



Year 8 Reading List

Reading fiction is good for us in so many ways. Not only can it take us to new and exciting worlds, but it can also help us to improve our vocabulary and understanding of the world around us. Not only that, it is a great way to give your brain a rest from the demands of schoolwork—nobody can work 24/7 after all!

With so many wonderful books to choose from, it can sometimes be difficult to know where to start. That is where this list comes in. You can use it as a starting point on your reading adventure. You may not enjoy every book on this list, but there should be something for everyone from adventure to fantasy to true life stories, so why not give it a go and see where your imagination can take you?

Happy reading!



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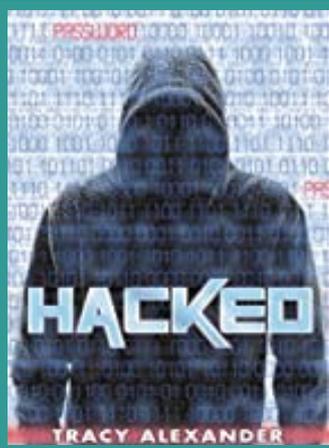


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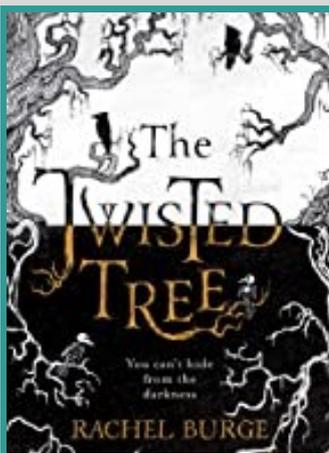
Learning For Life

Welcome



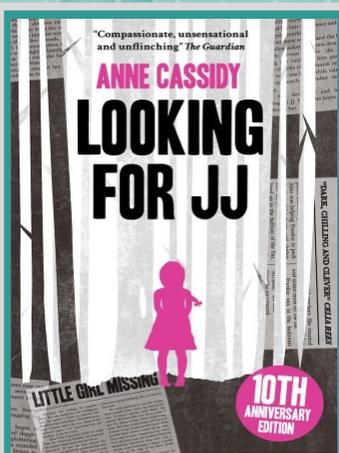
Hacked
Tracey Alexander

Dan had been diagnosed as ADHD as a child. He quite liked the ritalin, but then he got into computers, and for his parents a geek was better than something feral. It was hard to remember when the genuine hacking started; but free phone credit was the first illicit, tangible real-life results of a hack, though not the last. By the time Dan is contacted online by Angel, he is eager for the challenge laid before him - creating tricky bits of code. But Dan begins to suspect that something more nefarious may be planned for his code than he thought. He will have to decide what truly matters more - protecting his anonymity and freedom or preventing a deadly terror attack ...



The Twisted Tree
Rachel Burge

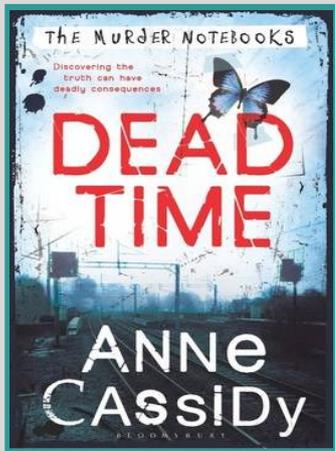
Part ghost story, part Nordic thriller - this is a twisty, tense and spooky novel, perfect for fans of *Coraline*. Martha can tell things about a person just by touching their clothes, as if their emotions and memories have been absorbed into the material. It started the day she fell from the tree at her grandma's cabin and became blind in one eye. Determined to understand her strange ability, Martha sets off to visit her grandmother, Mormor - only to discover Mormor is dead, a peculiar boy is in her cabin and a terrifying creature is on the loose. Then the spinning wheel starts creaking, books move around and terror creeps in . . . Set in the remote snows of contemporary Norway, *The Twisted Tree* is a ghost story that twists and turns - and never takes you quite where you'd expect.



Looking for JJ
Anne Cassidy

Three children walked away from the edge of town one day - but only two of them came back . . . A gripping and emotionally searing novel from a talented author, *Looking for JJ* explores the circumstances and motives behind the murder of a child - by her friend. Six years later, JJ has now been released, and has a new identity. But is there any way that she can lead a normal life?

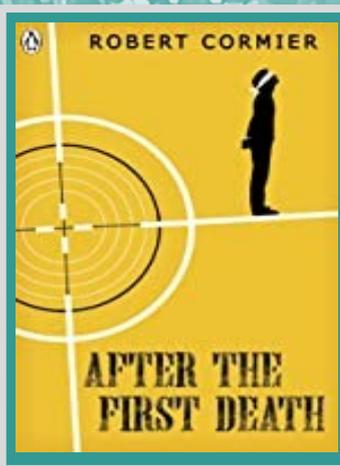
If you enjoyed this book, then try the sequel *Finding Jennifer Jones*, where we catch up with JJ nine years after the murder. Has she, and the world, come to terms with what happened in the past.....



Dead Time
Anne Cassidy

Rose and Joshua first met when Joshua and his dad came to live with Rose and her mum. Then their world turns upside down when their mother and father go out for dinner one evening and never return. With police inquiries going nowhere, Rose is dispatched to live with her chilly, unfriendly grandmother and Joshua is sent to live with his uncle. Then Joshua comes to London to study and Rose is witness to not one, but two murders. Why is this happening to Rose? Can it be anything to do with the investigations Joshua has been doing into the disappearance of their parents?

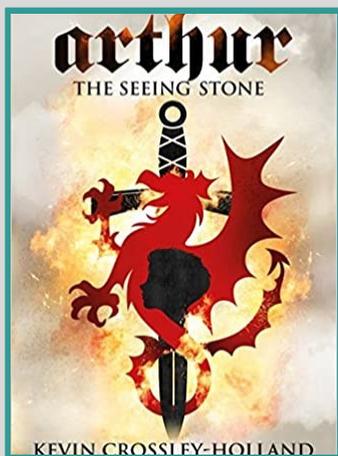
A taut and pacy thriller that is the first of four books in stylish new *Murder Notebooks* series. The other books are *Killing Rachel*, *The Butterfly Grave* and *Dead and Buried*



After the First Death
Robert Cormier

After the First Death is a brilliantly tense hostage drama. On the outskirts of a small American town, a bus-load of young children is being held hostage. The hijackers are a cold and ruthless group, opposed to the secret government agency Inner Delta. At the centre of the battle are three teenagers. Miro is the terrorist with no past and no emotions. Kate is the bus driver, caught up in the nightmare, and Ben is the General's son who must act as a go-between.

Not for the faint-hearted!



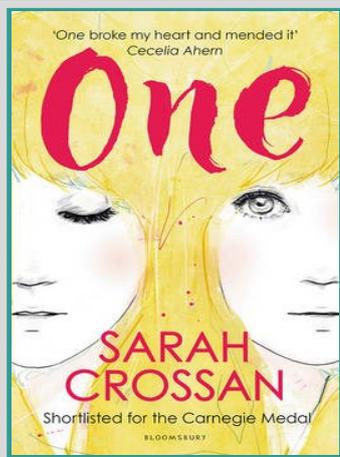
Arthur: The Seeing Stone
Kevin Crossley-Holland

Medieval life meets Arthurian magic in a novel that transcends boundaries of time and age. The year is 1199, the place the Welsh Marches. Young Arthur de Caldicot is given a magical shining stone in which his legendary namesake is revealed. In 100 short chapters that brilliantly evoke life in a medieval manor, stories of the boy King Arthur begin to echo - and anticipate - the secrets and mysteries that emerge in his own life ...

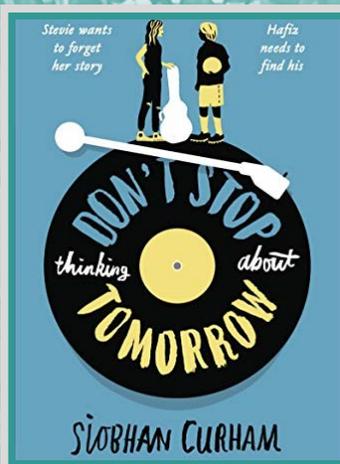
This is the first book in the Seeing Stones trilogy, the others being *Arthur at the Crossing Places* and *Arthur King of the Middle March*

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Welcome



One
Sarah Crossan



Don't Stop Thinking About Tomorrow
Siobhan Curham



Flour Babies
Anne Fine

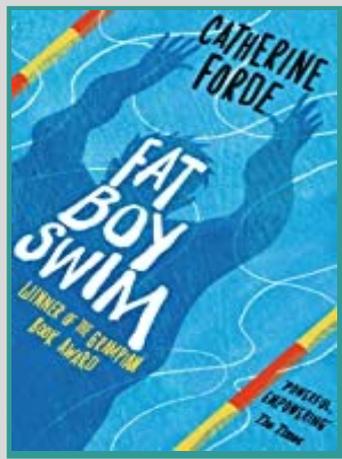
Grace and Tippi are twins - conjoined twins. And their lives are about to change. No longer able to afford home schooling, they must venture into the world - a world of stares, sneers and cruelty. Will they find more than that at school? Can they find real friends? And what about love? But what neither Grace or Tippi realises is that a heart-wrenching decision lies ahead. A decision that could tear them apart. One that will change their lives even more than they ever imagined...

This is a moving and beautifully crafted novel, written in verse, about identity, sisterhood and love ultimately asks one question: what does it mean to want and have a soulmate?

An uplifting story of friendship, unity and hope that highlights the important and topical issues surrounding young carers and young refugees. Fourteen-year-old Stevie lives in Lewes with her beloved vinyl collection, her mum ... and her mum's depression. When Stevie's mum's disability benefits are cut, Stevie and her mother are plunged into a life of poverty. But irrepressible Stevie is determined not to be beaten and she takes inspiration from the lyrics of her father's 1980s record collection and dreams of a life as a musician. Then she meets Hafiz, a talented footballer and a Syrian refugee. Hafiz's parents gave their life savings to buy Hafiz a safe passage to Europe; his journey has been anything but easy. Then he meets Stevie... As Stevie and Hafiz's friendship grows, they encourage each other to believe in themselves and follow their dreams.

When the annual school science fair comes round, Mr Cartwright's class don't get the soap factory, or the maggot farm, or the exploding custard tins. They get the flour babies - sweet little bags of flour that must be treated gently. To keep a six-pound sack of flour clean, dry and within sight because it represents a baby is a challenge none of them is eager to take on. And they are right to be scared. It proves that having a baby is a responsibility they do not want. And for Simon, it leads to a painful but thoughtful reconsideration of the story of his own father's departure.

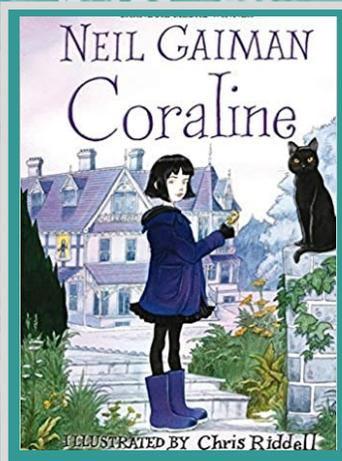
A hugely entertaining story that will have you laughing out loud at the same time as realising the serious point being made.



Fat Boy Swim
Catherine Forde

It's a deal with the devil. Jimmy "Fat Boy Fat" Kelly, a 14-year-old boy mercilessly teased at school and completely inept at sports, has been commissioned by Father "GI Joe" Joseph, the unforgiving sports coach, to make food for a fundraiser. In exchange for Jimmy's cooking, GI Joe will teach Jimmy how to swim. Swimming, Jimmy feels, is in his blood, no matter how many times his mother tells him that no one in his family can swim.

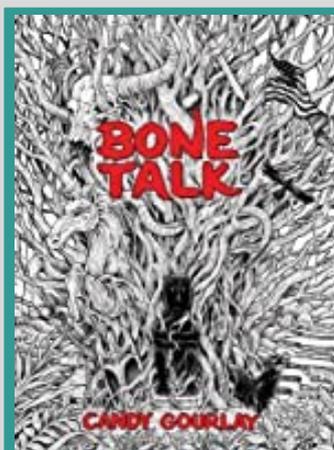
An honest portrayal of what it is like to grow up in today's judgemental world.



Coraline
Neil Gaiman

When Coraline's family move into a new home, she steps through a door into another house which seems strangely familiar. It has many of the things she has at home but they are all strangely different. There is even a replacement set of parents. At first, Coraline likes her new home but she soon realises that the new parents are reluctant to let her go. Can Coraline escape? Will she ever get home?

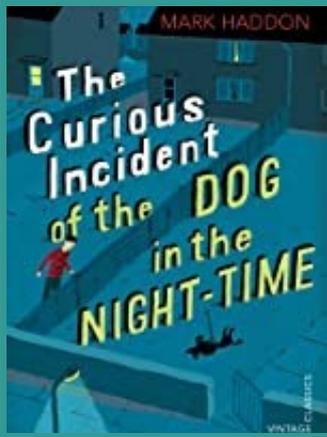
Stunning novel about a warped alternative universe hidden behind a door. Very weird and altogether creepy. If you weren't scared by the film, you will be when you read the book!



Bonetalk
Candy Gourlay

Samkad cannot wait to become a man through undergoing the 'Cut' rites of passage observed by his Bontok tribe, though he fears losing his best friend Luki as a result, for Luki is a girl and their relationship will be forbidden, even though they share the same ambitions - to become a warrior, to fight the Mangili. Samkad's absorbing journey to manhood is intensified when a white stranger arrives in his village claiming to be his brother, a stranger who tells tales of a people called Americans. Then, when the Americans arrive, bringing war and destruction to the Bontok's remote mountains, nothing will be the same again. Not for Samkad, nor for his family and culture.

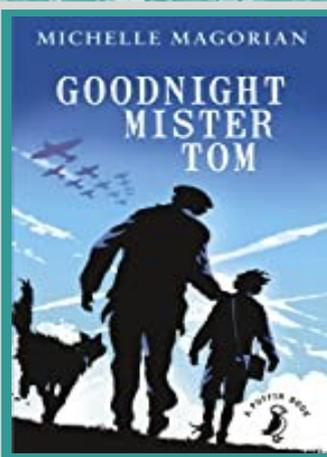
A historically enlightening and emotionally powerful, tale, this coming-of-age adventure is full of atmosphere and action.



The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night Time
Mark Haddon

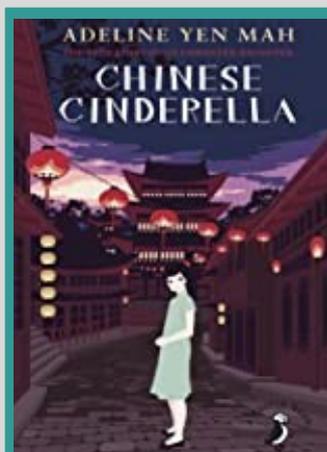
'Lots of things are mysteries. But that doesn't mean there isn't an answer to them' and when Christopher finds a dead dog on his neighbour's lawn he applies the principles he has learnt from Sherlock Holmes, his own literary hero to solve the crime. In particular, Christopher traces the mystery surrounding his mother's absence and his father's unexpected behaviour, drawing on the clues he can understand. It is also a story without lies because Christopher can't tell lies. Christopher does not like strangers or the colours yellow or brown or being touched. On the other hand, he knows all the countries in the world and their capital cities and every prime number up to 7507.

This is Christopher's unique murder mystery story. It is also make his very special journey of discovery.



Goodnight Mister Tom
Michelle Magorian

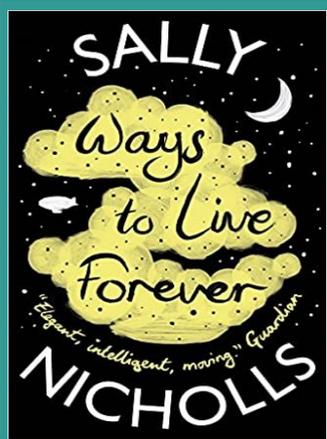
A heart breaking and heart warming story of a special friendship that grows between Willie Beech, evacuated to the country to avoid the Blitz on London, and Tom Oakley, the reserved old man who begrudgingly takes him in. Willie has been lonely and neglected all his life as his mother lacks the ability to care for him. Under Mister Tom's patient and kind guidance Willie grows emotionally and physically to become the boy he should have been. He blossoms at school and makes several friends for the first time in his life. But then his mother wants him back home in London. Must Willie lose everything that has made him happy?



Chinese Cinderella
Adeline Yen Mah

Jung-ling's family considers her bad luck because her mother died giving birth to her. They discriminate against her and make her feel unwanted yet she yearns and continuously strives for her parents' love. Her stepmother is vindictive and cruel and her father dismissive. Jung-ling grows up to be an academic child, with a natural ability for writing. Only her aunt and grandfather offer her any love and kindness.

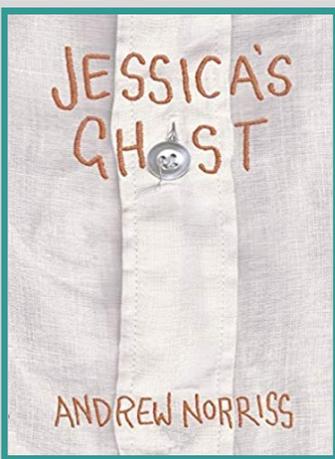
The story, based on Adeline Yen Mah's own life is of survival in the light of the mental and physical cruelty of her stepmother and the disloyalty of her siblings. Jung-ling blossoms in spite of everything and the story ends as her father agrees to let her study in England.



Ways to Live Forever
Sally Nicholls

'My name is Sam. I am eleven years old. I collect stories and fantastic facts. By the time you read this I will probably be dead.'

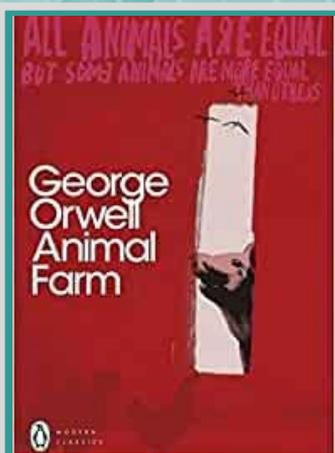
Sympathetic, touching, and surprisingly funny, *Ways To Live Forever* is a fantastic novel. Sam loves facts. He wants to know about UFOs horror movies and airships and ghosts and scientists, and how it feels to kiss a girl. And because he has leukaemia he wants to know the facts about dying. Sam needs answers for the questions nobody will answer. This diary account of a young boy dying of Leukaemia will pull on heartstrings and have you in fits of laughter at the same time.



Jessica's Ghost
Andrew Norriss

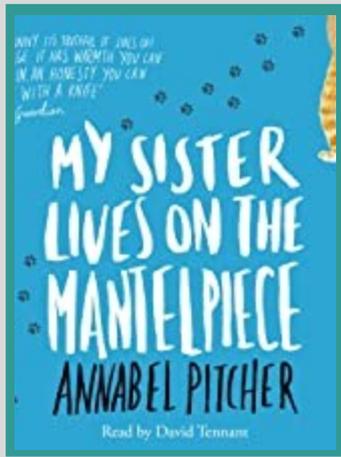
Francis has never had a friend like Jessica before. She's the first person he's ever met who can make him feel completely himself. Jessica has never had a friend like Francis before. Not just because he's someone to laugh with every day - but because he's the first person who has ever been able to see her ...Jessica's Ghost is a funny, moving and beautiful book by a master storyteller, about the power of friendship to shine a warm light into dark places.

Everyone should read it!



Animal Farm
George Orwell

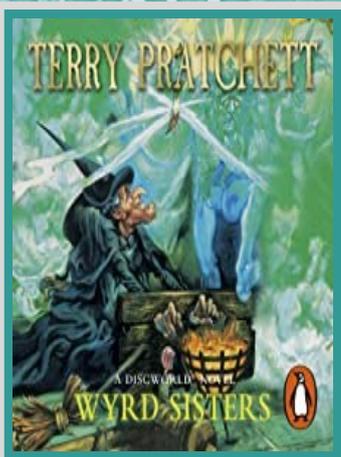
Having got rid of their human master, the animals of Manor Farm look forward to a life of freedom and plenty, without any interference from the wicked humans. But as a clever, ruthless elite among them, led by Napoleon the pig, takes control, the other animals find themselves hopelessly ensnared in the old ways. Orwell's chilling story of the betrayal of idealism through tyranny and corruption, is as fresh and relevant today as when it was first published in 1945.



My Sister Lives on the Mantelpiece
Annabel Pitcher

Heartbreaking and funny in equal measure, 10-year-old Jamie's direct and wide-eyed account of the emotional chaos he and his family live through following the death of his sister in a terrorist attack is poignant and warm-hearted. Beginning a new life in the Lake District with his older sister and his father, who mourns his daughter through alcohol and a wild rage against her killers, Jamie knows he should feel sadder than he does. The truth is, he can hardly remember his sister; and what is happening with his new school and new friends, especially Sunya, is more urgent – as is his yearning for his absent mother.

Emotionally charged, this is a wonderfully touching story.

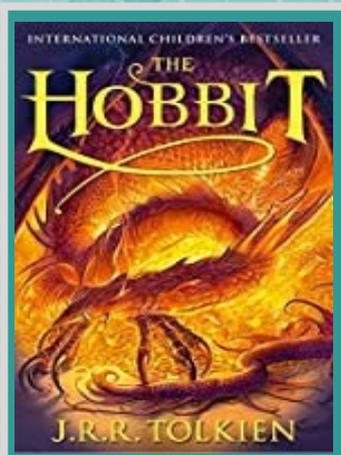


Wyrd Sisters
Terry Pratchett

Three witches – Granny Weatherwax, Nanny Ogg and Magrat Garlick – have gathered on a lonely heath. A king has been cruelly murdered, his throne usurped by his ambitious cousin. An infant heir and the crown of the kingdom, both missing...

Witches don't have these kinds of dynastic problems themselves – in fact, they don't have leaders. Granny Weatherwax is the most highly regarded of these non-existent leaders. But even she is about to find that meddling in royal politics is a lot more complicated than certain playwrights would have you believe...

Wyrd Sisters is the sixth Discworld novel but they can be read in any order.



The Hobbit
J.R.R. Tolkien

In a hole in the ground there lived a hobbit. Not a nasty, dirty, wet hole, filled with the ends of worms and an oozy smell, nor yet a dry, bare, sandy hole with nothing in it to sit down on or to eat: it was a hobbit-hole, and that means comfort. Written for J.R.R. Tolkien's own children, *The Hobbit* met with instant critical acclaim when it was first published in 1937. Now recognized as a timeless classic, this introduction to the hobbit Bilbo Baggins, the wizard Gandalf, Gollum, and the spectacular world of Middle-earth is unforgettable.