



Canterbury School English Department

P6 Recommended Reading List

Action & Adventure

Malorie Blackman **Hacker** - One of Blackman's most popular books. Two computer whizz kids try to prove their father is innocent of bank theft. A gripping read.

NM Browne **Warriors of Alavna** - Blistering time-slip novel where Dan and Ursula are whisked back in time to the tough unforgiving world of Alavna in 75AD.

Anne Cassidy **Innocent** - Great junior novel from Cassidy, as Charlie tries to prove the innocence of her older brother Brad.

Charlie Higson **Silverfin** - Hopefully the first in a popular new series about James (Young Bond Series) Bond when he was still at school.

Garry Kilworth **Attika** - The deeper they went into the attic, the more the darkness seemed to close around them... A great tale in the grand tradition of Narnia.

G. McCaughrean **Not the End of the World** - Captivating novelisation of the story of Noah and his Arc. This thoughtful reworking of the famous Bible story makes the characters very, very real.

Robert Muchamore **CHERUBS** - Big adventures and exciting at the teenage recruits at CRURUB battle the underworld's of the World. Now 3 books of a very popular series.

William Nicholson **Wind on Fire Trilogy** - Breathtaking trilogy about a society governed by exams. But what happens when you rebel? Read to find out. A truly excellent trilogy.

Gary Paulsen **Hatchet**- Thrilling adventure about the survival of a 12 year old boy after a plane crash. Also has great sequels.

Chris Ryan **Survival**- The ultra tough and realistic novels of Chris Ryan are a must for youngsters seeking excitement and thrills. This "AlphaForce" novel is the start of a gripping new series.

Chris Ryan **Flash Flood** -First of a new series from Ryan. London is in chaos and anarchy after the collapse of the Thames Barrier! A great page turner.

Small Steps- Funny loose sequel to Holes with a couple of the minor characters taking centre stage in an amusing get rich scheme that goes wrong.

Chris Wooding **Storm Thief**- One of the best action fantasies I read this year. Fast paced, exciting and in a fantasy world so well crafted this has to be the first book in a fabulous series!

Relationships & Conflicts

Cathy Hopkins **Mates, Dates** (series)- Long running series of Lucy and her friends and their funny experiences of growing up. These are very popular books.

Eva Ibbotson **Journey to the River Sea** -An orphaned school girl's journey to South America with her tough-as-old-boots nanny. Already very popular and destined to become a modern classic.

Karen McCombie **Ally's World** -(series) After 12+ books the Ally's World series has recently ended. The series follows a group of friends from the age of 12 until they go to university.

Jerry Spinelli **Stargirl**- Brilliant and brave novel about a teenager daring to be different in an American high school. Highly recommended.

Jacqueline Wilson **Double Act** -Twin girls have trouble with their new step-mum. Another great book by Jacqueline Wilson.

Girls- (trilogy) Follow the lives of Ellie, Magda and Nadine as they grow up in this wonderful series of books.

Benjamin Zephaniah **Face**- Realistic story of how a boy is disfigured in a car accident and has to start living a new life with his disfigurement.

Classics

Louisa M Alcott **Little Women** -First in the series of classic novels of 4 sisters growing up in 1860s America written from the point of view of Jo, who would dearly like to become a writer.

Richard Bach **Jonathan Livingston Seagull**- Uplifting story of a young seagull's bid to live its life as free as possible. A beautifully crafted short read.

Charlotte Bronte **Jane Eyre** Jane falls in love with her rich employer, only to find out he has a dark secret...Classic stuff that has thrilled generations.

Charles Dickens **A Christmas Carol**- Read about Scrooge yourself; much better than any film you may have seen of it.

Conan Doyle **Adventures of Sherlock Holmes**- This is a great introduction to detective stories. Many of the best Holmes stories are in this collection.

Penelope Farmer **Charlotte Sometimes**- Dream-like novel where Charlotte, whilst sleeping, somehow slips back in time to 1919 and becomes Clare... Wonderful.

Elizabeth Goudge **Little White Horse**- Haunting story of a unicorn appearing at Moonacre Valley.

H Rider Haggard **King Solomon's Mines**- An exciting yarn about an explorer who was the inspiration for the Indiana Jones films.

W W Johns **Biggles Flies West**- One of many exciting novels set in the skies over France and Germany in World War 2 following the adventure of Biggles.

Lois Lowry **The Giver**- Challenging novel set in an almost-fantasy world where emotions are suppressed and your destiny is chosen for you. Jonas is chosen to be the "Giver" of the title. For strong readers.

Mark Twain **Adventures of Tom Sawyer & Adventures of Huckleberry Finn**- Adventure, freedom and excitement are in abundance in these two novels set in the American Deep South during the great depression. Highly recommended.

Fantasy

Eoin Colfer **The Wish List**- Funny novel in which Lowrie has to complete 4 idiotic tasks to get into heaven. By the writer of the Artemis Fowl series.

Catherine Fisher **Corbenic**- Arthurian myths and legends are skillfully woven into this moving story of a teenager struggling with family life.

Nancy Farmer **Sea of Trolls**- A sweeping Viking novel with 2 young children being held captive by the evil half-troll king Ivar the Boneless.

CS Lewis **Narnia**- (series) Perhaps the ultimate battle between Good and Evil? Classic tale of children trying to awaken an animal world from eternal winter. 7 books in series.

Alan Gibbons **Shadow of the Minotaur**- Computer game virtual reality becomes reality in this compulsive read. Highly recommended.

Sheryl Jordan **Hunting the Last Dragon** - Be thrilled by the crippled youngster Lan's quest to kill the last dragon in this top notch fantasy story.

Sally Prue **Goldkeeper**- Engaging fantasy novel set in the Temple of Ora where Sebastian is chosen to be the next High Priest's Apprentice.

Philip Reeves **Mortal Engines**- Superb fantasy novel where moving cities trawl the globe. Tom and Hester are thrown from their beloved "London" and try to get back on board. A highly original read, the series now completed with "**A Darkling Plan**".-

Ghosts & Horror

Malorie Blackman **Dead Gorgeous** -After moving to the countryside, Nova befriends a dead boy with too many problems of his own. The only problem for Nova is that the ghost is also very, very cute!

Stephen Cole **Wereling Trilogy**- Really enjoyable horror series about a family of werewolves and the teenage daughter's fight against her changeover. Startling and original.

Neil Gaiman **Coraline** -Stunning novel about a warped alternative universe hidden behind a door. Very weird and altogether creepy.

Susan Gates **Dusk** Fast paced SF horror novel about the dangers of genetic engineering and mutations.

Nick Gifford **Piggies**- Great horror novel set in a land where vampires wander the land and humans are the prey. Very scary.

Carol Hedges **Red Velvet**- Nasty things begin to happen to Elly when she finds the skeleton of a dead girl wearing a red dress in an old house.

Cliff McNish **Breathe: A ghost Story**- A true ghost story. The kind that says its cold fingers on you grips tight and doesn't let you go under the last pages have been turned. Wonderfully spine chilling.

EE Richardson **Devil's Footsteps**- Wonderful horror novel from the new Queen of fear. Scary, atmospheric, well plotted and believable....

The Intruders- More suspense and fear from Richardson in this terrifying haunted house novel. Taste the fear.....

Seb Rook **Vampire Plagues**- Juicy series of vampire novels set across the centuries as the vampires battle to take over the world.

Marcus Sedgwick **My Swordhand is Singing**- Chilling vampire tale set in 17th Century Europe, inspired by the original Transylvanian Vampire folk tales. Scary stuff!

Darren Shan **Cirque du Freak**- First in the long running vampire horror series. Excellent reads.

Catherine Storr **The Mirror Image Ghost** - Now classic suspense horror novel. Wonderfully written with a timeless appeal.

Justin Stomper **Vampirates**- New series of, blood thirsty, horror novels set on the high seas.

Chris Wooding **Haunting of Alazabel Cray**- - Great atmospheric crossover fantasy novel about two young witch-hunters seeking for a beast that lurks in the sewers of old London. Very exciting and an exceptional read.

Humour

M E Allen **The Bish Bash Bosh**- A group of teenage boys discover a lotion which makes them irresistible to girls. Hilarious chaos follows!

Meg Cabot **Princess Diaries**- Funny series in which Mia discovers that she is a princess and her very normal world is turned upside down.

Yvonne Coppard **Not Dressed Like That You Don't**- Funny angst written diary account of a stressed out teenager that has a fresh appeal, in that it has a second diary written by the Mother

Narinder Dhani **Bindi Babes Bollywood Babes**- Hilarious novel about 3 Anglo-Asian sisters who have great fun bossing their dad around until their tough, traditional aunty from India comes to stay. Great sequel also out now.

Eva Ibbotson **Dial A Ghost**- Funny story of hiring ghosts to scare people you don't like!

Rose Impey **Scary Fairy Godmother**- Funny look at the chaos caused in a family by the odd and eccentric Scary Fairy Godmother

Pete Johnson **Faking It**- Funny novel about a 15 year old who cons everyone into thinking he has a girlfriend and as a result his popularity soars. Written in an amusing diary format.

Michael Lawrence **Maggot Pie**- Another great Jiggy McClure story in which Jiggy things he is jinxed with bad luck when he starts his new secondary school.

Cloe Rayban **Drama Queen**- Jessica loves messing in the lives of her family and friends until her own parents marriage heads for divorce.

Terry Pratchett **Johnny Maxwell** (Trilogy) -A brilliant trilogy. Johnny has special powers which help him see the world in a slightly different way from other boys.

Louis Sacher **There's a Boy in the Girls' Bathroom**- Another highly entertaining (and funny) tale from the writer of Holes. Has much to identify with.

Meg Rosoff **Just in Case**- Quirky and funny follow up to How I Live Now in which 15 year old David is obsessed Fate is out to get him.

E F Smith **When Mum Threw Out the Telly!**- Telly-addict Jeff's life is turned upside down when his mum throws out the TV. But his new life is only just beginning.

Mystery & Thrillers

Sherry Ashworth **Dream Travellers**- Children are stalked in their dreams by a mysterious stranger who arrives in their sleepy town.

Eion Colfer **Half Moon Investigations**- After completing a dodgy online course 10 year old Fletch reckons he's a fully fledged detective! Chaos follows in this great thriller.

Joseph Craig **Jimmy Coates Killer & Target (book 2)** - 11 year old Jimmy realises he has super-powers, which his parents have hidden from him, and this leads to an exciting mystery of intrigue and suspense.

Chris D'Lacey **Horace**- Funny thriller in which a teenage finds a valuable teddy-bear in a skip. Suddenly, when rich, life becomes much more complicated.

Helen Fielding **Olivia Joules**- Entertaining girly thriller set in the modern world of journalism. Entertaining, silly and romantic.

Catherine Fisher **Dark Henge**- Mystery. myth and magic! This intriguing novel combines sibling rivalry and Celtic mythology. Highly entertaining.

Caroline Lawrence **Roman Mysteries**- Multi book series about four amateur child detectives in Ancient Rome. Engaging and historically accurate.

Alex Shearer **The Stolen** A nail-biting and supernatural tale of old people taking over the bodies of young people. A gripping mystery.

The Lost- Tremendous thriller about the search for a boy who disappeared 2 years previously whilst cycling. As the book develops great clues are thrown in. But beware the many red-herrings!

G P Taylor **Tersias**- Bewitching and exciting yarn of the hunt for a boy who has the power to see into the future in 19th Century England.

School Stories

Wendy Cooling **Ten of the Best School Stories**- Excellent collection of 10 school stories including new stories from Malorie Blackman and Paul Jennings.

Berlie Docherty **Tough Luck** -Story set in a big school covering all aspects of day to day life. Very entertaining and thought provoking.

Alan Gibbons **Chicken** -Tough school story, focusing on bullying.

Pete Johnson **Runaway Teacher** -What happens when your teacher becomes a friend and not a teacher? Read this short novel to find out.

Gene Kemp **Turbulent Term of Tyke Tyler**-Follow the adventures of Tyke Tyler at school and the chaos he causes at home!

Science Fiction & Unexplained

Malorie Blackman **Pig Hearted Boy**- Your heart transplant is with a pig! Find out what difference it makes in this gripping read.

Dangerous Dare-Yet another stunning novel from Blackman. Suspense, thrills and scares abound in this entertaining read.

L Buckley-Archer **Gideon the Cutpurse**- Great SF time travel novel that sees Peter and Kate catapulted to the 18th century where they enlist the help of famous pickpocket and highwayman Gideon the Cutpurse.

John Christopher **Tripods**- (series) Classic series in which giant robots takeover the Earth.

Ann Halam **Taylor 5**- Fascinating novel about human cloning.

Catherine McPhail **Underworld**- Utterly chilling novel set in the underground fear of a collapsed tunnel.

Rhiannon Lassiter **Hex Trilogy**- Totally believable SF set in the far future about mutant genes that can be passed through computers into people.

Marcus Sedgwick **Floodland**- Gripping story of global warming and the pockets of survivors who live in the "High Lands" near Norwich.

Robert Swindells **Time Snatch**- Superb time travel novel by Swindells. Very exciting.

Sport

Neil Arksey **Playing on the Edge**- Great futuristic thriller where football has achieved global domination. A wonderful idea!

MacB The captain of the football team has an accident. Or is it? Entertainingly dark sporting mystery with a hint of Macbeth!

Ben Bo **Scullcrack** High energy novel about skateboarding.

Chris D'Lacey **Falling 4 Mandy**-Cheating, diving, football, and a beautiful striker called Mandy are all elements in this funny football novel.

Peter Hayden **And Smith Must Score** - Funny modern take on the football story, with many great characters and enjoyable action sequences.
Kelvin MacGregor **Here We Go!** - Football and romance! A great combination!

War

Anne Frank **The Diary of Anne Frank**- Stunning story of bravery during the Second World War. Essential reading.

Jackie French **Hitler's Daughter**- Wonderful time-slip and thought provoking novel which asks the question, "What if?" Highly recommended.

Deborah Ellis **Breadwinner/ Parvana's Journey**- 2 uncompromisingly tough novels about the lives of girls and women in Taliban controlled Afghanistan.

Michael Morpurgo **War Horse**- Thought provoking novel of the life of a horse and his thoughts during his numerous battles under different masters.

Kensuke's Kingdom-If you read one novel by Michael Morpurgo, make it this one.

Andy McNab **Boy Soldier** - McNab draws on his own vast SAS experience to write this exciting, part-biographical, account of his younger days in the SAS.

Matt Peet **Tamar** Winner of the 2006 Carnegie Medal. Complex mix of time travel, World War 2 and love across time.