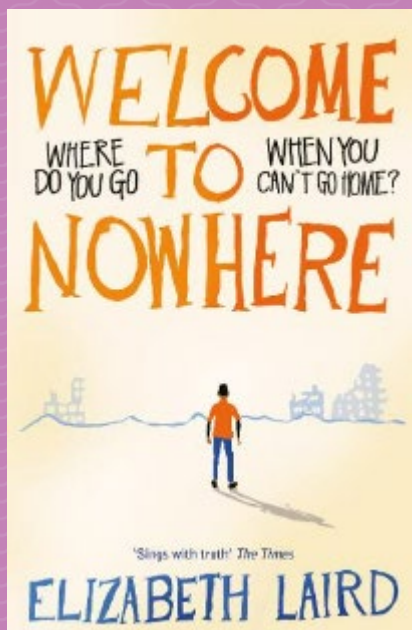




YEAR 8 RECOMMENDED READS

The following book list contains titles to appeal to children aged 12-13 in secondary school. The books consist of a range of titles to cover all ability ranges including the more able. Updated termly, this list of books includes authors such as Adeline Yen Mah, Louis Sachar, Jamila Gavin, Anne Fine, Mark Haddon, Susan Hill, Lois Lowry, and John Wyndham.



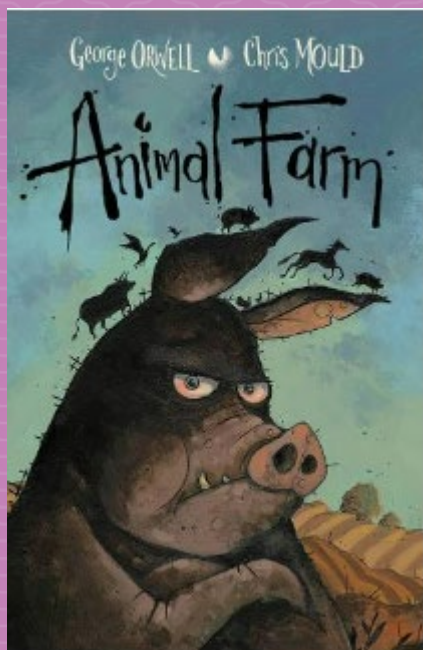
Welcome to Nowhere by Elizabeth Laird

Omar dreams of being a successful businessman and ruling the world. But living in Syria, this 12-year-old's dreams are set in a time and place where things can change rapidly – especially when his older brother finds himself in a dangerous situation and the whole family has to flee to safety.



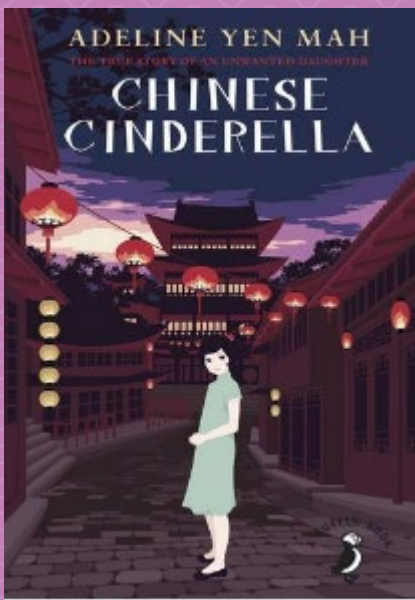
The Outsiders by S.E. Hinton

A story of struggle, growing up, gangs and peer pressure. A classic of modern teenage fiction.



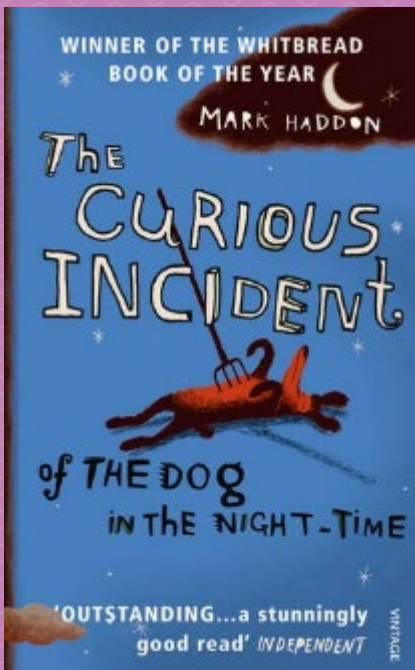
Animal Farm by George Orwell and Chris Mould

George Orwell's unabridged text is set to new and vibrant cartoon-style illustrations by award-winning illustrator Chris Mould. The images help to lift a classic novel that is too often presented with typesetting from another era that 21st-century teens can find off-putting. Adding fun and pertinent satire, the narrative pictures add a layer of accessibility to a text often studied for 13+ entrance exams or GCSE. These modern touches will prove useful in helping reluctant and less able readers in KS3 and KS4. It's well worth considering a set of these books if you find yourself teaching Animal Farm to teenagers on a Friday afternoon.



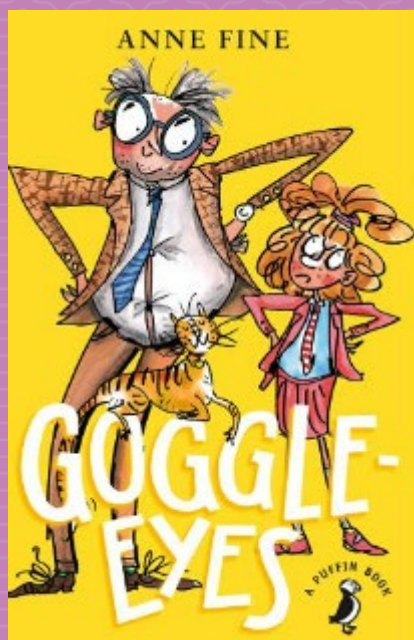
Chinese Cinderella by Adeline Yen Mah

The unforgettable story of a young Chinese girl's struggle to find acceptance within her own family and her survival amongst siblings and parents who think she represents bad luck. She finds writing a form of release. Based on the author's own life. A great book to read aloud and discuss as a class in Year 8.



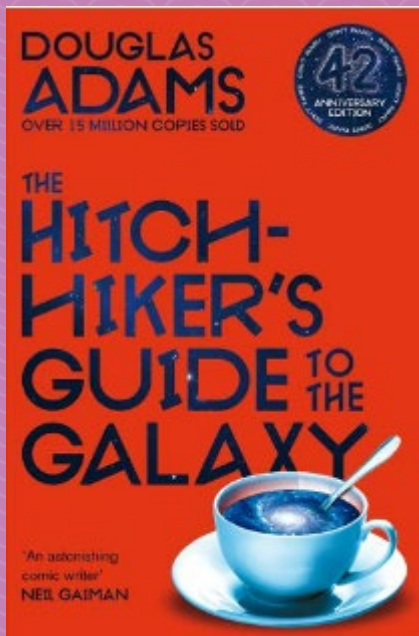
The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time by Mark Haddon

Christopher isn't like other teenagers. He finds it difficult to talk to other people, hates being touched and reacts badly to certain colours. When the neighbour's dog is murdered he causes chaos trying to find out who did it. There are some useful teaching resources [here](#).



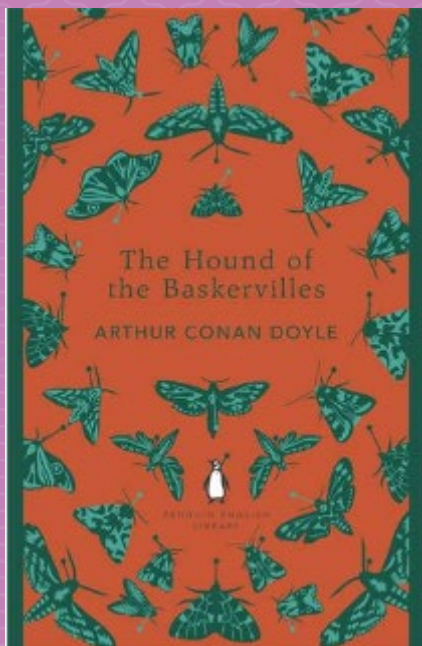
Goggle Eyes by Anne Fine

Katy Killin is a world expert on her mother's disastrous boyfriends, and how to try and stop them from developing into unwanted stepfathers.



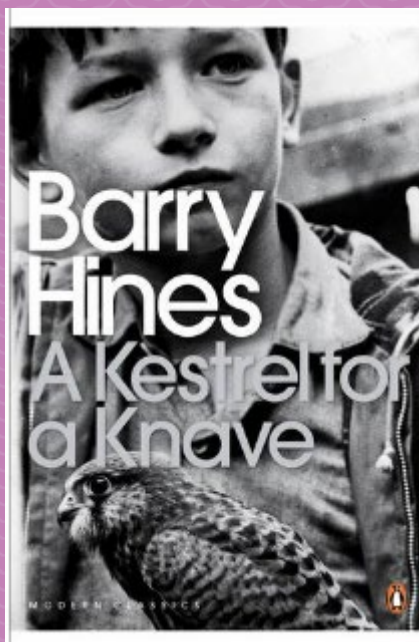
The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy by Douglas Adams

Arthur's Friday doesn't start well when his house is demolished. The Earth is obliterated soon after, to make way for a bypass, and then he finds out his best friend is an alien. Can things get any worse?



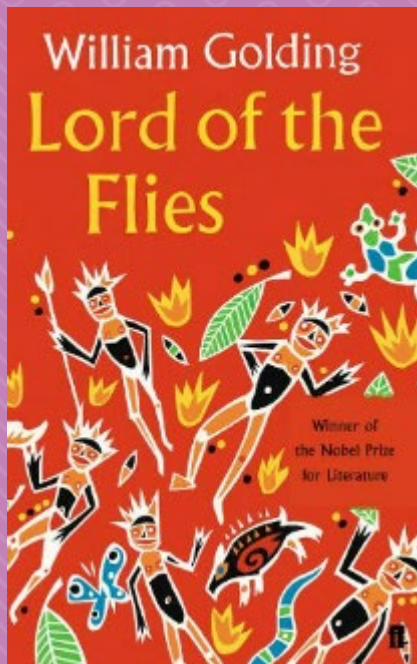
The Hound of the Baskervilles by Arthur Conan Doyle

The Baskerville family is cursed by a ravenous supernatural dog intent on savaging them. Can Sherlock Holmes and Watson solve the mystery and save the family?



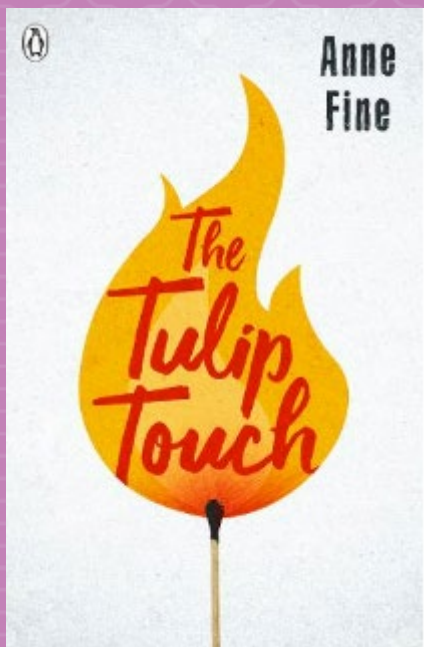
A Kestrel for a Knave by Barry Hines

A modern classic and very popular with reluctant boy readers. Billy Casper is a troubled teen growing up in Barnsley. He finds an escape in Kes, a Kestrel, which transforms his life.



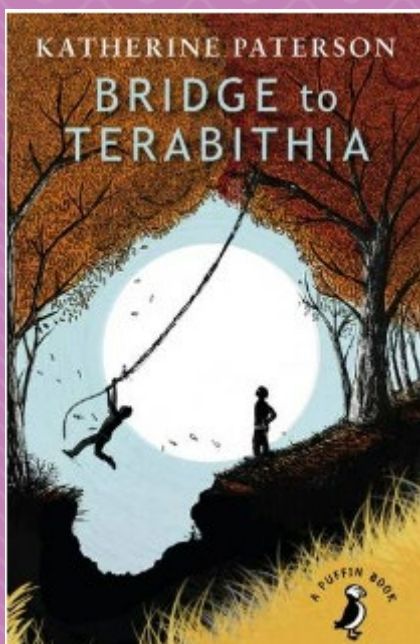
Lord of the Flies by William Golding

When a plane evacuating a group of schoolboys crashes on a remote island, the boys are left to fend for themselves with no adult supervision. A modern classic.



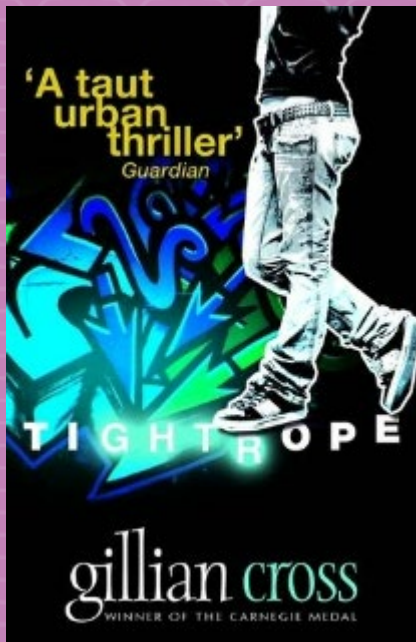
The Tulip Touch by Anne Fine

No one wants anything to do with Tulip, who is avoided by children and teachers alike. But Natalie is drawn to her and finds her dangerous and interesting. When things go too far, Natalie isn't able to stop events from spinning out of control, leading to a stunning and unexpected ending.



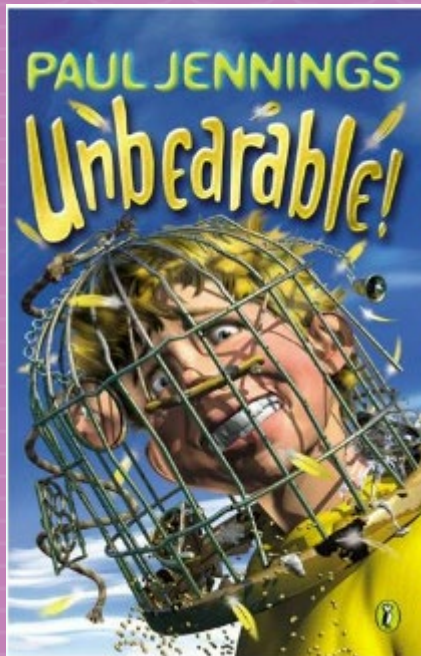
Bridge to Terabithia by Katherine Paterson

Jess creates the world of Terabithia to escape from his annoying family. Reached only by a rope swing, he and his friend Leslie live out their adventures, until an earth-shattering tragedy strikes.



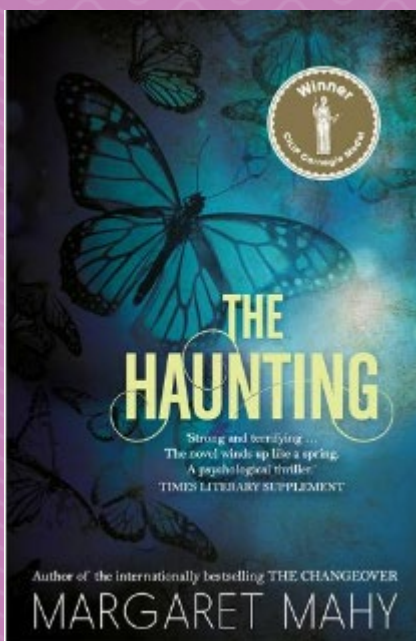
Tightrope by Gillian Cross

Ashley has no idea that her late-night graffiti will change her life. First, she feels uncomfortable, then she receives notes and finally, she realises there's a stalker.



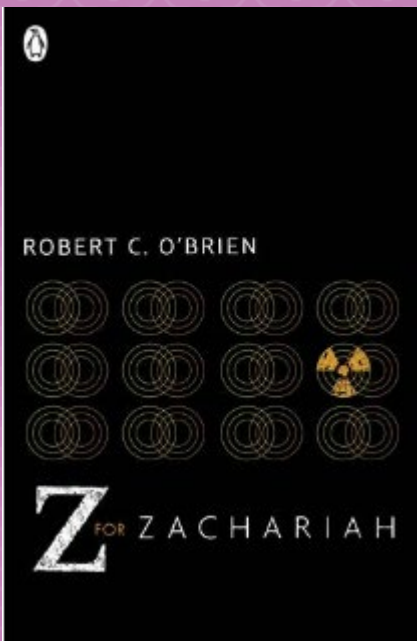
Unbearable by Paul Jennings

A collection of eight weird, wonderful, strange and occasionally revolting short stories including 'Licked' and 'Smelly Feet'. A funny book for year 8 reluctant readers.



The Haunting by Margaret Mahy

A story of a haunting, and a boy with a very special gift. A compelling and scary novel.



Z for Zachariah by Robert O'Brien

Ann Burden has survived a nuclear war by living in a valley free of radiation. But when the only other person she knows becomes threatening, she decides to leave the valley to see if anyone else has survived. A more challenging book to read for Year 8 pupils.

The Longdendale Library has a wide range of non-fiction and fiction books. If there is a particular collection that you wish to read. Please speak to Miss Payton in the Library