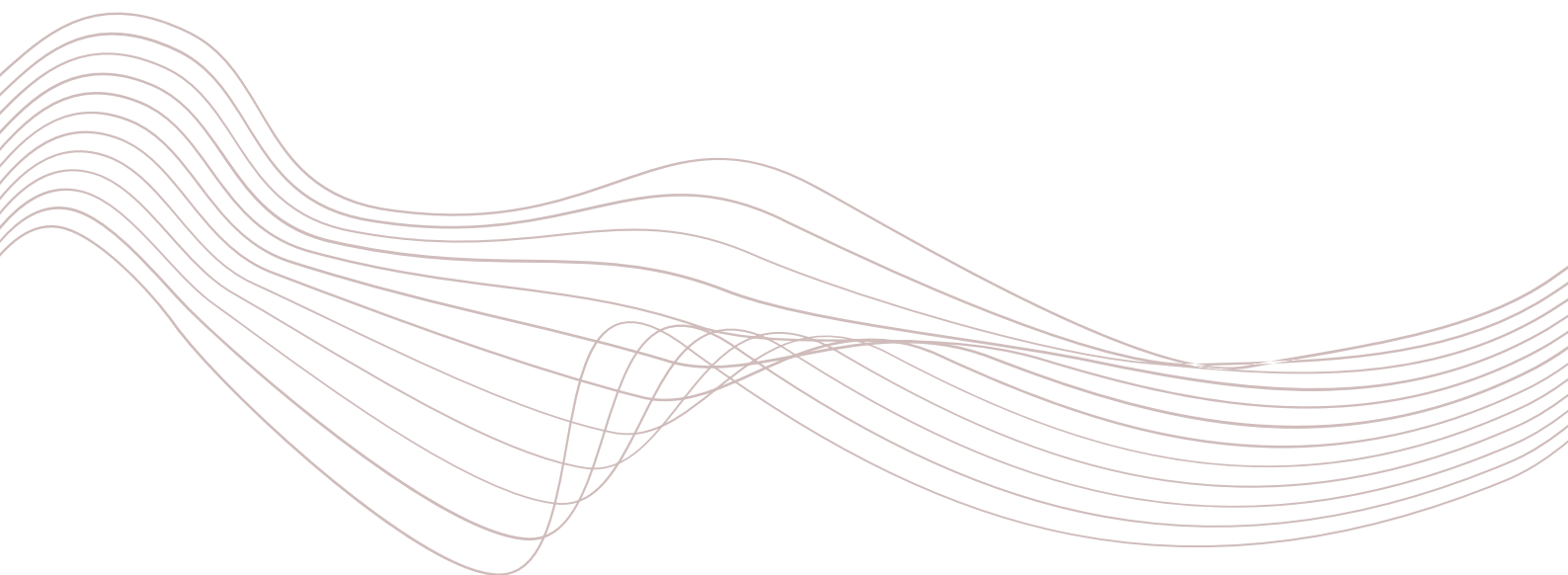
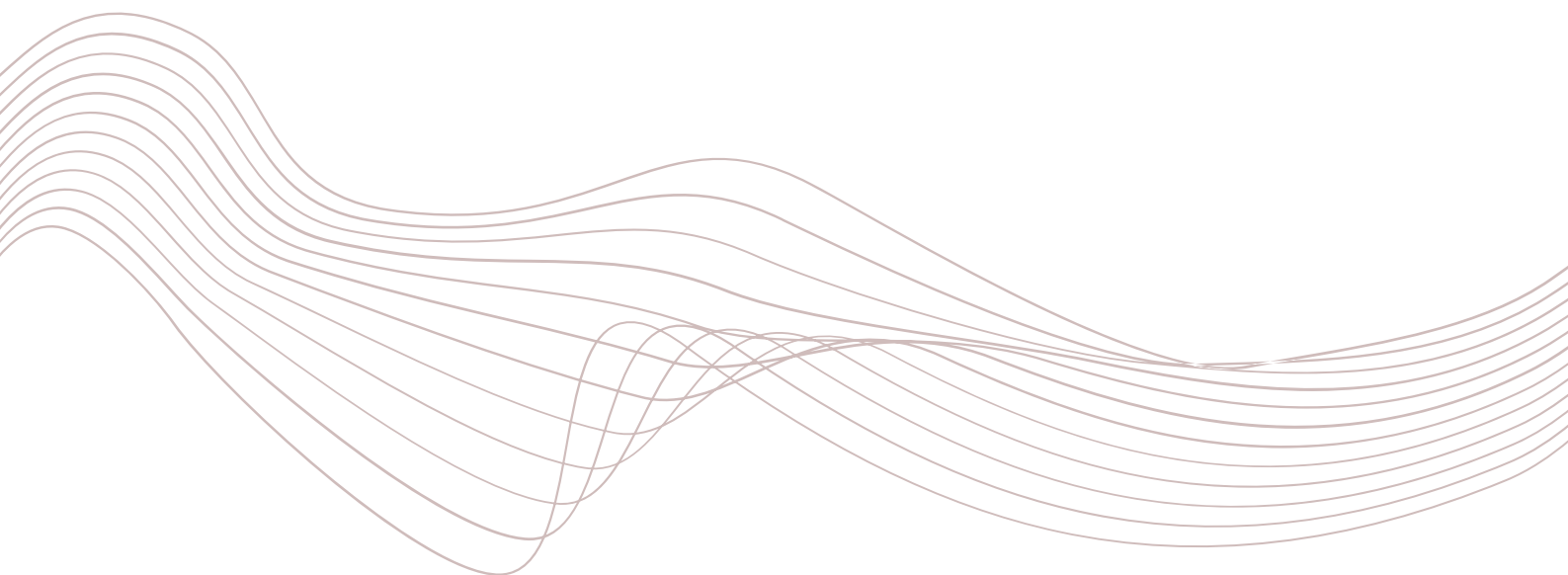




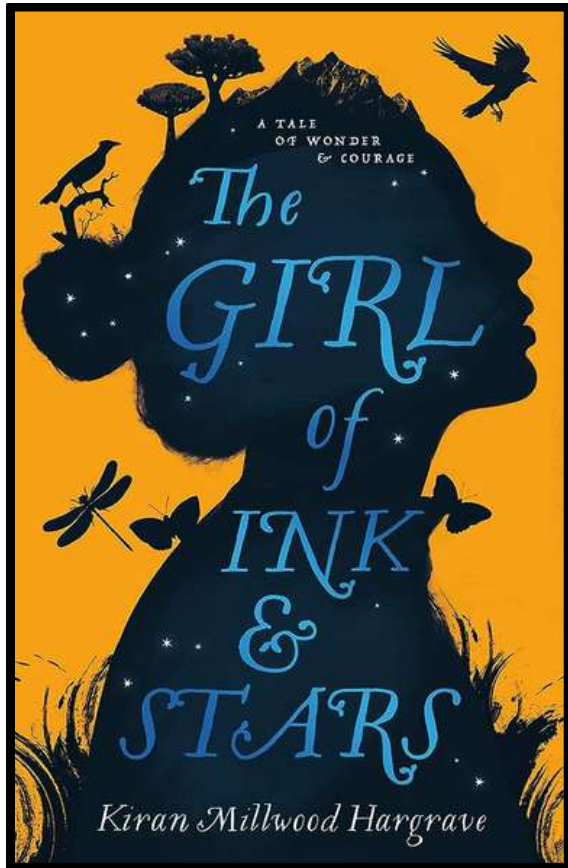
Rushcliffe Spencer
Academy

YEAR 8 RECOMMENDED BOOKS





'The Girl of Ink and Stars' by Kiran Millwood Hargrave



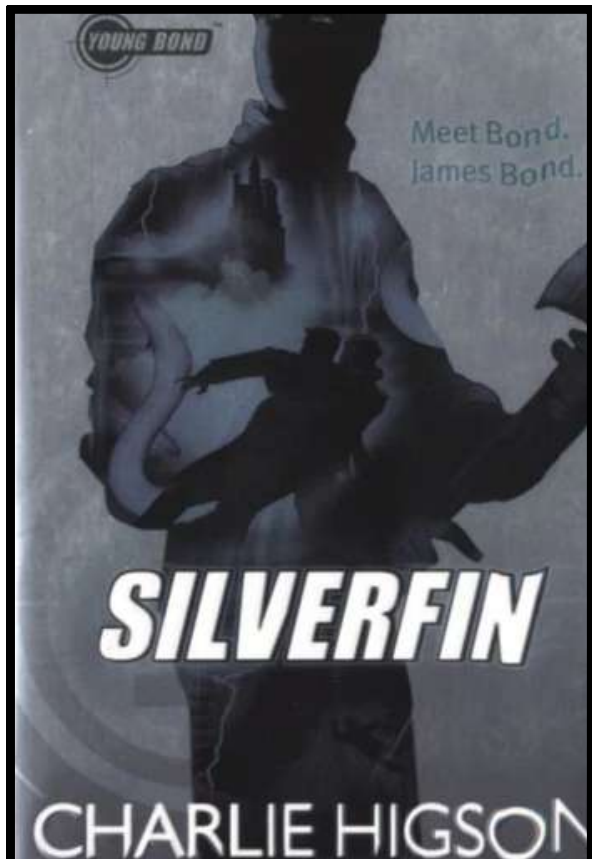
Isabella Roisse is forbidden to leave her island. But she dreams of travelling to the far away lands her father once mapped. When her friend goes missing, her chance for adventure begins...

Genre: Adventure

Listen to an extract here:



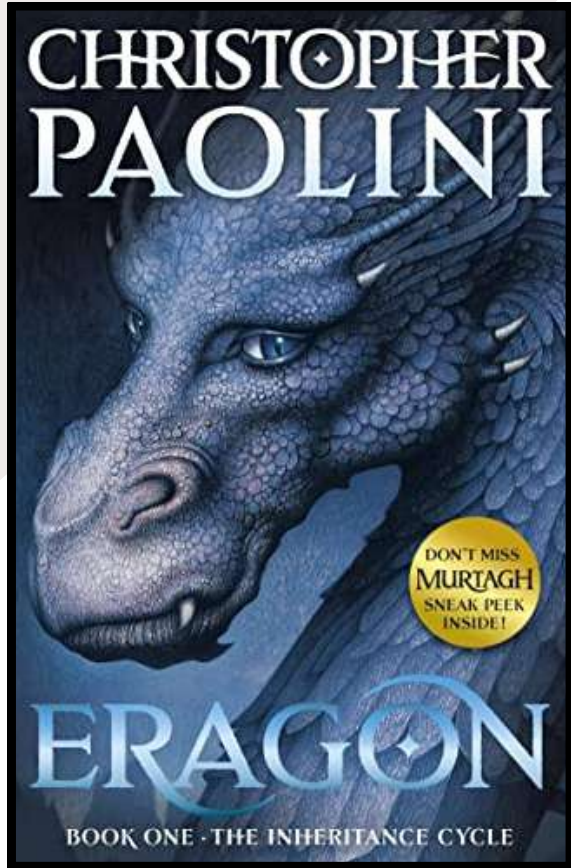
'Silverfin' by Charlie Higson



Following the story of a young James Bond, this book is the first in the series. James is at school trying to fit in and make friends. However, events will take a dark turn as something mysterious and deadly is seen lurking in the water. Something called Silverfin...

Genre: Adventure

'Eragon' by Christopher Paolini



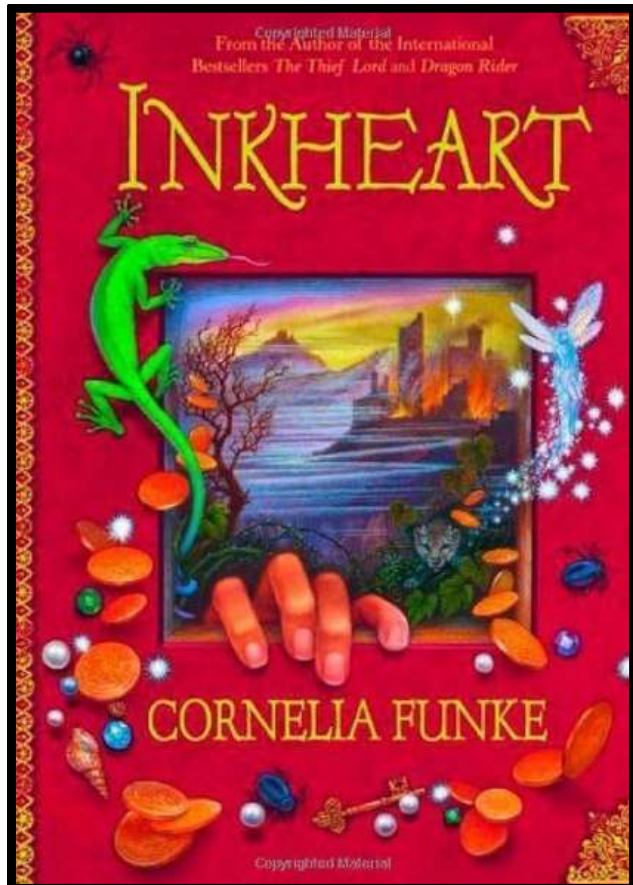
Eragon finds a strange polished blue stone in the forest. At first, it is the cure to his family's hunger but soon discovers that it is not a stone at all but a dragon's egg! Eragon embarks on an adventure with only an old sword and the advice of a storyteller for guidance.

Genre: Fantasy

Listen to an extract here:



'Inkheart' by Cornelia Funke



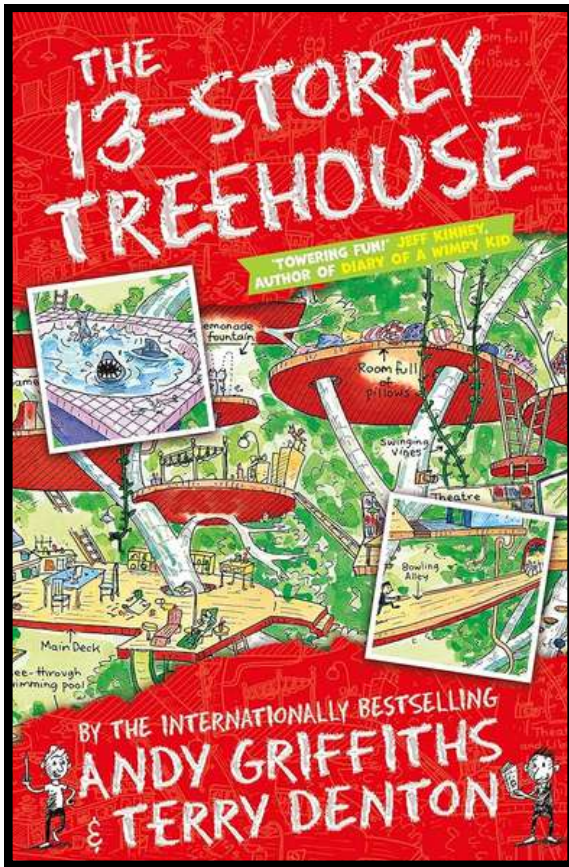
When Meggie's father reads from a book called Inkheart, he releases an evil ruler into their living room. Finding herself in an adventure she has only dreamed of, Meggie must learn to control magic and to change the course of the story...

Genre: Fantasy

Listen to an extract here:



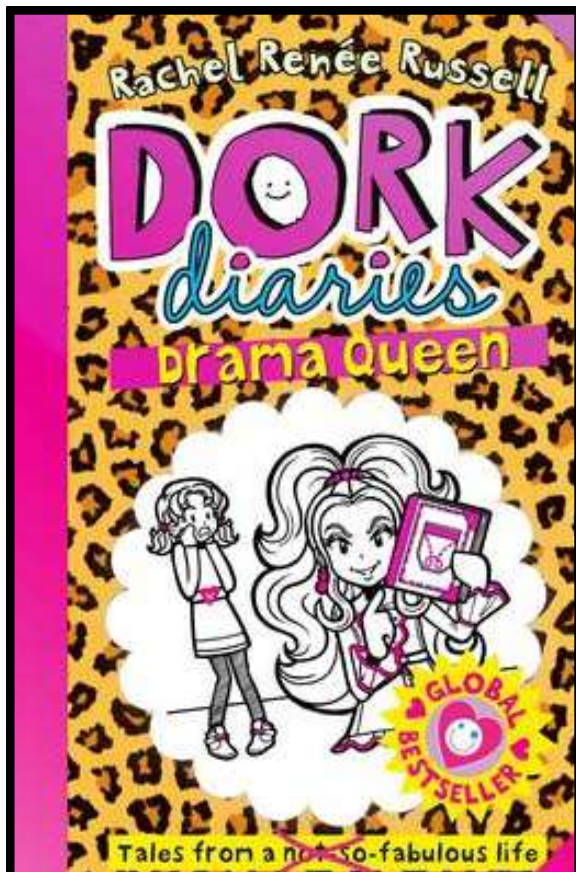
'The 13-Storey Treehouse' by Andy Griffiths



Andy and Terry live in the world's best treehouse! It's got a giant catapult, a secret underground laboratory, a tank of man-eating sharks and a marshmallow machine that follows you around and shoots marshmallows into your mouth whenever you're hungry! Just watch out for the sea monkeys, and the monkeys pretending to be sea monkeys, and the giant mutant mermaid sea monster... Oh, and, whatever you do, don't get trapped in a burp-gas-filled bubble... !

Genre: Humour

'Dork Diaries' by Rachel Renée Russell



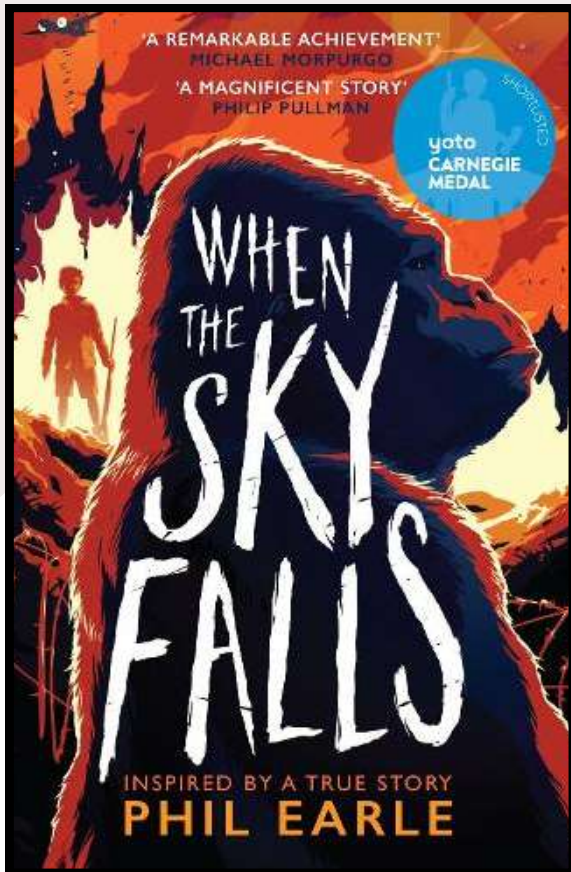
This series follows the life of 15 year old Nikki Maxwell as she chronicles growing up in her diaries.

Genre: Humour

Listen to an extract here:



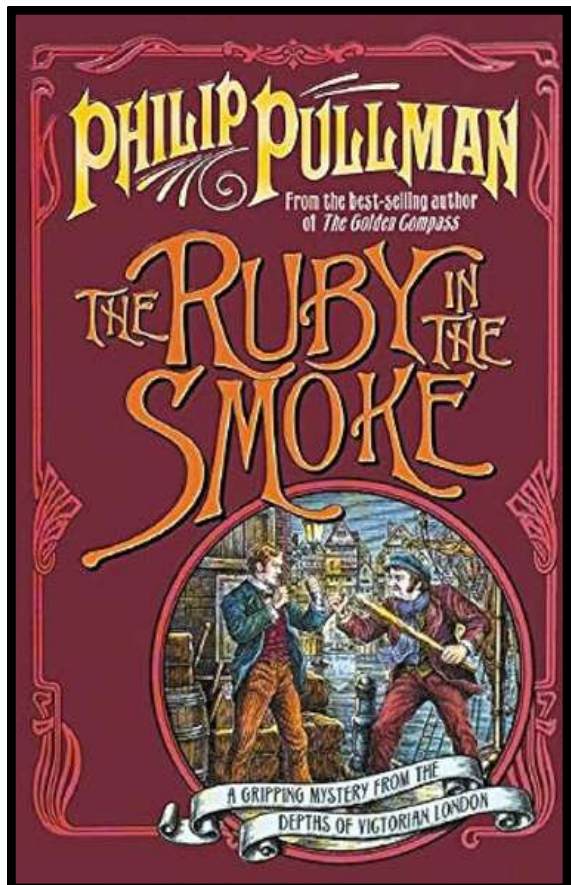
'When the Sky Falls' by Phil Earle



Joseph is sent to London to stay with his gran's friend, Mrs F. But he is living in 1941 and London is being bombarded by German bombs. Mrs F is grumpy and all she seems to care about is her zoo and a gorilla, Adonis. But as the weeks pass, Joseph and Mrs F grow closer and Joseph grows to understand why Adonis is special...

Genre: Historical

'Ruby in the Smoke' by Philip Pullman

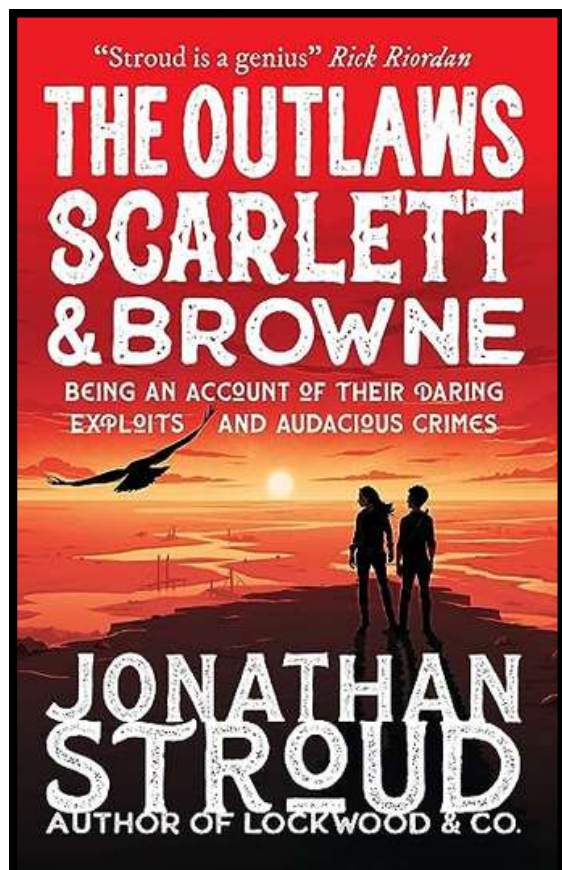


Soon after Sally Lockhart's father drowns at sea, she receives a strange anonymous letter. The dire warning it contains makes a man die of fear at her feet. Determined to discover the truth about her father's death, Sally is plunged into a terrifying mystery in the dark heart of Victorian London, at the centre of which lies a deadly blood-soaked jewel.

Genre: Historical



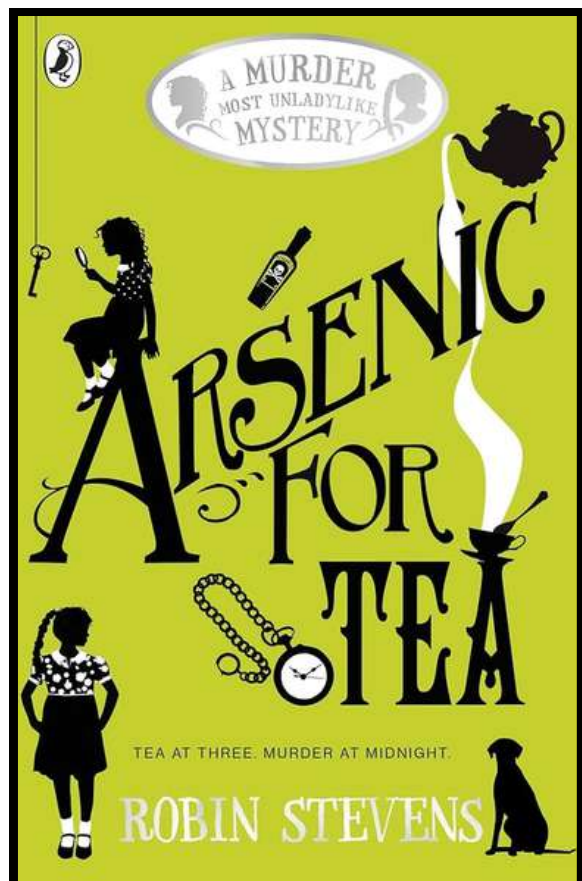
'The Outlaws Scarlett & Browne' by Jonathan Stroud



Set in a future, dystopian England where the South and South East are flooded, and only some towns have survived, Scarlett is an outlaw who robs banks to survive. After one heist, she meets Albert Browne: a mysterious boy who has a secretive past. All she knows is that she is on the run and Browne wants to make it to the London ruins to find others like him.

Genre: Crime

'Arsenic for Tea' by Robin Stevens



Daisy and Hazel are detectives. When a tea party is thrown for Daisy's birthday, it turns out that Daisy is not the star of the show. One of the party falls seriously ill and it is not long before poison is suggested. Can Daisy find out the truth?

Genre: Crime

Listen to an extract here:



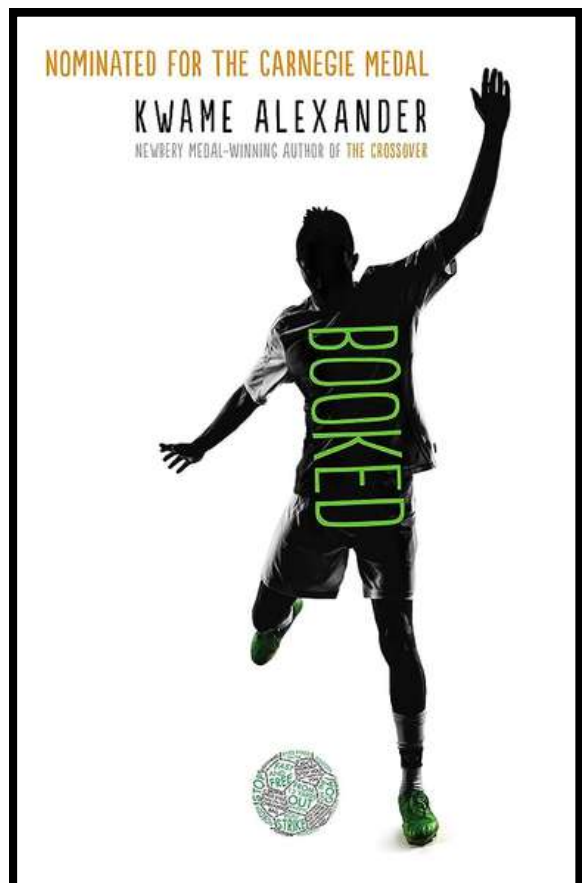
'Game On' by Bali Rai



Baljit is preparing for his trial at Liverpool Football Club. But he is torn between his dream and forcing his parents to move. Furthermore, he is plagued by racist youths threatening him.

Genre: Sport

'Booked' by Kwame Alexander



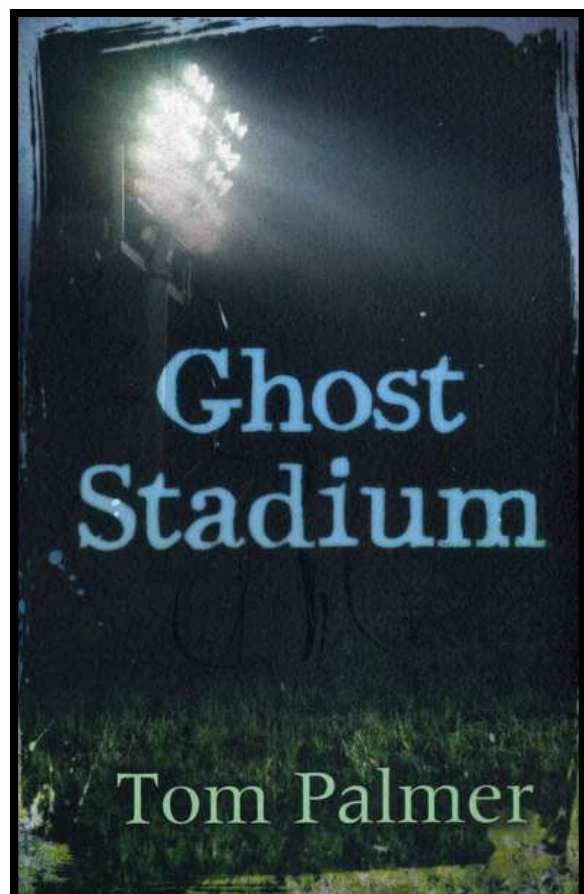
Nick is a football star and he couldn't be more different from his linguistic professor dad. But having to read the dictionary every day starts to pay off when it impresses the girls of his dreams. With his parents separating and school bullies making his life a misery, Nick spends more time in the library just to cope.

Genre: Sport

Listen to an extract here:



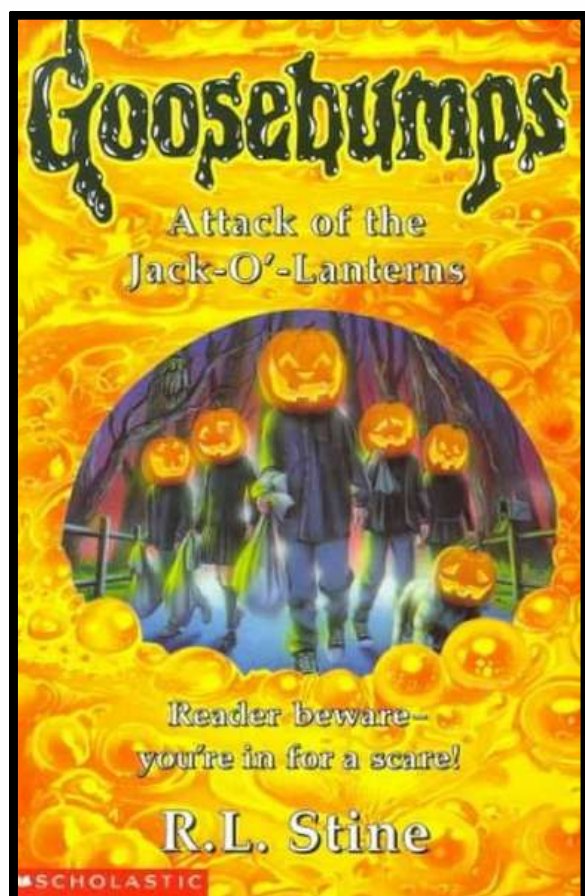
'Ghost Stadium' by Tom Palmer



On the last day of school, most children are saying goodbye to their friends. But Lucas, Jack and Irfan have other plans. They go to an abandoned football ground where they discover a shadow falling to the ground with a thud. Is this the ghost of the Yorkshire County FC player who died years ago?

Genre: Horror

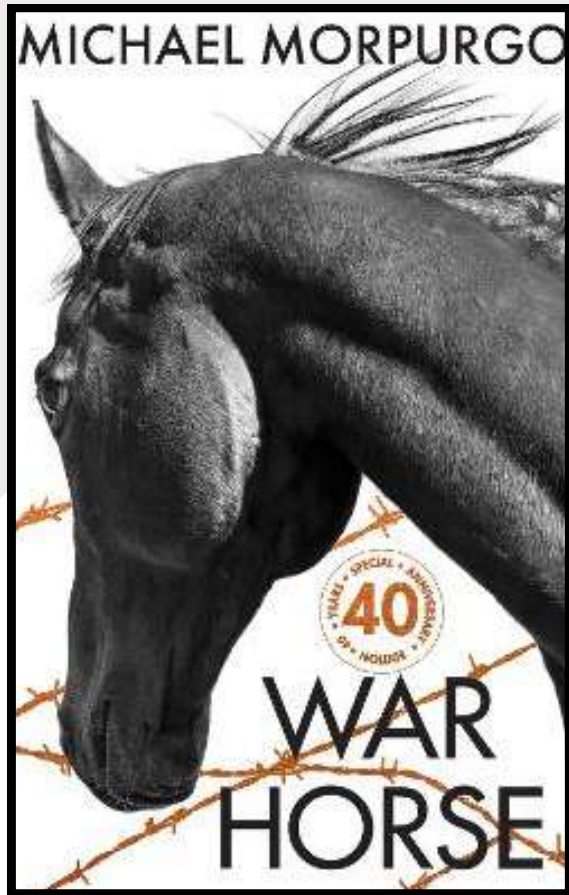
'Attack of the Jack-O'-Lanterns' by R. L. Stine



It's Halloween and Drew and Walker are ready to commit revenge for two Halloweens ruined by their enemies, Leo and Tabby. Their plan involves two scary pumpkin heads. But something's gone wrong - the pumpkin heads are a little too scary. Where are those strange hissing voices coming from?

Genre: Horror

'War Horse' by Michael Morpurgo



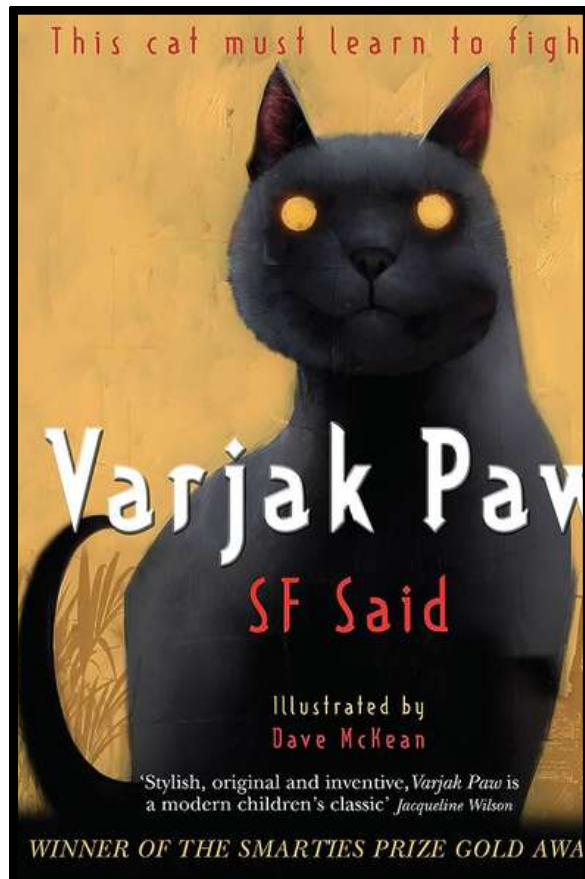
It's 1914 and Joey, a bay-red foal, is sold to the army and sent to France to fight on the front lines. He witnesses the horrors of battle but remains to the soldiers a symbol of courage. But Joey's mind often turns to Albert, the farmer's boy he left behind in England. Will he ever see Albert again?

Genre: Animal

Listen to an extract here:



'Varjak Paw' by S. F. Said



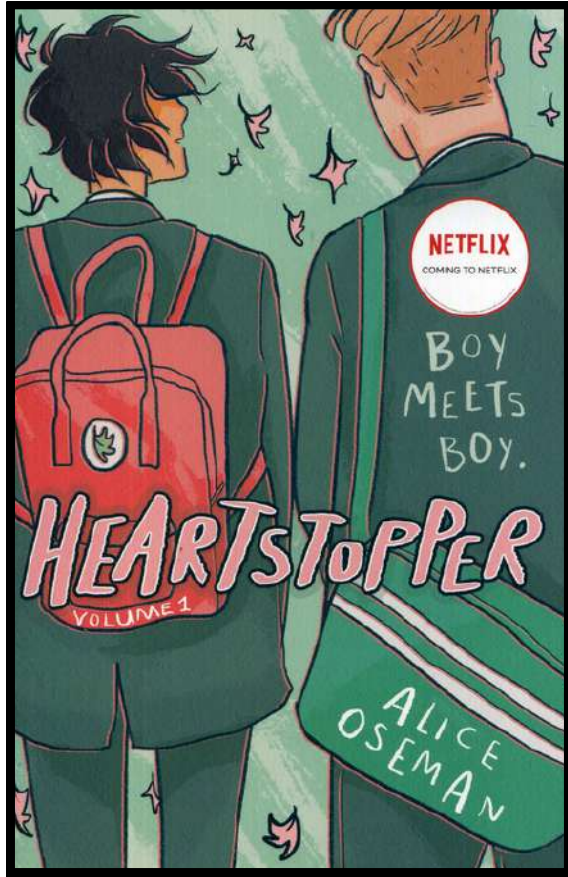
Mesopotamian Blue cat Varjak Paw has never been outside before, but Varjak is forced out into the city when the sinister gentleman and his two menacing cats take over his home. With help from a mystical ancestor, he manages to overcome the challenges of survival, but can he save his family?

Genre: Animal

Listen to an extract here:



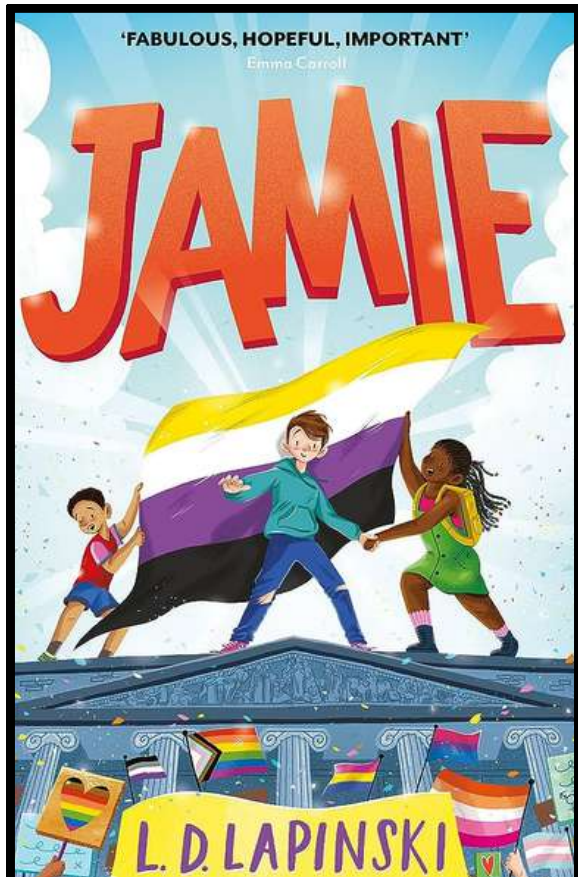
'Heartstopper' by Alice Oseman



Charlie is openly gay. Nick is a soft-hearted rugby player. When they meet at an all-boys school, a friendship blooms. But could it be something more? As Charlie falls for Nick, he feels there is no chance that his feelings would be reciprocated.

Genre: Graphic Novel/ LGBTQ+

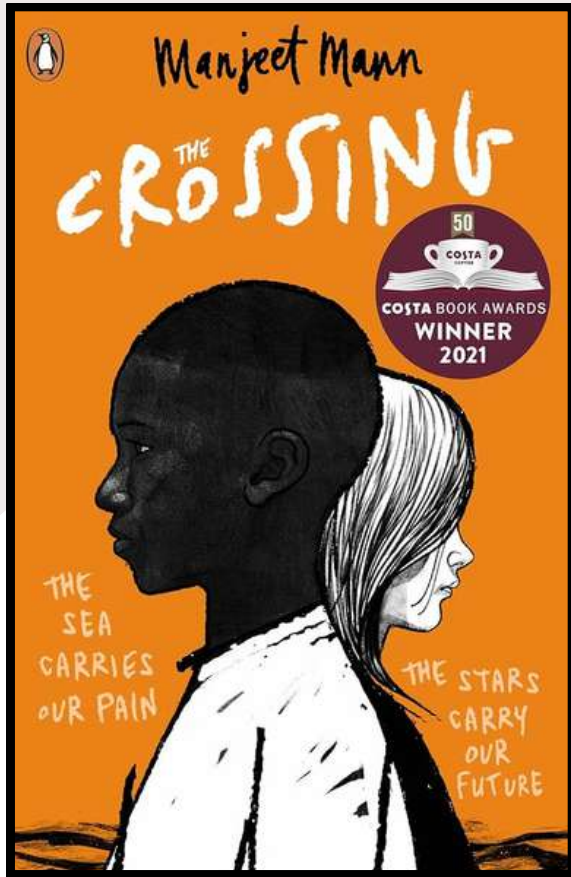
'Jamie' by L. D. Lapinski



A beautiful and uplifting story from L. D. Lapinski, author of 'The Strangeworlds Travel Agency', about how to make your own place when the world doesn't think you fit anywhere. For fans of 'Me, My Dad and The End of The Rainbow'.

Genre: LGBTQ+

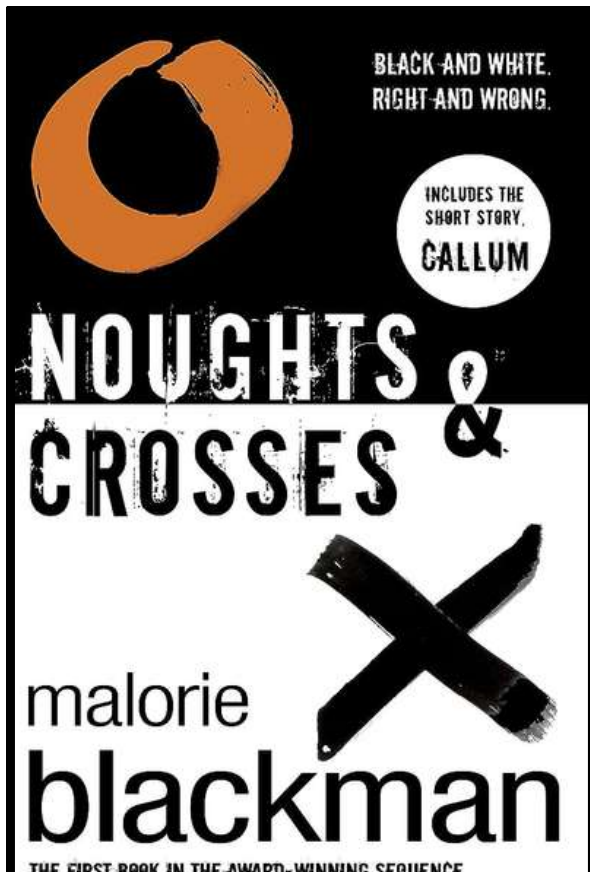
'The Crossing' by Manjeet Mann



A verse novel dealing with themes of refugees, racism and politics. Natalie has lost her mum to cancer and is struggling to deal with her grief, eviction and family issues. Sammy has fled Eritrea for a chance of a new life in England. Along his journey, he faces cruelty from human traffickers and racists. But a twist of fate will bring these two together.

Genre: Multiculturalism

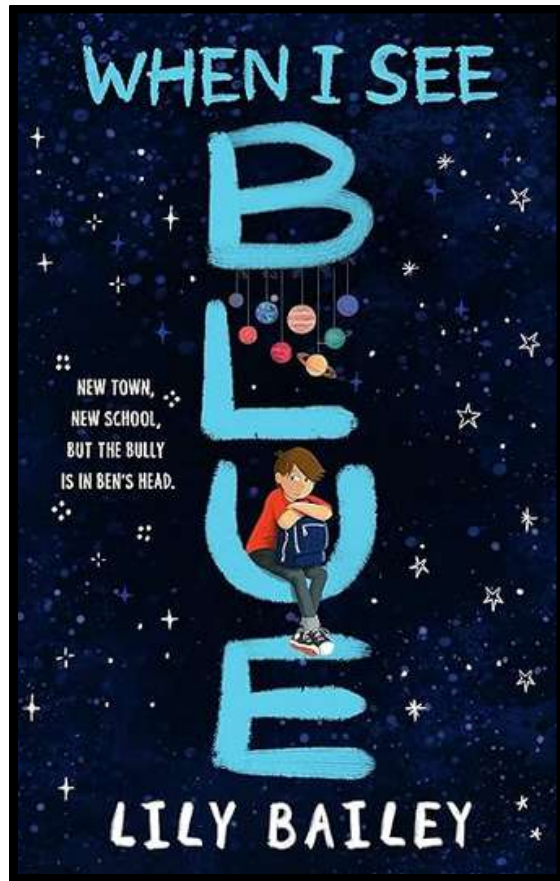
'Noughts and Crosses' by Malorie Blackman



In a world where the population is divided into the white noughts (second class citizens) and the black crosses (superior race), two friends strike an unlikely friendship. Callum is a nought. Sephy is a cross and daughter of one of the most influential politicians in the country. Their friendship is frowned upon and they face discrimination from all sides.

Genre: Multiculturalism

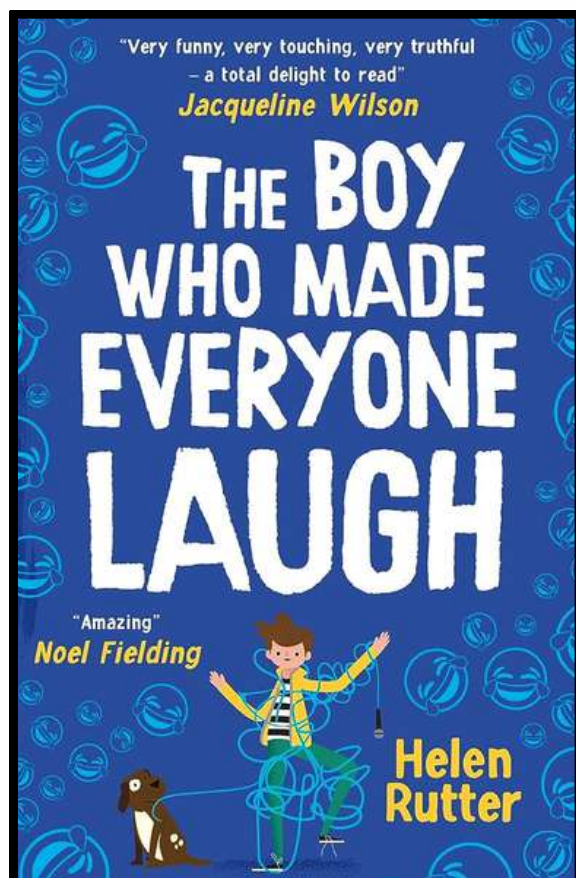
'When I See Blue' by L. Bailey



12-year-old Ben has a bully in his brain who tells him what to do. It makes dealing with a new school, new town and parents who are falling apart seem impossible. This heartfelt story about a boy with OCD celebrates how friendship can make you brave and find the strength to overcome anything.

Genre: Friends/disability

'The Boy Who Made Everyone Laugh' by Helen Rutter



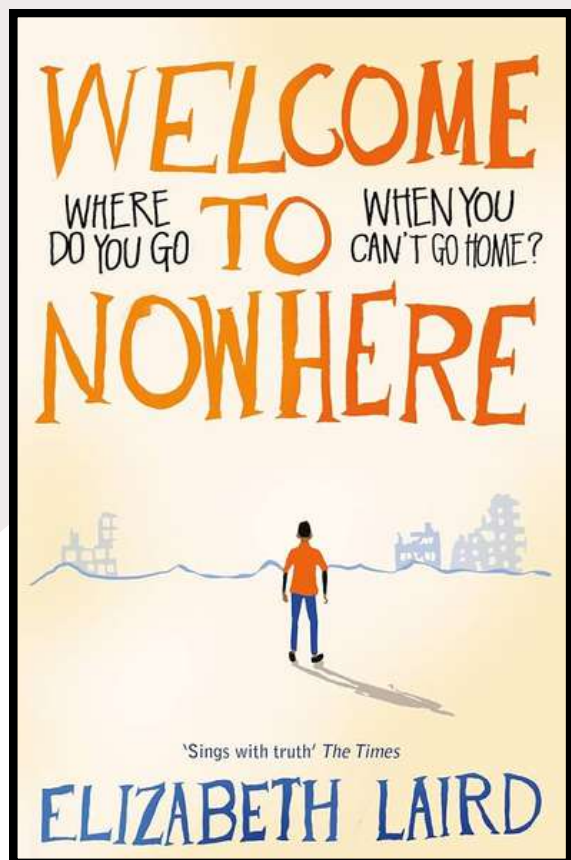
Billy is an eleven-year-old boy with a big dream. He wants to be a stand-up comedian when he grows up: delivering pinpoint punch-lines and having audiences hang on his every hilarious word. A tough career for anyone, but surely impossible for Billy, who has a stammer. How will he find his voice, if his voice won't let him speak?

Genre: Friends/Disability Awareness

Listen to an extract here:



'Welcome to Nowhere' by Elizabeth Laird



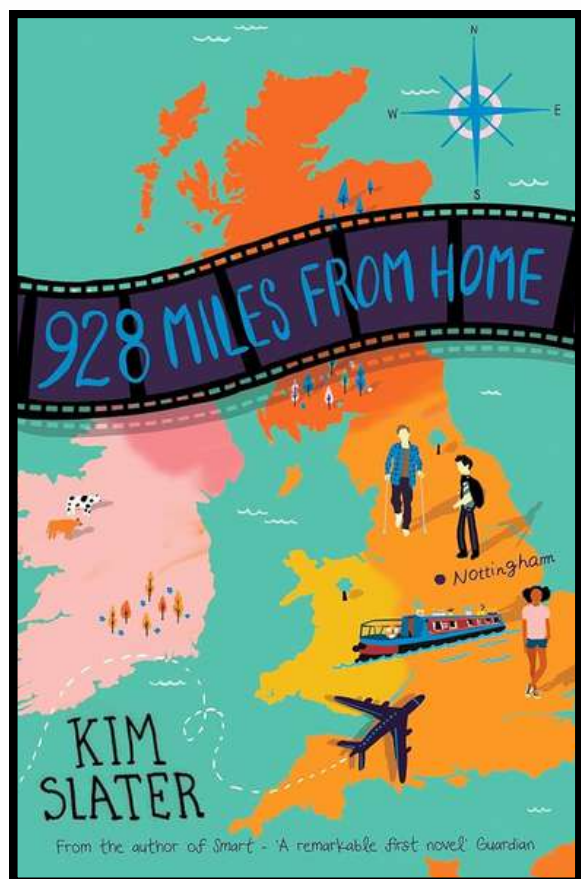
Omar and his family live in Syria. He dreams of becoming a successful entrepreneur. Omar doesn't care about politics but when his brother joins an anti-government student group, Omar has to sit up and take note. With bombs falling and war looming, Omar's family are forced to flee Syria and become refugees.

Genre: Family

Listen to an extract here:



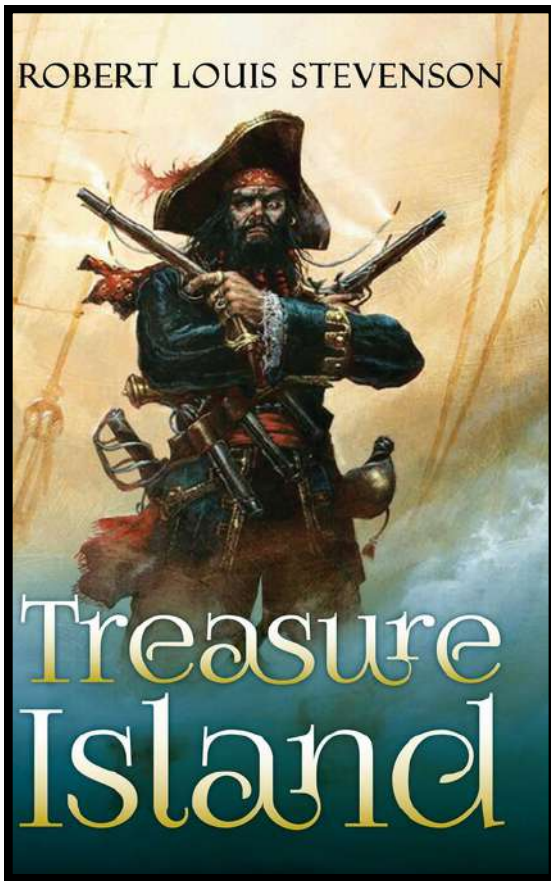
'928 Miles From Home' by Kim Slater



Fourteen year old Calum Brooks has big dreams. One day, he'll escape this boring life and write movies. For now, he's stuck coping alone while his dad works away, writing scripts in his head and trying to stay 'in' with his gang of mates at school, who don't like new kids, especially foreign ones. But when his father invites his new Polish girlfriend and her son, Sergei, to move in, Calum's life is turned upside down. He's actually sharing a room with 'the enemy'! How's he going to explain that to his mates? When Calum is knocked down and breaks both legs, everything changes. Trapped at home, Calum and Sergei slowly start to understand each other, and even work together to investigate a series of break-ins at the local community centre.

Genre: Family

'Treasure Island' by Robert Louis Stevenson



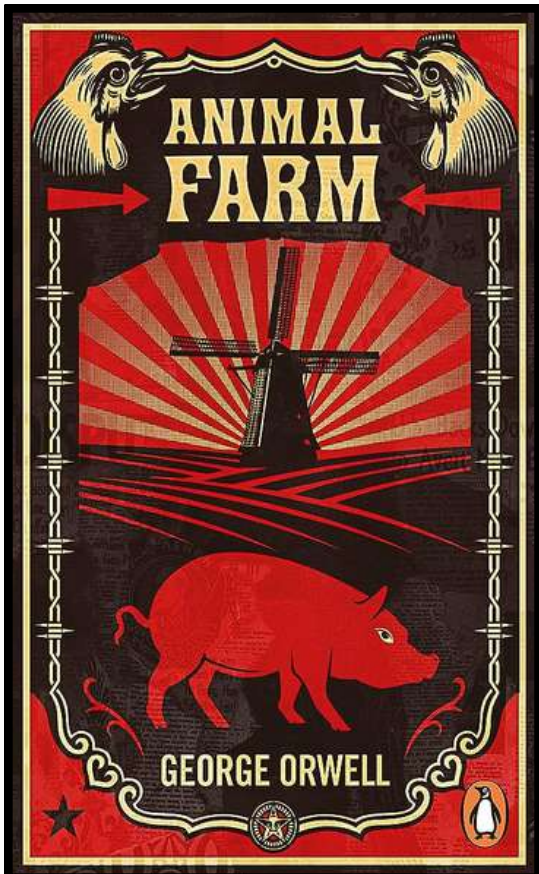
Jim, an innkeeper's son, overhears a pirate disclosing the location of hidden gold. Jim goes to tell the local authorities. But this only sets off a race between the pirates and authorities to see who can get to the treasure first.

Genre: Adventure/Classic

Listen to an extract here:



'Animal Farm' by George Orwell



When the downtrodden animals of Manor Farm overthrow their master Mr Jones and take over the farm themselves, they imagine it is the beginning of a life of freedom and equality. But gradually a cunning, ruthless elite among them, masterminded by the pigs Napoleon and Snowball, starts to take control...

Genre: Young Adult/Classic

