



John Colet School

EASY *

MEDIUM **

CHALLENGING ***

Recommended Reading List For Year 8

ONE-SARAH CROSSAN **

Grace and Tippi are twins - conjoined twins.

And their lives are about to change.

No longer able to afford home-schooling, they must venture into the world - a world of stares, sneers and cruelty. Will they find more than that at school? Can they find real friends? And what about love?

But what neither Grace nor Tippi realises is that a heart-wrenching decision lies ahead. A decision that could tear them apart. One that will change their lives even more than they ever imagined.

From Carnegie Medal shortlisted author Sarah Crossan, this moving and beautifully crafted novel about identity, sisterhood and love ultimately asks one question: what does it mean to want and have a soul mate?



LITTLE WOMEN-LOUISA MAY ALCOTT **

Christmas won't be the same this year for Meg, Jo, Beth and Amy as their father is away fighting in the Civil War and the family has fallen on hard times. But though they may be poor life is rich for the March family, with theatricals, games, arguments and new friends. They grapple with their vices, learn from their mistakes and nurse one another through illness and get into all sorts of trouble.

ONCE-MORRIS GLEITZMAN *

Once by Morris Gleitzman is the story of a young Jewish boy who is determined to escape the orphanage he lives in to save his Jewish parents from the Nazis in the occupied Poland of the Second World War.

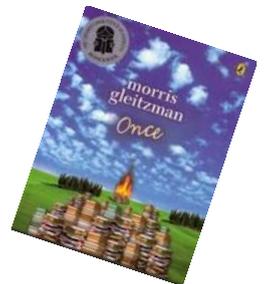
Once I escaped from an orphanage to find Mum and Dad.

Once I saved a girl called Zelda from a burning house.

Once I made a Nazi with a toothache laugh.

My name is Felix. This is my story.

Once is the first in a series of children's novels about Felix, a Jewish orphan caught in the middle of the Holocaust, from Australian author Morris Gleitzman - author of *Bumface* and *Boy Overboard*. The next books in the series *Then*, *Now* and *After* are also available from Puffin.

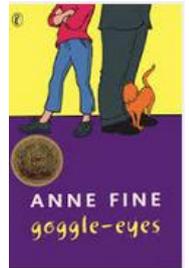


TALES OF MYSTERY AND IMAGINATION-EDGAR ALLAN POE ***

This collection of Poe's best stories contains all the terrifying and bewildering tales that characterise his work. As well as the gothic horror of such tales as "The Pit and the Pendulum", "The Fall of the House of Usher", and "The Premature Burial" and "The Tell-tale Heart" all of Poe's Auguste Dupin are all included.

GOGGLE EYES-ANNE FINE *

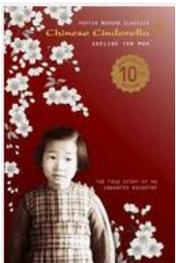
Kitty Killin is not only a good storyteller, but also the World's Greatest Expert when it comes to mothers having new and unwanted boyfriends. Particularly when there's a danger they might turn into new and unwanted *stepfathers*..



SMALL STEPS- LOUIS SACHAR *

Armpit and X-Ray are living in Austin, Texas. It is three years since they left the confines of Camp Green Lake Detention Centre and Armpit is taking small steps to turn his life around. He is working for a landscape gardener because he is good at digging holes, he is going to school and he is enjoying his first proper romance, but is he going to be able to stay out of trouble when there is so much building up against him? In this exciting novel, Armpit is joined by many vibrant new characters, and is learning what it takes to stay on course, and that doing the right thing is never the wrong choice.

CHINESE CINDERELLA-ADELINE YEN MAH ***



Jung-ling's family considers her bad luck because her mother died giving birth to her. They discriminate against her and make her feel unwanted yet she yearns and continuously strives for her parents' love. Her stepmother is vindictive and cruel and her father dismissive. Jung-ling grows up to be an academic child, with a natural ability for writing. Only her aunt and grandfather offer her any love and kindness. The story is of survival in the light of the mental and physical cruelty of her stepmother and the disloyalty of her siblings. Jung-ling blossoms in spite of everything and the story ends as her father agrees to let her study in England.

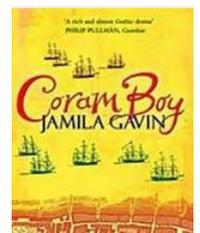
THE TIME MACHINE-H.G. WELLS ***

The Time Machine is a science fiction novella by H.G. Wells published in 1895 for the first time and later made into films, television adaptations and comic novels. It popularised the concept of travelling in time using a vehicle. Many other books of this genre were written subsequently.

CORAM BOY-JAMILA GAVIN ***

A vivid, compelling and harrowing tale from Whitbread award winning Jamila Gavin

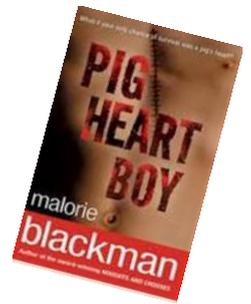
The Coram man takes babies and money from desperate mothers, promising to deliver them safely to a Foundling Hospital in London. Instead, he murders them and buries them by the roadside, to the helpless horror of his mentally ill son, Mish.



Mish saves one, Aaron, who grows up happily unaware of his history, proving himself a promising musician. As Aaron's new life takes him closer to his real family, the watchful Mish makes a terrible mistake, delivering Aaron and his best friend Toby back into the hands of the Coram man.

PIG HEART BOY-MALORIE BLACKMAN **

You're thirteen. All you want is a normal life, but most kids don't need a heart transplant at thirteen. So there's this doctor, he says there's a chance for you but it's experimental, controversial and risky and it's never been done before.



LOOKING FOR JJ-ANN CASSIDY **

A gripping and emotionally searing novel from a talented author, Looking for JJ explores the circumstances and motives behind the murder of a child - by her friend. Six years later, JJ has now been released, and has a new identity. But is there any way that she can lead a "normal" life?

OLIVER TWIST-CHARLES DICKENS ***

This novel contains many of Charles Dickens' themes, grinding poverty, desperation, fear, temptation. And the eventual triumph of good in the face of great adversity. It has some of Dickens' more enduring characters, Oliver Twist, the diabolical Fagin, the terrifying Mr Bumble, the menacing Bill Sykes, The Artful Dodger and Nancy. If you only read one Dickens let it be this one.

THE WOMAN IN BLACK-SUSAN HILL ***



Arthur Kipps, a junior solicitor, is summoned to attend the funeral Mrs Alice Drablow, the house's sole inhabitant of Eel Marsh House, unaware of the tragic secrets which lie hidden behind the shuttered windows. The house stands at the end of a causeway, wreathed in fog and mystery, but it is not until he glimpses a wasted young woman, dressed all in black, at the funeral, that a creeping sense of unease begins to take hold, a feeling deepened by the reluctance of the locals to talk of the woman in black - and her terrible purpose.

DIARY OF A WIMPEY KID-JEFF KINNEY *

Greg Heffley finds himself thrust into a new year and a new school where undersize weaklings share the corridors with kids who are taller, meaner and already shaving.

Desperate to prove his new found maturity, which only going up a grade can bring, Greg is happy to have his not-quite-so-cool sidekick, Rowley, along for the ride. But when Rowley's star starts to rise, Greg tries to use his best friend's popularity to his own advantage. Recorded in his diary with comic pictures and his very own words, this test of Greg and Rowley's friendship unfolds with hilarious results.

ALL THAT GLITTERS- HEATHER SMALE **

"My name is Harriet Manners, and I have always been a geek."

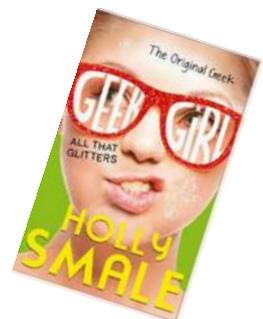
The fourth book in the award-winning GEEK GIRL series.

Harriet Manners knows many things.

She knows that toilet roll was invented by the Chinese in 600 AD.

She knows that a comet's tail always points away from the sun.

And she knows that the average healthy heart beats 70 times per minute. Even when it's broken. But she knows nothing about making new friends at Sixth Form. Or why even her old friends seem to be avoiding her. And she knows even less about being a glittering supermodel success. Which she now is - apparently.



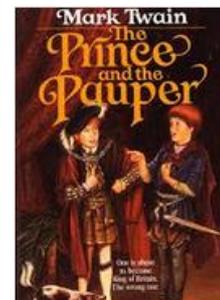
Has Harriet's time to shine like a star finally arrived, or is she about to crash and burn?

H.I.V.E. – MARK WALDEN *

Higher Institute of Villainous Education is a top secret school of applied villainy where children with a precocious gift for wrong doing are sent to develop their talents into criminal mastermind.” After all, villains have the best lines and wear the best costumes”. One small catch is the children cannot leave until their training is complete, six years later. With villainy comes a certain freedom of thought and every year one student in particular will show exceptional talent, after all, it takes the best to produce the worst.

THE PRINCE AND THE PAUPER-MARK TWAIN ***

Set in 16th century England and following the lives of two young boys The Prince and The Pauper is a classic and timeless tale. Tom Canty, the lowly pauper is almost identical in appearance to Edward Tudor, a prince. Unbeknownst to those around them the boys strike up an unlikely friendship and soon realise with their similar looks they could easily pass for one another.

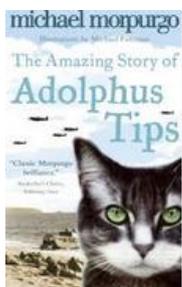


CLOCKWORK- PHILIP PULLMAN *

Tick, tock, tick, tock! Some stories are like that. Once you've wound them up, nothing will stop them.....

A tormented apprentice clock maker and a deadly knight in armour. A mechanical prince and the sinister Dr Kalmenius, who some say is the devil....Wind up these characters, fit them into a story on a cold winter's evening, with the snow swirling dow, and suddenly life and the story begin to merge in a peculiarly macabre and unstoppable way.

THE AMAZING STORY OF ALOPHUS TIPS-MICHAEL MORPURGO *



A heart warming tale of courage and warmth set against the background of the Second World War about an abandoned village, a life long friendship and one very adventurous cat.....

It's 1943, Lily Tregenza lives on a farm in the seaside village of Slapton, and her life is scarcely touched by the war. Until one day when the villagers are all told to move out of their homes-lock, stock and barrel.

Soon the whole area is out of bounds as the allied forces prepare to invade France. But Tips, Lily's adored cat has other ideas and returns to the forbidden area. Frantic to find her Lily decides to enter the danger zone to look for Tips herself....

GIRLS IN LOVE-JACQUELINE WILSON *

Girls In Love is the first title of a series by Jaqueline Wilson aimed at girls in their early teens. As well as dealing with typical boyfriend problems this funny entertaining novel deals with the deeper pains on associated with the loss of a parent and coming to terms with a new step parent. Ellie, Magda and Nadine are determined to explore the yet uncharted territory of the boyfriend. When best friend Nadine gets a boyfriend Ellie finds herself saying she's got one too. The results are a testament to their tested friendships.

SILVERFIN-CHARLIE HIGSON **

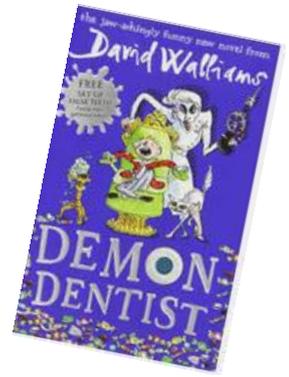
Before the name became a legend, before the boy became a man, meet BOND, JAMES BOND.

Its James Bond's first day at Eton and already he's met his first enemy. This is the start of an adventure that will take him from school playing fields to the remote shores of Loch Silverfin and a terrifying discovery that threatens to unleash a new breed of warfare. Good, gritty and funny...Very clever, Bond, very clever indeed.



THE DEMON DENTIST-DAVID WALLIAMS *

Darkness had come to the town. Strange things were happening in the dead of night. Children would put a tooth under the pillow for the tooth fairy, but in the morning they would waken up to find a dead slug, a live spider, hundreds of earwigs creeping and crawling under their pillow. Evil was at work, but who was behind it?



THE CROWFIELD CURSE-PAT WALSH *

Will knows a secret. Somewhere in the forest behind the abbey, where he lives, lies a grave. And beneath the snow lies something he thought could never die. But Will is not alone in knowing the truth about the Crowfield Curse. Hidden in the dusk, someone else is watching.....

