

Parent Guide to Suggested Reading Books



This list is intended to be a guide to books suitable for children. The list, covering a range of genres, is drawn from a number of sources including teachers own recommendations; the National Literacy Strategy's recommended texts; reading lists suggested by other schools and the National Literacy Trust's website. Some of the texts are more difficult to read than others and care should be taken when choosing those which your child might enjoy.

Useful Websites:

www.starfall.com

www.booksforkeeps.co.uk

www.oxfordowl.co.uk/FindBook

www.thebookpeople.co.uk

www.redhouse.co.uk

www.lovereadings4kids.co.uk

www.ukchildrensbooks.co.uk

www.wordsforlife.org.uk

www.woodlands-junior.kent.sch.uk/interactive/onlinestory.htm

www.booktrust.org.uk/books-and-reading/children

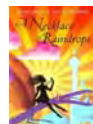
Allan Ahlberg
Blow Me Down!
The Giant Baby
Woof!



Allan & Janet Ahlberg
The Clothes Horse and Other Stories



Joan Aiken
A Necklace of Raindrops
Fog Hounds, Wind Cat, Sea Mice



Jonathan Allen
Fowl Play



Laurence Anholt
Daft Jack and the Bean Stack
The Emperor's Underwear
Shampoozel



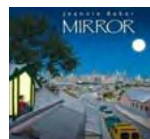
Phyllis Arkle
The Railway Cat



Richard & Florence Atwater
Mr Popper's Penguins



Jeannie Baker
Where the Forest Meets the Sea
Mirror



Nina Bawden
Keeping Henry



Floella Benjamin
Skip Across the Ocean



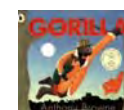
Quentin Blake
Mr Magnolia,
Patrick,
Mrs Armitage



Tony Bradman
Adventure on Skull Island
Dilly the Dinosaur
Smile Please



Anthony Browne
Changes
Zoo
Gorilla
Voices in the Park



Melvin Burgess
The Earth Giant



Betsy Byars
The Midnight Fox



Humphrey Carpenter
Mr Majeika



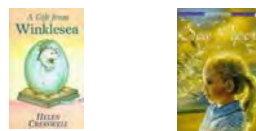
Ann Cameron
The Julian Stories



Hans Christian Anderson
The Steadfast Tin Soldier



Helen Cresswell
A Gift from WinkleSea
The Sea Piper



Roald Dahl
Charlie and the Chocolate Factory
George's Marvellous Medicine
Fantastic Mr Fox
The BFG
The Magic Finger



Helen Dunmore
Amina's Blanket



Anne Fine
How to Write Really Badly
The Diary of a Killer Cat



Michael Foreman
War Boy
Grandfather's Pencil
and the Room of Stories



Babbette Cole
The Unicorn Princess
The Enchanted Pony
The Slimy Book
Princess Smartypants



Anthony Horowitz
The Falcon's Malteser
Even my ears are smiling



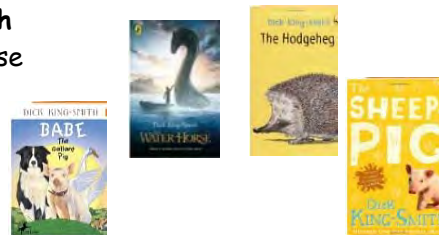
Harry Horse
The Last Cowboys



Ted Hughes
How the Whale Became
The Iron Man



Dick King-Smith
The Water Horse
The Hodgeheg
The Sheep-Pig
Babe



Colin McNaughton
Have You Seen Who's Just
Moved in Next Door to Us?
There's an Awful Lot of
Weirdoes in Our Neighbourhood



Michael Morpurgo
War Horse
Farm Boy
Toro! Toro!
Black Queen
The Dancing Bear
The Butterfly Lion



Jeremy Strong
Krazy Kow Saves the World - Well Almost
The Hundred-Mile-An-Hour Dog
My Mum's Going to Explode!



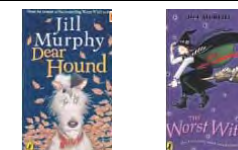
Michael Rosen
Burping Bertha



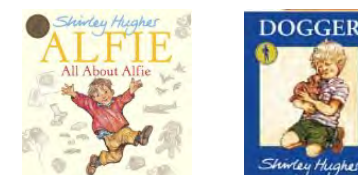
Mike Inkpen
Nothing
Kipper



Jill Murphy
Dear Hound
The Worst Witch



Shirley Hughes
Alfie
Alfie gives a hand
Dogger



Jill Tomlinson
The Owl who was afraid of the dark
The Penguin who wanted to find out.



Julia Donaldson
Charlie Cooks favourite book
Zog
The Gruffalo



Dave Pilkey
Captain Underpants



Children's Reading List Key Stage 2: Year 3 (7-8yrs)

Author	Title
Richard & Florence Atwater	Mr Popper's Penguins
Ann & Reg Cartwright	The Winter Hedgehog
Allan Ahlberg	Woof!
	Clothes Horse and O
	The Giant Baby
Joan Aiken	A Necklace of Raindrops
	Fog Hounds, Wind Cat, Sea Mice
Jonathan Allen	Play
Laurence Anholt	Daft Jack and the Bean Stack
	Shampoozel
	The Emperor's Underwear
Phyllis Arkle	The Railway Cat
Chris Ashley	Wasim in the Deep End
Jeannie Baker	Where the Forest Meets the Sea
Nina Bawden	Keeping Henry
Terence Blacker	Ms Wiz Series
Malorie Blackman	Whizziwig
Quentin Blake	Mrs Armitage and the Big Wave
Judy Blume	Freckle Juice



Author	Title
	Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing
Enid Blyton	The Famous Five
	The Magic Faraway Tree
	Island of Adventure
	St Clare's Series
	Malory Towers
Michael Bond	A Bear called Paddington
Tony Bradman	Sam the Girl Detective
Henrietta Branford	Dimarche Diller Series
	Spacebaby
Jeff Brown	Flat Stanley
Marc Brown	Arthur Baby-Sits
Anthony Browne	Changes
	Zoo
	Gorilla
Melvin Burgess	The Earth Giant
Betsy Byars	The Midnight Fox
Ann Cameron	The Julian Stories
Humphrey Carpenter	Mr Majeika
Lauren Child	Utterly Me, Clarice Bean

Author	Title
Lauren Child	Clarice Bean That's Me
Beverley Cleary	Ramona Series
Sharon Creech	Love that Dog
Helen Cresswell	The Sea Piper
Kevin Crossley - Holland	Storm
Jennifer Curry	Hands Off Our Hens
Roald Dahl	The Magic Finger
	Charlie and the Chocolate Factory
	Fantastic Mr Fox
	George's Marvellous Medicine
	The BFG
Niki Daly	Jamela's Dress
Colin Dann	Animals of Farthing Wood series
Paula Danziger	The Cat Ate My Gymsuit
Meindert De Jong	Hurry Home Candy
Antoine de Saint-Exupéry	The Little Prince
Berlie Doherty	Willa and Old Miss Annie
Helen Dunmore	Amina's Blanket
Dorothy Edwards	My Naughty Little Sister Stories
Jan Fearnley	Mr Wolf's Pancakes

Author	Title
Anne Fine	How to Write Really Badly
Louise Fitzhugh	Harriet the Spy
Michael Foreman	Grandfather's Pencil and the Room of Stories Jack's Fantastic Voyage
Sarah Garland	Tex the Cowboy
Paul Geraghty	Solo
Adele Geras	My Grandmother's Stories
Mike Gibbie	Small Brown Dog's Bad Remembering Day
Rumer Godden	The Story of Holly and Ivy
Nigel Gray	Running Away From Home
Mairi Hedderwick	Katie Morag and the Wedding
Stuart Henson	Who Can Tell? (with Wayne Anderson)
Nigel Hinton	Beaver Towers
Mary Hooper	Spook Summer
Mary Hooper	The Great Twin Trick
Anthony Horowitz	The Falcon's Malteser
Harry Horse	The Last Cowboys
Ted Hughes	How the Whale Became
Ted Hughes	The Iron Man
Norman Hunter	Incrediblania stories

Author	Title
Norman Hunter	Professor Branestawm
Tove Jansson	The Moomins
Paul Jennings	The Cabbage Patch Fib
Terry Jones	Fantastic Stories
Ann Jungman	Vlad the Drac
Gene Kemp	Dog's Journey
Dick King-Smith	Dragon Boy
	The Golden Goose
	The Hodgeheg
	The Sheep-Pig
Jenny Koralek	The Boy and the Cloth of Dreams
Roger Lancelyn Green	King Arthur and His Knights of the Round Table
	Myths of the Norsemen
Joyce Lankster	Milly Molly Mandy series
Michael Lawrence	Jiggy McCue series
Robert Leeson	The Dog who changed the World
Rob Lewis	Lazy Daisy
Astrid Lindgren	Pippi Longstocking
Jonathan Long	The Cat that Scratched (with Korky Paul)
	The Wonky Donkey

Author	Title
K M Peyon	The Pony that Went to Sea
Margaret Mahy	The Great Piratical Rumbustification and the Libr the Robbers
	Tingleberries, Tuckertubs and Telephones
Jan Mark	Long Lost
André Maurois	Fattypuffs and Thinifers
Kara May	Cat's Witch
William Mayne	Lady Muck
Sam McBratney	Jimmy Zest
Alexander McCall Smith	The Perfect Hamburger
Roger McGough	The Great Smile Robbery
Hilary McKay	The Treasure in the Garden!
David McKee	Charlotte's Piggy Bank
Colin McNaughton	Have You Seen Who's Just Moved in Next Door to
Ursula Moray Williams	The Adventure of the Little Wooden Horse
Michael Morpurgo	Black Queen
	Toro! Toro!
	The Marble Crusher
	The Dancing Bear
	The Butterfly Lion

Author	Title
	Farm Boy
	Muck and Magic Stories from the Countryside
Jill Murphy	The Worst Witch
Magdalen Nabb	The Enchanted Horse
Linda Newberry	Whistling Jack
	Ice Cat
Jenny Nimmo	The Owl Tree
Robert O'Brien	Mrs Frisby and the Rats of Nimh
Hiawyn Oram	Little Brother and the Cough
Florence Parry Heide	The Shrinking of Treehorn
Phillippa Pearce	A Dog So Small
	The Battle of Bubble and Squeak
Ann Pilling	Henry's Leg
Alf Proysen	Mrs Pepperpot
Gwynedd Rae	Mary Plain series
Mary Rayner	The Small Good Wolf
Shoo Rayner	Dark Claw Series
Lynne Reid Banks	Harry the Poisonous Centipede
	I Houdini
Thomas Rockwell	How to Eat Fried Worms

Author	Title
Mary Rodgers	Freaky Friday
J K Rowling	Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone
Jon Scieszka	The Stinky Cheeseman and other Fairly Stupid Ta
Martina Selway	Wish You Were Here
Catherine Storr	Clever Polly and the Stupid Wolf
Jeremy Strong	The Hundred-Mile-An-Hour Dog
	My Mum's Going to Explode!
	Krazy Kow Saves the World – Well Almost
Rosemart Sutcliffe	The High Deeds of Finn McCool
Robert Swindells	Dracula's Castle
	Ice Palace
Ruth Thomas	The Class That Went Wild
Colin Thompson	Attila the Bluebottle
Jill Tomlinson	The Owl Who Was Afraid of the Dark
Jean Ure	Daisy May
	Becky Bananas
Alison Uttley	Sam Pig
Nina Warner Hooke	The Snow Kitten
Robert Westall	Blitz
	The Christmas Cat



Author	Title
E.B. White	Charlotte's Web
Ian Whybrow	Little Wolf series
Marcia Williams	No Worries!
Sophy Williams	Nana's Garden
Jacqueline Wilson	Cliffhanger
Bob Wilson	Bing, Bang, Boogie, It's a Boy Scent

Children's Reading List Key Stage 2: Year 4 (8 - 9yrs)

Author	Title
John Agard	We Animals Would Like a Word With You
Allen Ahlberg	Seriously Silly series Woof Ten in a Bed Giant Baby Friendly Matches, Please Mrs Butler It Was a Dark and Stormy Night
Joan Aiken	Arabel's Raven
Philip Ardagh	Eddie Dickens Trilogy, Fall of Fergal
Bernard Ashley	Justin and the Demon Drop Kick
Reid Banks	Harry the Poisonous Centipede series Lynn
Steve Barlow	Mad Myths
Nina Bawden	The Peppermint Pig
David Bedford	The Team
Sue Bentley	Magic Kitten series
Clare Bevan	Lucky Numbers
Malorie Blackman	The Monster Crisp Guzzler
Terence Blackman	Ms Wiz series
Adam Blade	Beast Quest
Judy Bloom	Fudge Series
Enid Blyton	Secret Seven, Adventure stories Faraway Tree, Wishing Chair

Author	Title
J.L. Brisley	Milly Molly Mandy
Michael Broad	Jake Cake series
Jeff Brown	Flat Stanley
Melvyn Burgess	Earth Giant
Moira Butterfield	The Diary of a Medieval Squire/ A Young Elizabethan Actor
Betsy Byars	The Eighteenth Emergency
Linda Chapman	My Secret Unicorn
Lauren Child	Clarice Bean series
Rob Childs	The Big Match / Time Rangers series
Peter Clover	Sheltie
Steve Cole	Cows in Action
	Astrosaurs series
Eoin Colfer	The Legend of Spud Murphy
	Captain Crow's Feet
Paul Cookson	Tongue Twisters and Tonsil Twizzlers
Andrew Cope	Spy Dog series
Sharon Creech	Love that Dog
Helen Cresswell	Lizzie Dripping
Richmal Crompton	Just William
Kevin Crossly-Holland	Storm
Roald Dahl	The BFG
	James and the Giant Peach
	Charlie and The Chocolate Factor
	Twits
	Fantastic Mr Fox

Author	Title
	Revolting Rhymes
	Charlie and the Chocolate Factory
Jenny Dale	Puppy Patrol
Annie Dalton	Angels Unlimited
Lucy Daniels	Animal Ark
Tony Diterlizzi	The Spiderwick Chronicles
Chris d'Lacey	Fly, Cherokee, Fly
Joshua Doder	GRK series
Berlie Doherty	Bella's Den
Dorothy Edwards	My Naughty Little Sister
Aesop's Fables	Orchard Book of
Anne Fine	Bill's New Frock, How to Write Really Badly,
Vivian French	Tiara Club
Sally Gardner	The Strongest Girl in the World
Sally Gardner	The Invisible Boy
Sally Gardner	The Boy Who Could fly
Sally Gardner	The Smallest Girl Ever
Susan Gates	The Revolting Rabbits
Jamila Gavin	Grandpa Chatterji
Morris Gleitzman	Toad Rage
Michael Hardcastle	Eye for a Goal
Michael Hardcastle	Matthew's Goals
Anthony Horowitz	Groosom Grange
Ted Hughes	Tales of the Early World
	The Iron Man

Author	Title
Tove Jansson	Finn Family Moomintroll
Julia Jarman	The Time Travelling Cat
Pete Johnson	How to Train Your Parents
	My Friend's a Werewolf
	Pirate Brother, Bug Brother
	Mind Reader
	Rescuing Dad
Ann Jungman	Vald the Drac series
Erich Kastner	Emil and the Detectives
Gene Kemp	Turbulent Term of Tyke Tiler
Clive King	Stig of the Dump
Michael Lawrence	The Poltergoose
Neal Layton	Mammoth Academy series
G. Leeson	Tom's Private War
Astrid Lindgren	Pippi Longstocking
Sam Llewelyn	Pig in the Middle
Megan McDonald	Judy Moody
Daisy Meadows	Rainbow Magic
Ellen Miles	Puppy Place series
Michael Morpurgo	The Butterfly Lion
	Butterfly Lion
	Zanzibar
	Toro, Toro
	Farm Boy
	Kensuke's Kingdom

Author	Title
	Wreck
Jill Murphy	The Worst Witch
Magdalen Nabb	The Enchanted Horse
Jenny Nimmo	The Owl Tree
Adventures o	Sinbad the Sailor, Greek Myths for Young Children,
Dav Pilkey	Captain Underpants series
Alf Proysen	Mrs Pepperpot
Philip Pullman	The Firework-Maker
Gwyneth Rees	The Fairy series
Chris Riddell	Ottoline and the Yellow Cat
Phillip Ridley	Kasper in the Glitter
	Scribbleboy
	Dakota of the White Flats
	Mercedes Ice
Marion Ripley	Private and Confidential
James Rix	Grizzly Tales Nasty Little Beasts
David Roberts	Dirtie Bertie series
Michael Rosen	Hard Boiled Legs
	Spider Bought a Bicycle
	Tea in the Sugar Bowl
	You're Thinking about Doughnuts
	Uncle Billy Being Silly
	Dog Who Walked with God
Angie Sage	Araminta Spook series
Francesca Simon	Horrid Henry series

Author	Title
SteveBarlow/Steve Skidmore	Vernon Bright series
Charlie Small	Charlie Small series
McCall Smith	Akimbo Alexander
Andy Stanton	Mr Gum series
Paul Stewart	Hugo Pepper
Jeremy Strong	Let's do the Pharoah
	Krazy Cow
	Otherworld
	My Mum's Going to Explode
Robert Swindells	Nightmare Stairs
Theresa Thomlinson	Night of the Red Devil
Sandi Toksvig	Unusual Day
Kaye Umansky	Pongwiffy series
Jean Ure	Daisy May
Kaye Webb	I Like This Poem
B. White	Charlotte's Web E.
Ian Whybrow	Little Wolf
Moray Williams	Gobbolina the Witch's Cat Ursula
Marcia Williams	Robin Hood
Jeanne Willis	Dumb Creatures
Jacqueline Wilson	The Lottie Project
	Cilffhanger
	Sleepovers
	Double Act
	Buried Alive

Author	Title
	The Monster Story Teller
Henry Wilson	Jeremy James series David
Philip Wooderson	Trouble at the Mill

Children's Reading List Key Stage 2: Year 5 (9–10 yrs)

Author	Title
Nick Arnold	Wild Lives series
E.D. Baker	Frog Princess
	Dragon's Breath
Cherith Baldry	The Abbey Mysteries
Emma Barnes	Jessica Haggerthwaite: Media Star
M. Barrie	Peter Pan J.
Michelle Bates	Sandy Lane Stables
Frank L. Baum	Wizard of Oz
Nina Bawden	Peppermint Pig
Malorie Blackman	A.N.T.I.D.O.T.E.
	Thief
	Dead Gorgeous
John Blake	The Last Free Cat
Val Bloom	Suprising Joy
	Let Me Touch the Sky
Enid Blyton	Malory Towers
	Famous Five
	St Clares
M. Boston	The Children of Green Knowe Lucy
Grave Bowwayne	A Turn in the
Melvin Burgess	Angel for May
Betsy Byars	The Midnight Fox
Georgia Byng	Molly Moon
Lewis Carroll	Alice in Wonderland

Author	Title
Susan Coolidge	Katy books
Susan Cooper	The Boggart
William Corlett	The Magician's House Quartet
Cressida Cowell	Dragon books
Joe Craig	Jimmy Coates Sabotage
Helena Cresswell	Bagthorpe Saga
Richmal Crompton	Just William
Roald Dahl	Matilda
	BFG
	Boy
	Danny the Champion of the World
Annie Dalton	Angels Unlimited
Terry Deary	Tudor Terror
Roddy Doyle	The Rover Adventures
Midnight Dream	Dark as a
Anne Fine	Charm School
	Flour Babies
Nicholas Fisk	A Rag A Bone and a Hank of Hair
White Flats,	Dakota of the
Michael Foreman	War Boy
	War Game
Jack Gantos	Joey Pigza Swallowed the Key/What would Joey Do
Susan Gates	Iron Heads
Susan Gates	The Spud from Outer Space
Alan Gibbons	Whose Side Are You On?
Morris Gleitzman	2 Weeks with the Queen

Author	Title
Rene Goscinny	Asterix
Kenneth Graham	Wind in the Willows
Diana Hendry	Harvey Angell
Anthony Horowitz	Diamond Brothers series
Harry Horse	The Last Polar Bears
Eva Ibbotson	Dial a Ghost
	Secret of Platform 13
Clive King	Stig of the Dump
Dick King-Smith	Crowstarver
	The Water Horse
	The Sheep Pig
Rudyard Kipling	Just So Stories, The Jungle Book
Derek Landy	Playing with Fire
Caroline Lawrence	The Roman Mystery series
Michael Lawrence	Jiggy McCue series
Penelope Lively	A Stitch in Time
	The Ghost of Thomas Kempe
Hilary Mackay	The Exiles
Catherine MacPhail	Under the Skin
Takeshi Maekewa	Ironfist Chimini (Manga)
Jan Mark	Thunder and Lightning
Anthony Masters	Raven's Revenge, Tod in Biker City
	Wicked
Andrew Matthews	The Way of the Warrior
Barbara Mitchelhill	Storm Runners
Michael Molly	The Witch Trade

Author	Title
Stephen Moore	Tooth and Claw
Michael Morpurgo	Warhorse
	War of Jenkins Ear
Andrew Morris	Aquilla
C. O'Brien	Mrs Frisby and The Rats of Nihm Robert
Jenny Oldfield	Dreamseeker Trilogy
Phillipa Pearce	The Dog so Small
Helena Pielichaty	Simone's Letters
Story Poems	The Oxford Book of
E. Porter	Pollyanna
Chris Priestly	Death and the Arrow
Philip Pullman	Clockwork
Anthony Read	The Baker Street Boys
Gwyneth Rees	The Mum Surprise
Justin Richards	The Invisible Detective series
Philip Ridley	Scribbleboy
Rick Riordan	Percy Jackson series
Katherine Roberts	Great Pyramid Robbery
F. Said	Varjak Paw series S.
Margery Sharp	The Rescuers
Steve Barlow/Steve Skidmore	Tales of the Dark Forest
Dodie Smith	101 Dalmations
Lemony Snicket	A Series of Unfortunate events
Johanna Spyri	Heidi
Paul Stewart	Muddle Earth
R.L. Stine	Goosebumps

Author	Title
Noel Streatfield	Ballet Shoes
Robert Swindells	Room 13
L. Travers	Mary Poppins P.
Kaye Umansky	Pongwiffy
	Wilma series
Jean Ure	Becky Bananas
Sylvia Waugh	Mennymys
Robert Westall	The Cats of Seroster
	In the Nick of Time
	A Time of Fire
	Stormsearch
Jacqueline Wi	Tracy Beaker
	Midnight
	Secrets
	Best Friends
Diana Wynne-Jones	Dogsbody
	A Tale of Time City
Benjamin Zephaniah	Funky chickens

Children's Reading List Key Stage 2: Year 6 (10 - 11yrs)

Author	Title
Richard Adams	Watership Down
Joan Aiken	The Wolves of Willoughby Chase
	Midnight is a Place
David Almond	Skellig
	Heaven Eyes
Nina Bawden	Carrie's War
Malorie Blackman	Pig Heart Boy
	Tell Me No Lies
	Hostage
Jon Blake	The Last Free Cat
John Boyne	The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas
Tony Bradman	The Dirty Dozen
Theresa Breslin	Starship Rescue
Melvin Burgess	An Angel for May
Georgia Byng	Molly Moon books
Dinah Capparucci	Aliens Don't Eat Dog Food
Cathy Cassidy	Lucky Star, Scarlet
Eion Colfer	Artemis Fowl series
	The Supernaturalist
	Half Moon
Arthur Conan Doyle	The Lost World
Susan Cooper	The Dark is Rising sequence

Zizou Corder	Lionboy
Frank Cottrell	Boyce Millions
	Framed, Cosmic
Joe Craig	Jimmy Coates series
Sharon Creech	Walk Two Moons
	The Wanderer
Gillian Cross	The Great Elephant
	The Demon Headmaster series
Chris D'Lacey	Icefire
Roald Dahl	Witches
Annie Dalton	Angels Unlimited
	Friday Forever
Anita Desai	Village by the Sea
Narinder Dhani	Bindi Babes
The Diary	of Anne Frank
Peter Dickinson	The Kin
Berlie Doherty	Street Child
Paul Dowswell	Powder Monkey
Alexandre Dumas	The Three Musketeers
Helen Dunmore	Ingo
Deborah Ellis	The Breadwinner series
Penelope Farmer	Charlotte Sometimes
Anne Fine	Flour
	Up on Cloud Nine
	Madame Doubtfire
	Goggle Eyes

Catherine Fisher	The Oracle
Cornelia Funke	The Thief Lord
	Inkspell
	Inkheart
Alan Garner	The Owl Service
Susan Gates	Killer Mushrooms Ate My Gran
Jamila Gavin	The Blood Stone
	Surya Trilogy
Alan Gibbons	Warriors of the Raven
Elizabeth Goudge	Little White Horse
Sally Grindley	Broken Glass
Carl Hiaasen	Hoot
Charlie Higson	The Young Bond books
Frances Hodgson Burnett	The Secret Garden
	The Little Princess
Mary Hoffman	Virtual Friend
Belinda Hollyer	Everything I Know About You
Anne Holm	I am David
Mary Hooper	The Genie
Anthony Horowitz	The Power of Five series
	Alex Rider series
Polly Horvath	Everything on a Waffle
Erin Hunter	Warrior Cats series
Eva Ibbotson	Journey to the River Sea
Laura Ingalls Wilder	Little House on the Prairie
Brian Jacques	Redwall

Pete Johnson	Trust Me I'm a Trouble maker
Terry Jones	Saga of Erik the Viking
Ann Jungman	Resistance
Norman Juster	The Phantom Tollbooth
Judith Kerr,	When Hitler Stole Pink Rabbit
Rosalind Kerven	Grim Gruesome Viking Villain
	The Cursed Sword
Michael Lawrence	Young Dracula
Caroline Lawrence	The Roman Mysteries
Robert Leeson	Tom's War
C. S. Lewis	Narnia
Jack London	White Fang,
	Call of the Wild
Michele Magorian	Goodnight Mr Tom
Lynne Markham	Cinderalf
Anthony Masters	Tod in Biker City
Geraldine McCaughrean	Stop the Train
Sophie Mckenzie	Girl Missing
Barbara Mitchelhill	Storm Runners
Michael Morpurgo	Out of the Ashes
	Private
	Peaceful
	Alone on the Wide Sea
	Adolphus Tips
	Why the Whales Came
E. Nesbit	The Railway Children

Linda Newberry	Blitz Boys
William Nicholson	The Wind on Fire Trilogy
	The Noble Warriors
Jenny Nimmo	The Snow Spider Trilogy
	Charlie Bone series
Mary Norton	The Borrowers
Christne Nostlinger	Fly Away Home
Ian Ogilvy	Measle and the Mallockee
Christopher Paolini	Eragon
	Eldest
Jill Paton Walsh	Dolphin Crossing
Michele Paver	Wolf Brother
	Spirit Walker
	Soul Eater
Phillipa Pearce	Tom's Midnight Garden
Terry Pratchet	Johnny and the Bomb,
	Diggers
	The Amazing
Willard Price	Volcano Adventure
Alison Prince	Screw Loose
Philip Pullman	His Dark Materials Series
Arthur Ransome	Swallows and Amazons
Lynne Read	Banks The Indian in the Cupboard
Gwyneth Rees	The Mum Hunt
	The Making of May
Philip Reeve	Mortal Engines

Philip Ridley	Mighty Fizz Chilla
Rick Riordan	Percy Jackson series
J. K. Rowling	Harry Potter
Rosie Rushton	Life Line
Chris Ryan	Alpha Force series
Louis Sachar	Holes
	Small Steps
Anna Sewell	Black Beauty
Matthew Skelton	Endymion Spring
Justin Sompter	Vampirates series
Ali Sparkes	Shapeshifter series
R. L Stevenson	Treasure Island
Paul Stewart	The Edge Chronicles series
Barrington Stoke	For Older Readers
Jeremy Strong	Mad Iris
Jonathan Stroud	Golem's Eye
Robert Swindells	In the Nick of Time
	The Thousand Eyes of Night
G. P. Taylor	Shadowmancer
Alan Temperley	Harry and the Wrinklies
Ruth Thomas	The Runaways
Kate Thompson	The Switchchers Trilogy
	The Missing Link
J. R. Tolkien	The Hobbit / Lord of the Rings
Hazel Townson	Lift Off
	The Secret Room

Mark Twain	The Adventures of Tom Sawyer
Eleanor Updale	Montmorency series
Jules Verne	Around the World in 80 Days
Sylvia Voight	The Homecoming
Mark Walden	H.I.V.E series
Robert Westall	Blitzcat
	The Machine Gunners
Henry Williamson	Tarka The Otter
Jacqueline Wilson	The Illustrated Mum
	Vicky Angel
	My Sister Jodie
Jeanette Winterson	Tanglewreck

Books all children should read – Michael Morpurgo

Early Years and KS1

The Twits, by Roald Dahl

(Puffin, £4.99)

Mr and Mrs Twit pass the time playing nasty tricks on one another. They're both horrid. In his hairy beard, Mr Twit "was always able to find a tasty morsel to nibble on".

Burglar Bill, by Janet and Allan Ahlberg

(Puffin, £4.99)

"I'll 'ave that," is the catchphrase of the rogue who stars in this engaging and beautifully illustrated tale. When Bill accidentally burglarises a baby, it turns out to be a blessing in a stolen basket. "Runfrit, Boglaboll!"

The Tiger Who Came To Tea, by Judith Kerr

(HarperCollins, £5.99)

Newsnight's Emily Maitlis has a theory that this book is an allegory about sex. Most children understand it as the story of a tiger that eats its hosts out of house and home. Debate continues.

Where the Wild Things Are, by Maurice Sendak

(Red Fox, £5.99)

When Max engages in mischief, he is sent to bed without his supper. That's just the start. Sendak's paintings sing, and the text is a joy.

The Tale of Samuel Whiskers, by Beatrix Potter

(Frederick Warne, £4.99)

Tom Kitten learnt nothing from his parents about the consequences of curiosity. Abducted by a psychotic rat, he comes within a whisker of being turned into a pudding. Nightmares guaranteed.

Yertle the Turtle, by Dr Seuss

(Collins, £4.99)

Theodor Geisel's response to Hitler was more oblique than Stauffenberg's, but as effective. Yertle, king of the pond, commands all the turtles to stack themselves up so he can be top of the heap. Someone's riding for a fall.

Fungus the Bogeyman, by Raymond Briggs

(Puffin, £5.99)

What boy won't thrill to the world of the Bogeymen, all snot, armpits and boils? This gave Raymond Briggs's green crayon the workout of its life.

The Story of the Little Mole Who Knew It Was None of His Business, by Werner Holzwarth and Wolf Erlbruch

(Chrysalis, £4.99)

Someone's dropping lands on poor mole's head. Who's the culprit? A farmyard investigation is conducted with Germanic seriousness. Mole's revenge is sweet.

Room on the Broom, by Julia Donaldson

(Macmillan, £4.99)

Punchier than The Gruffalo, this has children chanting along as a witch and her animal friends see off a dragon in search of "witch and chips".

The Very Hungry Caterpillar, by Eric Carle

(Puffin, £5.99)

"In the light of the moon, a little egg lay on a leaf..." so begins this classic board book, its pages drilled with holes as the caterpillar eats his way through the week.

The Cat in the Hat, by Dr Seuss

(Colins, £4.99)

"Look at me! Look at me! Look at me now!" The cat's a big show-off, but he knows how to have fun, and his chaotic antics delight.

Charlotte's Web, by EB White

(Puffin, £5.99)

White's 1952 masterpiece describes the friendship between a lonely pig and a talented spider. This poignant tale teaches lessons about love, death and differing life expectancies.

The Story of Babar, by Jean de Brunhoff

(Egmont, £5.99)

When Babar sees his mother shot he reacts as any modern child might: a few tears, then off on a shopping spree. Nice green suit, though.

Winnie-the-Pooh, by AA Milne, illustrated by EH Shepard

(Egmont, £11.99)

Visit Hundred Acre Wood, and meet Pooh, Piglet and Christopher Robin, based on AA Milne's son. This classic story hasn't aged, and EH Shepard's understated illustrations remain the best

Lower KS2 – Year 5

Stig of the Dump, by Clive King

(Puffin, £6.99)

When Barney falls down a dump the last thing he expects is to meet a cave boy. Stig was an eco-warrior before the term was invented. Sprightly, comic, classic.

Ballet Shoes, by Noel Streatfeild

(Puffin, £5.99)

Adopted sisters Posy, Pauline and Petrova Fossil train as a dancer, an actor and an aeroplane pilot. A bally treat.

Howl's Moving Castle, by Diana Wynne Jones

(HarperCollins, £5.99)

The Witch of Waste puts Sophie under a spell. To break it, she must brave the castle of the Wizard Howl. Imaginative and terribly funny.

Just So Stories, by Rudyard Kipling

(Walker, £9·99)

Learn how the leopard got his spots and the camel his hump. And remember "The Elephant's Child" - whose "satiabale suriosity" turns his "bulgy nose" into a trunk?

The Borrowers, by Mary Norton

(Puffin, £6·99)

First published in 1953, this remains a deserved favourite. The Clock family live beneath a floorboard, making do with what "human beans" drop, until one day one of them allows herself to be seen...

Struwwelpeter, by Heinrich Hoffman

(Dover, £6·99)

These pungent 1840 morality tales are not to be taken literally: in one, a boy gets his thumbs chopped off.

The Magic Faraway Tree, by Enid Blyton

(Egmont, £5·99)

Jo, Bessie and Fanny climb to the top of a magical tree, above which are endlessly circulating worlds: the Land of Birthdays, or, more unluckily, of Dame Slap.

Danny, the Champion of the World, by Roald Dahl

(Puffin, £5·99)

Danny and his hard-up father bond over poaching pheasants from nasty Mr Hazell's land - before moral dues are paid.

George's Marvellous Medicine, by Roald Dahl

(Puffin, £4·99)

To cure his grumpy grandmother, George Kranky concocts a medicine from shaving foam, sheep dip, engine oil and brown paint. Granny grows huge. The ending is dark even for Dahl.

Underwater Adventure, by Willard Price

(Red Fox, £4·99)

Willard Price invented zoologist brothers Hal and Roger Hunt to get children interested in nature. Underwater Adventure takes them into shark-infested seas. Some sharks are human.

Tintin in Tibet, by Hergé

(Mammoth, £6·99)

After Tintin reads of a plane crash in the Himalayas, he dreams his friend Chang has survived. Uniquely, there are no villains - just a tender yeti and acres of snow.

The Complete Brothers Grimm Fairy Tales

(Chronicle, £11·99)

Sourced from medieval German folktales by Jakob and Wilhelm Grimm in the 19th century, these sanguinary stories deal with abduction, cannibalism and worse.

Erik the Viking, by Terry Jones, illustrated by Michael Foreman

(Puffin, £5·99)

Erik tells his wife that he must go to "the land where the sun goes at night"; off he travels on an atmospheric adventure, terrifically illustrated.

When the Wind Blows, by Raymond Briggs

(Penguin, £7·99)

Jim and Hilda Bloggs's preparation for a nuclear attack remains enthralling. First comic, then moving.

Old Possum's Book of Practical Cats, by TS Eliot

(Faber & Faber, £4·99)

This delightful collection of verse sees cat-loving Eliot capering about with his trousers rolled. A perfect introduction to the pleasures of poetry for children.

The Iron Man, by Ted Hughes

(Faber & Faber, £4·99)

Since it appeared in 1968, the late Poet Laureate's children's book has become a classic. Benign iron bloke falls from sky, battles space-bat-angel-dragon, saves world. Bliss.

The Owl and the Pussycat, by Edward Lear

(Corgi, £5·99)

Edward Lear's bizarre story of inter-species elopement and gastronomic adventure still charms and diverts. Runcible.

The Wind in the Willows, by Kenneth Grahame

(Egmont, £5·99)

"Believe me, my young friend, there is nothing - absolutely nothing - half so much worth doing as simply messing about in boats." But reading about Mole, Ratty, Toad and Badger runs it a close second.

Peter Pan, by JM Barrie

(Puffin, £4·99)

JM Barrie's Neverland adventures were first performed as a play, and later turned into a novel. Clap your hands if you believe.

Mr Majeika, by Humphrey Carpenter

(Puffin, £4·99)

Mr Majeika, with his tuft of hair, is ever ready to cast spells on unruly pupils - most notably Hamish Bigmore, whose rudeness gets him changed into a frog. Charming and funny in equal measure.

The Water Babies, by Charles Kingsley

(Wordsworth, £1·99)

Tom the sweep drowns after being chased from a rich household and falls into a sub-aquatic purgatory. But once he proves his worth he is allowed wonderful adventures.

A Little Princess, by Frances Hodgson Burnett

(Wordsworth, £1·99)

Seven-year-old Sara Crewe is sent back from India to Miss Minchin's Seminary for Young Ladies in England, to discover she has lost her fortune to a swindler and her father to disease. A stirring tale.

I'm The King of the Castle, by Susan Hill

(Penguin, £7·99)

A powerful and claustrophobic study of bullying, this has a real narrative grip and a frightening message. No reader remains untouched.

The Wave, by Morton Rhue

(Penguin, £5·99)

Teacher Ben Ross doesn't think his students understand what it was like to live in Nazi Germany, so he devises an experiment. A powerful story about the risks of conformism.

Pippi Longstocking, by Astrid Lindgren

(Oxford, £14·99)

Pippi is impulsive, irrepressible, red-haired and so strong you won't believe it. Her bizzare adventures delight children and confound health and safety.

Charlie and the Chocolate Factory, by Roald Dahl

(Puffin, £5·99)

Charlie Bucket's adventures in Willy Wonka's factory - the chocolate rivers, the minia-tuarisation room, the Oompa Loompas - will live forever.

Bambert's Book of Missing Stories, by Reinhardt Jung

(Egmont, £4 ·99)

Shy Bambert sends his half-written stories into the world attached to balloons for whoever finds them to finish. Stories come back from all over the world, and the final story is heartbreaking.

The Firework-maker's Daughter, by Philip Pullman

(Corgi, £4·99)

Lila's father doesn't want her to follow his career in fireworks so she must prove herself on an epic quest that takes in dragons and pirates.

Tom's Midnight Garden, by Philippa Pearce

(Oxford, £5·99)

As Tom lies in bed preparing for the most boring holiday of his life, the clock strikes 13. Racing downstairs he sees daylight and a beautiful garden where there should be darkness. Incredibly exciting.

The Phantom Tollbooth, by Norton Juster

(HarperCollins, £5·99)

A bored young boy pushes his toy car through a toy tollbooth, and finds himself in the kingdom of Wisdom. Genius wordplay with slapstick and a real sense of fun.

The Silver Sword, by Ian Serrallier

(Red Fox, £4·99)

Just after the Second World War, a group of children navigate war-torn Europe armed with little more than a letter opener. Tense, demanding and adult.

Cue for Treason, by Geoffrey Trease

(Puffin, £5·99)

After Peter Brownrigg chucks a stone at his landlord, he has to flee to London. Here he meets Shakespeare and uncovers a plot to kill Queen Elizabeth. Tudor derring-do.

The Sword in the Stone, by TH White

(HarperCollins, £6·99)

The trials of Arthur have never been more amusingly described. Merlin is the archetype for all dotty wizards.

A Wizard of Earthsea, by Ursula K LeGuin

(Puffin, £5·99)

LeGuin's fantasy lands are scrupulously realised, but it is emotional complexity that makes her books so engrossing. Here a young wizard has to come to terms with the destructive power of his magic.

Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban, by JK Rowling

(Bloomsbury, £5·99)

The third book may be the best in JK Rowling's series. All the usual Potter tricks are here, but the highlight is the Dementors, the terrifying guards of Azkaban prison.

The Chronicles of Narnia Box Set, by CS Lewis

(Collins, £49·99)

The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe isn't the only Narnia story worth reading. The Silver Chair is a powerful allegory of mental slavery; and Voyage of the Dawn Treader sees a talking mouse paddle over the edge of the world.

His Dark Materials Box Set, by Philip Pullman

(Scholastic, £22)

Pullman's riposte to CS Lewis is a trumpet-blast against dogma - but, above all else, a gripping adventure.

The BFG, by Roald Dahl

(Puffin, £5·99)

At the witching hour, a giant blows sweet dreams into children's bedrooms. When orphan Sophie sees him one night, he takes her to his cave. Beware whizzpoppers!

Swallows and Amazons, by Arthur Ransome

(Red Fox, £7·99)

Childcare used to be a bit less hands on ("Better drowned than duffers. If not duffers won't drown") and one cannot read the adventures of these four children in a lost Eden without a lump in the throat.

Clarice Bean, Don't Look Now, by Lauren Child

(Orchard Books, £7.99)

At first glance one for the girls, but boys should read it too. Over the series Clarice has matured from an infant with a quirky vocabulary into a complex, engaging teenager.

The Railway Children, by E Nesbit

(Oxford, £8)

When their father is accused of treason, Bobbie, Peter, Phyllis and their mother move to the country. They pass the time watching trains go by and proving their father innocent, which is nice.

The Selfish Giant, by Oscar Wilde

(Puffin, £5.99)

Wilde's giant wants to keep children out of his garden so that he can have it to himself. But it stays shrouded in snow until one day, when the giant's hard heart is softened by one of the boys...

Black Beauty, by Anna Sewell

(Puffin Classics, £4.99)

One of the greatest books ever narrated by a horse, with a fine message: be kind to animals, and they'll be kind to you.

Just William, by Richmal Crompton

(Macmillan, £5.99)

The classic naughty schoolboy, William wages a gentle war of attrition against parental and teacherly authority.

Jennings Goes to School, by Anthony Buckeridge

(House of Stratus, £6.99)

Catapults, grazed knees, and mischief of the best sort. Hogwarts may have revived our appetite for boys-school stories, but Jennings was there first.

Comet in Moominland, by Tove Jansson

(Puffin, £4.99)

Moomin is a peculiar fellow, but through him and his equally peculiar friends the Finnish author Tove Jansson explores the big issues: friendship, alienation, fear, loss and meteors from outer space.

The Bad Beginning, by Lemony Snicket

(Egmont Books, £6.99)

This magnificently black-hearted book introduced us to the Baudelaire children, orphaned in a fire and trying to keep one step ahead of the predatory Count Olaf, who is after their inherited fortune.

Year 6 – Early Teens

Call of the Wild, by Jack London

(Puffin, £4.99)

Jack London introduced some dark themes into this story of Buck, a sled dog in the Yukon who rediscovers his wild nature when put to the test.

Alice in Wonderland and Through the Looking Glass, by Lewis Carroll

(Penguin Classics, £5.99)

Never was mathematical and philosophical playfulness given such entertaining shape. Tenniel's line-drawings crown these classics.

The Outsiders, by SE Hinton

(Puffin Classics, £6.99)

This powerful novel about school gangs was published when SE Hinton was just 18. The Greasers and the Socs clash in typical teenage fashion - but then someone dies.

I Capture the Castle, by Dodie Smith

(Vintage, £6.99)

Smith is better known for A Hundred and One Dalmatians, but although this, her first novel, is quieter, it shines brighter. Narrated in diary form by 17-year-old Cassandra, it documents the lives of her eccentric family.

The Wolves of Willoughby Chase, by Joan Aiken

(Red Fox, £4.99)

1832, and wolves have over-run a fictional kingdom of England. Orphans Sylvia and Bonnie fall into the hands of an evil Miss Slycarp and must use all their wits to escape. A mercilessly shadowy thriller.

To Kill a Mockingbird, by Harper Lee

(Arrow Books, £6.99)

A classic story of America's Deep South. Scout and Jem see their father, Atticus, defend Tom Robinson - an innocent black man - from the charge of rape. Atticus is inspiring without being priggish.

Great Expectations, by Charles Dickens

(Penguin, £7.99)

The rousing story of Pip's rise, fall and rise pips Oliver Twist as the best book with which to start reading Dickens, purely on account of his description of being in love.

The Owl Service, by Alan Garner

(Collins, £5.99)

Welsh myths, a portrait hidden behind a plaster skim, adolescent yearnings...read this extraordinary confection at the right age and it will never leave you.

The Hound of the Baskervilles, by Arthur Conan Doyle

(Penguin classics, £5·99)

Holmes in fine Gothic form: rackety aristocrats, the Grimpen Mire, and a glow-in-the-dark hellhound conspire to chill the blood and thrill the deductive organs.

Wuthering Heights, by Emily Bronte

(Penguin, £7·99)

A novel that embeds itself in the memory, and set feminism back 150 years. The human genome has yet to produce a teenage girl who isn't a sucker for Heathcliff.

The Diary of a Young Girl, by Anne Frank

(Penguin, £7·99)

On June 12, 1942, Annelies Marie Frank started writing a diary. It was her 13th birthday. She died three years later in Belsen. An ordinary teenage life, made poignant by the knowledge of how it ended.

Roll of Thunder, Hear my Cry, by Mildred D Taylor

(Puffin, £5·99)

A tale of oppression in the American South, this tells the story of the Logans, a black family living in rural Mississippi during the 1930s.

A Kestrel for a Knave, by Barry Hines

(Penguin, £7·99)

Filed by Ken Loach as Kes, this snapshot of deprivation in 1960s Yorkshire describes a troubled boy's relationship with his pet kestrel. Bittersweet and grimly artful.

The Hobbit, by JRR Tolkien

(HarperCollins, £6·99)

A wonderful curtain-raiser for The Lord of the Rings, The Hobbit finds Tolkein in a playful mood. The adventures of Bilbo Baggins, while never less than exciting, are spiked with gentle humour.

War Horse, by Michael Morpurgo

(Egmont, £4·99)

Michael Morpurgo's moving story plunges into the horror of the First World War by following the story of Joey, a cavalry officer's horse on the Western Front.

Beowulf, by Michael Morpurgo

(Walker Books, £7·99)

Beowulf is a great story: scary monsters, fearsome matriarchs, boasting, singing, feasting, fighting and booty. Michael Morpurgo's rendition brings it to a new generation.

King Solomon's Mines, by H Rider Haggard

(Penguin Classics, £7·99)

Hunter Allan Quatermain searches the African jungle. Its attitudes might be outdated but this is still terrifically exciting.

Kim, by Rudyard Kipling

(Penguin Classics, £7·99)

Kimball O'Hara, the orphaned son of an Irish soldier, wanders Lahore cadging, playing and living a carefree life - until he's forced into espionage.

The Road of Bones, by Anne Fine

(Corgi Children's, £5·99)

Anne Fine weaves a disturbing parable of life in a totalitarian state, as young Yuri learns the cost of speaking the truth.

Frenchman's Creek, by Daphne Du Maurier

(Virago Press, £7·99)

A swashbuckling love affair between a lady and a pirate on the Cornish coast. Romantic adventure at its overblown best.

Treasure Island, by RL Stevenson

(Penguin Classics, £7·99)

The riddles of Stevenson's tale endure. Why does X mark the spot? What is it with parrots? And why did Pugh go blind?

Little Women, by Louisa May Alcott

(Oxford Children's Classic, £6·99)

The tale of four sisters - Jo, Meg, Beth and Amy - growing up in the US Civil War, this is a charming and insightful story of childhood and family.

Anne of Green Gables, by L M Montgomery

(Puffin Classics, £4·99)

Spirited ginger-nut, adopted in error for a boy, comes of age on a remote island off the Canadian coast.

Junk, by Melvin Burgess

(Puffin, £4·99)

Burgess's refusal to patronise teenagers has earned much praise. This tough, clear-eyed story of heroin addiction is among his best.

Cider With Rosie, by Laurie Lee

(Vintage Classics, £7·99)

A lyrical description of a childhood spent in rural bliss in the Cotswolds. This is a homage to England as it was, filled with light, joy, and fun.

The Go-Between by LP Hartley

(Penguin Modern Classics, £8·99)

More than a famous first line. When 60-year-old Leo Colston looks back on his youth in 1900, the nostalgia is stifling. But as the story develops, it takes a darker turn.

The Rattle Bag, ed by Seamus Heaney and Ted Hughes

(Faber, £14·99)

This rich anthology of poetry - whose name aptly describes the higgledy-piggledy mix of glories within - is something no teen's bookshelf should lack.

The Song of Hiawatha, by H W Longfellow

(Dover, £3)

Just say something in this rhythm. It will sound like Hiawatha. Read it to your horrid children. Hear them chant the verses loudly. On it goes ad infinitum. Heaven help the hapless parent.

Watership Down, by Richard Adams

(Puffin, £6·99)

Fiver and his brother Hazel know that something terrible will happen to the warren, and set off for safety. Their story has implications beyond the usual concerns of rabbits.

The Adventures of Tom Sawyer, by Mark Twain

(Oxford, £6·99)

Less ambitious than 'The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn' but just as exciting. The language is hard to begin with but the hero is one of the most endearing in literature.

True Grit, by Charles Portis

(Bloomsbury, £6·99)

Mattie Ross - spirited, witty, probably beautiful - is out to avenge her "father's blood" in this slim Western. It should be given to every girl turning 16.

Holes, by Louis Sachar

(Collins, 7·99)

Sentenced to dig holes in the desert for stealing trainers, the wrongly convicted Stanley discovers that the holes are not so pointless as at first thought. Wit dry as a salt flat.

Lord of the Flies, by William Golding

(Faber & Faber, £7·99)

When a gang of boys are marooned on an island they try to set up a community based on cooperation. Some hope.

My Family and Other Animals, by Gerald Durrell

(Puffin, £5·99)

When the Durrell family takes a villa in Corfu one summer they do not imagine staying five years, but so they do. In that time Gerald, a boy of 10, discovers the joys of the local flora and fauna, and describes it with a delightful wit.

Coraline, by Neil Gaiman

(Bloomsbury, £6·99)

This spooky story won't soon be forgotten. Coraline is a girl who finds her way down a corridor to a flat just like her own - but slightly different. And where her doting "other mother" has buttons for eyes...

Carrie's War, by Nina Bawden

(Puffin, £6·99) Carrie and her brother are wartime evacuees billeted on a bullying Welsh grocer. A wonderfully crafted novel full of memorable characters.

The Story of Tracy Beaker, by Jacqueline Wilson

(Corgi, £5·99)

A slice of life in a children's home narrated by 10-year-old Tracy, through whose eyes we confront tough dilemmas. Required reading.

The Lantern Bearers, by Rosemary Sutcliffe

(Oxford, £6·99)

As the Roman army prepares to leave for home, Aquila is forced to desert to protect his family.