

Year 5/6 core list-



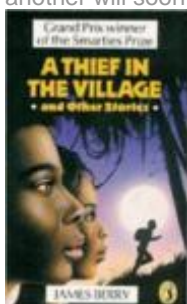
A Boy and a Bear in a Boat By Dave Shelton

A boy and a bear go to sea, equipped with a suitcase, a comic book, and a ukulele. The bear assures the boy that they are travelling a short distance and it really shouldn't take very long....



A Greyhound of a Girl By Roddy Doyle

Four generations of women in an Irish family come together for the first and last time and take an important journey – one of them is a ghost and another will soon become one.



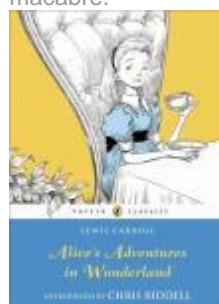
A Thief in the Village By James Berry

These short stories are vignettes of Jamaican village life, full of the rhythms of Caribbean speech.



A Word in Your Ear By Tony Ross

Usually associated with lightness of touch and a comic style of illustration, Tony Ross here reveals himself to be a master short story and of the macabre.



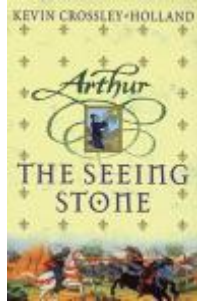
Alice's Adventures in Wonderland By Lewis Carroll

A childhood classic which is deeply embedded in cultural consciousness. The characters, incidents, images and language of this book are familiar through many manifestations including film.



Arthur, High King of Britain By Michael Morpurgo

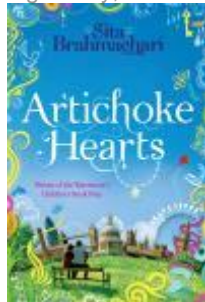
In this retelling of the Arthurian legend from ‘another place, another time’ Michael Morpurgo retains the magic of the epic story with its chivalry, romance,



Arthur. The Seeing Stone

By Kevin Crossley-Holland

dge of manhood, on the border between England and Wales, as the twelfth century turns into the thirteenth. By means of a stone, the obsidian, given to him by Merlin, he sees into the life of that earlier, legendary, Arthur.



Artichoke Hearts

By Sita Brahmachari

Mira describes a month in her life as she turns twelve when everything is changing including her relationships with her friend Millie and her first boyfriend Jidé and she has to decide what to confide and what to conceal.



Bird

By Crystal Chan

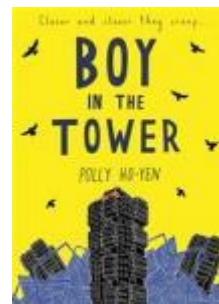
When a tragedy happens in a family, its members often express their grief by blaming each other. From the arresting opening to this sensitive novel, the



Blackberry Blue

By Jamila Gavin

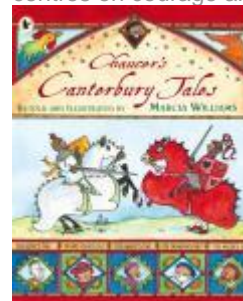
Jamila Gavin has fashioned her own set of fairy tales, drawing principally on the European traditions with which she grew up.



Boy in the Tower

By Ho-Yen, Polly

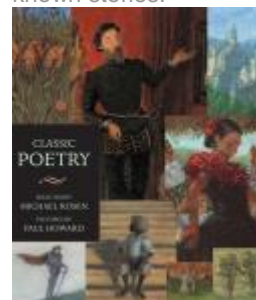
A dramatic story which holds sadness for some but centres on courage and friendship in adversity.



Chaucer's Canterbury Tales

By Marcia Williams

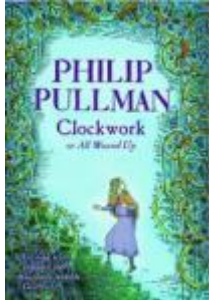
Marcia Williams' cheerful comic strip style is well-suited to the retelling of the tales told by Chaucer's pilgrims. This book makes Chaucer accessible to a younger audience than would usually get to meet him, and connections can be made with other known stories.



Classic Poetry

By Michael Rosen

A selection of poems from British, American and Australian poets including William Wordsworth, Langston Hughes and Judith Wright.



Clockwork or All Wound Up

By Philip Pullman

A chilling tale of mechanical beings which has human warmth at its heart.



Collected Poems for Children

By Ted Hughes

This volume of Ted Hughes' poetry contains all the poems he wrote for children, arranged in the original collections in which they were published.



Cosmic

By Frank Cottrell Boyce

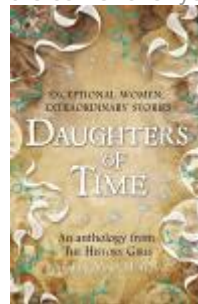
This humorous adventure is seen through the eyes of twelve year old Liam Digby a 'gifted and talented' child whose physical appearance ages him beyond his years.



Cosmic Disco

By Grace Nichols

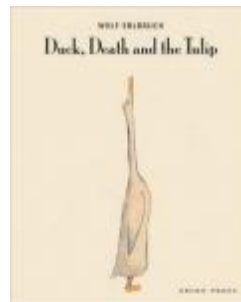
This collection whirls us out into the cosmos to dance 'in the endless El Dorado of stars stars stars' and back again to 'that little old blue ball spinning in the corner over yonder'.



Daughters of Time

By Mary Hoffman

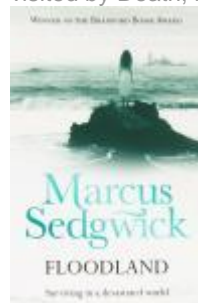
Thirteen enthralling short stories which highlight the lives of women across a huge swathe of time, from Boudica, Queen of the Iceni to the women who occupied Greenham Common.



Duck, Death and the Tulip

By Wolf Erlbruch

In this stark and macabre picture book, Duck is visited by Death, in the shape of a skeleton.



Floodland

By Marcus Sedgwick

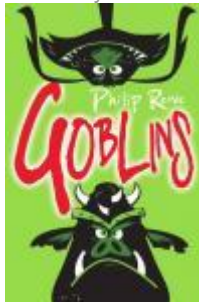
Set in an all too believable near future when many parts of England are submerged in water and people drift into gangs, divided due to the scarcity of resources, especially food.



Flush

By Carl Hiaasen

Noah's dad hates greed, injustice and cruelty to nature but he has a gungho way of putting his principles into practice which has repercussions for his family.



Goblins

By Philip Reeve

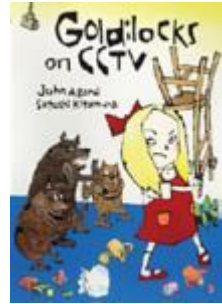
Skarper is different from the rest of pugnacious goblinkind. He has taught himself to read from bumwipe paper pile of burks/books and his questioning gets him bratapulted from Clovenstone Keep.



Goggle-Eyes

By Anne Fine

Witty and thought-provoking, this book demonstrates Anne Fine's genius for dialogue and for observing the quirkiness of daily life.



Goldilocks on CCTV

By John Agard

'It's no good being streetwise when you're lost in enchanted woods.' Goldilocks, Cinderella et al inhabit the urban jungle rather than the fairy tale forest in these poems which blend



Goodnight Mister Tom

By Michelle Magorian

A substantial and involving novel about the experiences of a Second World War evacuee and his growing relationship with the old man with whom he is billeted.



Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone

By J K Rowling

One of a seven book series which has had an exceptional impact on readers of all ages.



Hilda and the Bird Parade

By Luke Pearson

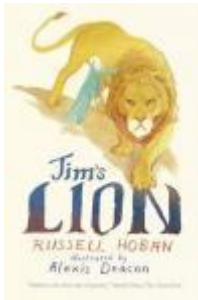
The third book in a series of graphic novels about a small independent girl with blue hair. Hilda has moved away from the countryside where she was able to roam freely and have encounters with the natural and supernatural worlds. Hilda's close relationship with her mother becomes strained as her mother is anxious about letting her daughter out alone in the city. Allowed to go out with a group of children from her school, Hilda becomes separated from them when she stops to take care of an injured bird who has lost his memory.



Howl's Moving Castle

By Diana Wynne Jones

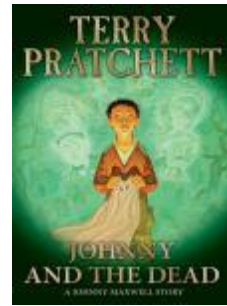
Sophie Hatter is the eldest of three sisters and, in true fairytale tradition, believes that she will be the least successful in life. After being turned into an old



Jim's Lion

By Hoban, Russell

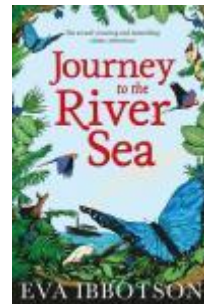
This book portrays a child's experience of serious illness movingly and imaginatively. It opens with a wordless comic strip,



Johnny and the Dead

By Terry Pratchett

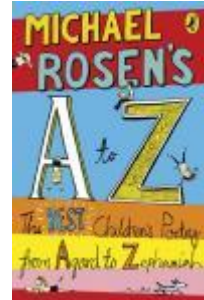
When Johnny knocks on the door of a mausoleum in the cemetery, he gets the surprise of his life when an occupant answers.



Journey to the River Sea

By Eva Ibbotson

An orphan girl, Maia, leaves her boarding school in England in 1910 to stay with distant relatives who live on a rubber plantation on the banks of the Amazon in Brazil.



Michael Rosen's A to Z. The Best Children's Poetry from Agard to Zephaniah

By Michael Rosen

The arrangement and organising principle of this anthology is based on the alphabetical sequence of poets' surnames, resulting in interesting random juxtapositions of subject matter and forms.



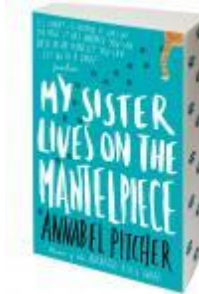
Moon Pie
By Simon Mason

A novel about eleven year old Martha, which deals with some tough issues realistically and often humorously.



Mortal Engines
By Philip Reeve

Set in an alternative future when cities chase smaller towns and villages and devour and dismantle them. Tom is an apprentice historian in London who gets caught up in the struggles and conflicts of his time.



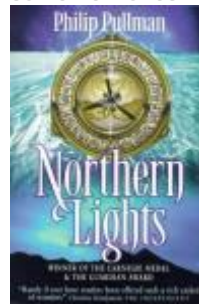
My Sister Lives on the Mantelpiece
By Annabel Pitcher

This novel deals with difficult issues: death, family break up, alcoholism and racism. However, the voice of Jamie ensures that this is not a depressing account of a grief stricken family.



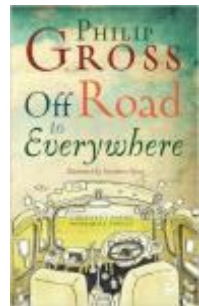
New and Collected Poems for Children
By Carol Ann Duffy

This volume gathers together all four of Carol Ann Duffy's collections of poems for children and adds some new ones.



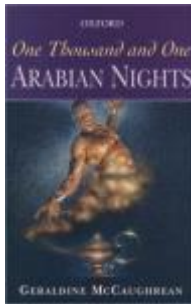
Northern Lights. His Dark Materials Book 1
By Philip Pullman

In the first book of what has become a world famous trilogy, the tough, likeable heroine, Lyra, is involved in a quest which will lead her into parallel universes



Off Road to Everywhere
By Philip Gross

Poems of exploration - all in a variety of forms from the chant of ancient people eating and dancing round a fire to the riddling wordplay of 'Love Songs in the Key of Y'.



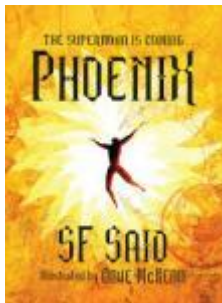
One Thousand and One Arabian Nights
By Geraldine McCaughrean

A retelling of a selection of tales from the Arabian Nights.



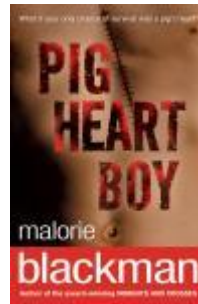
OTTO: The Autobiography of a Teddy Bear
By Tomi Ungerer

Otto, a teddy bear belonging to a Jewish boy in Germany at the outbreak of World War 2, is given to his friend Oskar when David and his family are taken away in a truck.



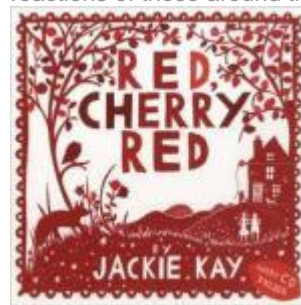
Phoenix
By S F Said

The story begins and ends with Lucky, a Human boy who travels through the galaxy in search of his identity, undergoing changes in both mind and body. However, it breaks the boundaries of being only Lucky's personal story...



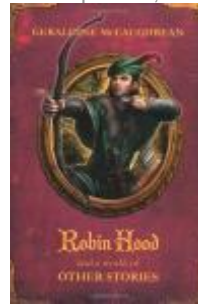
Pig-Heart Boy
By Malorie Blackman

Not only does Cameron have to cope with being the first human to receive a pig's heart in what may or may not be a life-saving operation, he and his family also have to deal with the media attention and reactions of those around them.



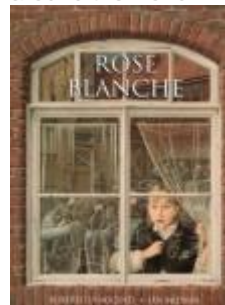
Red Cherry Red
By Jackie Kay

On the CD which accompanies this attractive square red and white book, Jackie Kay reads aloud all the poems, sometimes with added commentary.



Robin Hood and a World of Other Stories
By Geraldine McCaughrean

A terrific compendium of myths and legends from all around the world.



Rose Blanche
By Roberto Innocenti

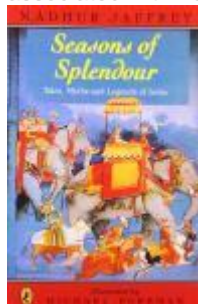
An exceptionally moving picture book in which the reader views the sorrow of war through a young girl's eyes.



Saffy's Angel

By Hilary McKay

Saffron's artistic family all have names that appear on the paint chart on the wall of their ramshackle kitchen. The discovery that her name is not on the chart leads to a quest for the stone angel associated with her true origins.



Seasons of Splendour

By Madhur Jaffrey

In this collection of Indian folk tales, Madhur Jaffrey recalls the rich storytelling traditions of her own childhood in Delhi.



Secret Friends

By Elizabeth Laird

Tragedy strikes unexpectedly in this well-written short novel that deals sensitively with the serious subject of bullying amongst girls.



Sensational! Poems inspired by the five senses

By Roger McGough

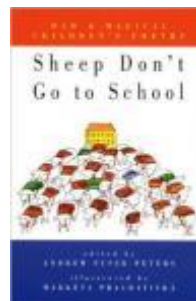
An imaginative thematic poetry anthology featuring sections on sight, sound, touch, smell and taste.



Shakespeare Stories

By Leon Garfield

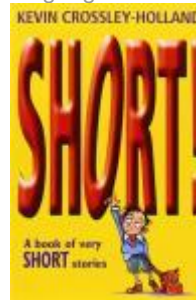
Twelve of Shakespeare's plays presented in narrative form, skilfully capturing the richness of each.



Sheep Don't Go to School

By Andrew Fusek Peters

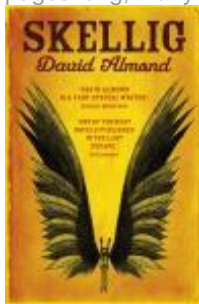
A refreshing collection of poems translated from the languages of Eastern Europe.



Short! A Book of Very Short Stories

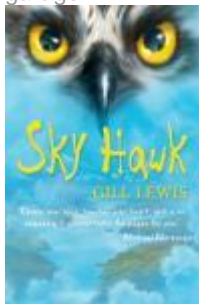
By Kevin Crossley-Holland

Ghost stories, urban myths, traditional tales, funny, sad and puzzling stories - all can be found in this collection of very short stories, none more than two pages long, many much shorter.



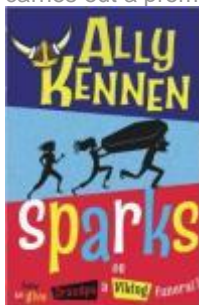
Skellig
By David Almond

Michael and his family have just moved to a new home and his baby sister is very ill. He soon discovers a decrepit being in the dilapidated garage.



Sky Hawk
By Gill Lewis

Two children rescue an osprey in the Scottish Highlands. When tragedy strikes, one of them carries out a promise to protect the bird...



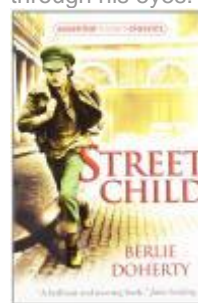
Sparks
By Ally Kennen

When Carla's beloved grandfather dies, she is determined to give him the Viking style funeral she knows he wanted. An extraordinary adventure based around the lives of an ordinary family whose relationships are portrayed with warmth and humour.



Stay Where You Are and Then Leave
By John Boyne

Alfie is five when World War 1 breaks out and his milkman father enlists in the army. Although this is a third person narrative the story is seen very much through his eyes.



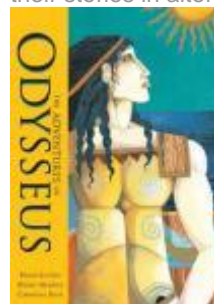
Street Child
By Berlie Doherty

This novel really does bring history to life. The reader gains insight into living and working conditions for poor children in the 1860s.



Tall Story
By Candy Gourlay

A novel in dual dialogue as Andi and Bernardo, her eight foot tall half-brother from the Philippines, tell their stories in alternate chapters.



The Adventures of Odysseus
By Hugh Lupton, Daniel Morden

Adapted from an oral retelling of this epic, this version of the travels and trials of Odysseus reads aloud well.



The Arrival
By Shaun Tan

This wordless graphic novel tells many stories through expressive sepia illustrations which depict a strange mix of the realistic and the surreal.



The Chronicles of Harris Burdick
By Van Allsburg, Chris

This is a collection of short stories inspired by Harris Burdick's pictures.



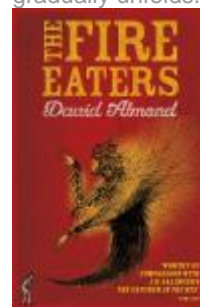
The Dreamfighter and Other Creation Tales
By Ted Hughes

A combined volume collecting together all Ted Hughes' glorious inventions about how the earth's creatures came to be, originally published as three separate books.



The Eye of the Wolf
By Daniel Pennac

A boy and a one-eyed wolf stand face to face staring at each other, although a cage encloses the wolf. The story of how they each came to be there gradually unfolds.



The Fire-Eaters
By David Almond

Set in 1962 with the anxieties of the Cuban missile crisis never far away, The Fire-Eaters is the sensitive story of a boy's growing awareness of himself, his family and the wider world around him.



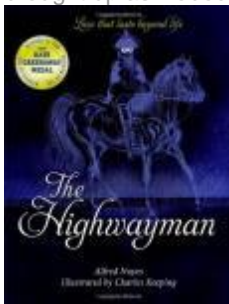
The Garbage King
By Elizabeth Laird

Two boys in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, lead very different lives. A well-constructed novel which gives insight into the lives of street children in Ethiopia.



The Graveyard Book
By Gaiman, Neil

A multi award winning novel with a grim and gripping opening as the man Jack murders a family, leaving only the baby who crawls away and is brought up as Nobody...



The Highwayman
By Alfred Noyes

The beauty and pathos of this poem are powerfully echoed by Charles Keeping's ink drawings.



The Hobbit
By J R R Tolkien

Tolkien's classic saga of dwarves, elves, dragons, wizards and hobbits is full of magic and excitement.



The Invention of Hugo Cabret
By Brian Selznick

On first appearance, this looks like a chunky novel. Once inside, you find that the story is told in a masterly combination of words and pictures.



The Lady of Shalott
By Alfred Tennyson

This mystical, tragic poem is perfectly matched by Charles Keeping's ink drawings, which deepen the dramatic intensity of the words. An enchanting poem, wonderfully presented.



The Language of Cat and other poems
By Rachel Rooney

Rachel Rooney relishes and shares the craft of poetry and her poems have a subtle, distinctive speaking voice.



The London Eye Mystery
By Siobhan Dowd

The reader is kept in suspense throughout this humorous adventure which centres around the capital's landmark visitor attraction.



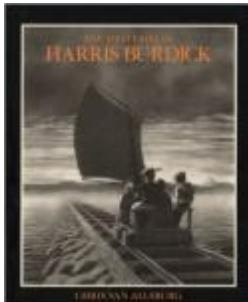
The Matchbox Diary
By Paul Fleischman

A man shares the story of his early life with his great-granddaughter. Before he was able to read and write, he found an inventive way of keeping a diary by preserving objects that were reminders of significant times in a series of matchboxes.



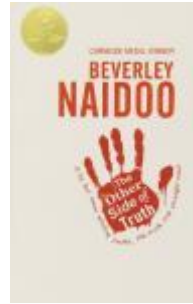
The Midnight Fox
By Betsy Byars

'Boy Overcomes Fears To Rescue Fox' might be a headline created for this story by Petie, friend of the narrator Tom, a city boy who spends the summer on a farm.



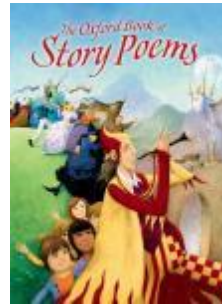
The Mysteries of Harris Burdick
By Van Allsburg, Chris

The premise behind this unique book of pictures is that the fourteen drawings within it were left with a publisher by a man named Harris Burdick who subsequently disappeared.



The Other Side of Truth
By Beverley Naidoo

Two children travel to London from Nigeria as political refugees after the sudden and shocking death of their mother.



The Oxford Book of Story Poems
By Harrison, Michael, Stuart-Clark, Christopher

A range of stories in verse form are decorated by a variety of illustrators.



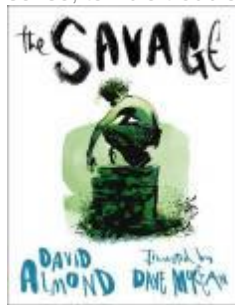
The Princess' Blankets
By Carol Ann Duffy

er be warm and one day a stranger 'with hard, grey eyes like polished stones' arrives at the palace declaring that he can cure her malady.



The Red Tree
By Shaun Tan
[Add to wishlist](#)

A small girl is having a bad day. Nothing makes sense, terrible troubles surround her.



The Savage
By David Almond

A very striking illustrated story with an interesting structure. The story is narrated by Blue, a boy coping with bullying in addition to recent bereavement.



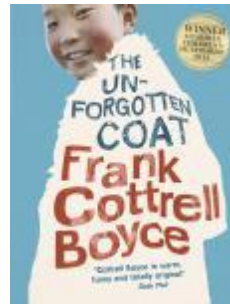
The Silver Donkey
By Sonya Hartnett

Two French girls find a soldier in the woods during the First World War. He has left the army and needs to return home to see his sick brother as well as escape the horrors he has seen and which have affected his eyesight.



The Sleeping Army
By Francesca Simon

In this funny, fast paced adventure, Freya blows a Viking horn in the British Museum and is whisked to Asgard...



The Unforgotten Coat
By Frank Cottrell Boyce

When two Mongolian brothers Chingis and Nergui turn up at her school, they insist that Julie becomes their Good Guide.



The Viewer
By Gary Crew

A boy finds a curious box on a rubbish dump. Inside are many treasures but the one that intrigues him most is like the Viewmaster toy he had when he was younger.



The Weight of Water
By Sarah Crossan

In this moving verse novel Kasiienka and her mother travel from Poland to the UK to search for her father.



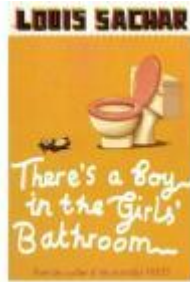
The Wreck of the Zanzibar
By Michael Morpurgo

Through the diary of the independent-minded Laura, readers learn of the struggle to survive for small communities living on the Scilly Isles at the turn of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.



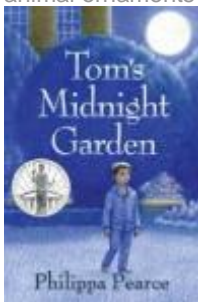
The Young Inferno
By John Agard

John Agard has reinvented and reinterpreted Dante's Inferno for today's young people, retaining the use of terza rima in cantos, while using contemporary language and allusions – 'leaders, like new world orders, come and go.'



There's a Boy in the Girls' Bathroom
By Louis Sachar

Bradley Chalkers is the boy no-one wants to sit next to in class. His only friends are a collection of animal ornaments in which he confides.



Tom's Midnight Garden
By Philippa Pearce

Tom foresees a lonely summer spent with his aunt and uncle to avoid catching his brother's measles. One night the grandfather clock in the hall strikes thirteen...



Treason
By Berlie Doherty

Will Montague becomes page to the future Edward VI, a role in which he is jealously regarded by the son of the Duke of Norfolk. The politics of religion during the time of Henry VIII and their effects on the rise and fall from power of individuals and families are vividly portrayed in this fast paced first person narrative.



Two Weeks with the Queen
By Morris Gleitzman

A deeply moving yet humorous novel about a boy desperate to get help for his brother who is dying.



Varmints
By Helen Ward

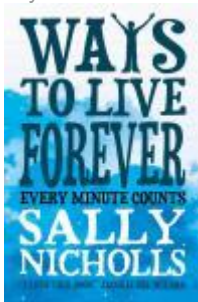
With dramatically lit artwork and a spare, intriguing text, Varmints tells of a pastoral world in need of protection and of the souls who love it enough to ensure its regeneration.



Way Home

By Libby Hathorn

This award-winning picture book is a startling evocation of life for a young homeless boy on the city streets.



Ways to Live Forever

By Sally Nicholls

Sam, narrator of this novel, knows he is going to die but this is far from being a depressing read. On the contrary, he wants to make every minute he has left count and makes a list of all the things he wants to do in his diary.



Wolf Brother

By Michelle Paver

The first in a series Chronicles of Ancient Darkness. Following the death of his father, Torak discovers that he must embark on a quest for which he does not feel prepared, pursued by the enormous bear that killed his father.



Wonder

By R J Palacio

Ten year old August is going to school for the first time. His mother has home schooled him up till now because he has a congenital facial disfigurement. How will he cope day today?