

# Tutor Reading Programme

Reading Canon Slides

Genre	Explanation
Bildungsroman	deals with one person's formative years / coming of age
Historical fiction	a story where the plot happens in the past
Non-fiction	an information text dealing with actual, real-life things or events
Biography / autobiography	an account of a person's life/ an account of a person's life written by themselves
Young adult fiction	a story intended to be written for a young adult audience
Allegory	a story with a hidden meaning; moralistic
Poetry / slam poetry	texts where the expression of feelings/ideas are given intensity with a distinctive style and rhythm
Thriller/ suspense / psychological	a story that creates feelings of suspense, excitement, surprise, anticipation or anxiety for the reader
Fantasy	a story where the plot could not happen in real life. Often involves magic or witchcraft. Takes place on another planet or in another world
Anthology	a collection of poems or artistic works

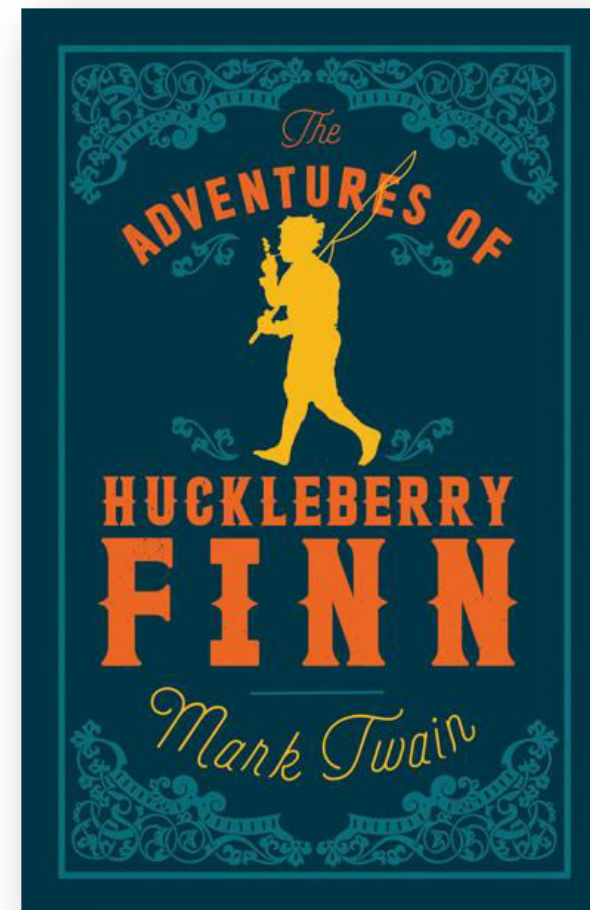
Genre	Explanation
Crime fiction	deals with crimes, their detection, criminals, and their motive
Parable	a short story with a moral attitude or sharing a religious principle
Fable	uses animals, legendary creatures, plants, inanimate objects, or forces of nature to lead to a particular moral lesson
Horror / gothic	intended to scare, frighten, disgust, or startle its readers through horror and terror
Science fiction	deals with futuristic concepts, advanced science & technology, time travel, parallel universes, space and extra-terrestrial life
Adventure / quest	a journey for a mission or goal. Mythology, folklore & legends often involve quests
Utopian / dystopian	both are used to describe social and political structures in the world. <i>Utopian</i> : a place that we can only dream about, a true paradise. <i>Dystopian</i> : a society in which many things have gone wrong – a dark place.
Epistolary	a novel written as a series of documents. E.g. letter, diary entry, newspaper clipping
Picaresque	an adventure story featuring a rough-and-tumble character who faces lots of events



# Year 7 Canon

# Huckleberry Finn – Mark Twain (1884)

- **Synopsis**
  - A nineteenth-century boy from a Mississippi River town recounts his adventures as he travels down the river with a runaway slave, encountering a number of different interesting events.
- **Setting**
  - Missouri, Mississippi River (America), 1830's / 1840's
- **Themes**
  - Civilisation vs. nature, honour, religion, slavery
- **Genre**
  - Picaresque fiction, adventure story
- **PAGE:**
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# The Jungle Book – Rudyard Kipling (1894)

- **Synopsis**

- Mowgli, an abandoned child raised by wolves, has his peaceful existence threatened by the return of the man-eating tiger Shere Khan. Facing certain death, Mowgli must overcome his reluctance to leave his wolf family and return to the "man village."

- **Setting**

- The Jungle, Central Provinces of India

- **Themes**

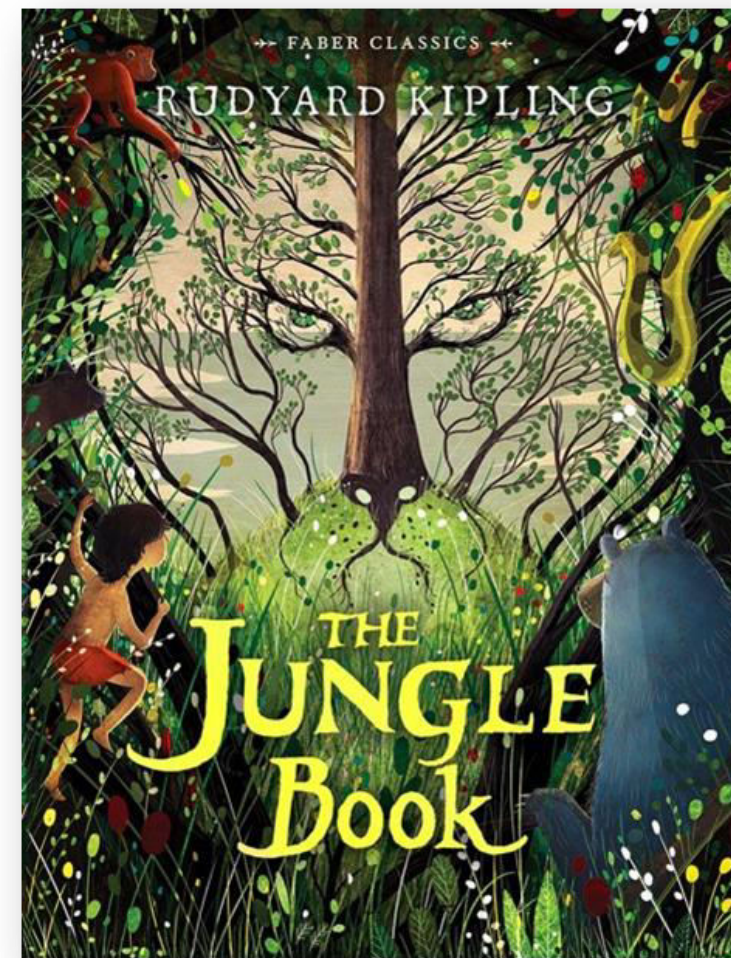
- Loyalty, belonging, rules & laws, courage, preservation

- **Genre**

- Young fiction

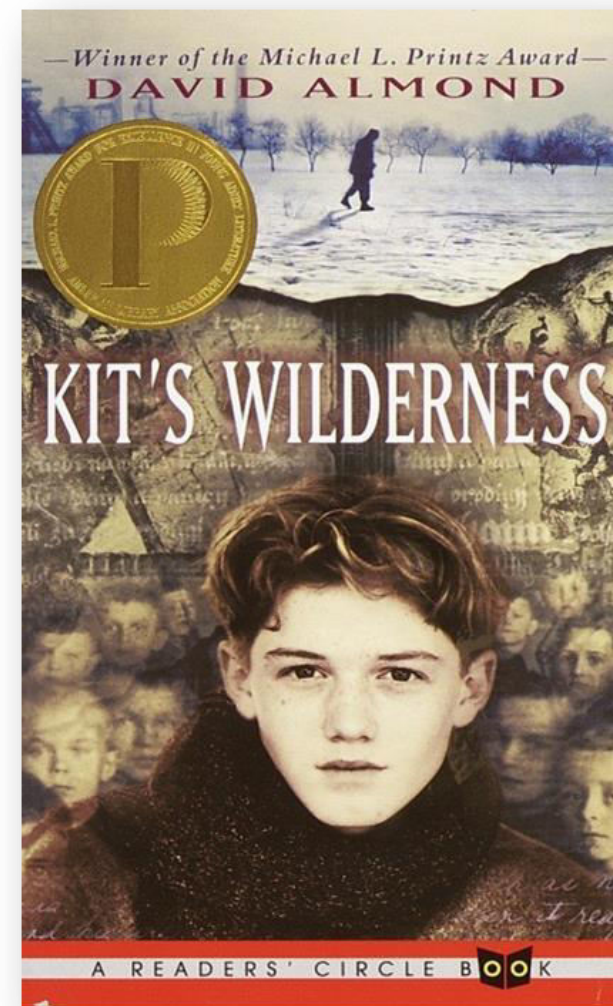
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# Kit's Wilderness – David Almond (1999)

- **Synopsis**
  - Thirteen-year-old Kit goes to live with his grandfather in the decaying coal mining town of Stoneygate, England, and finds both the old man and the town haunted by ghosts of the past.
- **Setting**
  - Stoneygate (a fictional North-Eastern English town)
- **Themes**
  - Conflicting opposites, important relationships
- **Genre**
  - Young adult fiction
- **PAGE:**
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# The Machine Gunners – Robert Westall (1975)

- **Synopsis**

- Living in World War Two, Chas McGill is determined to outdo his rival, Boddser Brown, in obtaining the ultimate war souvenir. When he finds a crashed German bomber plane in the woods, complete with machine gun, he knows he can not only beat his rival, but can also play a role in the war.

- **Setting**

- Garmouth (a fictional British town), World War 2

- **Themes**

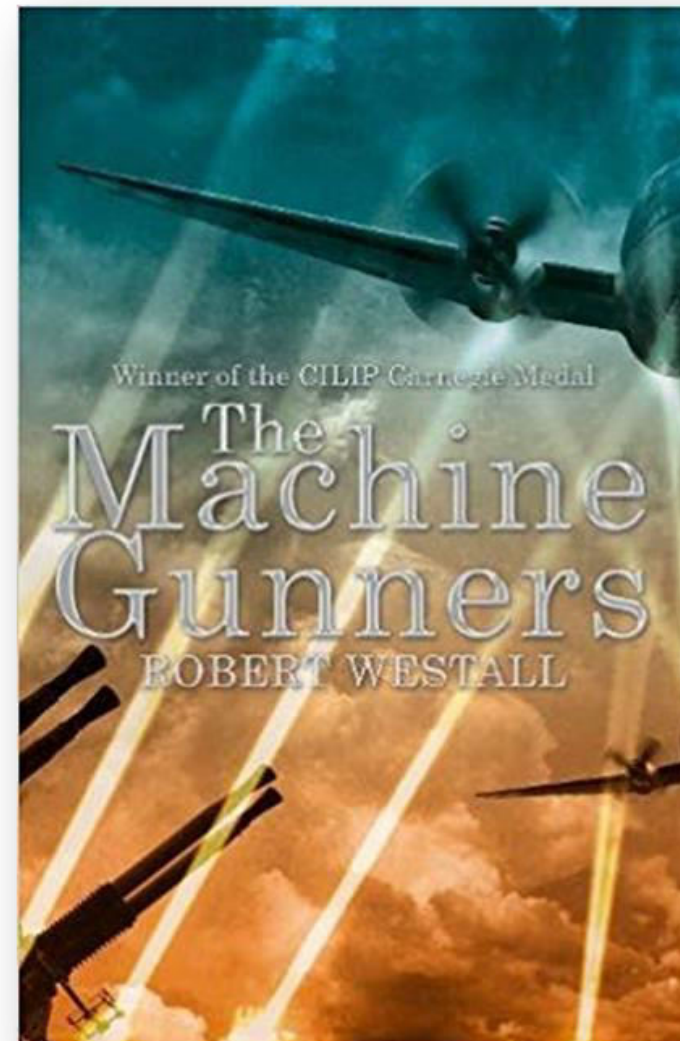
- Adults vs. adolescents, friendship & rivalry, war

- **Genre**

- Historical drama, war

- **PAGE:**

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# Matilda – Roald Dahl (1988)

- **Synopsis**

- Matilda befriends her school teacher, Miss Honey. Miss Honey soon realises Matilda's talents, but is later amazed to see the full extent of Matilda's powers. This young girl is an extremely bright child of wondrous intelligence, though her family do not appreciate it.

- **Setting**

- A peaceful English village (a school, home & cottage)

- **Themes**

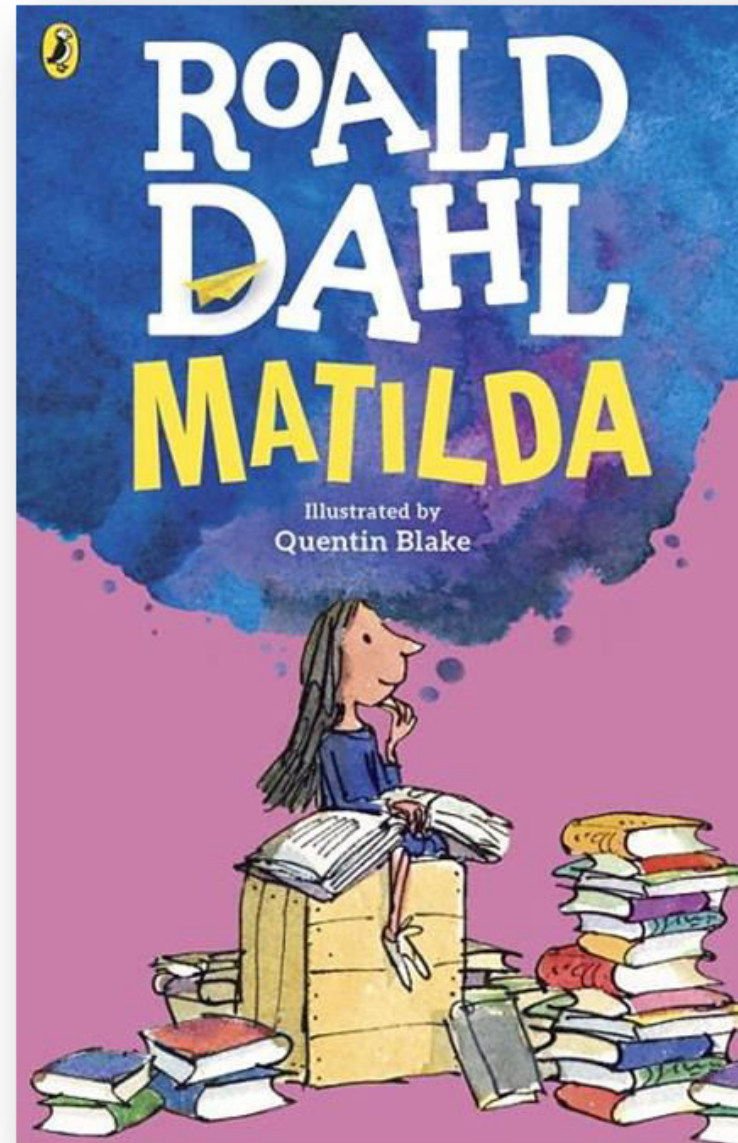
- Education, family, the supernatural, good vs. evil

- **Genre**

- Fantasy

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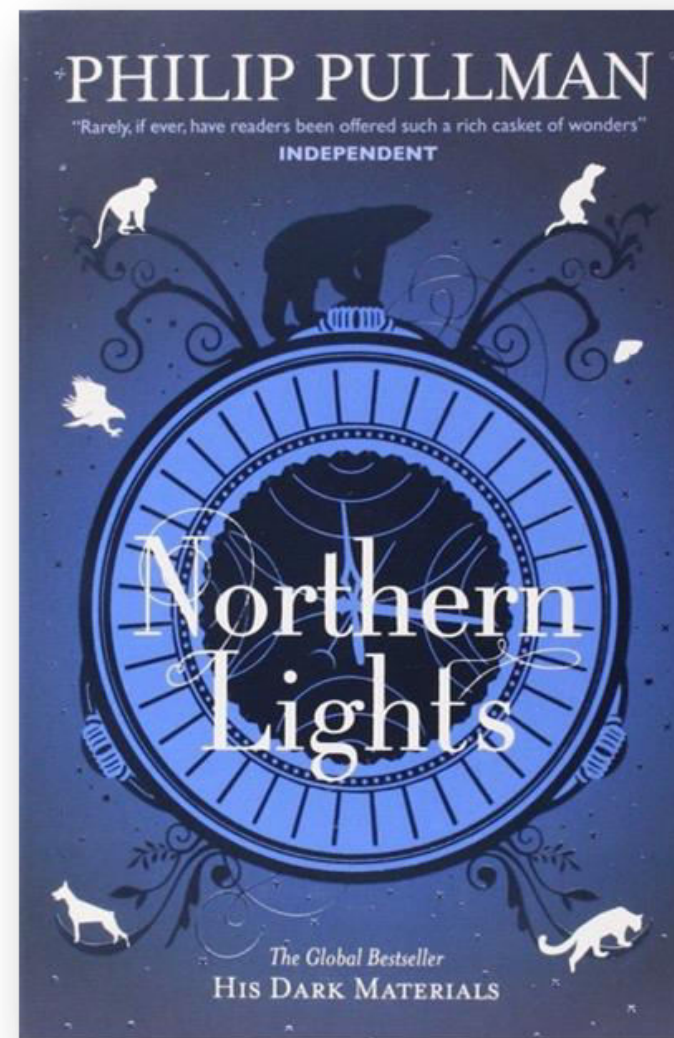
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# Northern Lights – Phillip Pullman (1995)

- **Synopsis**
  - Lyra's best friend is a boy named Roger Parslow, whose family works in the college. Together, the two of them plan adventures and battles. There is a rumour is going around Oxford that children are being stolen by a mysterious group called "the Gobblers." Soon after, Roger disappears.
- **Setting**
  - A parallel universe, the Arctic
- **Themes**
  - Innocence, morality, identity, fate vs. free will, deceit
- **Genre**
  - Fantasy Fiction
- **PAGE**
- **READ FROM**



# Peter Pan – J.M. Barrie (1911)

- **Synopsis**

- A mischievous boy who refuses to grow up lands in the Darling's home to look for his shadow. He befriends Wendy, John and Michael and teaches them to fly (using fairy dust). He and Tinker Bell whisk them off to Never-land where they encounter the Red Indians, the Little Lost Boys, pirates and the dastardly Captain Hook.

- **Setting**

- Neverland

- **Themes**

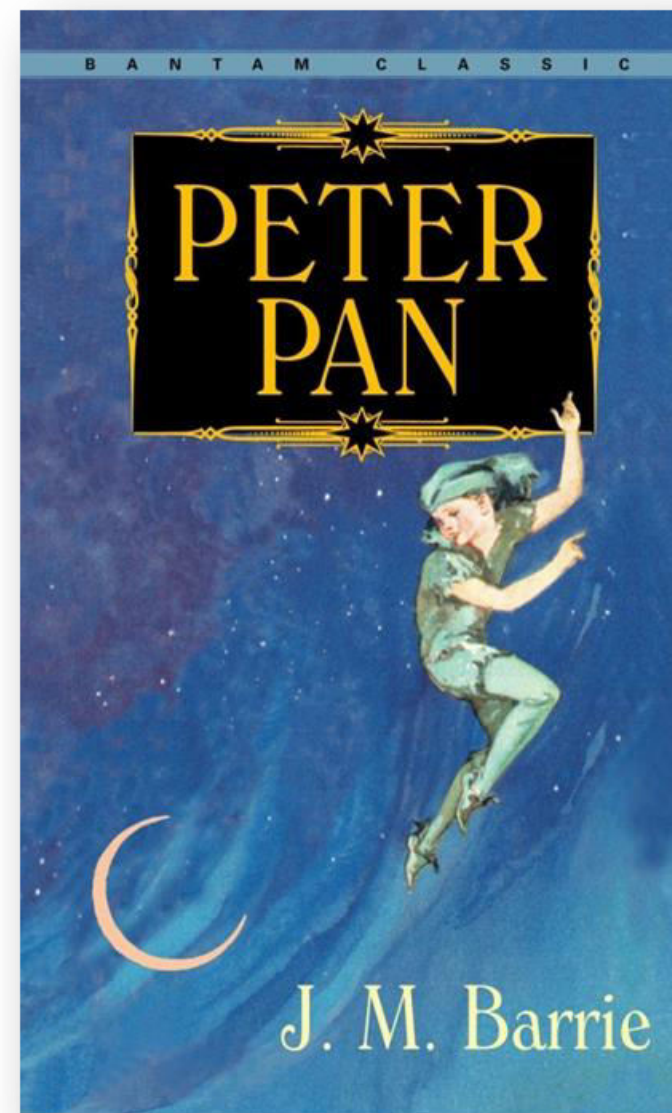
- Growing up, good over evil, family, identity

- **Genre**

- Fantasy Fiction

- **PAGE:**

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# The Weight of Water – Sarah Crossan (2011)

- **Synopsis**

- Carrying just a suitcase and an old laundry bag filled with clothes, Kasienska and her mother are immigrating to England from Poland. Kasienska isn't the happiest girl in the world. At home, her mother is suffering from a broken heart as she searches for Kasienska's father.

- **Setting**

- Poland, England

- **Themes**

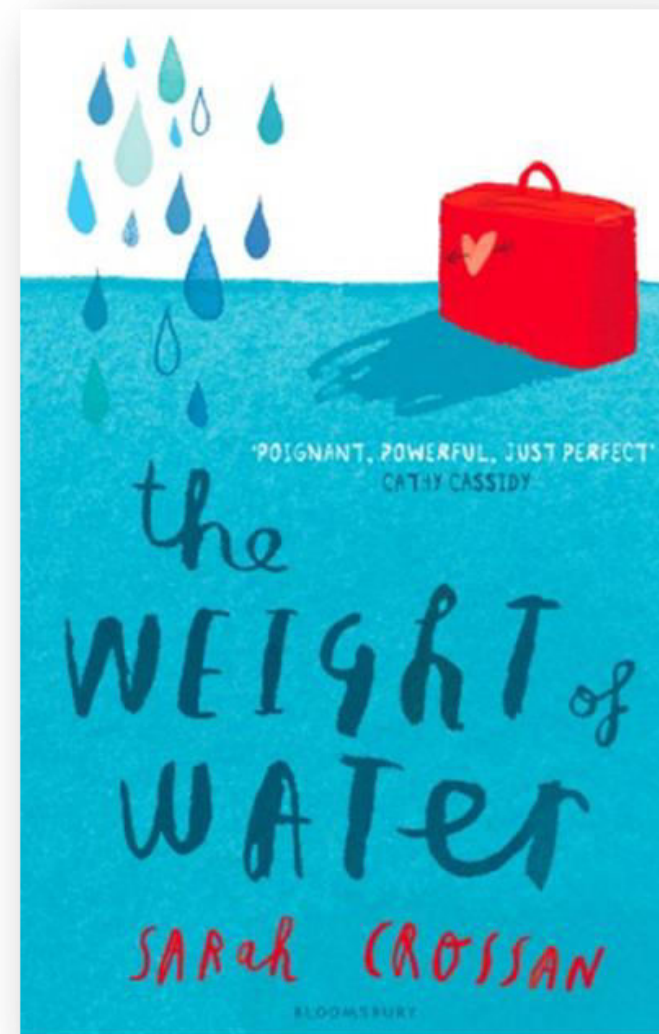
- Immigration, alienation, first love, determination

- **Genre**

- Bildungsroman, fiction

- **PAGE:**

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# Watership Down – Richard Adams (1972)

- **Synopsis**

- Set in England's Downs, this stirring tale of adventure, courage and survival follows a band of very special creatures on their escape from the intrusion of man and the certain destruction of their home.

- **Setting**

- Sandleford Warren

- **Themes**

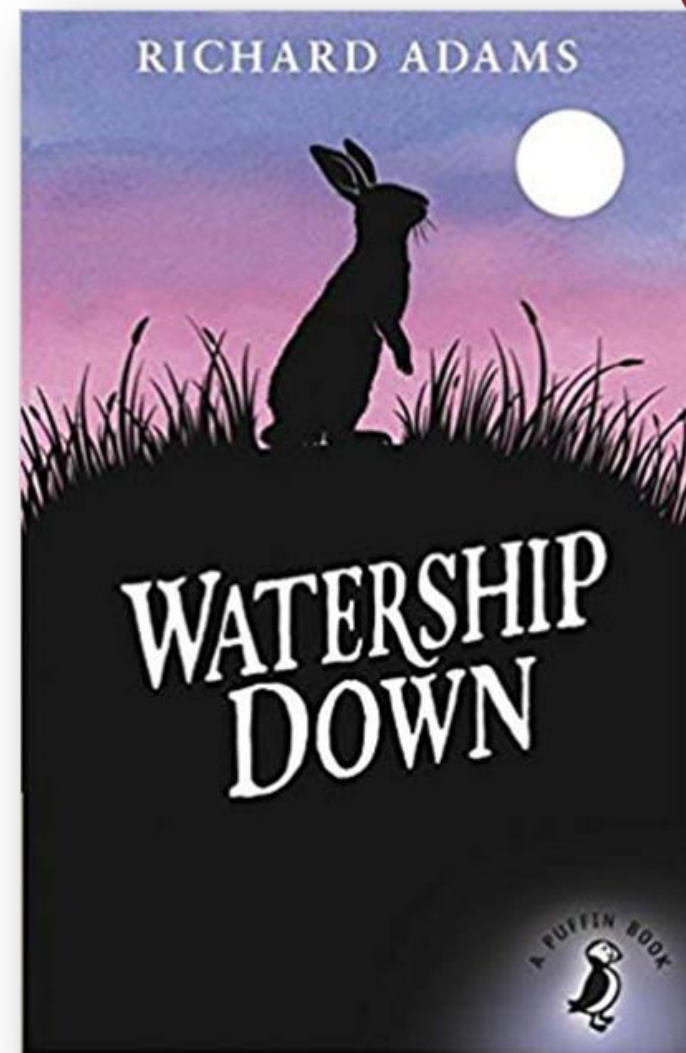
- Home, leadership, nature, escape

- **Genre**

- Fantasy fiction

- **PAGE:**

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# Wonder – R.J. Palacio (2012)

- **Synopsis**

- August or "Auggie" Pullman, a ten-year-old boy living in New York City, was born with a facial deformity that has made it difficult for him to make friends. He lives with his parents, his older sister Via, and his dog Daisy.

- **Setting**

- Present day, New York City

- **Themes**

- Family, appearance, identity, kindness, courage

- **Genre**

- Young adult fiction

- **PAGE:**

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# Year 8 Canon

# Chinese Cinderella – Adeline Yen Mah (1999)

- **Synopsis**

- Born as the fifth child to a wealthy Chinese family, her life begins tragically. Adeline's mother died shortly after her birth due to complications brought on by the delivery, marking her as cursed, or 'bad luck', by her siblings.

- **Setting**

- Tianjin, China

- **Themes**

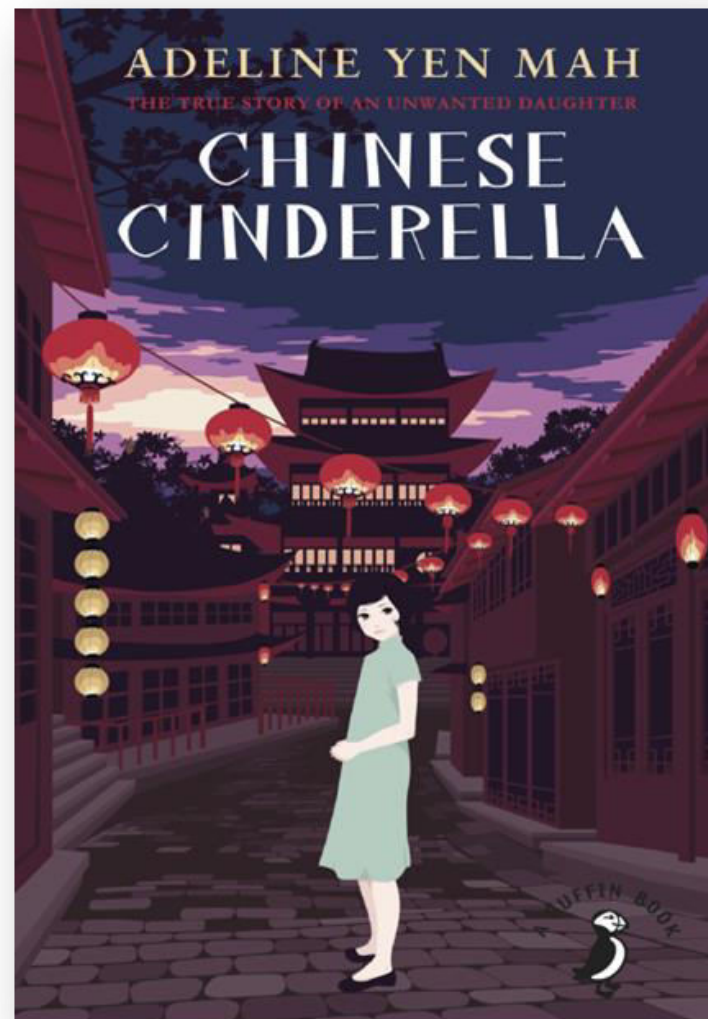
- Acceptance, perseverance, self-worth, isolation, individual

- **Genre**

- Autobiographical novel

- **PAGE:**

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# Coram Boy – Jamila Gavin (2000)

- **Synopsis**

- The Coram Man, Otis Gardiner, roams the country with his son, promising frightened and vulnerable mothers that, in exchange for payment, he would ensure their precious babies were delivered to the Coram Foundling Hospital where a better life awaited them.

- **Setting**

- Eighteenth Century England (London & Gloucester)

- **Themes**

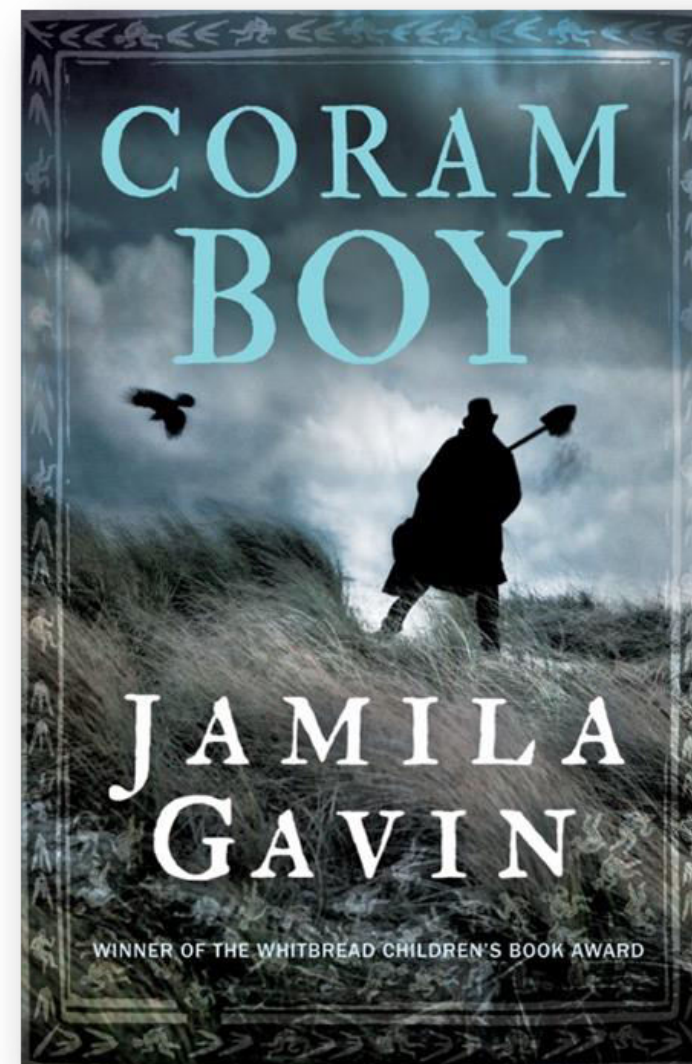
- Trust, vulnerability, right and wrong, life & death

- **Genre**

- Fiction

- **PAGE:**

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# Dracula – Bram Stoker (1897)

- **Synopsis**

- Jonathan Harker, a young English lawyer, travels to Transylvania. He plans to meet with Count Dracula, a client of his firm, to finalise a property transaction. When he arrives in Transylvania, the locals react with terror after he discloses his destination: Castle Dracula.

- **Setting**

- Transylvania, Victorian era

- **Themes**

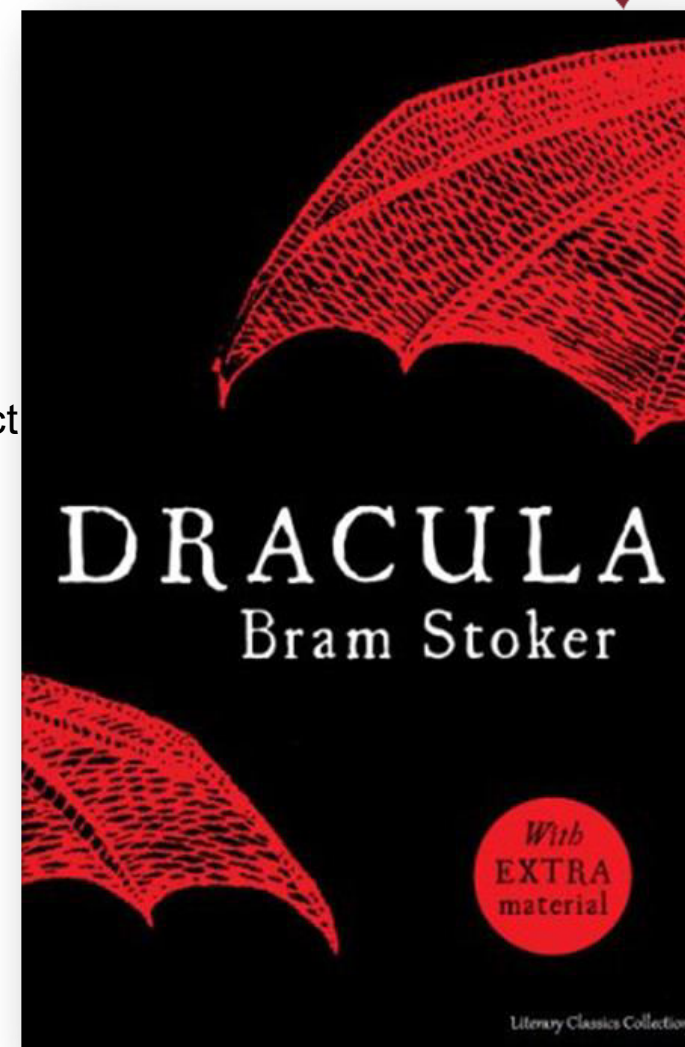
- Writing, illness, madness, confinement, religion, science

- **Genre**

- Horror fiction, gothic fiction

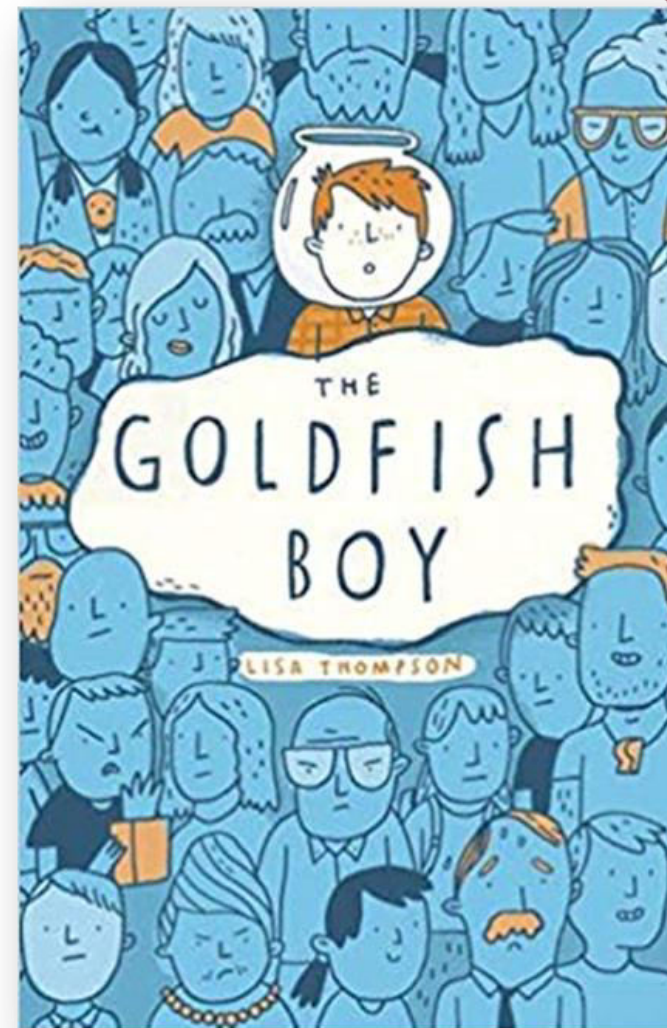
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# Goldfish Boy – Lisa Thompson (2017)

- **Synopsis**
  - Twelve-year-old Matthew got the nickname *The Goldfish Boy* because he spends all his time in his bedroom, too afraid to go outside. His obsessive compulsive disorder makes him afraid that he'll bring in germs from the outside world that will make his loved ones sick and possibly die.
- **Setting**
  - A suburban town, present day
- **Themes**
  - Obsessive compulsive disorder, family, life & death
- **Genre**
  - Mystery, fiction
- **PAGE:**
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# Life of Pi – Yann Martel (2001)

- **Synopsis**

- The protagonist, Piscine Molitor "Pi" Patel, a Tamil boy from Pondicherry, explores issues of spirituality and practicality from an early age. He attempts to survive 227 days after a shipwreck, while stranded on a boat in the Pacific Ocean with a Bengal tiger named Richard Parker.

- **Setting**

- 1960's/1970's, Pondicherry, India; the Pacific Ocean; Mexico; Canada

- **Themes**

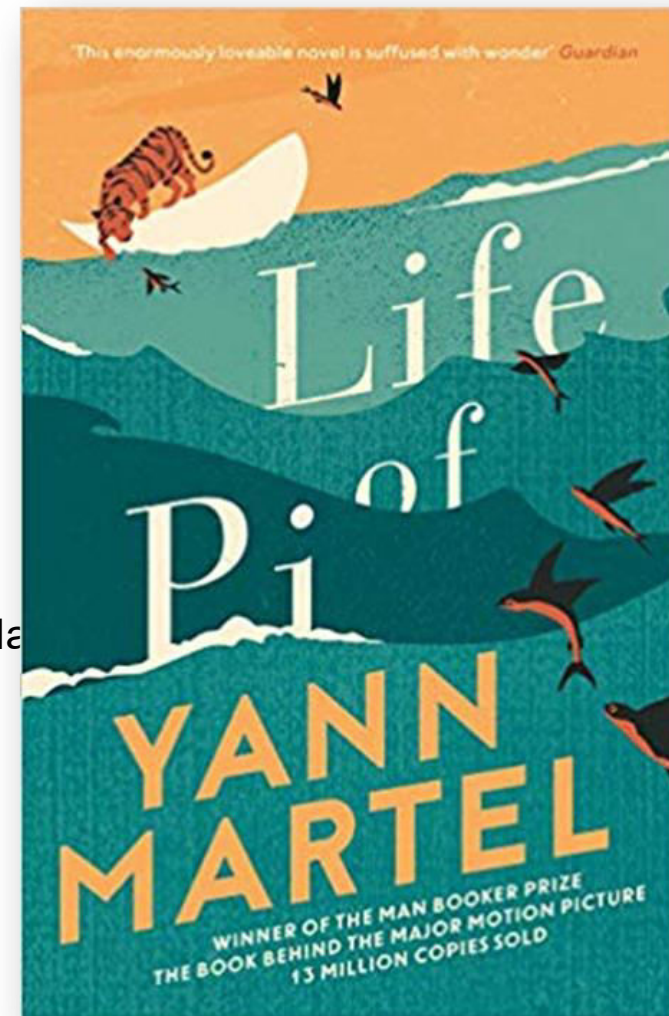
- Spirituality, man vs. natural world, fear, mortality

- **Genre**

- Adventure fiction

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# The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe – C.S. Lewis (1950)

- **Synopsis**

- Four adventurous siblings—Peter, Susan, Edmund, and Lucy — step through a wardrobe door into the land of Narnia, a land frozen in eternal winter and enslaved by the power of the White Witch. But when almost all hope is lost, the return of the Great Lion, Aslan, signals a great change.

- **Setting**

- London, Narnia, 1940 (after outbreak of World War 2)

- **Themes**

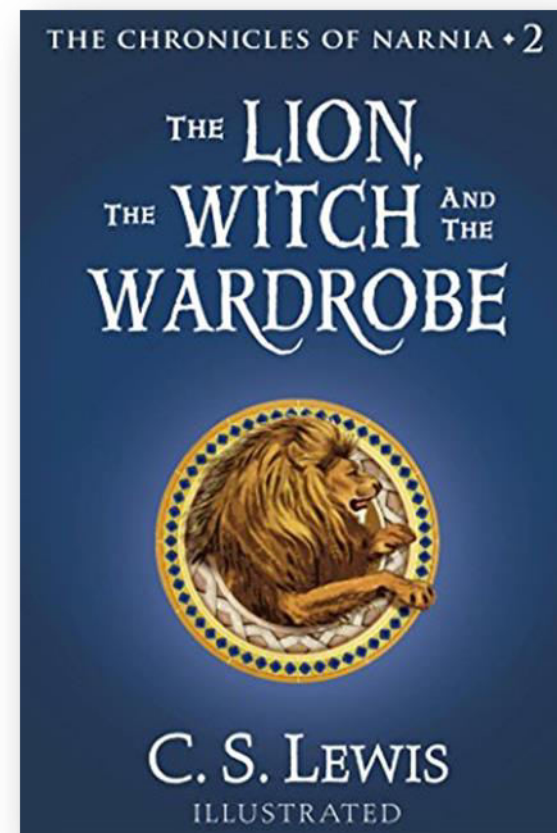
- Betrayal, forgiveness, childhood, logic & faith, courage

- **Genre**

- Fantasy, young fiction

- **PAGE:**

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# Mud, Sweat and Tears – Bear Grylls (2011)

- **Synopsis**

- Bear Grylls shares his autobiographical details of his life before his career as the host of *Man vs. Wild*. This book focuses on his childhood, growing up on the Isle of Wight and other times in his early life.

- **Setting**

- Various locations

- **Themes**

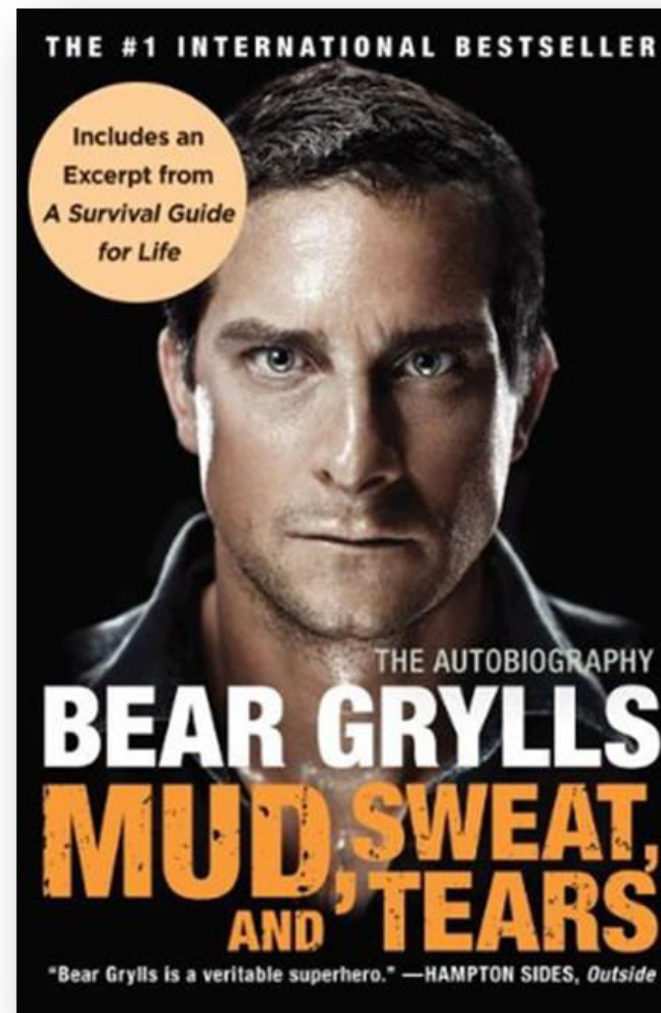
- Resilience, faith, isolation, power, survival

- **Genre**

- Autobiography, biography

- **PAGE:**

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# The Perks of Being a Wallflower — Stephen Chbosky (1999)

- **Synopsis**

- Socially awkward teen, Charlie, is a wallflower, always watching life from the sidelines. Two charismatic students become his mentors. Free-spirited Sam and her stepbrother, Patrick, help Charlie discover the joys of friendship, first love, music and more, while a teacher sparks Charlie's dreams of becoming a writer.

- **Setting**

- Suburbs of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, 1990's

- **Themes**

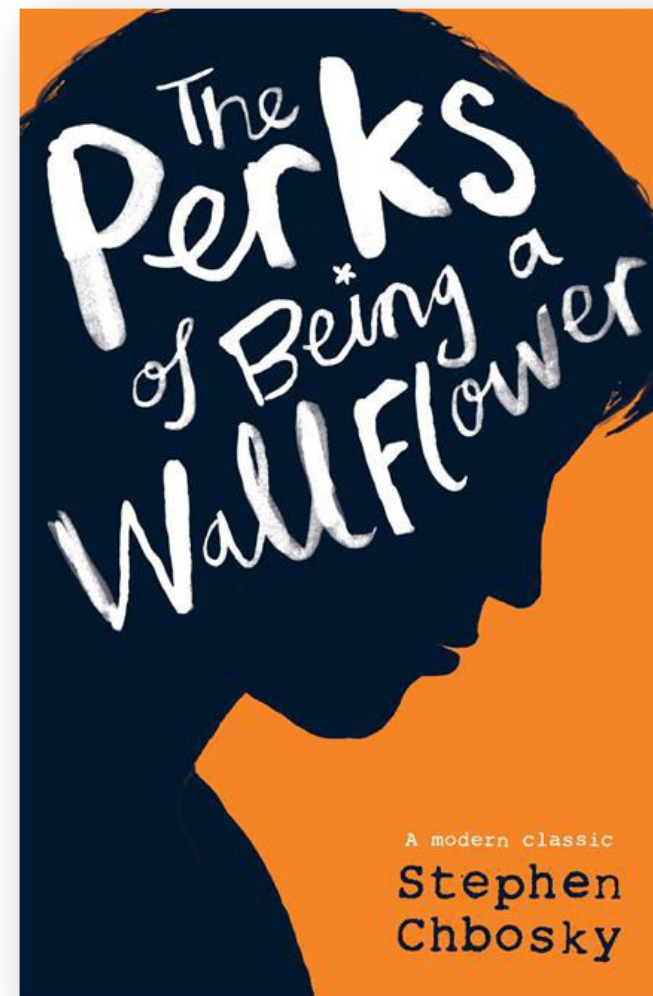
- Inclusivity, tolerance, sexuality, growing up

- **Genre**

- Epistolary novel, bildungsroman, young adult fiction

- **PAGE:**

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# Tamar – Mal Peet (2005)

- **Synopsis**

- When her grandfather dies, Tamar inherits a box containing clues and coded messages. Out of the past, another Tamar emerges, a man involved in the terrifying world of resistance fighters in Nazi-occupied Holland half a century before and unravels it, transforming Tamar's life forever.

- **Setting**

- Nazi-occupied Holland

- **Themes**

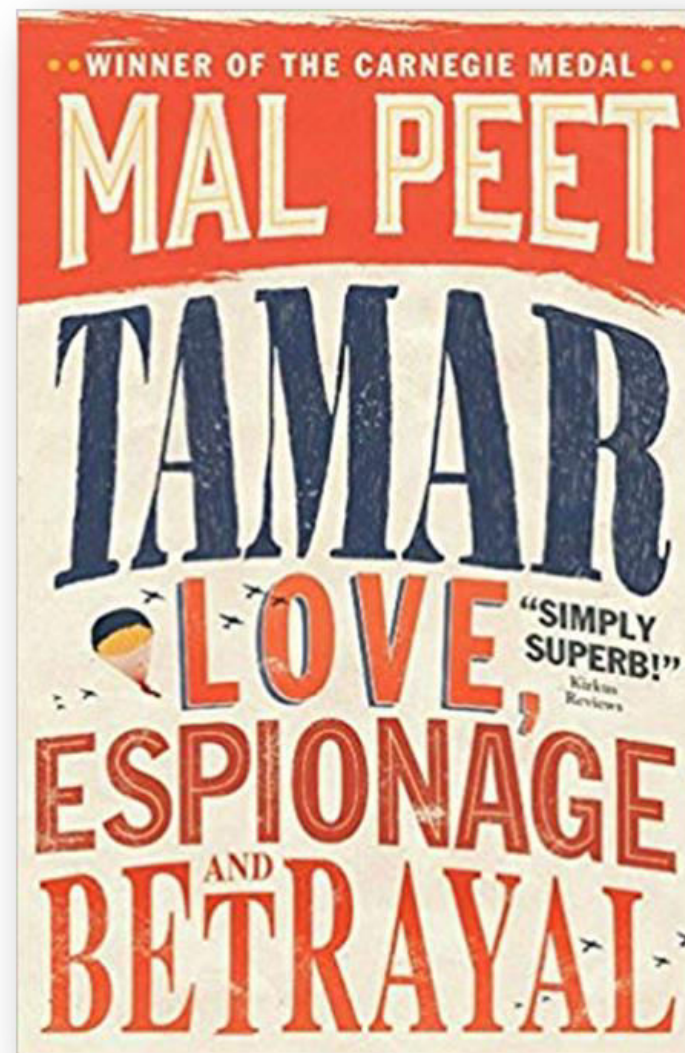
- Love, secrets, betrayal, war

- **Genre**

- Historical drama, war

- **PAGE:**

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# Wed Wabbit – Lissa Evans (2017)

- **Synopsis**

- Fidge is a clever, slightly cynical 11 year old who is flung into the world of her little sister Minnie's favourite story - the world of the Wimbley Woos, creatures of many different hues who only speak in rhyme. Fidge must solve a number of ludicrous puzzles to escape with only her awful cousin Graham and various toys that have come alive to help her.

- **Setting**

- Various locations

- **Themes**

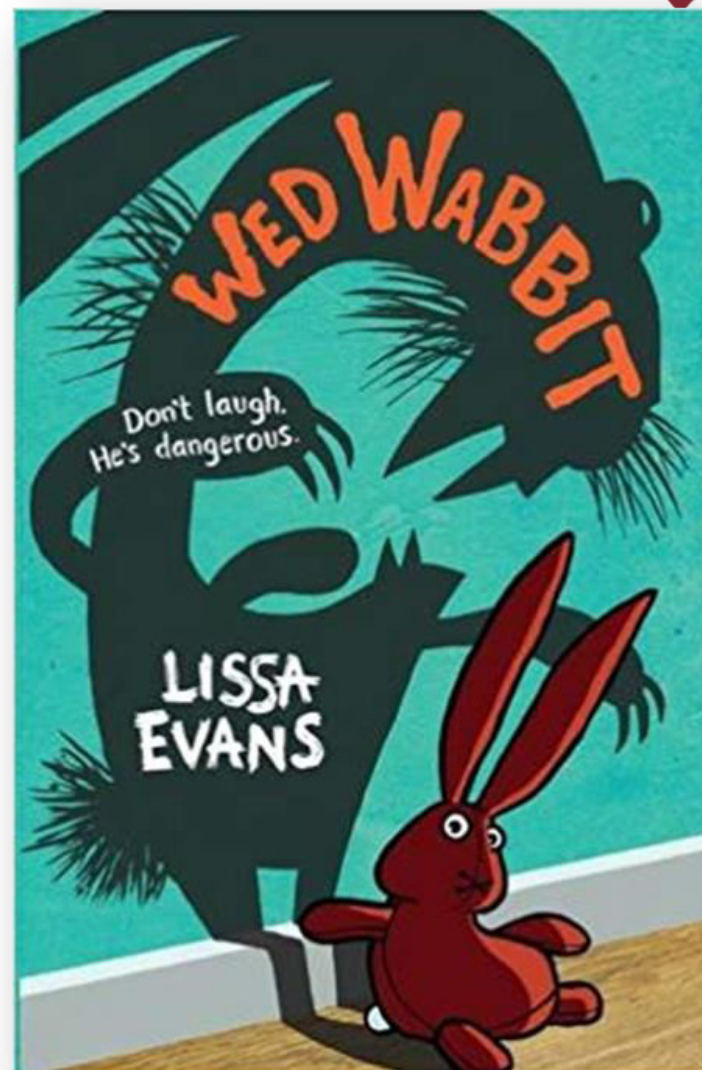
- Friendship, danger, home, journey

- **Genre**

- Fantasy fiction

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# Year 9 Canon

# After the Fire – Will Hill (2017)

- **Synopsis**

- Before, she lived inside the fence. She was never allowed to leave the property, to talk to Outsiders, to speak her mind. Father John controlled everything—and he liked rules. Disobeying Father John came with terrible consequences. But there are lies behind Father John’s words. Outside, there are different truths. Then came the fire.

- **Setting**

- Inspired by the Waco siege in Texas, 1993

- **Themes**

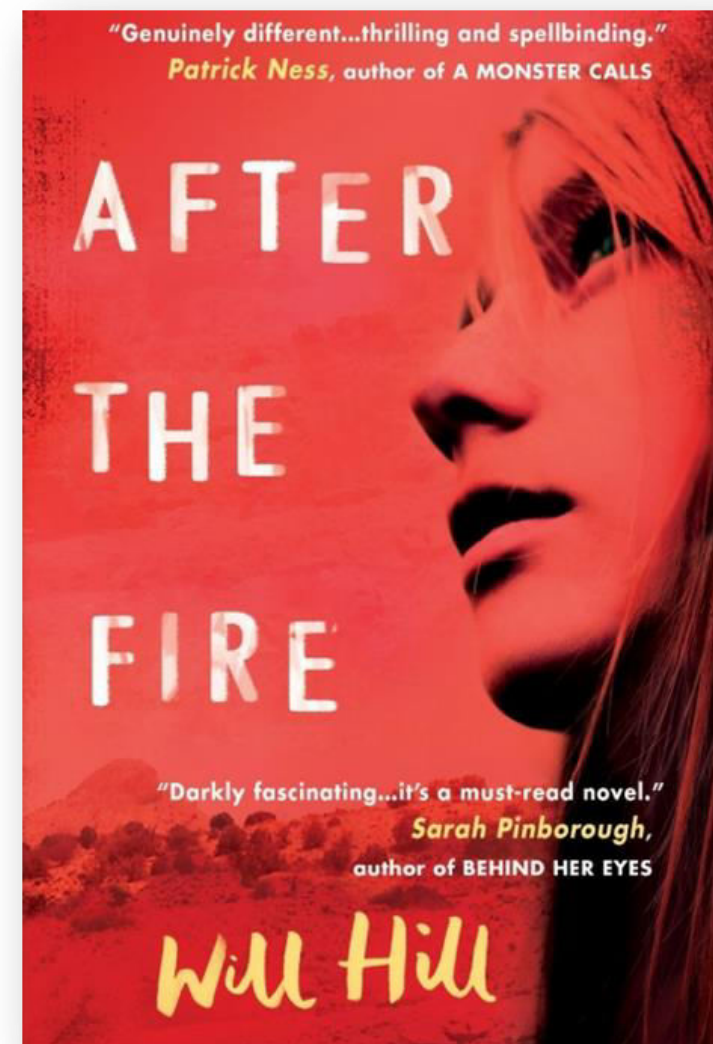
- Trauma, love, hope, loss, courage

- **Genre**

- Young adult fiction

- **PAGE:**

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# The Book Thief – Markus Zusak (2005)

- **Synopsis**

- The Book Thief is a story narrated by a compassionate Death who tells us about Liesel, a girl growing up in Germany during World War II. She steals books, learns to read, and finds comfort in words.

- **Setting**

- Germany, World War 2

- **Themes**

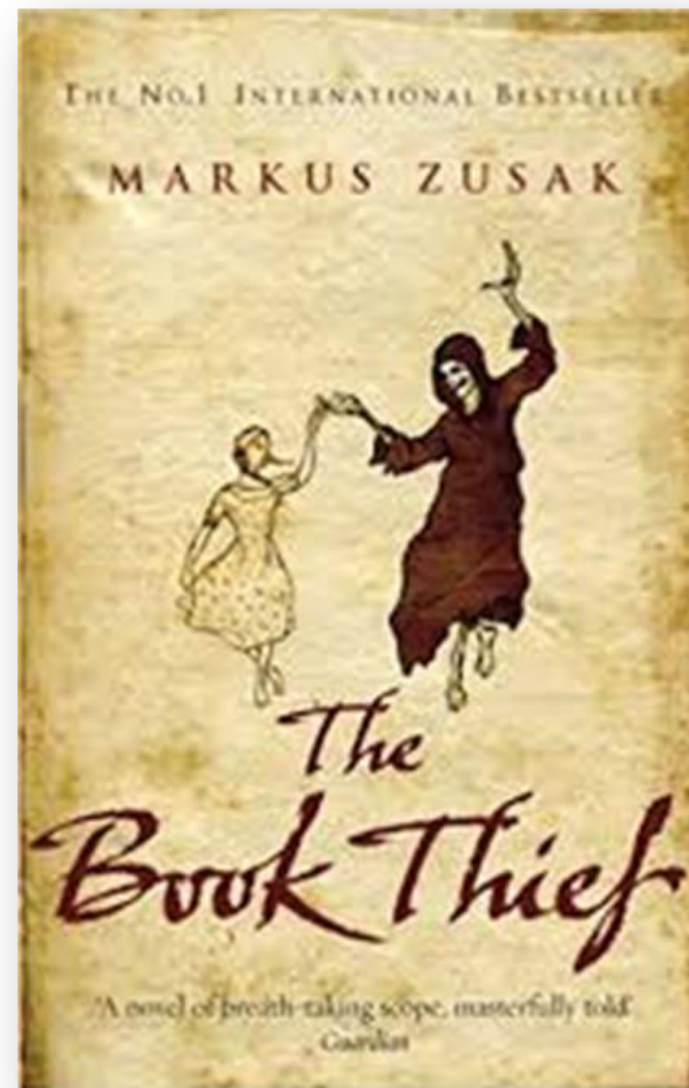
- Love, literature, war, mortality, identity, suffering

- **Genre**

- Historical fiction

- **PAGE:**

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# The Hate U Give – Angie Thomas (2017)

- **Synopsis**

- Sixteen-year-old Starr moves between two worlds: the poor neighbourhood where she lives and the posh prep school she attends. The uneasy contrast between these worlds is shattered when Starr witnesses the fatal shooting of her childhood best friend Khalil, at the hands of a police officer.

- **Setting**

- Home – a mostly black, lower-income neighbourhood
- High School – a mostly white, richer part of town

- **Themes**

- Racism, political violence, bravery, perceptions

- **Genre**

- Young adult fiction

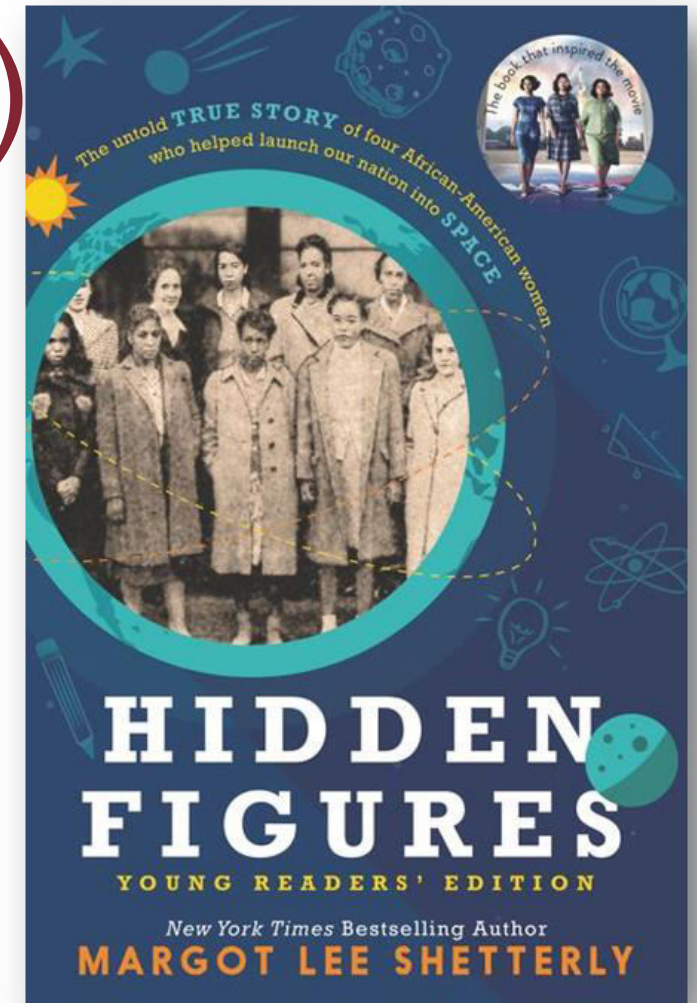
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# Hidden Figures – Margot Lee Shetterly (2017)

- **Synopsis**
  - Set amid the civil rights movement, this is the never-before-told story of NASA's African-American female mathematicians who played a crucial role in America's space program. 'Hidden Figures' tells the intimate stories of five courageous women whose work forever changed the world.
- **Setting**
  - Langley Research Centre, Hampton, Virginia, 1930s-1960s
- **Themes**
  - Racism, sexism, the drive to achieve
- **Genre**
  - Biographical, drama, historical
- **PAGE:**
- **READ FROM:**



# Looking for Alaska – John Green (2005)

- **Synopsis**

- Miles Halter is fascinated by famous last words – and tired of his safe life at home. He leaves for boarding school to seek what the dying poet Francois Rabelais called the “Great Perhaps.” Much awaits Miles at Culver Creek, including Alaska Young.

- **Setting**

- Birmingham, Alabama. Present day (2000-2010)

- **Themes**

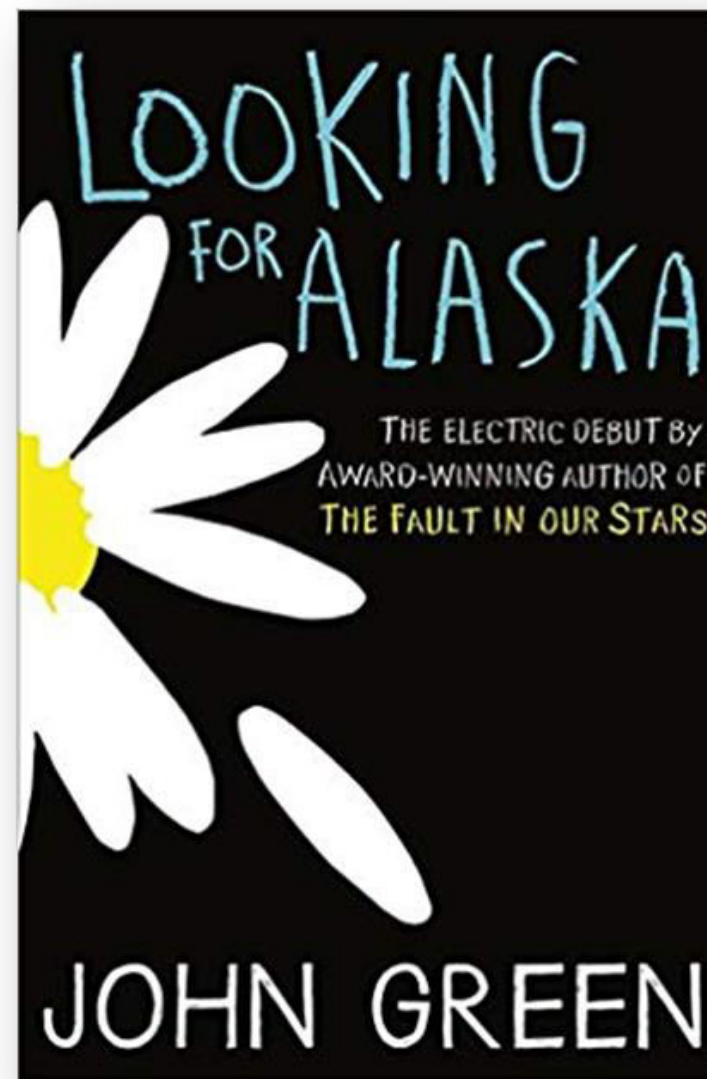
- Friendship, intimacy, home, lies & deceit, suffering

- **Genre**

- Young adult fiction

- **PAGE:**

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# The Picture of Dorian Gray – Oscar Wilde (1890)

- **Synopsis**

- Impressed by his own excellent portrait, Dorian Gray exchanges his soul for eternal youth and beauty. Influenced by his friend Lord Henry Wotton, he is drawn into a corrupt double life; enjoying his desires in secret while remaining a gentleman in the eyes of society.

- **Setting**

- London, England. 19<sup>th</sup> Century

- **Themes**

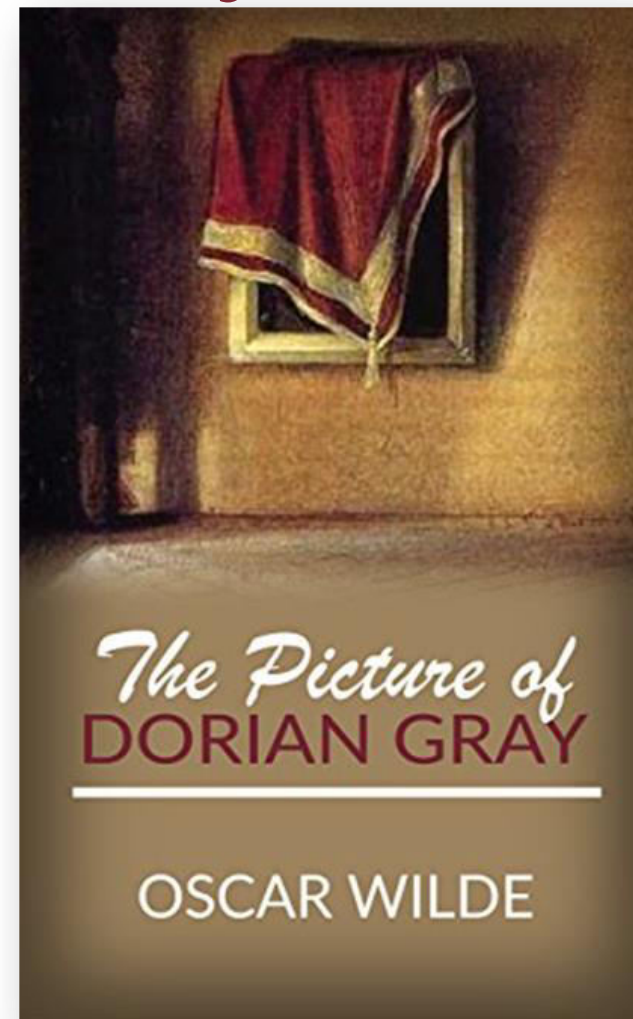
- Art, youth & beauty, superficial nature of society

- **Genre**

- Gothic fiction, suspense, philosophical fiction

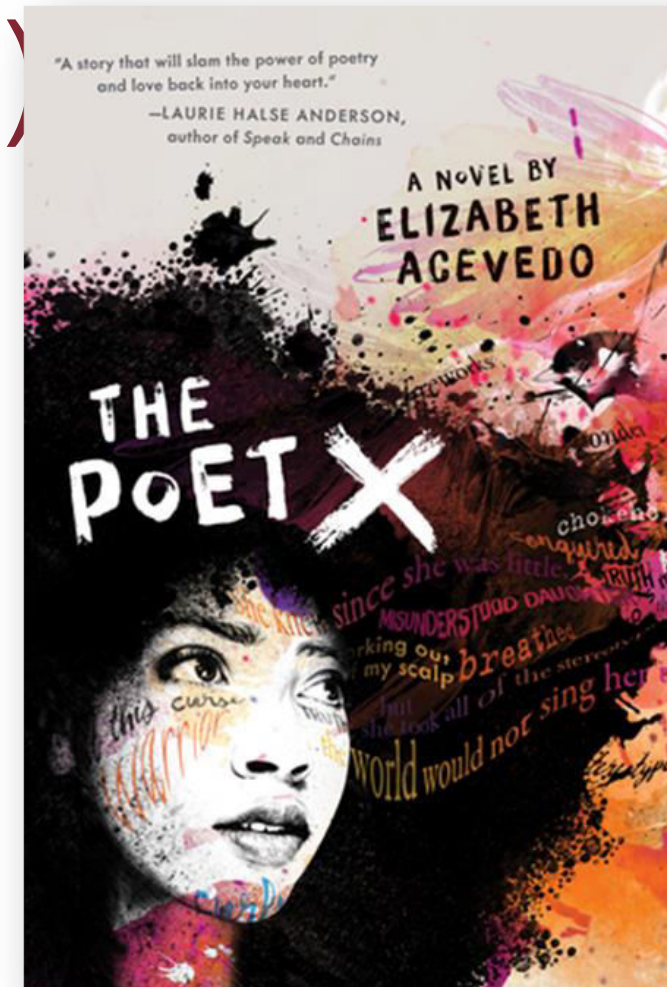
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# The Poet X – Elizabeth Acevedo (2018)

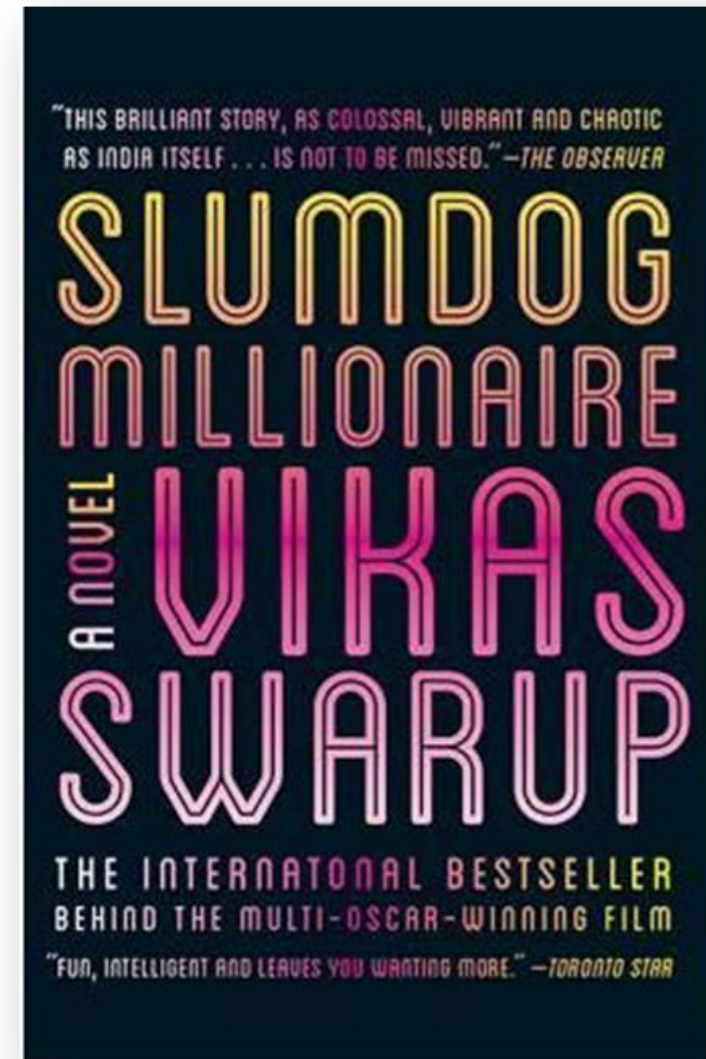
- **Synopsis**
  - A young girl in Harlem discovers slam poetry as a way to understand her mother's religion and her own relationship to the world. In the face of a world that may not want to hear her, Xiomara refuses to be silent.
- **Setting**
  - Harlem, New York. Present day.
- **Themes**
  - Identity, faith, relationships, independence, words
- **Genre**
  - Slam poetry, young adult fiction
- **PAGE:**
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# Slumdog Millionaire – Vikas Swarup (1994)

- **Synopsis**
  - As 18-year-old Jamal Malik answers questions on the Indian version of "Who Wants to Be a Millionaire," flashbacks explain how he got there. Part of a stable of young thieves after their mother dies, Jamal and his brother, Salim, are left to survive on the streets of Mumbai.
- **Setting**
  - The Dharavi slum of Mumbai, India. 1992-2006
- **Themes**
  - Love, society, class, fate & free will, perseverance
- **Genre**
  - Romance, drama, crime fiction, thriller
- **PAGE:**
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# A Spark of Light – Jodi Picoult (2018)

- **Synopsis**

- The warm fall (autumn) day starts like any other at the Centre—a women's reproductive health services clinic—its staff offering care to anyone who passes through its doors. Then, in late morning, a desperate and distraught gunman bursts in and opens fire, taking all inside hostage

- **Setting**

- Mississippi, America

- **Themes**

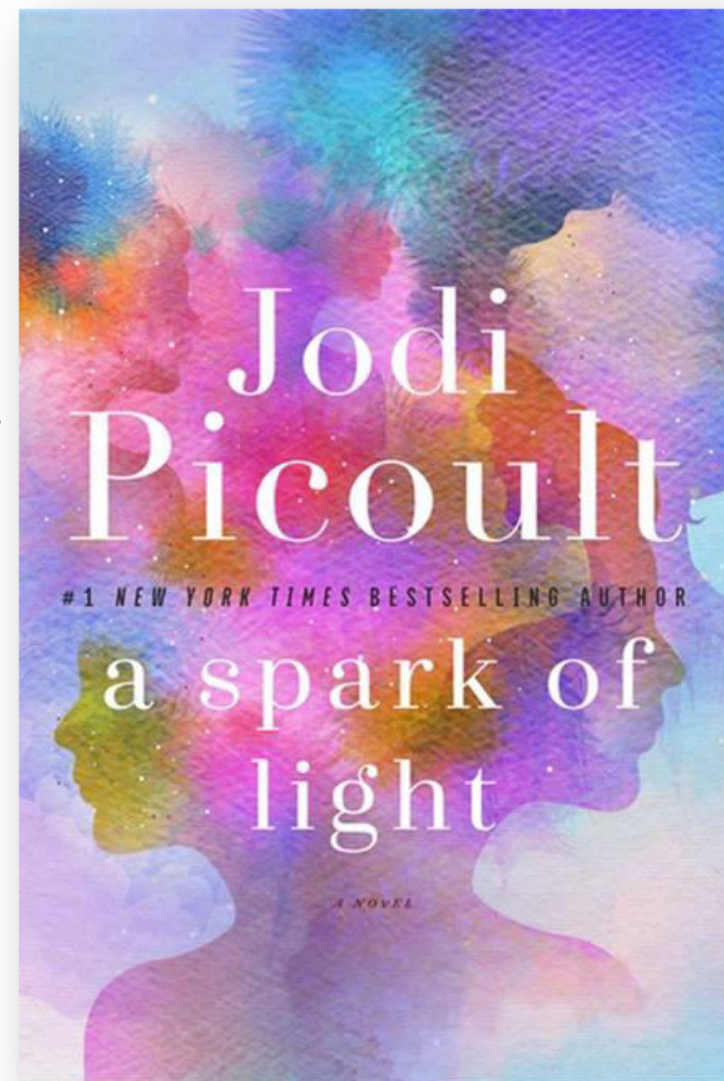
- Women's rights, danger, safety, choices

- **Genre**

- Thriller, suspense, fiction

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# The War of the Worlds – H.G. Wells (1897)

- **Synopsis**

- Long before man had learned to fly, H.G. Wells wrote this story of a Martian attack on England. Unearthly creatures arrive in machines across the country and cause total destruction. The inhabitants of the Earth are powerless, and it seems that the end of the World has come. There is one factor, however, that the Martians have not considered.

- **Setting**

- England, late 19<sup>th</sup> Century

- **Themes**

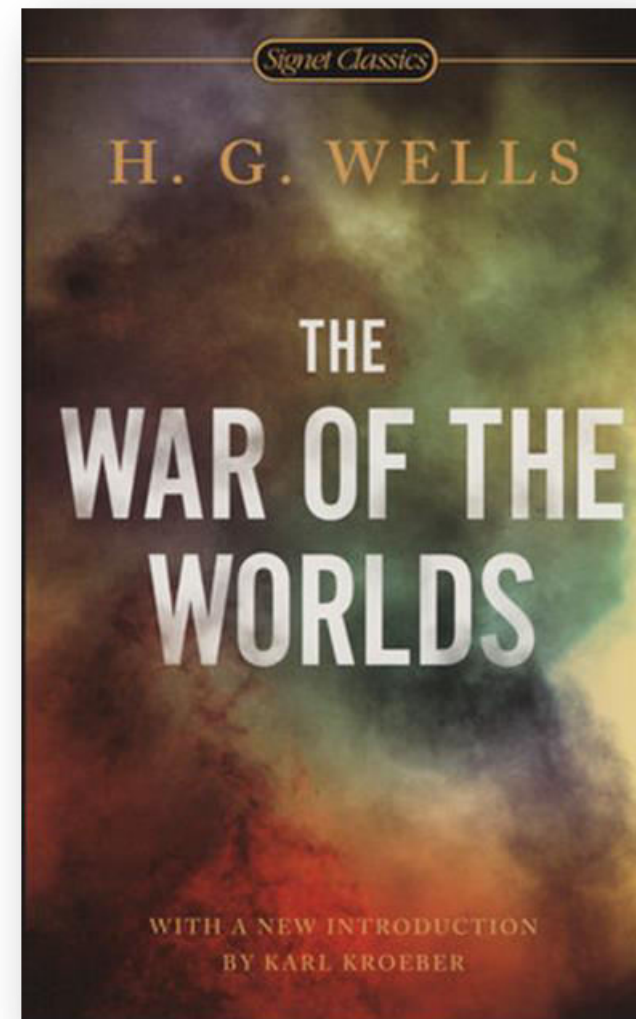
- ‘The other’, rules & order, community, fear, power

- **Genre**

- Science fiction

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# Year 10 Canon

# A Room with a View – E.M. Forster (1908)

- **Synopsis**

- Lucy has her middle-class life mapped out for her, until she visits Florence with her cousin Charlotte, and finds her life thrown off balance. Her eyes are opened by the unfamiliar characters she meets. Lucy finds herself torn between the intensity of life in Italy and the morals of Edwardian England. Will she ever learn to follow her own heart?

- **Setting**

- Florence, Italy and England. The Edwardian Era

- **Themes**

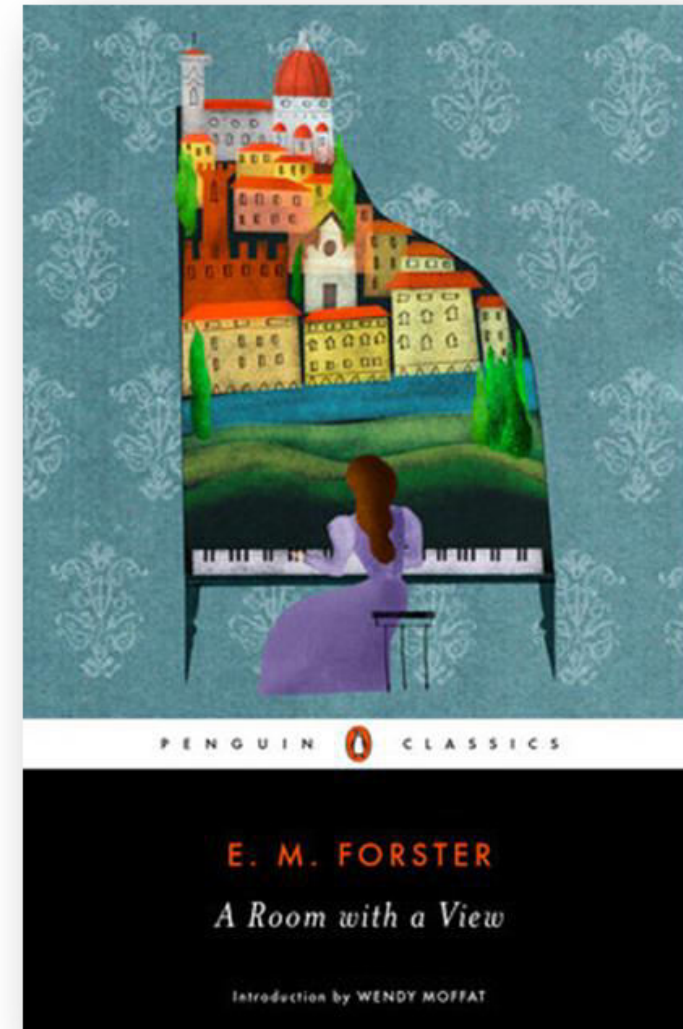
- Society & class, love, identity, art & culture, deceit

- **Genre**

- Novel, Fiction

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# Brave New World – Aldous Huxley (1932)

- **Synopsis**

- Set in a futuristic World State of genetically modified citizens and an intelligence-based social hierarchy, the novel explores huge scientific developments in technology, sleep-learning and psychological manipulation; all creating a utopian society challenged only by a single outsider.

- **Setting**

- The future (Year: 2450), The Planet 'World State'

- **Themes**

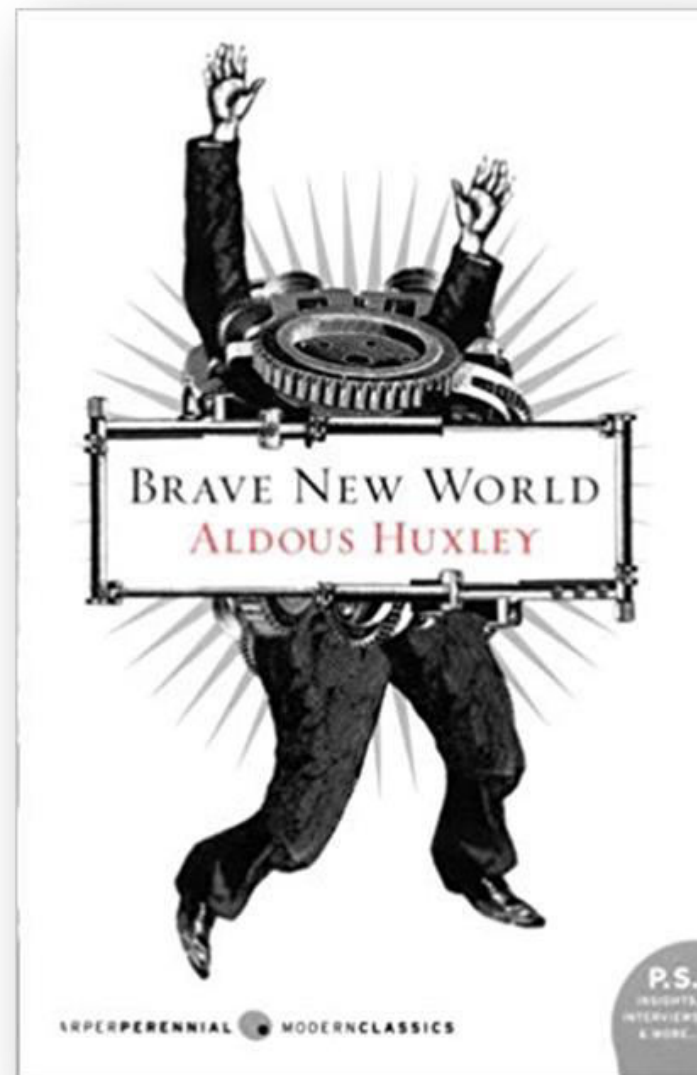
- Truth, happiness, personal freedom, technology

- **Genre**

- Science fiction, utopian & dystopian fiction

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# The Hitchhikers Guide to the Galaxy – Douglas Adams (1978)

- **Synopsis**

- Seconds before the Earth is demolished to make way for a galactic freeway, Arthur Dent is plucked off the planet by his friend Ford Prefect. Together, this dynamic pair begin a journey through space, aided by quotes from *The Hitchhiker's Guide* and a galaxy-full of fellow travellers

- **Setting**

- Earth, the Vogon ship, The Heart of Gold, planet Magrathea

- **Themes**

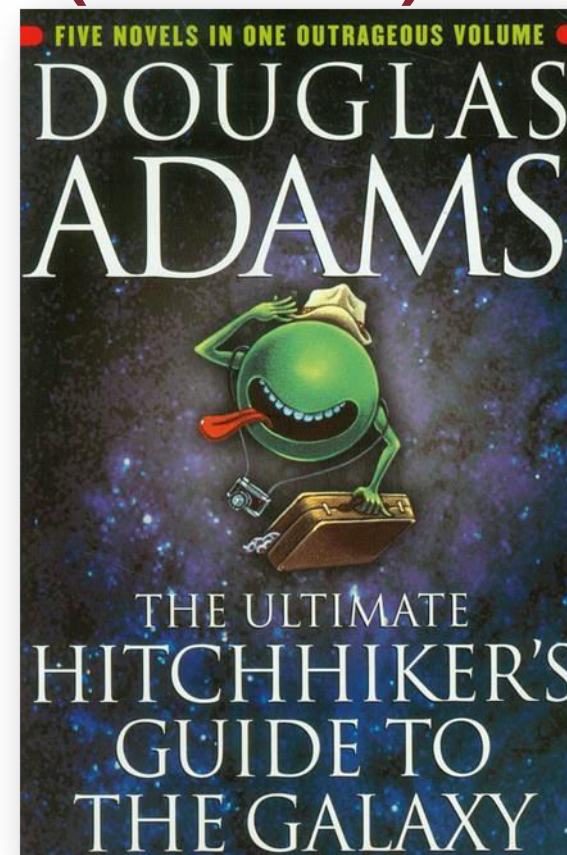
- Absurdity, points of view, silliness, communication

- **Genre**

- Science-fiction, Comedy

- **PAGE:**

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# Never Let Me Go – Kazuo Ishiguro (2005)

- **Synopsis**

- This book imagines the lives of a group of students growing up in a darkly skewed version of modern day England. Narrated by Kathy, *Never Let Me Go* hauntingly explores her attempts to come to terms with her childhood at the seemingly idyllic Hailsham School, and the fate that has always awaited her and her closest friends in the wider world

- **Setting**

- England, Hailsham, the Cottages, the donor recovery centres, near future

- **Themes**

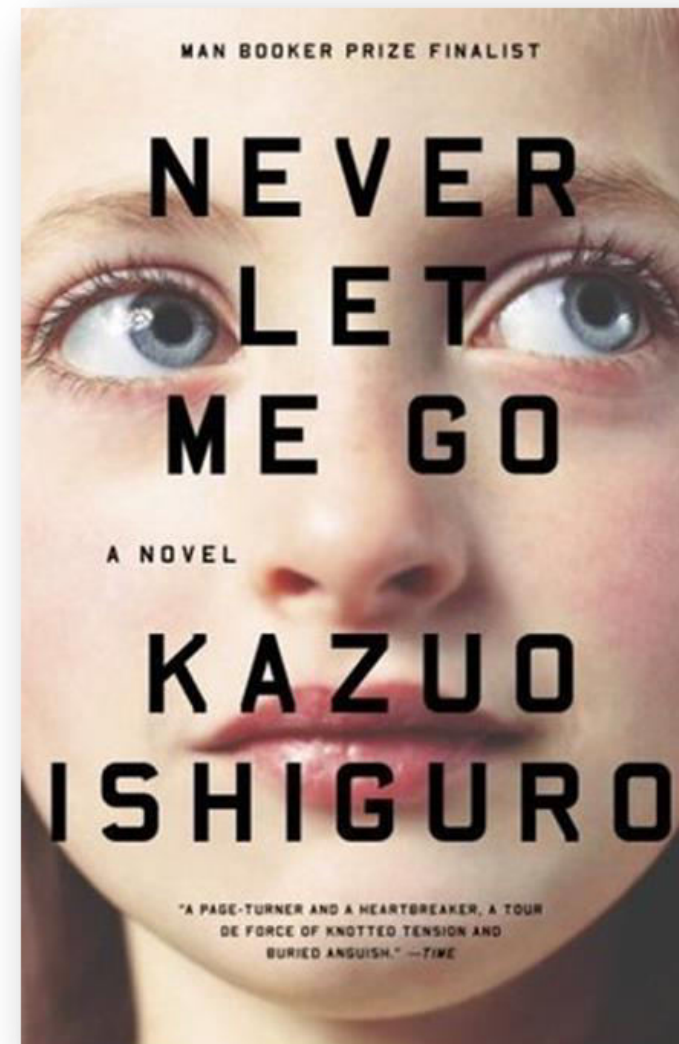
- Acceptance, love, relationships, identity

- **Genre**

- Dystopia, Science-fiction

- **PAGE:**

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# Pride and Prejudice – Jane Austen (1813)

- **Synopsis**

- The romantic clash between the opinionated Elizabeth and her proud beau, Mr. Darcy, is a splendid performance of civilised sparring. Jane Austen's wit sparkles as her characters enjoy flirtation and intrigue, making this book the most superb comedy of manners of Regency England.

- **Setting**

- Various home estates, 19<sup>th</sup> Century England

- **Themes**

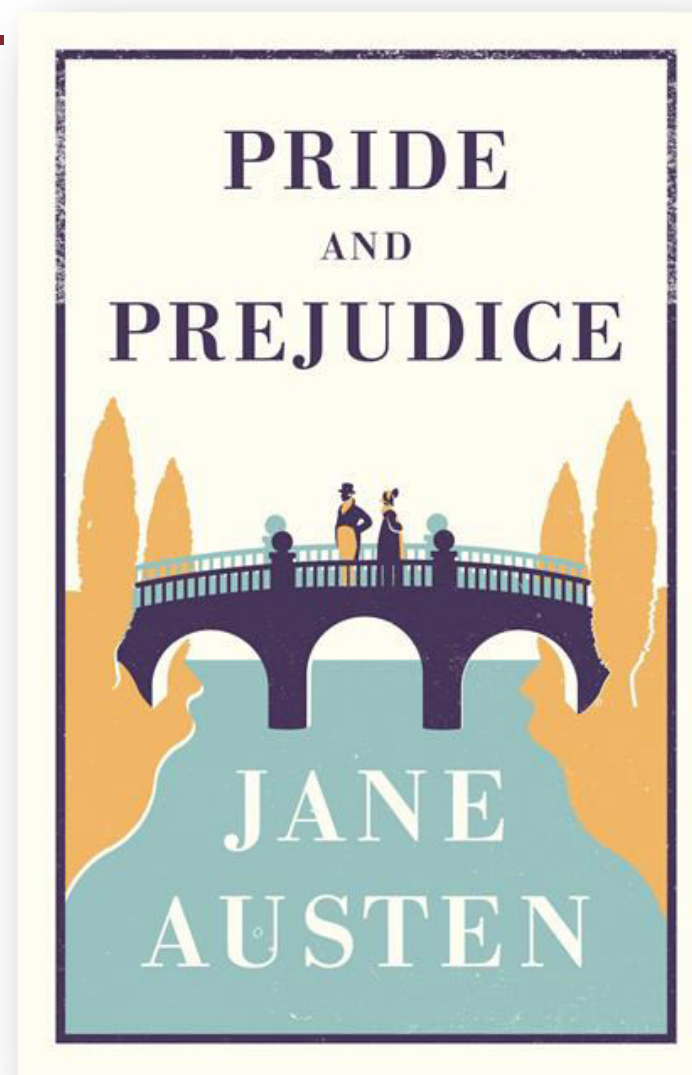
- Love, class, pride, prejudice, society, appearances

- **Genre**

- Romantic novel, Satire

- **PAGE:**

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# Saint Death – Marcus Sedgewick (2017)

- **Synopsis**

- A potent, powerful and timely thriller about migrants, drug lords and gang warfare set on the US/Mexican border. Saint Death is of pure bone and charcoal-black eye, of absolute loyalty and morality, patron to rich and poor, to criminal and police-chief. A folk saint, a rebel angel, a sinister guardian.

- **Setting**

- Juarez, Mexico, on the border with the United States

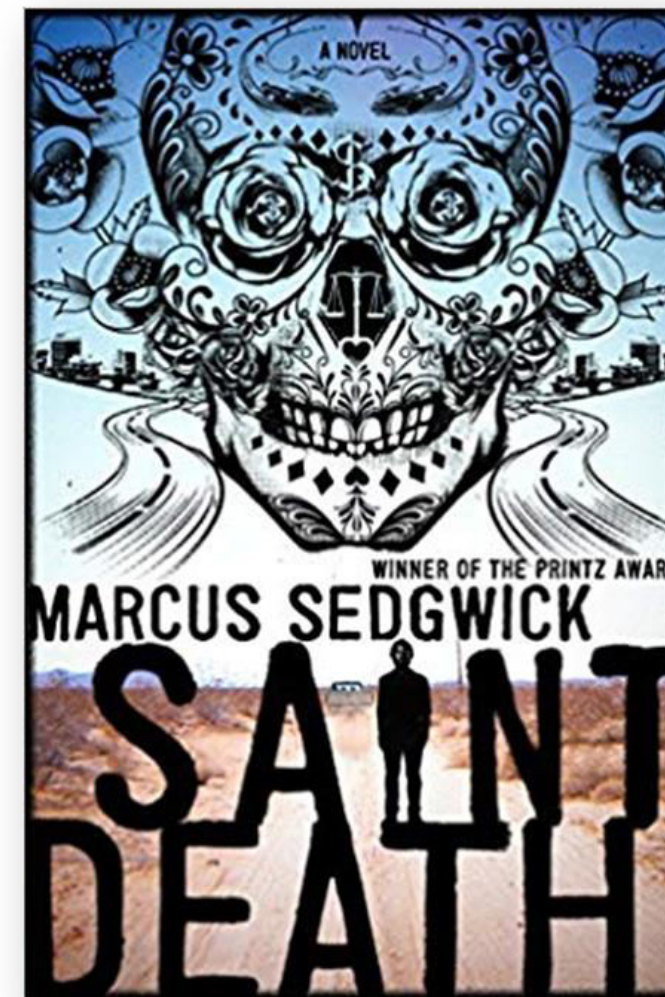
- **Themes**

- Safety, violence, rules, law, order, protection

- **Genre**

- Fiction, Thriller

- **PAGE:  
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# Shakespeare: The World as a Stage

## Bill Bryson (2016)

- **Synopsis**

- A masterful account of the life and works of William Shakespeare, one of the most famous and most enigmatic people ever to have lived. Examining centuries of myths, half-truths and downright lies, this book makes sense of the man behind the masterpieces.

- **Setting**

- Various, England. Mid 1500s – early 1600s

- **Themes**

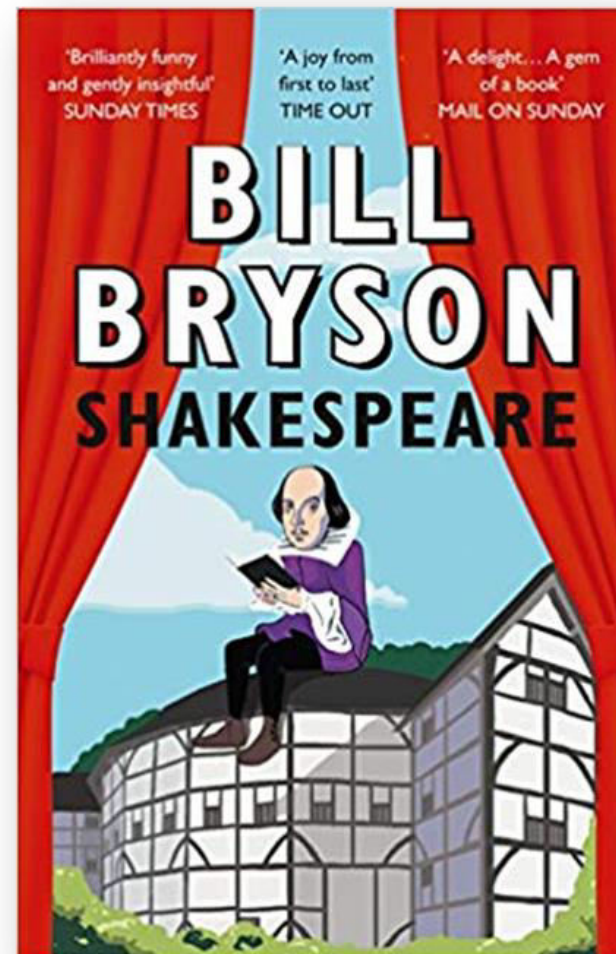
- Domestic issues, writing, success, effort

- **Genre**

- Biography

- **PAGE:**

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# The Great Gatsby – F. Scott Fitzgerald (1925)

- **Synopsis**

- This novel, set in the Jazz Age, has been adored by generations of readers. The fabulously wealthy Jay Gatsby finds a new love for the beautiful Daisy Buchanan, of lavish parties on Long Island. This is a superbly crafted tale of America in the 1920s.

- **Setting**

- America, 1920s

- **Themes**

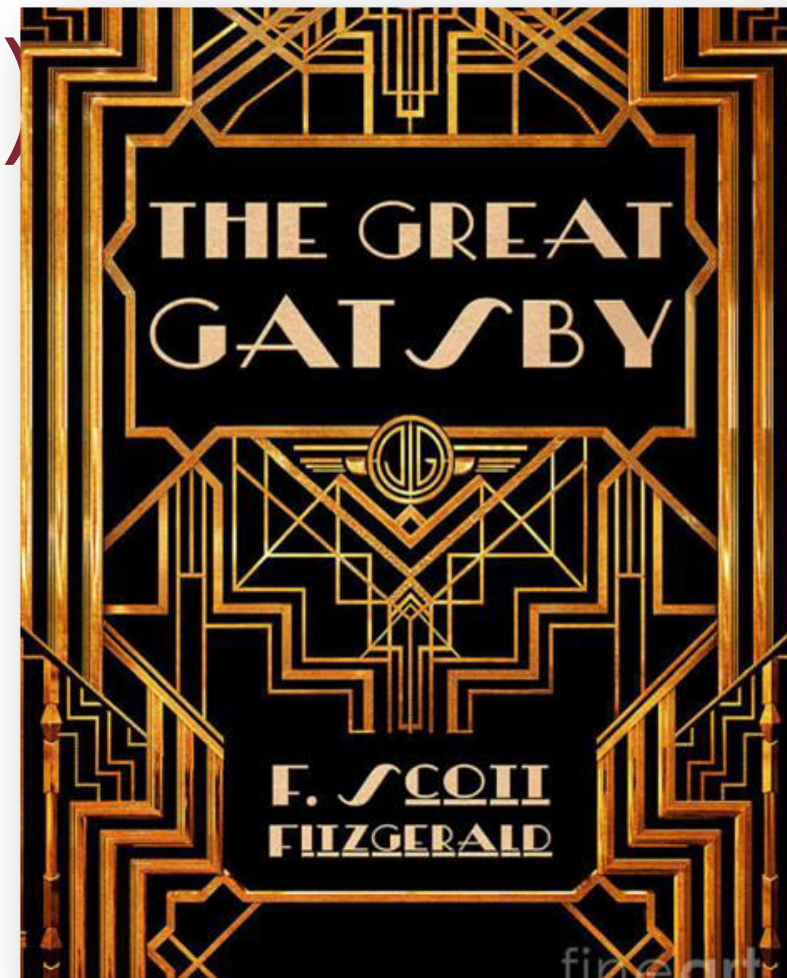
- The American Dream, class & status, wealth, honesty

- **Genre**

- Historical fiction, novel

- **PAGE:**

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# The Help – Kathryn Stockett (2009)

- **Synopsis**

- Skeeter, Aibileen and Minny are fascinating characters, each with their own issues. No one would believe they're friends. But as each woman finds the courage to cross boundaries, they learn to rely upon one another. Each is in a search of a truth and, together, they have an extraordinary story to tell.

- **Setting**

- Jackson, Mississippi, USA. 1960s

- **Themes**

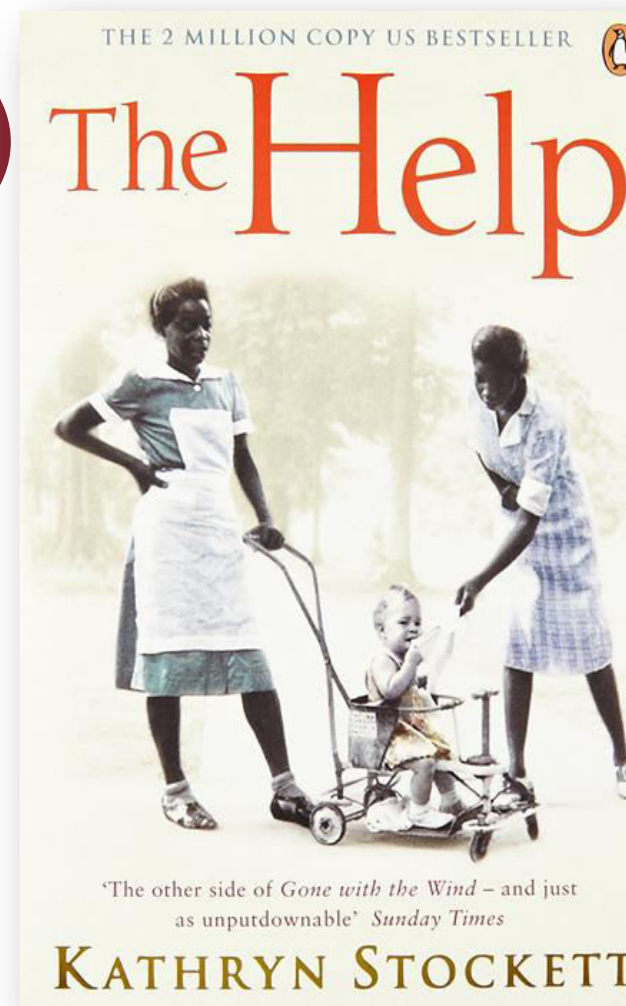
- Racial prejudice, love & friendship, being a woman

- **Genre**

- Historical fiction

- **PAGE:**

- **READ FROM:**



# The Kite Runner – Khaled Hosseini (2003)

- **Synopsis**

- The unforgettable, heart-breaking story of the unlikely friendship between a wealthy boy and the son of his father's servant, *The Kite Runner* is a beautifully crafted novel set in a country that is in the process of being destroyed. It is about the power of reading, the price of betrayal, and the possibility of redemption.

- **Setting**

- Kabul, Afghanistan 1963-1981, 2001; Fremont, California

- **Themes**

- Betrayal, redemption, love and tension, fathers & sons

- **Genre**

- Historical fiction, Bildungsroman

- **PAGE:  
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