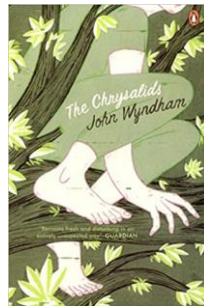


## Longsands Recommends: Year 10-11 Recommended Reads

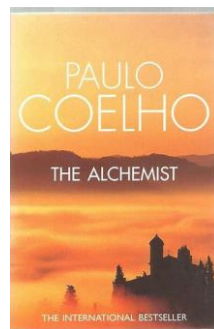
This list has been compiled using the suggestions of Longsands Students. Thank you to all who recommended books for this list. If you have further book suggestions, please do email

Miss Gray: [Gemma.Gray@astrea-longsands.org](mailto:Gemma.Gray@astrea-longsands.org)



**Title:** *The Chrysalids* **Author:** John Wyndham **Genre:** Science Fiction

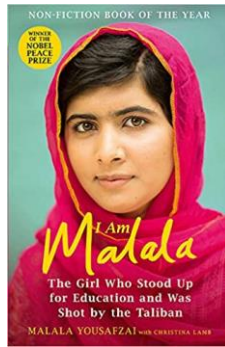
**Synopsis:** *The Chrysalids* is a post-nuclear apocalypse story about genetic mutation in a devastated world. It explores the lengths the intolerant will go to keep themselves pure.



**Title:** *The Alchemist* **Author:** Paulo Coelho **Genre:** Quest, Adventure, Fantasy Fiction

**Synopsis:** *The Alchemist* follows the journey of an Andalusian shepherd boy named Santiago. Believing a recurring dream to be prophetic, he asks a Gypsy fortune teller in the nearby town about its meaning. The woman interprets the dream as a prophecy telling the boy that he will discover a treasure at the Egyptian pyramids.

**Why I enjoyed it:** it teaches you to pursue your dreams. It also has brilliant world - building with a good story.



**Title:** *I am Malala* **Author:** Malala Yousafzai **Genre:** Non- Fiction

**Synopsis:** This is an autobiography and follows Malala's life story focusing on her campaigns for better education, particularly for girls. It goes on to describe the sad events of her being targeted and shot by the Taliban, and how she has since made an impact on the world.

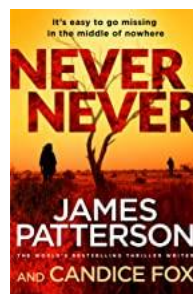
**Why I enjoyed it:** I enjoyed it because I found it inspiring and insightful into challenges in other countries. Overall, it was a great read that I read in just a few days!



**Title:** *Six of Crows* **Author:** Leigh Bardugo **Genre:** Young Adult/ Fantasy Fiction

**Synopsis:** Six of Crows is about a man named Kaz Brekker who forms a group of six 'outcasts' to attempt to pull off an impossible heist.

**Why I enjoyed it:** I enjoyed it as the plan was really complicated and smart and there is a massive plot twist at the end which carries on into the second book, 'Crooked Kingdom'.



**Title:** *Never Never* **Author:** James Patterson **Genre:** Action/ Mystery Fiction

**Synopsis:** With her brother under arrest for a series of brutal murders in Sydney, Harry's chief wants the hot-headed detective kept far from the press. So he assigns her a deadly new case - in the middle of the outback.

Deep in the Western Australian desert, three young people have disappeared from the Bandy Mine. And it's Harry's job to track them down.

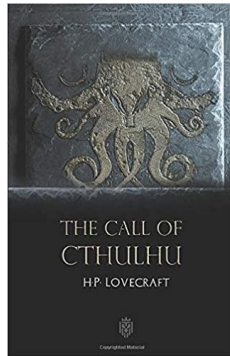
**Why I enjoyed it:** I really enjoyed it as it was very engaging. Other books I recommend are: *Middle School*, *Merry Christmas*, *Alex Cross*, by James Patterson



**Title:** *Macbeth* (Manga Version) **Author:** William Shakespeare, artist: Julien Choy

**Genre:** Tragedy Play/ Manga

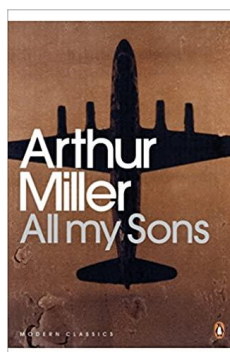
**Synopsis:** *Macbeth* is about a hero whose 'vaulting ambition' corrupts him, leading him to become a tyrannous king. This is the original Shakespearian text but presented in a manga format. **Why I enjoyed it:** More reluctant readers might enjoy this format more as the pictures make the dialogue more understandable. Also, I like the art style.



**Title:** *Call of Cthulu* **Author:** HP Lovecraft **Genre:** Cosmic Horror Fiction

**Synopsis:** Francis Thurston uncovers the mystery behind his great-uncle's death, a murderous cult, and a being of primordial evil.

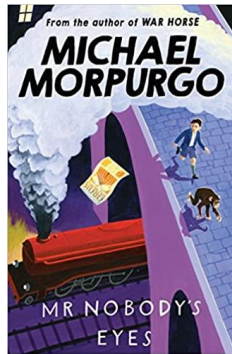
**Why I enjoyed it:** It is a good introduction to the Cosmic Horror genre and the author is good at creating an unsettling atmosphere. However, the author clearly had severe prejudice and so, any readers should keep the context/ time period of writing in mind.



**Title:** *All My Sons* **Author:** Arthur Miller **Genre:** Historical Fiction Play

**Summary:** John Keller must live with the guilt of selling defective engines to the military, which led to the deaths of 21 pilots. His family has also been struggling with the death of his older son, Larry, in World War 2. Now, Keller must face the consequences of his actions.

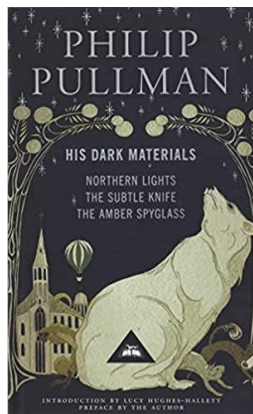
**Why I enjoyed it:** It was a heart-wrenching family drama with a tragic ending.



**Title:** *Mr. Nobody's Eyes* **Author:** Michael Morpurgo **Genre:** Children's /Young Adult Fiction

**Synopsis:** It is about a young boy who is having trouble with school and his family and befriends a chimp from a circus.

**Why I enjoyed it:** It sounds childish but I enjoyed reading this and found it quite heart-warming. It is quite a simple and easy story to follow and isn't that long so people who struggle, like me, may find this a good place to start.

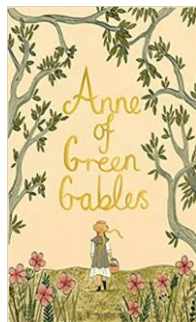


**Title:** *'His Dark Materials' Trilogy* **Author:** Philip Pullman **Genre:** Fantasy Fiction

**Synopsis:** It is set in an alternate universe where science technology and magic are intertwined. We follow Lyra Belacqua and her friends as she uncovers a sinister plot involving stolen children, all whilst she learns truth about her family. As the trilogy develops Lyra forms strong bonds with those around her with people that would defend her at all costs and gets betrayed by those in which she placed the most trust.

**Why I enjoyed it:** A lot happens in this series and I would recommend it to a very committed reader, but it's worth it. I enjoyed these books because of the constant plot twist and incredible world-building.

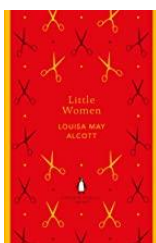
**What other students have said about it:** Suitable for all readers due to the simplistic plot, but after the third book it becomes harder to follow. The characters and setting are original and well-crafted.



**Title:** *Anne of Green Gables* **Author:** Lucy Maud Montgomery **Genre:** Coming of Age Fiction

**Synopsis:** The novel is primarily about a young girl who is mistakenly adopted by a brother and sister in Prince Edward Island, Canada who resent her a bit at first and the story is about them gradually becoming more fond of her and treating her like their child. It is also about the chaotic adventures Anne gets into.

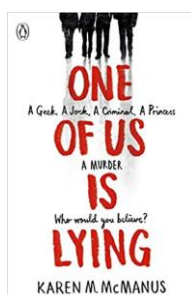
**Why I enjoyed it:** Although it was originally published in 1908, many of the topics in the novel are still relevant today. It's suitable for most ages as the storyline isn't too complicated and is good for some light-hearted reading. More reluctant readers might find it harder to enjoy at first as a lot of the language used is quite old-fashioned today, but the various storylines are largely engaging for most, although it is probably better suited for more avid readers.



**Title:** *Little Women* **Author:** Louisa May Alcott **Genre:** Romance Fiction

**Synopsis:** A coming of age novel set in 1868 (so quite old-fashioned language is used, which may be off-putting for reluctant readers but the older language isn't that difficult to understand). This novel is suitable for all ages and levels of readers and although one of the main themes in the novel is conflict, it is quite light-hearted.

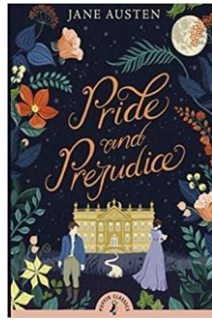
**Why I enjoyed it:** The story follows the lives of the four March sisters and is loosely based on the author and her three sisters in real life and is an enjoyable book.



**Title:** *One of Us is Lying* **Author:** Karen M. McManus **Genre:** Young Adult/ Mystery Fiction

**Synopsis:** It's engaging from the first page as the reader continually wants to find out more about a murder that happens in the same room as four, but they don't know which one actually committed the murder and it has to be one of them.

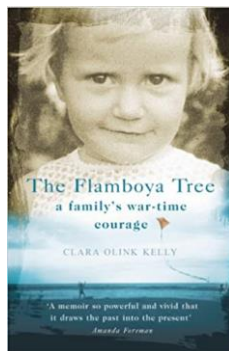
**Why I enjoyed it:** The story basically follows the perspective of each of the characters and uses lots of suspense and plot-twists to keep the reader interested and engaged, even for the most reluctant readers. I would largely recommend this book to someone who has no interest in reading at all, as it's a good book to start with.



**Title:** *Pride and Prejudice* **Author:** Jane Austen **Genre:** Classic Fiction/ Romance

**Synopsis:** *Pride and Prejudice* focuses on the decision between marrying for love and marrying for money in the early 1800s. None of Mr. Bennet's five daughters can inherit his estate because they are women, so they are pressured into finding security in "good" marriages.

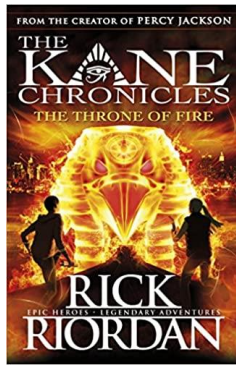
**Why I enjoyed it:** *Pride and Prejudice* is my favourite book due to it being a revolutionary feminist novel as well as having an amazing plot and fantastic character development. The underlying humour creates a much-needed contrast to lighten up the serious tone especially in the beginning of the second half.



**Title:** *The Flamboya Tree* **Author:** Clara Olink Kelly **Genre:** Non - Fiction

**Synopsis:** This Non-Fiction story follows the life of a wealthy family who lived the Indonesian Island of Java when they were taken to a concentration camp during World War Two by Japanese troops.

**Why I enjoyed it:** I feel it is an important story that should receive more recognition than it has done. The Japanese camps are often overlooked because they were considered to be 'not as bad' as the Nazi ones in Europe however the struggles people faced should still be recognised and understood.

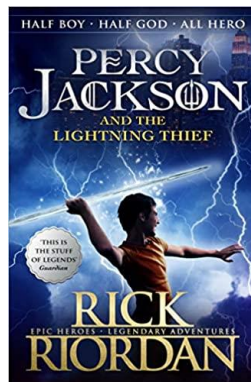


**Title:** *The Kane Chronicles: The Throne of Fire* **Author:** Rick Riordan

**Genre:** Fantasy/Adventure Fiction

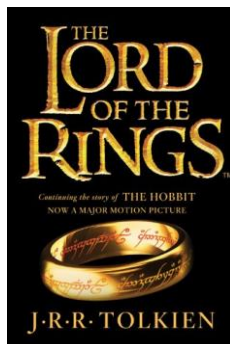
**Synopsis:** Two siblings contain powers given to them by gods of Egypt. They need to use these powers to save the world.

**Why I enjoyed this book:** I would recommend this because it has lots of good humour and action.



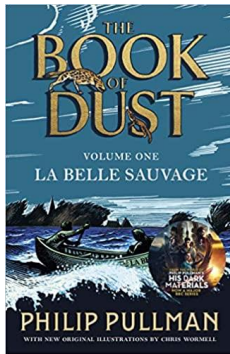
**Title:** *Percy Jackson* **Author:** Rick Riordan **Genre:** Fantasy Fiction

**Synopsis:** It's about teens that are born from a Greek god and a demigod it centres around the adventures of Percy Jackson and his friends involving the gods and creatures from Greek mythology. **Why I enjoyed it:** It has a lot of action but also some comedic and light-hearted moments which is why I really like it. I recommend it because whilst it is a fun read and is part of a series you also learn about mythology which I started to like because of these books.

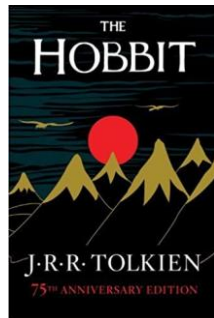


**Title:** *The Lord of the Rings* **Author:** J.R.R. Tolkien **Genre:** Fantasy/Adventure Fiction

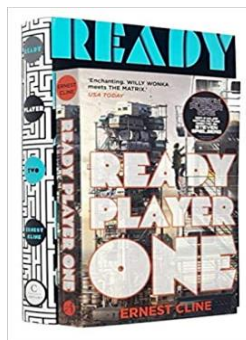
**Synopsis:** A journey through Middle-earth, a fantasy world, where a Hobbit and his company venture into enemy territory to destroy the Ring of Power and prevent Sauron, the Dark Lord, from taking over. **Why I enjoyed it:** It is good for enthusiastic readers due to its intricate plot and well-crafted characters.



**Title:** *The Book of Dust* Volume 1 and 2 **Author:** Phillip Pullman **Genre:** Fantasy Fiction  
**Synopsis:** Volume 1 is a prequel to the *His Dark Materials* trilogy, narrating the journey of a boy and a girl taking a baby – who is prophesised to bring about the end of destiny – to safety. Volume 2 is a sequel to the *His Dark Materials* trilogy, narrating the exploration of the secret commonwealth – a place of things that don't obey the laws of physics – in conjunction with a narration of the relationship between a woman and her dæmon.  
**Why I enjoyed it:** It is suitable for all readers, as the plots are not overly complicated, but the settings are brilliantly crafted.

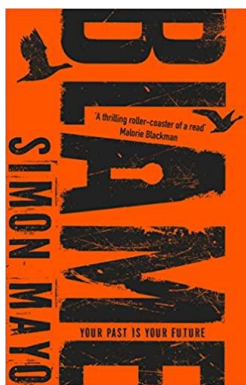


**Title:** *The Hobbit* **Author:** J. R.R. Tolkien **Genre:** Fantasy/Adventure Fiction  
**Synopsis:** In a more laid-back adventure than *The Lord of the Rings*, a Hobbit, accustomed to a pleasant home life winds up on an adventure with a wizard and several dwarves to reclaim the Lonely Mountain. **Why I enjoyed it:** This is suitable for all readers due to its simplistic plot and characters (although the language used in the book may be slightly challenging).



**Title:** *Ready Player One and Two* **Author:** Ernest Cline **Genre:** Adventure/Comedy Fiction  
**Synopsis:** In a future Earth stricken by an energy crisis, most of humanity spends time plugged into a virtual reality console called the OASIS. But when the multibillionaire creator of the OASIS dies, a quest to find the “Easter egg” that would give the finder the creator's entire fortune begins. **Why I enjoyed it:** Despite the 1980s pop culture references, the book is suitable for all readers and the first book, *Ready Player One*, is the best book I have ever read – it is very funny and has brilliant characters.

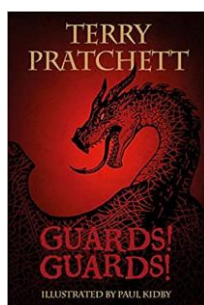




**Title:** Blame **Author:** Simon Mayo **Genre:** Thriller Fiction

**Synopsis:** A dystopian UK setting where heritage crime – locking up a criminal’s family – has become a reality. One family of heritage criminals try to change this.

**Why I enjoyed it:** It is suitable for all readers, due to the simple plot. It has very good characters and an original setting.

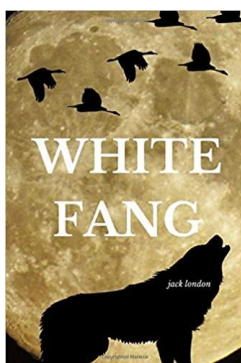


**Title:** *Guards! Guards!* (Novel 8 in the *Discworld* Series) **Author:** Terry Pratchett

**Genre:** Fantasy/ Comedy Fiction

**Synopsis:** The fictional city of Ankh-Morpork is threatened by a dragon.

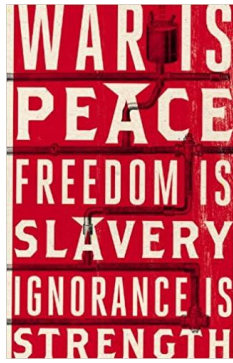
**Why I enjoyed it:** This is suitable for more reluctant readers, and contains very funny characters.



**Title:** *White Fang* **Author:** Jack London **Genre:** Adventure Fiction

**Synopsis:** A fictional narration of the life of a wolf cub who is subjected every kind of human treatment.

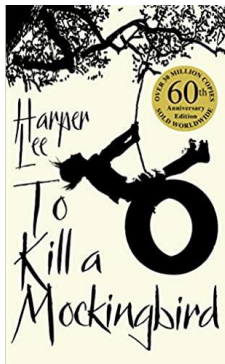
**Why I enjoyed it:** This is suitable for all readers, with a very emotive plot.



**Title:** *Nineteen Eighty-Four* **Author:** George Orwell **Genre:** Dystopian Fiction

**Synopsis:** A fictional representation of a future where human freedom and privacy no longer exist, and an unseen dictator manipulates and controls the population.

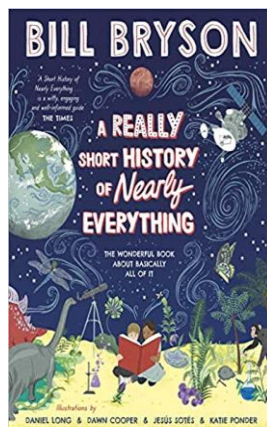
**Why I enjoyed it:** This is good for avid readers. The book has intimately described characters, which makes the plot all the more hard-hitting.



**Title:** *To Kill a Mockingbird* **Author:** Harper Lee **Genre:** Bildungsroman Fiction

**Synopsis:** Set in the American Deep South of the 1930s, the events in a racist town are seen through the eyes of a lawyer's young daughter.

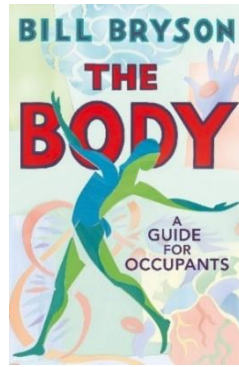
**Why I enjoyed it:** This is good for enthusiastic readers due to complicated context. Once the context of the story is appreciated, the book's plot is emotive, and the characters are complex.



**Title:** *Short History of Nearly Everything* **Author:** Bill Bryson **Genre:** Non-Fiction

**Synopsis:** A well-written history of the universe, the Earth, and life.

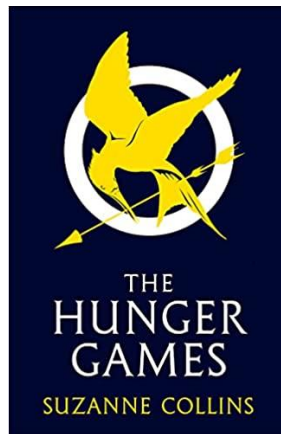
**Why I enjoyed it:** This is suitable for all readers. It is well-written and full of interesting facts.



**Title:** *The Body* **Author:** Bill Bryson **Genre:** Non-Fiction

**Synopsis:** A well-written non-fiction description of every part of the human body.

**Why I enjoyed it:** Suitable for all readers who are interested in learning about the body.

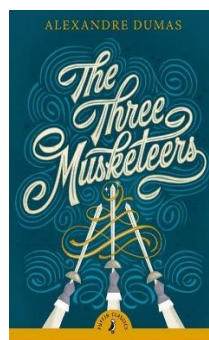


**Title:** *The Hunger Games* Trilogy **Author:** Suzanne Collins **Genre:** Thriller/Adventure Fiction

**Synopsis:** Set in a dark version of the near future, a terrifying reality TV show is taking place. Twelve boys and twelve girls are forced to appear in a live event called *The Hunger Games*.

There is only one rule: kill or be killed.

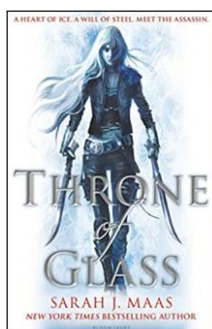
**Why I enjoyed it:** The books are quite easy to understand as well as being very engaging (may suit reluctant readers).



**Title:** *The Three Musketeers* **Author:** Alexandre Dumas **Genre:** Adventure Fiction

**Synopsis:** "All for one and one for all" ...17th Century France. Dashing young swordsman D'Artagnan heads for Paris, dreaming of serving the King as a member of his elite guard. On arrival, he meets the three musketeers - Athos, Porthos and Aramis - and the four men soon become fast friends. Together, they strive to outwit the murderous schemes of power-hungry Cardinal Richelieu, and save the Queen from a plot to dishonour her.

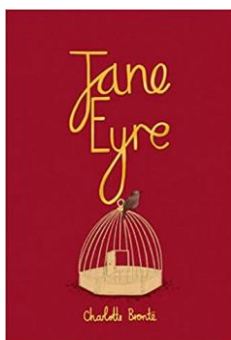
**Why I enjoyed it:** It is easy to follow, extremely engaging and also humorous at times.



**Title:** *Throne of Glass* **Author:** Sarah J. Maas **Genre:** Fantasy Fiction

**Synopsis:** The book is about an eighteen-year-old girl named Celaena Sardothien. She is a trained assassin who is serving a life sentence for killing hundreds of people. One day, she is offered a deal by young Captain Westfall: her freedom in return for a huge sacrifice. Celaena must represent the prince in a to-the-death tournament against other trained assassins to become the king's champion assassin.

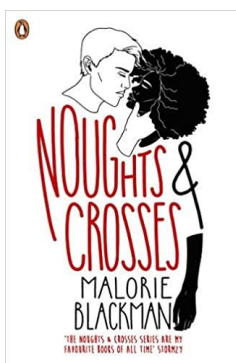
**Why I enjoyed it:** I would recommend this book and the series as I personally found it very engaging, and it is incredibly well written. It ties in this incredible fantasy element and keeps the reader emotionally attached to the characters.



**Title:** *Jane Eyre* **Author:** Charlotte Brontë **Genre:** Victorian Fiction

**Synopsis:** The novel follows the story of Jane, a plain and simple girl, as she battles through life's struggles. Jane has many obstacles in her life - her cruel and abusive Aunt Reed, the grim conditions at Lowood school, her love for Rochester and Rochester's marriage to Bertha.

However, Jane overcomes these obstacles through her determination, sharp wit, and courage. **Why I enjoyed it:** I would recommend this book as it is a classic and *Jane Eyre* is an incredible and strong feminist symbol.



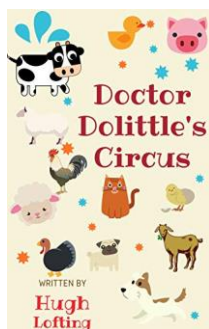
**Title:** *Noughts and Crosses* **Author:** Malorie Blackman **Genre:** Young Adult Fiction

**Synopsis:** Sephy is a Cross - a member of the dark-skinned ruling class. Callum is a Nought - a 'colourless' member of the underclass who were once slaves to the Crosses. The two have

been friends since early childhood. But that's as far as it can go. Until the first steps are taken towards more social equality and a limited number of Noughts are allowed into Cross schools.

Against a background of prejudice and distrust, intensely highlighted by violent terrorist activity by Noughts, a romance builds between Sephy and Callum - a romance that is to lead both of them into terrible danger.

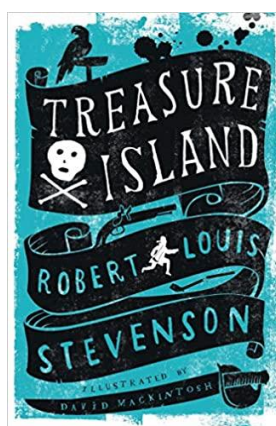
**Why I enjoyed it:** I recommend this book as it ties in an engaging romance whilst battling real-life issues of prejudice and segregation. It is well written and the books that follow in the series are just as incredible.



**Title:** *Doctor Dolittle's Circus* **Author:** Hugh Lofting **Genre:** Children's Fiction

**Synopsis:** The story begins with Doctor John Dolittle looking for some money to earn to pay off his voyage to Africa. The Doctor's idea is to get the Pushmi-Pullyu into the circus, but he can't find one until Matthew Mugg suggests a small business circus owned by the ringmaster Blossum.

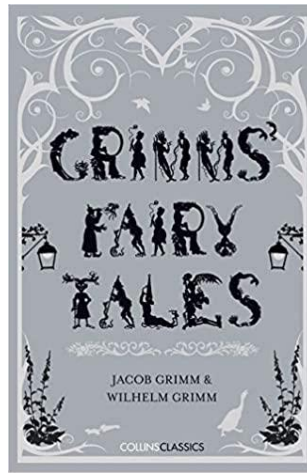
**Why I enjoyed it:** I would recommend this for people who are interested in reading older books as the writing may not be as engaging to everyone. I personally did enjoy reading it and have found quite a delight in older books, which have been provided to me by my Nan.



**Title:** *Treasure Island* **Author:** Robert Louis Stevenson **Genre:** Young Adult Fiction

**Synopsis:** It is set in the days of sailing ships and pirates and tells of the adventures of Jim Hawkins and his search for the buried treasure of an evil pirate, Captain Flint.

**Why I enjoyed it:** An older book that I'd recommend to those interested in classics. Most know the story of *Treasure Island*, but many haven't read the book which is a pleasant read.



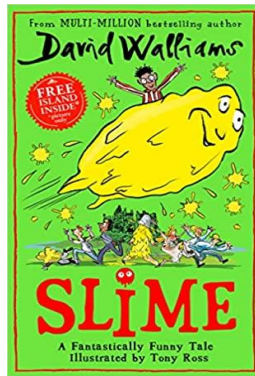
**Title:** *Grimm's Fairy Tales* **Author:** Jacob and Wilhelm Grimm – AKA The Brothers Grimm  
**Genre:** Fairy Tale Fiction

**Synopsis:** Various fairy tales such as *Cinderella*, *Snow White* and *Rumpelstiltskin*.

**Why I enjoyed them:** I have personally enjoyed the very different themes and events contained within those stories. They are nothing like the Fairy Tales told by Disney and are much darker.



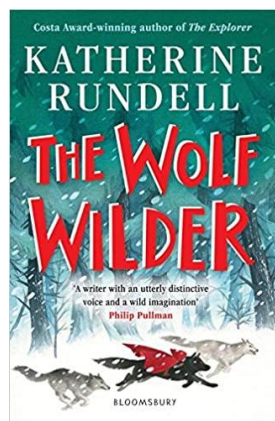
**Title:** *This Way Delight* **Author:** Selected Poets, collated by Herbert Read **Genre:** Poetry  
**Synopsis:** A collection of poems from a range of writers, of which many may recognise a few.  
**Why I enjoyed it:** I can recommend books containing poetry as sometimes you may not want to read all that much and a poem may be more suited to your taste. Whilst there are many poems, I found that the ones contained in this book have been of my favourites.



**Title:** *Slime* **Author:** David Williams **Genre:** Humorous Fiction

**Synopsis:** This is set in the island of Mulch. This little island is home to a large number of horrible grown-ups. The school, the local park, the toy shop and even the island's ice-cream van are all run by awful adults who like nothing more than making children miserable. And the island is owned by the most awful one of all – Aunt Greta Greed! Something needs to be done about them. But who could be brave enough?

**Why you enjoyed it:** It is interesting and funny. I have read all his books and am usually a reluctant reader so has really got me back into reading again.



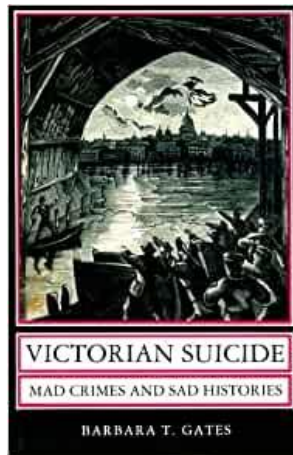
**Title:** *The Wolf Wilder*

**Author:** Katherine Rundell

**Genre:** Modern Fairy Tale/ Historical Fiction

**Synopsis:** Set just before the Russian revolution, the book follows a girl who rehabilitates domestic wolves so they can survive in the wild again. she later uses these to find her mother after she is kidnapped.

**Why I enjoyed it:** Its great as a shorter read and has a very engaging story line. As a warning to any animal lover, this book made me cry, and that's saying something!

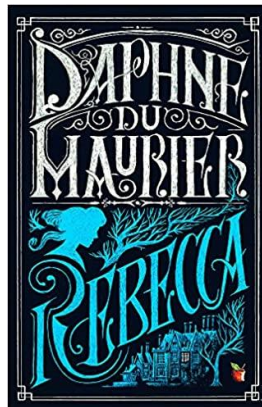


**Title:** *Victorian Suicide: Mad Crimes and Sad Histories* **Author:** Barbara T. Gates

**Genre:** Historical Essays

**Synopsis:** This is a collection of essays on Victorian attitudes towards mental health and suicide.

**Why I enjoyed it:** This is an interesting read as it covers changing views, 'fashionable insanity' and punishment for attempted suicide. I wouldn't actively recommend this to anyone unless they have an interest in sociology or darker history. This one came from my mum's University book list which is how I found out about it.



**Title:** *Rebecca* **Author:** Daphne du Maurier **Genre:** Mystery Fiction

**Synopsis:** This unforgettable 1938 novel follows a young woman, whose name and detail of physical appearance are never mentioned, when she falls in love with a dashing Maxim de Winter during a trip to France. They come back to England to live at his home, Manderley, which is haunted by Mr de Winter's late wife who makes life difficult for Max's new wife. When the mystery is uncovered about Rebecca's death, Mr and Mrs de Winter must hide a huge secret to protect their reputation.

**Why I enjoyed it:** This book is amazingly thrilling, and I would recommend it to anybody. The writing is spectacular, but not extremely challenging for any reluctant readers.



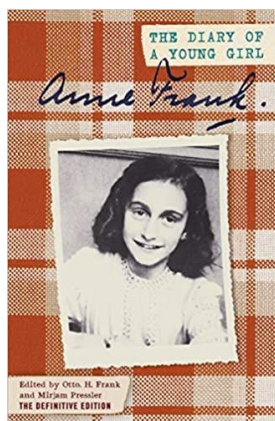


**Title:** *Inkheart* Trilogy **Author:** Cornelia Funke **Genre:** Mystery/ Fantasy/ Adventure Fiction

**Synopsis:** Mortimer "Mo" "Silvertongue" Folchart raises his thirteen-year-old daughter Meggie alone after the disappearance of his wife Resa. He restores books for a living and travels with Meggie to find an old book called "Inkheart" in antique bookshops in Europe.

When he is approached by a weird man called Dustfinger, she overhears him calling her father "Silvertongue". Meggie discovers later that he has the ability of bringing characters out of the books to the real world.

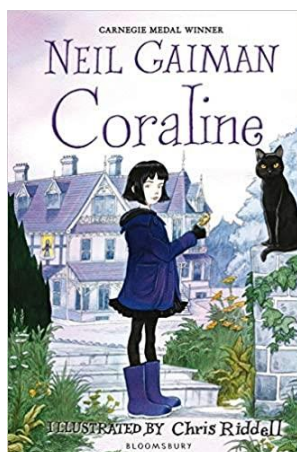
**Why I enjoyed this book:** This book made feel like the character and i likes it so much i could not put the book down. it is my all-time favourite book!



**Title:** *The Diary of a Young Girl* **Author:** Anne Frank **Genre:** Autobiography, Non-fiction

**Synopsis:** Anne Frank writes about her experiences of being in hiding during WW2.

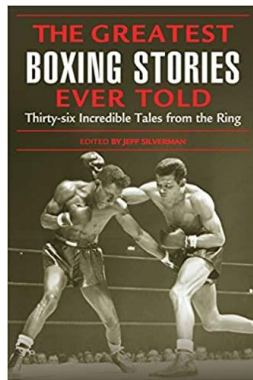
**Why I enjoyed this book:** It was helpful in describing what WW2 was like, as it was written from the view of a witness.



**Title:** *Coraline* **Author:** Neil Gaiman **Genre:** Fantasy, Horror Fiction

**Synopsis:** Coraline moves to a new house but everything seems eerie and out of place.

**Why I enjoyed the book:** The plot was exciting, it has an interesting setting and I like fantasy.



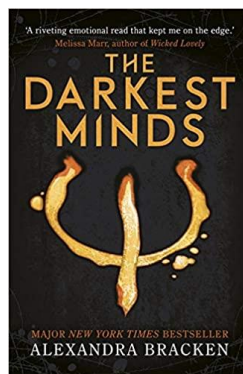
**Title:** *Greatest Boxing Stories Ever Told*

**Author:** Jeff Silverman

**Genre:** Sport/ Non - Fiction

**Synopsis:** It is about boxing stories that were remembered in history.

**Why I enjoyed it:** I enjoyed because it is good to know new things that happened before I was born.



**Title:** *The Darkest Minds* **Author:** Alexandra Bracken

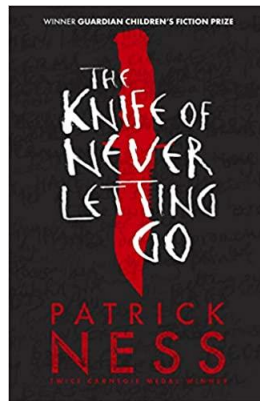
**Genre:** Speculative Fiction (overlaps with multiple genres)

**Synopsis:** After a disease killed 98% of children and young people in the United States, the 2% who managed to survive have developed superpowers, but have been locked in internment camps after being declared a threat. 16-year-old, Ruby, manages to escape from her camp and joins a group of teenagers fleeing the government.

**Why I enjoyed this book:** The whole series was really well written, and the plot was 10/10.

## Longsands Teacher Recommendations

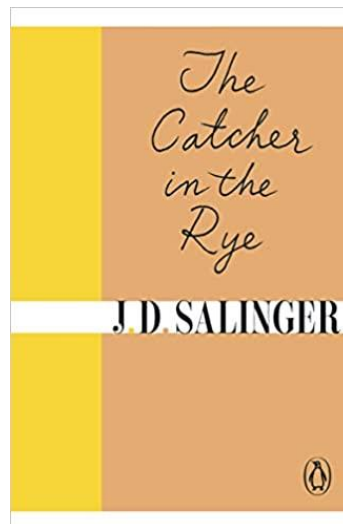
### Mr Owen (English) recommends:



**Title:** *The Chaos Walking Trilogy* **Author:** Patrick Ness **Genre:** Young Adult Fiction

**Synopsis:** (*The Knife of Never Letting Go* – Book 1) Prentisstown isn't like other towns. Everyone can hear everyone else's thoughts in a constant, overwhelming Noise. There is no privacy. There are no secrets. Then Todd Hewitt unexpectedly stumbles on a spot of complete silence. Which is impossible. And now he's going to have to run...

**Why I enjoyed it:** Having enjoyed *A Monster Calls*, I decided to read some other novels by Patrick Ness. This trilogy is more 'grown up' and plays around with narrative voice in really clever ways. It takes a while to get used to the style of the book – it even looks a bit strange on the page – but stick with it and you will be rewarded. This was a trilogy that I could not put down!



**Title:** *The Catcher in the Rye* **Author:** J.D Salinger **Genre:** Bildungsroman Fiction

**Synopsis:** *The Catcher in the Rye* is set around the 1950s and is narrated by a young man named Holden Caulfield. Holden is not specific about his location while he's telling the story, but he makes it clear that he is undergoing treatment in a mental hospital or sanatorium.

**Why I enjoyed it:** I'd heard about this book for years and finally decided to give it a go. Holden Caulfield is a fantastic creation – he's funny, incredibly sarcastic but also deeply troubled. There's something about this book that captures the experiences of the teenage years perfectly. A great 'coming of age' story.



**Title:** *The Remains of the Day* **Author:** Kazuo Ishiguro (my favourite book)

**Genre:** Historical Fiction

**Synopsis:** The novel tells the story of Stevens, an English butler who has dedicated his life to the loyal service of Lord Darlington (who is recently deceased, and whom Stevens describes in increasing detail in flashbacks).

**Why I enjoyed it:** This is my favourite book of all time. After ten pages of reading about the intricacies of being a butler, I was questioning my reading choice. However, the book pulled me in as I began to understand the hidden thoughts of the deeply repressed narrator, Stevens. This book had me in floods of tears by the end, as Ishiguro gets to the heart of the danger of repressing how you truly feel and think.

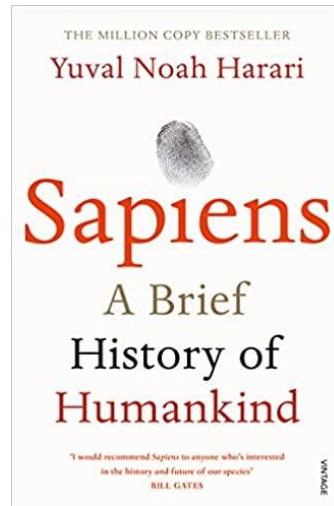
**Why I enjoyed it:** A spiritual successor to *Remains of the Day*, this book perfectly balances its science fiction elements with a relatable narrative. Again, Ishiguro explores what it means to be human and had me in tears by the end. A special book that questions the ethical issues of artificial intelligence.



**Title:** *Klara and the Sun* **Author:** Kazuo Ishiguro **Genre:** Dystopian/ Science Fiction

**Synopsis:** The novel is set in a dystopian future in which some children are genetically-engineered ("lifted") for enhanced academic ability.

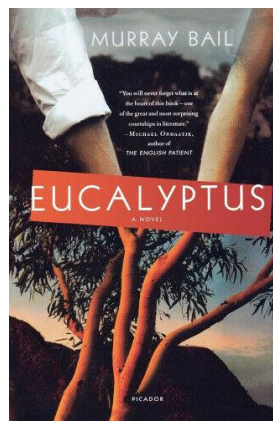
## Miss Gray recommends:



**Title:** *Sapiens: A Brief History of Humankind* **Author:** Yuval Noah Harari **Genre:** Non-Fiction

**Synopsis:** Sapiens is a thrilling account of humankind's extraordinary history - from the Stone Age to the Silicon Age - and our journey from insignificant apes to rulers of the world.

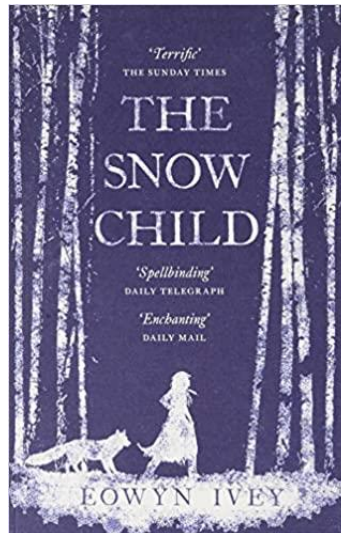
**Why I enjoyed it:** I enjoyed learning about the history of humankind as I enjoy history and non-fiction. This is told in a straightforward way so was easy to understand, as well as being challenging for the brain!



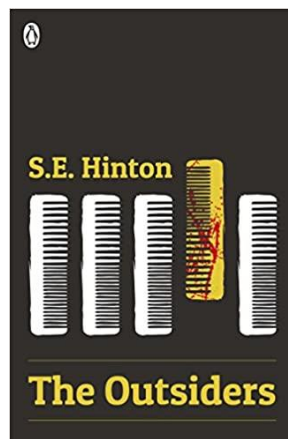
**Title:** *Eucalyptus* **Author:** Murray Bail **Genre:** Modern Fairy Tale Fiction

**Synopsis:** On a property in New South Wales, a man named Holland lives with his daughter Ellen. Over the years, as she grows into a young woman, he plants hundreds of different gum trees on his land. When she turns 19, Holland announces that she can only marry the man who can name all his species of eucalypt. Will anyone pass the test?

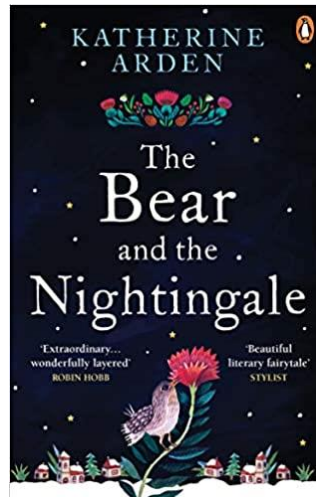
**Why I enjoyed it:** This is an interesting modern twist on a Fairy tale format and I really loved the references to Eucalyptus trees as it reminded me of my travels in Australia when I was younger.



**Title:** *The Snow Child* **Author:** Eowyn Ivey **Genre:** Modern Fairy Tale Fiction  
**Synopsis:** The Snow Child is based on a Russian fairy tale. Set in wintry Alaska, a childless couple builds a girl out of the snow in a fit of playfulness, and she comes to life.  
**Why I enjoyed it:** This is a magical twist on a piece of historical folklore. The setting descriptions are beautiful and I really felt drawn into the world of the story.



**Title:** *The Outsiders* **Author:** S.E. Hinton **Genre:** Bildungsroman/ Young Adult Fiction  
**Synopsis:** S.E. Hinton wrote *The Outsiders*, her first book, when she was 17. It is set in 1950s USA where Ponyboy, a member of a teenage gang learns to deal with growing up in a divided world between the 'Greasers' and the 'Socs'.  
**Why I enjoyed it:** I read this as an adult, teaching it to a class of year 9 students and was impressed at how young the author was when she wrote the book. The gang aspect reminded me of the film 'Grease' and the character Ponyboy is very relatable. I think that most teenagers (and adults) would enjoy this book.

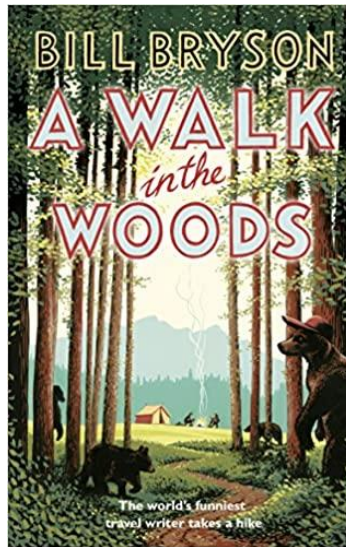


**Title:** *The Bear and the Nightingale (The Winternight Trilogy)* **Author:** Katherine Arden  
In a village at the edge of the wilderness of northern Russia, where the winds blow cold and the snow falls many months of the year, an elderly servant tells stories of sorcery, folklore and the Winter King to the children of the family, tales of old magic frowned upon by the church. But for the young, wild Vasya these are far more than just stories. She alone can see the house spirits that guard her home, and sense the growing forces of dark magic in the woods.

**Genre:** Modern Fairy Tale/ Fantasy Fiction

**Synopsis:** Beware the evil in the woods... In a village at the edge of the wilderness of northern Russia, where the winds blow cold and the snow falls many months of the year, an elderly servant tells stories of sorcery, folklore and the Winter King to the children of the family, tales of old magic frowned upon by the church. But for the young, wild Vasya these are far more than just stories. She alone can see the house spirits that guard her home, and sense the growing forces of dark magic in the woods. . .

**Why I enjoyed it:** This is set in Russia at a time long ago when many people had believed in spirits and magic but then start abandoning their belief in these things. While the book starts off at a slow pace, I soon got immersed in the vivid descriptions of the wintry landscape and found myself intrigued by the unconventional protagonist, Vasya, and her attempts to survive in a challenging world. This is the first book in a trilogy and the other two books in the series did not disappoint.

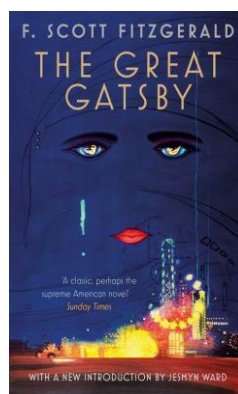


**Title:** *A Walk in the Woods* **Author:** Bill Bryson **Genre:** Non - Fiction

**Synopsis:** In the company of his friend Stephen Katz, Bill Bryson set off to hike the Appalachian Trail, the longest continuous footpath in the world. He attempts to avoid deadly creatures and landscapes along the way and tells amusing accounts of his experiences on his hike.

**Why I enjoyed it:** I really like Bill Bryson's humorous style of writing, while also informing about his travel experiences. I found this book particularly interesting as I hadn't heard of the Appalachian Trail hike before, and reading about Bryson's comical tales along the way was really enjoyable.

### Miss Remfry recommends:

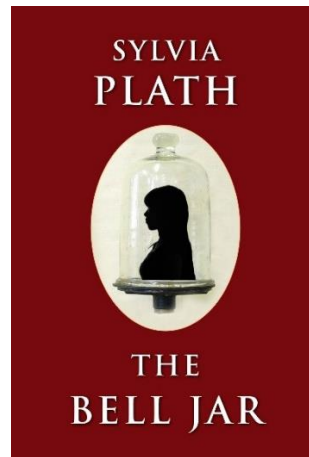


**Title:** *The Great Gatsby* **Author:** F Scott Fitzgerald **Genre:** Fiction

**Synopsis:** Considered by many to be the greatest American novel of all time, *The Great Gatsby* tells the story of the wealthy, Jay Gatsby and his obsessive love for debutante Daisy Buchanan. It is set in the 1920s, known as the Jazz Age, which was a time of decadence and frivolity.

**Why I enjoyed it:** The book reflects human nature and how everyone is flawed in some way. I enjoyed how this was explored in the novel.





**Title:** *The Bell Jar* **Author:** Sylvia Plath **Genre:** Semi- Autobiographical Fiction

**Synopsis:** When Esther Greenwood wins an internship on a New York fashion magazine in 1953, she is elated, believing she will finally realise her dream to become a writer. But in between the cocktail parties and piles of manuscripts, Esther's life begins to slide out of control. She finds herself spiralling into depression as she grapples with difficult relationships and a society which refuses to take women's aspirations seriously.

**Why I enjoyed it:** It captures being a young person well and explores how the various options that growing up involves can cause confusion.