



# Year 5 & 6 Book Suggestions

## Age 9+

### The Boy Who Swam with Piranhas – by David Almond

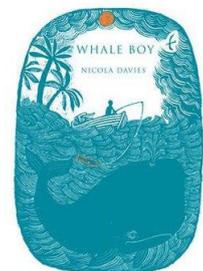
Stanley Potts's uncle Ernie has developed an over-the-top fascination with canning fish in the house, and life at 69 Fish Quay Lane has turned barmy. But there's darkness in the madness, and when Uncle Ernie's obsession takes an unexpectedly cruel turn, Stan has no choice but to leave. As he journeys away from the life he's always known, he mingles with a carnival full of eccentric characters and meets the legendary Pancho Pirelli, the man who swims in a tank full of perilous piranhas. Will Stan be bold enough to dive in the churning waters himself and choose his own destiny?



### Whale Boy – by Nicola Davies

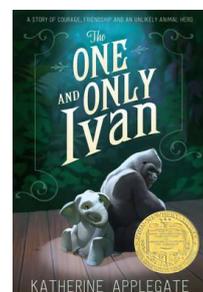
Michael Fontaine's dreams are about to come true. He's finally going to get his own boat, catch his own fish and have the freedom to spend his time doing what he loves best - being out on the ocean. But when a mysterious company descends on the island of Liberty, Michael's plans are ruined.

The NME, led by the suspicious Spargo are claiming to bring trade and tourism to the island with focus on its marine wildlife, but whales haven't been spotted near Liberty for years. So when Spargo offers Michael his own boat and paid work watching the water for signs of whales it seems too good to be true – but why does the job come with the condition that he must keep it a secret from everyone he knows?



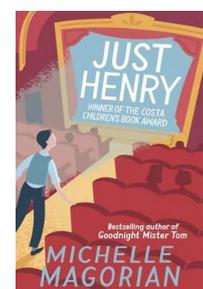
### The One and Only Ivan - by Katherine Applegate

Winner of the Newbery Medal 2013. Inspired by a true story, this is the beautifully written tale of how a mighty gorilla wins his freedom. A winning blend of humour and poignancy that will appeal to fans of Michael Morpurgo. Ivan is an easy-going gorilla who has spent his life performing for the crowds at the Exit 8 shopping mall. He rarely misses life in the jungle. In fact, he hardly thinks about it at all. But everything changes when a baby elephant called Ruby arrives and Ivan realises he must find a new life for them both. Told from Ivan's perspective.



### Just Henry - by Michelle Magorian

This is a mystery-thriller and an insightful snapshot of time, set in post-war Britain. It's 1949 and life is bleak for Henry. He misses his father who died a war hero, and he escapes from his annoying stepfather and stepsister whenever he can and goes to the cinema - his passion. One day in the cinema queue he meets Mrs Beaumont who also loves films, and lends Henry a camera for his school project. Henry is disgusted that he's been put in a group with Jeffries, the son of a man who went AWOL, and Pip, who was born illegitimate; but he's about to learn that tolerance and friendship are more important than social stigmas. Henry will need his new friends when he processes the film and makes an alarming discovery. Like a bomb waiting to explode, Henry's world is about to unravel. *Just Henry* won the 2008 Costa Children's Book Award.

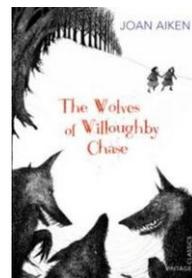


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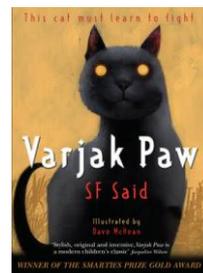
### The Wolves of Willoughby Chase - by Joan Aiken

Can you go a little faster? Can you run? Long ago, at a time in history that never happened, England was overrun with wolves. But as Bonnie and her cousin Sylvia discover, real danger often lies closer to home. Their new governess, Miss Slighcarp, doesn't seem at all nice. She shuts Bonnie in a cupboard, fires the faithful servants and sends the cousins far away from Willoughby Chase to a place they will never be found. Can Bonnie and Sylvia outwit the wicked Miss Slighcarp and her network of criminals, forgers and snitches?



### Varjak Paw - by S. F. Said

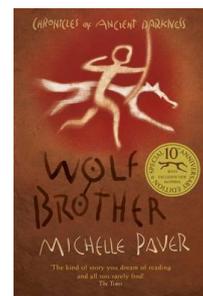
Varjak Paw is a Mesopotamian Blue kitten. He lives high up in an old house on a hill. He's never left home, but then his grandfather tells him about the Way - a secret martial art for cats. Now Varjak must use the Way to survive in a city full of dangerous dogs, cat gangs and, strangest of all the mysterious Vanishings. SF Said's first book, Varjak Paw, won the Nestle Smarties Prize for Children's Literature. The sequel, *The Outlaw Varjak Paw*, won the BBC Blue Peter Book Of The Year.



### Wolf Brother - by Michelle Paver

Thousands of years ago the land is one dark forest. Its people are hunter-gatherers. They know every tree and herb and they know how to survive in a time of enchantment and powerful magic. Until an ambitious and malevolent force conjures a demon: a demon so evil that it can be contained only in the body of a ferocious bear that will slay everything it sees, a demon determined to destroy the world.

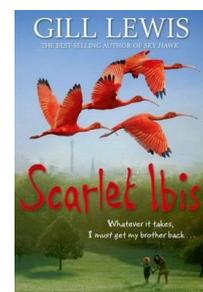
Only one boy can stop it - 12 year old Torak. Torak is an unwilling hero. He is scared and trusts no one. His only companion is a wolf cub only three moons old, whom he seems to understand better than any human. Theirs is a terrifying quest in a world of wolves, tree spirits and Hidden People, a world in which trusting a friend means risking your life.



### Scarlet Ibis - by Gill Lewis

*Red asks, 'Will we always be together?' 'Always,' I say. 'Just you and me in that little boat, watching the scarlet ibis flying back to the Caroni Swamp.'*

Scarlet's used to looking after her brother, Red. He's special - different. Every night she tells him his favourite story - about the day they'll fly far away to the Caroni Swamp in Trinidad, where thousands of birds fill the sky. But when Scarlet and Red are split up and sent to live with different foster families, Scarlet knows she's got to do whatever it takes to get her brother back.



(Other books that you might enjoy from this author are: *White Dolphine* and *Sky Hawk*)

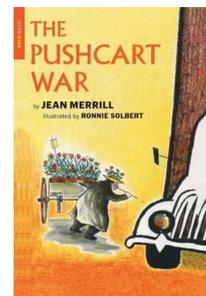
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### The Pushcart War - by Jean Merrill

The pushcarts have declared war! New York City's streets are clogged with huge, rude trucks that park where they want, hold up traffic, and bulldoze into anything that is in their way, and the pushcart peddlers are determined to get rid of them. But the trucks are just as determined to get rid of the pushcarts, and chaos results in the city.

The pushcarts have come up with a brilliant strategy that will surely let the hot air out of their enemies. The secret weapon--a peashooter armed with a pin; the target--the vulnerable truck tires. Once the source of the flat tires is discovered, the children of the city joyfully join in with their own pin peashooters. The pushcarts have won one battle, but can they win the war against a corrupt mayor who taxes the pins and prohibits the sale of dried peas?



### The Astounding Broccoli Boy - by Frank Cottrell Boyce

Rory Rooney likes to be prepared for all eventualities. His favourite book is Don't Be Scared, Be Prepared, and he has memorized every page of it. He could even survive a hippo attack. He knows that just because something is unlikely doesn't mean it won't ever happen ...But Rory isn't prepared when he suddenly and inexplicably turns green. Stuck in an isolation ward in a hospital far from home with two other remarkably green children, Rory's as confused by his new condition as the medics seem to be. But what if it's not in their genes, or a virus, or something they ate? What if turning green actually means you've turned into a superhero? Rory can't wait to make it past hospital security and discover exactly what his superpower might be ...

(You might like to try *Cosmic* – another book from this author)



### Invention Of Hugo Cabret - by Brian Selznick

Paris, 1931. Orphan, clock keeper and thief, Hugo lives in the walls of a busy Paris train station, where his survival depends on secrets and anonymity. But when his world suddenly interlocks – like the gears of the clocks he keeps – with an eccentric, bookish girl and a bitter old man who runs a toy booth in the train station, Hugo's undercover life and his most precious secret are put in jeopardy.

(Another book by the same author is *The Marvels*)



### Sleuth on Skates - by Clementine Beauvais

Armed with a pair of purple rollerskates and a brain with as many connections as there are stars in the universe, eleven-year-old Sesame Seade is more than qualified to be Cambridge's number one self-made supersleuth. All she needs now is a mission. So when a student ballerina and aspiring journalist vanishes into thin air, some serious sleuthing begins. Very much against her parents' wishes, but with help from her friends Toby and Gemma and a conspiratorial duck, Sesame slips into the wings and solves the mystery of the missing dancer. (

(Also in the series: *Gargoyles gone AWOL* and *Scam on the Cam*.)



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### The School for Good and Evil - by Soman Chaniani

Every four years, two girls are kidnapped from the village of Gavaldon. Legend has it these lost children are sent to the School for Good and Evil, the fabled institution where they become fairytale heroes or villains.

Sophie, the most beautiful girl in town, has always dreamed of her place at the School for Good while her friend Agatha, with her dark disposition seems destined for the School for Evil. But when the two are kidnapped they find their fortunes reversed...



### The Midnight Zoo - by Sonya Hartnett

World War II, Eastern Europe: Tomas and his younger brother, Andrej, have fled their Romany encampment which has been besieged by the Germans; they carry Wilma, their baby sister, in a sack. In an abandoned, bombed-out town, the children discover a zoo. In it are a wolf and an eagle, a monkey, bear, lioness, seal, chamois and llama.

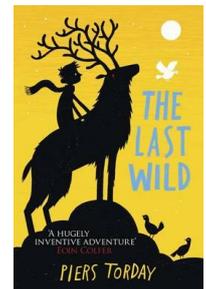
(You might also like to read Sonya Hartnett's award-winning novel *The Silver Donkey* which is set in France during the First World War)



### The Last Wild - by Piers Torday

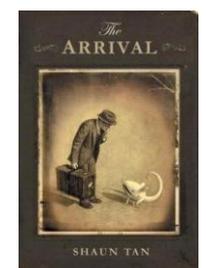
In a world where animals no longer exist, twelve-year-old Kester Jaynes sometimes feels like he hardly exists either. Locked away in a home for troubled children, he's told there's something wrong with him. So when he meets a flock of talking pigeons and a bossy cockroach, Kester thinks he's finally gone a bit mad. But the animals have something to say...The pigeons fly Kester to a wild place where the last creatures in the land have survived. A wise stag needs Kester's help, and together they must embark on a great journey, joined along the way by an over-enthusiastic wolf-cub, a spoilt show-cat, a dancing harvest mouse and a stubborn girl named Polly. The animals saved Kester Jaynes. But can Kester save the animals?

(Try also *The Dark Wild* - twelve-year-old Kester thought he had discovered the last wild animals in the land. He thought his adventure was over. He was wrong. Below the sparkling city of Premium, deep underground, a dark wild remains: animals who believe the time is right to rise up against their human enemies. And soon Kester realises: he is the only one who can stop them. Kester Jaynes saved the animals. Can he save the humans too? The last book in the trilogy is *The Wild Beyond*)



### The Arrival - by Shaun Tan

What drives so many to leave everything behind and journey alone to a mysterious country, a place without family or friends, where everything is nameless and the future is unknown. This silent graphic novel is the story of every migrant, every refugee, every displaced person, and a tribute to all those who have made the journey.



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### The Messenger Bird - by Ruth Eastham

A thrilling adventure, packed with clue-solving and unexplained mysteries from World War II. Nathan's father has been arrested. He works for the Ministry of Defence and is accused of leaking top secret information. But as he is dragged into a police car, he gives Nathan a message. It leads to a riddle, but it's not from Dad. It's from an ex-Bletchley Park employee, Lily Wilson, and was written in 1940. Nathan begins to follow the clues left behind by Lily. But how can this war-time story link to his father's fate? Hope for Dad's appeal is fading fast. He must solve the puzzle. Time is running out.



### Skellig - by David Almond

When a move to a new house coincides with his baby sister's illness, Michael's world seems suddenly lonely and uncertain. Then he stumbles into the old, ramshackle garage, and finds something magical. A strange creature - part owl, part angel, a being who needs Michael's help if he is to survive. With his new friend Mina, Michael nourishes Skellig back to health, while his baby sister languishes in the hospital. But Skellig is far more than he at first appears, and as he helps Michael breathe life into his tiny sister, Michael's world changes for ever ...

(There is a prequel to *My Name is Mina*. Other books by David Almond include: *Heaven Eyes* and *The Fire-Eaters*)



### Street Child - by Berlie Doherty

When his mother dies, Jim Jarvis is left all alone in London. He is sent to the workhouse but quickly escapes, choosing a hard life on the streets of the city over the confines of the workhouse walls. Struggling to survive, Jim finally finds some friends...only to be snatched away and made to work for the remorselessly cruel Grimy Nick, constantly guarded by his vicious dog, Snipe. Will Jim ever manage to be free?



### Clockwork - by Philip Pullman

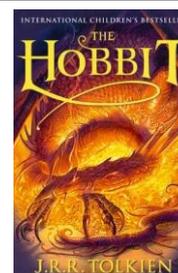
Fritz, the writer, spins a spine-tingling tale to cheer up Karl, the apprentice clockmaker. But rather than helping matters, the story begins to come true....

The stories of Karl, the apprentice; Dr. Kalmenius, his nefarious "savior"; Gretl, the brave daughter of the town innkeeper; and a young prince whose clockwork heart is in danger of winding down come together in surprising and magical ways in a story that has the relentless urgency of a ticking clock.



### The Hobbit - by J R R Tolkien

Bilbo Baggins enjoys a quiet and contented life. Then, one day the wizard Gandalf and a band of dwarves arrive unexpectedly and enlist his services - as a burglar - on a dangerous expedition to raid the treasure-hoard of Smaug the dragon. Bilbo's life is never to be the same again.

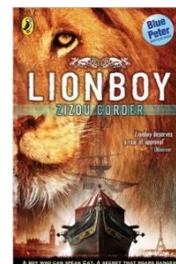


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### Lionboy - by Zizou Corder

Charlie Ashanti, the hero of LIONBOY, speaks cat - the language of all cats wild and domestic alike. His unusual talent helps him on his quest to find his kidnapped parents who have discovered a cure for asthma. The local cats of his home town (a futuristic London) start him on his search to solve the mystery of his missing parents, which leads him across the channel on board a circus ship bound for Paris. It is on this wonderful vessel that Charlie establishes a close relationship with the homesick circus lions who become his accomplices. But Charlie is in danger, for close behind him on his trail, is a crony of the mysterious group who have kidnapped his parents. They want Charlie too.



### Trash - by Andy Mulligan

Raphael is a dumpsite boy. He spends his days wading through mountains of steaming trash, sifting it, sorting it, breathing it, sleeping next to it. Then one unlucky-lucky day, Raphael's world turns upside down. A small leather bag falls into his hands. It's a bag of clues. It's a bag of hope. It's a bag that will change everything. Soon Raphael and his friends Gardo and Rat are running for their lives. Wanted by the police, it takes all their quick-thinking and fast-talking to stay ahead. As the net tightens, they uncover a dead man's mission to put right a terrible wrong. And now it's three street boys against the world...

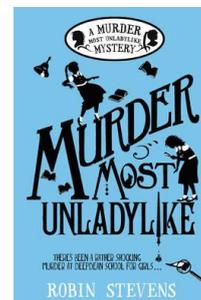


### Murder Most Unladylike - by Robin Stevens

Deepdean School for Girls, 1934. When Daisy Wells and Hazel Wong set up their very own deadly secret detective agency, they struggle to find any truly exciting mysteries to investigate. (Unless you count the case of Lavinia's missing tie. Which they don't, really.)

But then Hazel discovers the Science Mistress, Miss Bell, lying dead in the Gym. She thinks it must all have been a terrible accident - but when she and Daisy return five minutes later, the body has disappeared. Now the girls *know* a murder must have taken place . . . and there's more than one person at Deepdean with a motive.

(Look out for the other books in this series: *Arsenic for Tea*, *First Class Murder* and *Jolly Foul Play*)



### Alex, the Dog and the Unopenable Door - by Ross Montgomery

Alex Jennings is a boy with a problem. His mum's sent him away to boarding school because his father, the most famously failed explorer in the history of the Cusp, has escaped from hospital again, yelling 'squiggles'. Make that two problems. Now the evil Davidus Kyte and all his henchmen are after Alex, convinced he alone knows the meaning of the word 'squiggles'. OK, make that three - Alex Jennings is a boy with a lot of problems. But with the help of a talking dog and a girl with unfeasibly sharp teeth, he just might have what it takes to cross the Forbidden Lands, escape the evil Davidus Kyte, and find out what lies beyond the Cusp..



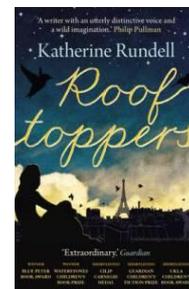
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### Rooftoppers - by Katherine Rundell

Everyone thinks that Sophie is an orphan. True, there were no other recorded female survivors from the shipwreck which left baby Sophie floating in the English Channel in a cello case, but Sophie remembers seeing her mother wave for help. Her guardian tells her it is almost impossible that her mother is still alive, but that means still possible. You should never ignore a possibility. So when the Welfare Agency writes to her guardian threatening to send Sophie to an orphanage, she takes matters into her own hands and flees to Paris to look for her mother, starting with the only clue she has - the address of the cello maker. Evading the French authorities, she meets Matteo and his network of rooftoppers - urchins who live in the sky. Together they scour the city for Sophie's mother before she is caught and sent back to London, and most importantly before she loses hope.

(Why not try *The Girl Savage* by the same author? Living half-wild on an African farm every day is beautiful. But when Will is sent away to boarding school in England, the world becomes impossibly difficult. For lions and hyenas are nothing compared to packs of schoolgirls. Where can a girl run to in London? And will she have the courage to survive?)

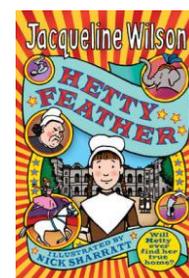


### Hetty Feather - by Jacqueline Wilson

London, 1876. Hetty Feather is a tiny, fiery-haired baby when her mother leaves her on the steps of the Foundling Hospital. Sent to live with a foster family in the country until she is big enough to go to school, Hetty plays vivid imaginary games with her foster brothers. Together they sneak off to visit the travelling circus, and Hetty is mesmerised by the show - especially the stunning Madame Adeline and her performing horses.

But Hetty's happiness is threatened when she must return to the Foundling Hospital to begin her education. The cruel matrons' strict regime is a terrible struggle for Hetty, and she desperately misses her beloved foster brother, Jem. But now she has the chance to find her real mother. Could she really be Madame Adeline? Or will the truth be even more surprising?

(Further books in this series are: *Sapphire Battersea*, *Emerald Star*, *Diamond* and *Little Stars*) If you like books by Jacqueline Wilson then try *Double Act*, *Tracy Beaker*, *Lily Alone* and *Opal Plumstead*)



### Wonder - by R. J. Palacio

'My name is August. I won't describe what I look like. Whatever you're thinking, it's probably worse.' Auggie wants to be an ordinary ten-year-old. He does ordinary things - eating ice cream, playing on his Xbox. He feels ordinary - inside. But ordinary kids don't make other ordinary kids run away screaming in playgrounds. Ordinary kids aren't stared at wherever they go. Born with a terrible facial abnormality, Auggie has been home-schooled by his parents his whole life. Now, for the first time, he's being sent to a real school - and he's dreading it. All he wants is to be accepted - but can he convince his new classmates that he's just like them?



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### **Aubrey and the Terrible Yoot - by Horatio Clare**

Aubrey is the rambunctious young hero whose antics often land him in trouble. But when his father, Jim, falls under the horrendous spell of the Terrible Yoot, everything changes. Aubrey sets out to break the spell with the help of the woodland creatures of Rushing Wood. Everyone says his task is impossible, but Aubrey will never give up, even if he must fight the unkillable spirit of despair - The Terrible Yoot - himself!



### **Books - by David Walliams**

*Demon Dentist* : Strange things were happening in the dead of night. When children put a tooth under their pillow for the tooth fairy, they would wake to find something creepy in its place. Evil was at work. But who or what was behind it?

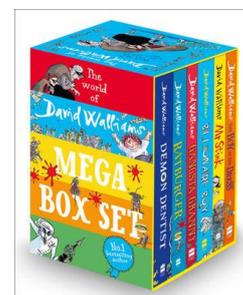
*Ratburger*: Can Zoe keep her beloved pet rat safe from the clutches of the dastardly Burt of Burt's Burgers?

*Gangsta Granny*: Ben's grandma is the boringest grandma ever: all she wants to do is to play Scrabble and eat cabbage soup. But there are two things Ben doesn't know about her: 1) She was once an international jewel thief. 2) All her life, she has been plotting to steal the crown jewels, and now she needs Ben's help...

*Billionaire Boy*: Joe has a lot of reasons to be happy. About a billion of them, in fact. He has absolutely everything he could possibly want. But there's just one thing he really needs: a friend...

*Mr Stink*: Mr Stink stank. He also stunk. And if it was correct English to say he stinked, then he stinked as well...But there's more to this vagrant than meets the nose!

*The Boy in the Dress*: Dennis was different. Why was he different, you ask? Well, a small clue might be in the title of this book...



### **The Accidental Prime Minister - by Tom McLaughlin**

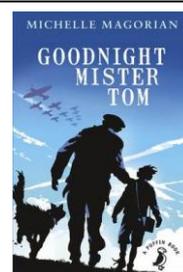
When Joe tells a local news reporter exactly what he would do if he were leader of the country, the video goes viral and Joe's speech becomes famous all over the world!

Before long, people are calling for the current leader to resign and give someone else a go ...and that's how an ordinary boy like Joe, ended up with the most extraordinary job. Now the fun can really start ...Hats for cats! Pet pigs for all! Banana shaped buses! Swimming pools on trains!



### **Goodnight Mister Tom - by Michelle Magorian**

Young Willie Beech is evacuated to the country as Britain stands on the brink of WW2. A sad, deprived child, he slowly begins to flourish under the care of old Tom Oakley - but his new-found happiness is shattered by a summons from his mother back in London.

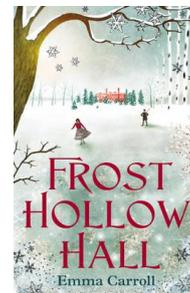


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### Frost Hollow Hall - by Emma Carroll

The gates to Frost Hollow Hall loomed before us. They were great tall things, the ironwork all twisted leaves and queer-looking flowers. And they were very definitely shut. Tilly's heart sinks. Will's at the door of their cottage, daring her to come ice-skating up at Frost Hollow Hall. No one goes near the place these days. Rumour has it that the house is haunted...Ten years ago the young heir, Kit Barrington, drowned there in the lake. But Tilly never turns down a dare. Then it goes horribly wrong. The ice breaks, Tilly falls through and almost drowns. At the point of death, a beautiful angel appears in the water and saves her. Kit Barrington's ghost. Kit needs Tilly to solve the mystery of his death, so that his spirit can rest in peace. In order to discover all she can, Tilly gets work as a maid at Frost Hollow Hall. But the place makes her flesh crawl. It's all about the dead here, she's told, and in the heart of the house she soon discovers all manner of dark secrets...

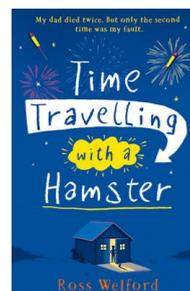


### Time Travelling with a Hamster - by Ross Welford

Laugh, cry and wonder at this race-against-time story of a boy who travels back to 1984 to prevent a go-kart accident, and save his father's life...

My dad died twice. Once when he was thirty nine and again four years later when he was twelve. The first time had nothing to do with me. The second time definitely did, but I would never even have been there if it hadn't been for his 'time machine'...

When Al Chaudhury discovers his late dad's time machine, he finds that going back to the 1980s requires daring and imagination. It also requires lies, theft, burglary, and setting his school on fire. All without losing his pet hamster, Alan Shearer...



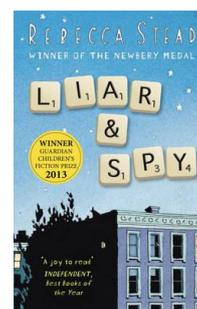
### Binny for Short - by Hilary McKay

Binny's life has been difficult since her father died and her dreadful old Aunt Violet disposed of her beloved dog, Max. Her world changed then, to a city flat with not enough space for her Mum, her big sister Clem and her small brother James. Definitely no room for a pet. Then one day Aunt Violet dies, leaving a small cottage in Cornwall to Binny and her family. Binny finds herself in a new world once more, full of sunshine and freedom and Gareth, the enemy-next-door and the ideal companion for dangerous dares. But Max is still lost in the past, and it seems impossible that she'll ever find him again...



### Liar and Spy - by Rebecca Stead

Georges (the s is silent) has a lot going on. He's having trouble with some boys at school, his dad lost his job and so his mum has started working all the time - and they had to sell their house and move into an apartment. But moving into the apartment block does bring one good thing - Safer, an unusual boy who lives on the top floor. He runs a spy club, and is determined to teach Georges everything he knows. Their current case is to spy on the mysterious Mr X in the apartment above Georges. But as Georges and Safer go deeper into their Mr X plan, the lines between games, lies, and reality begin to blur.



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### Red Leaves - by Sita Brahmachari

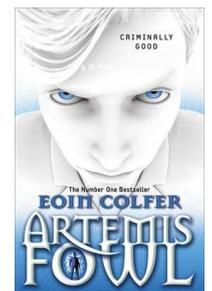
Aisha is a thirteen-year-old refugee living in London. Happy for the first time since leaving her war-torn home, she is devastated when her foster mother announces that a new family has been found for her and she will be moving on. Feeling rejected and abandoned, Aisha packs her bags and runs away, seeking shelter in the nearby woods. Meanwhile, a few doors down, twelve-year-old Zak is trying to cope with his parents' divorce. Living in a near-building site while the new house is being refurbished, he feels unsettled and alone. Discovering a piece of rubble with the original builder's signature set into it, he starts researching the history behind his home - and in doing so finds a connection with a young soldier from the past, which leads him to an old air-raid shelter in the same woods. Both children, previously unknown to each other, meet in the heart of the ancient city woodland as they come into the orbit of Elder, a strange homeless woman who lives amongst the trees - and, as helicopters hover overhead and newspapers fill with pictures of the two lost children, unexpected bonds are formed and lives changed forever ...



### Artemis Fowl - by Eoin Colfer

Twelve-year-old villain, Artemis Fowl, is the most ingenious criminal mastermind in history. His bold and daring plan is to hold a leprechaun to ransom. But he's taking on more than he bargained for when he kidnaps Captain Holly Short of the LEPrecon (Lower Elements Police Reconnaissance Unit). For a start, leprechaun technology is more advanced than our own. Add to that the fact that Holly is a true heroine and that her senior officer Commander Root will stop at nothing to get her back and you've got the mother of all sieges brewing!

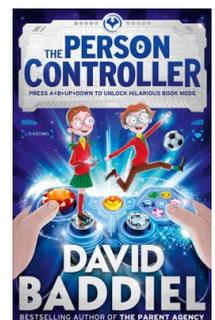
(This is the first of 8 books if you love them! Also by Eoin Colfer is *The Supernaturalist*)



### The Person Controller - by David Baddiel

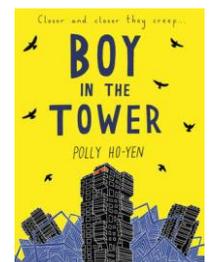
Fred and Ellie are twins. But not identical (because that's impossible for a boy and a girl). They do like all the same things, though. Especially video games. Which they are very good at. They aren't that good, however, at much else - like, for example, football, or dealing with the school bullies. Then, they meet the Mystery Man, who sends them a video game controller, which doesn't look like any other controller they've ever seen. And it doesn't control any of their usual games. When the twins find out what it does control, though, it seems like the answer to all their problems. And the key to all their wildest dreams. At least it seems like that..

Whether it's scoring the winning goal in the biggest football match of the season or standing up to the mean school bullies, we're all capable of more than we think.



### Boy in the Tower - by Polly Ho-Yen

From the seventeenth floor of the tower block where he lives with his mother, Ade watches as the buildings fall around him. The Bluchers - a strange and terrible kind of plant - are taking over the city, and everyone is being forced to evacuate, but his mother is refusing to leave her room. And so Ade watches alone as the city slowly empties, and the Bluchers creep ever closer...



# Year 5 & 6 Book Suggestions

## Age 9+

### Kensuke's Kingdom by Michael Morpurgo

'I heard the wind above me in the sails. I remember thinking, this is silly, you haven't got your safety harness on, you haven't got your lifejacket on. You shouldn't be doing this ...I was in the cold of the sea before I could even open my mouth to scream.' Washed up on an island in the Pacific, Michael struggles to survive on his own. With no food and no water, he curls up to die. When he wakes, there is a plate beside him of fish, of fruit, and a bowl of fresh water. He is not alone ...

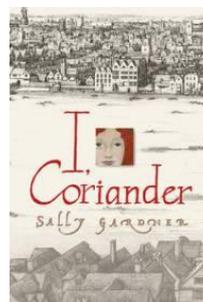
(You might also like to read *Nine Lives of Montezuma* by the same author)



### I, Coriander - by Sally Gardner

The story is told by Coriander, daughter of a silk merchant in 1650s London. Her idyllic childhood ends when her mother dies and her father goes away, leaving Coriander with her stepmother, a widow who is in cahoots with a fundamentalist Puritan preacher. She is shut away in a chest and left to die, but emerges into the fairy world from which her mother came, and where time has no meaning. When she returns, charged with a task that will transform her life, she is seventeen. This is a book filled with enchantments - a pair of silver shoes, a fairy shadow, a prince transformed into a fox - that contrast with the heartbreaking loss and cruelty of Coriander's life in the real world.

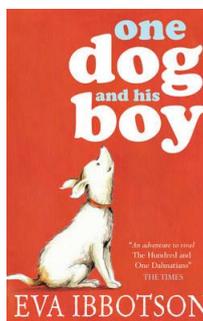
(Also by the same author is *The Red Necklace*)



### One Dog and His Boy by Eva Ibbotson

But a dog would damage the expensive carpets in Hal's glamorous home, and his wealthy parents refuse to consider one. Then they discover Easy Pets, a convenient dog-rental agency. Terrier Fleck arrives on Hal's birthday, but when Hal discovers that his dog must be returned, he runs away. Hal and Fleck are joined by a group of pedigree breeds joyfully escaping from Easy Pets - among them is Otto, the wise and sombre St Bernard, and the fierce and excitable Pekinese Li-Chee. A large reward is offered for the missing boy, and soon Hal and his dogs are being chased across the country by ruthless pursuers. Helped by a travelling circus, and the sympathetic children from an orphanage, they race for their freedom in a classic adventure in the tradition of 101 Dalmatians.

(If you like this try some others from this author: *The Abominables*, *Journey to the River Sea*, *The Dragonfly Pool*, *Monster Mission* and *The Star of Kazan*.)



### The Eighteenth Emergency - by Betsy Byars

Mouse and his best friend Ezzie have come up with 17 action plans for various types of emergency, such as Attack by an Unfriendly Lion. But nothing has prepared them for the 18th emergency: being on the wrong side of Marv Hammerman, every eighth-grader's worst nightmare.



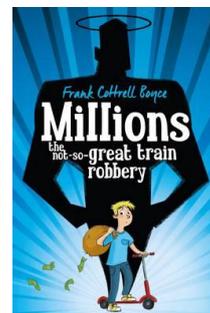
# Year 5 & 6 Book Suggestions

## Age 9+

### Millions - by Frank Cottrell Boyce

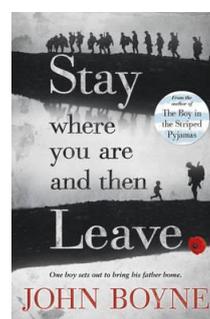
Two brothers, Damian and Anthony, are unwittingly caught up in a train robbery during Britain's countdown to joining the Euro. Suddenly finding themselves with a vast amount of cash, the boys have just one glorious, appalling dilemma - how to spend it in the few days before it becomes worthless.

Torn between the vices of buying a million pizzas and the virtues of ending world poverty, the boys soon discover that being rich is a mug's game. For not only is the clock ticking - the bungling bank robbers are closing in too. Pizzas or World Peace - what would you choose?



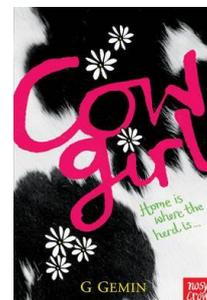
### Stay Where You are and Then Leave - by John Boyne

The day the First World War broke out, Alfie Summerfield's father promised he wouldn't go away to fight - but he broke that promise the following day. Four years later, Alfie doesn't know where his father might be, other than that he's away on a special, secret mission. Then, while shining shoes at King's Cross Station, Alfie unexpectedly sees his father's name - on a sheaf of papers belonging to a military doctor. Bewildered and confused, Alfie realises his father is in a hospital close by - a hospital treating soldiers with an unusual condition. Alfie is determined to rescue his father from this strange, unnerving place...



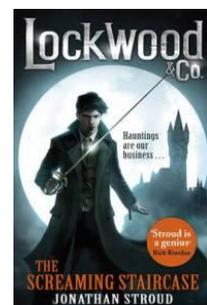
### Cowgirl - by G. Gemin

Growing up on the embattled Mawr Estate in South Wales, all Gemma sees are burglaries, muggings, sadness and boredom. With a dad in prison and a mum who has given up hope, she, like everyone around her, is holding on to memories of the times when happiness wasn't so hard to find. When her search for the scene of a perfect childhood day takes her up into the surrounding hills, Gemma is forced into a meeting with the legendary Cowgirl. Everyone at school knows she's a weirdo: six foot tall and angry, the only conversations she has are with the twelve cows on her dad's farm. But with her abrupt arrival in Gemma's life, everything starts to look different. And with her only friends in mortal danger of the abattoir, it turns out she and Gemma have a mission on their hands.



### Lockwood & Co: The Screaming Staircase - by Jonathan Stroud

When the dead come back to haunt the living, Lockwood & Co. step in...For more than fifty years, the country has been affected by a horrifying epidemic of ghosts. A number of Psychic Investigations Agencies have sprung up to destroy the dangerous apparitions. Lucy Carlyle, a talented young agent, arrives in London hoping for a notable career. Instead she finds herself joining the smallest most ramshackle agency in the city, run by the charismatic Anthony Lockwood. When one of their cases goes horribly wrong, Lockwood & Co. have one last chance of redemption. Unfortunately this involves spending the night in one of the most haunted houses in England, and trying to escape alive.



(There are 4 books in this series: *The Dagger in the Desk*, *The Whispering Skull*, *The Hollow Boy*)

# Year 5 & 6 Book Suggestions

## Age 9+

### Ruby Redfort Look into my Eyes - by Lauren Child

Ruby Redfort: undercover agent, code-cracker and thirteen-year-old genius - you can count on her when you're between a rock and a hard place. In *Look Into My Eyes*, we go right back to Ruby's beginnings as an agent. When an anonymous caller sets Ruby a challenge, it's not long before she finds her way into the HQ of the most secret of secret agencies -- SPECTRUM. They need her help to crack a code but her desk job soon spirals into an all-out action adventure, as Ruby uncovers the dastardly plans of the formidable Fool's Gold Gang!

(There are 5 books in this series: *Take your Last Breath*, *Catch your Death*, *Feel the Fear* and *Pick your Poison*)



### Flora & Ulysses: The Illuminated Adventures - by Kate DiCamillo

Holy unanticipated occurrences! A cynic meets an unlikely superhero in a genre-breaking new novel by a master storyteller. It begins, as the best superhero stories do, with a tragic accident that has unexpected consequences. The squirrel never saw it coming - the vacuum cleaner, that is. As for self-described cynic Flora Belle Buckman, she has read every issue of the comic book *Terrible Things Can Happen to You!* so she is just the right person to step in and save him. What neither can predict is that Ulysses (the squirrel) has been born anew, with powers of strength, flight and misspelled poetry. And Flora will be changed too as she discovers the possibility of hope and the promise of a capacious heart.



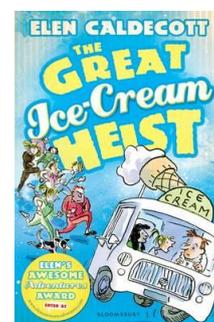
### Hero on a Bicycle - by Shirley Hughes

From much-loved author Shirley Hughes comes a thrilling World War II novel for children. It is 1944 and Florence, Italy, is occupied by Nazi German forces. The Italian resistance movement has not given up hope, though - and neither have Paolo and his sister, Constanza. Both are desperate to fight the occupation, but what can two siblings do against a whole army with only a bicycle to help them? In extraordinary circumstances, people are capable of extraordinary things...



### The Great Ice-Cream Heist - by Elen Caldecott

'Those McIntyres are nothing but trouble!' When the McIntyre family moves in next door, Eva is intrigued - it is the first interesting thing to happen for ages. But her ever protective Dad - even more protective since Eva's mum died - does not agree. And the McIntyres are certainly noisy! But Eva is curious about Jamie, who she often sees on the roof of his garden shed, escaping the family chaos. Then Eva gets to know Jamie a bit better. And when he is accused of vandalising the local park, Eva is sure he didn't do it. It is up to Eva to stick up for him - but then Jamie disappears. Eva is now in a race against time, which snowballs into a helter-skelter race with a 'borrowed' ice cream van, lots of irate keep-fit enthusiasts and lashings of ice-cream!



# Year 5 & 6 Book Suggestions

## Age 9+

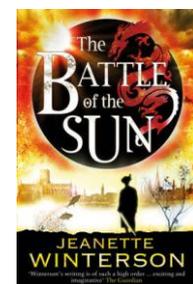
### Howl's Moving Castle - by Diana Wynne Jones

In the land of Ingary, where seven league boots and cloaks of invisibility do exist, Sophie Hatter catches the unwelcome attention of the Witch of the Waste and is put under a spell. Deciding she has nothing more to lose, she makes her way to the moving castle that hovers on the hills above Market Chipping. But the castle belongs to the dreaded Wizard Howl whose appetite, they say, is satisfied only by the souls of young girls...There she meets Michael, Howl's apprentice, and Calcifer the Fire Demon, with whom she agrees a pact. But Sophie isn't the only one under a curse - her entanglements with Calcifer, Howl, and Michael, and her quest to break her curse is both gripping - and howlingly funny!



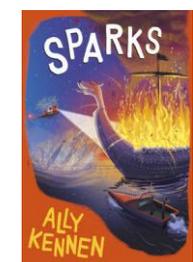
### The Battle of the Sun - by Jeanette Winterson

Jack is the chosen one, the Radiant Boy the Magus needs in order to perfect the alchemy that will transform London of the 1600s into a golden city. But Jack isn't the kind of boy who will do what he is told by an evil genius, and he is soon involved in an epic and nail-biting adventure, featuring dragons, knights and Queen Elizabeth I, as he battles to save London.



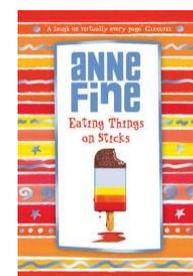
### Sparks - by Ally Kennen

When Carla's beloved Grandpa dies, she is inconsolable. Then she finds a secret letter, and decides to give him the end he always wanted. A Viking funeral, in a burning boat heading out to sea. Carla and her siblings set out on a crazy and dangerous race against time to achieve the impossible.



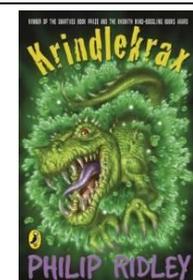
### Eating Things on Sticks - by Anne Fine

Having burnt down the kitchen (by mistake, he protests), Harry saves himself from the fate of a week spent with Aunt Susan by blackmailing his Uncle Tristram to take him on holiday. Setting off for a remote Scottish island, Harry and Tristram ignore the strange warning the ferryman gives them but soon wish they hadn't. Without anything to entertain him, Harry has to survive rain, floods, Tristram's mystic girlfriend Morning Glory, a host of wonderful misunderstandings and, worst of all, almost NO food.



### Krindlekrax - by Philip Ridley

Who is more likely to get the part of the hero in the school play? Ruskin or Elvis? Under Lizard Street lurks the mysterious Krindlekrax. And when Krindlekrax threatens Lizard Street, Ruskin has the chance to prove he's the stuff heroes are made of!



# Year 5 & 6 Book Suggestions

## Age 9+

### Small Change for Stuart - by Lissa Evans

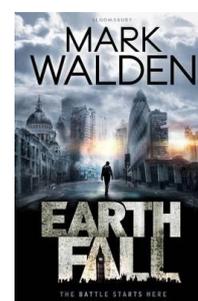
Stuart Horten - ten years old and small for his age - moves to the dreary town of Beeton, far away from all his friends. And then he meets his new next-door neighbours, the unbearable Kingley triplets, and things get even worse. But in Beeton begins the strangest adventure of Stuart's life as he is swept up in quest to find his great-uncle's lost workshop - a workshop stuffed with trickery and magic. There are clues to follow and puzzles to solve, but what starts as fun ends up as danger, and Stuart begins to realize that he can't finish the task by himself ...



### Earthfall - by Mark Walden

If you are caught you will not return, if you escape they will hunt you down. The enslavement of the human race has begun.

Sam wakes to see strange vessels gathered in the skies around London. As he stares up, people stream past, walking silently towards the enormous ships which emit a persistent noise. Only Sam seems immune to the signal. Six months later, Sam is absolutely alone. In his underground bunker he has food and water for a couple of days. He has no choice but to venture above. Spotted by a flying drone, Sam escapes, but not before the drone slashes him with a barbed tendril. That night, drenched in sweat, Sam realises without medical supplies the wound will kill him. This time above ground he is less lucky. Cornered again, Sam thinks he has reached the end - then the drone is shot down in a hail of machine gun fire. In five minutes Sam learns two things: he is not alone; the drone injury should have killed him instantly - yet he is still alive. The battle for earth is about to begin.



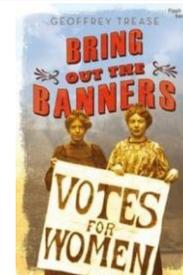
### Butterfly Summer - by Anne-Marie Conway

Some secrets last a lifetime. When Becky and her mum move to the tiny village of Oakbridge, Mum is hoping for a new beginning. But when Becky discovers an old photo of her mum in hospital clutching a baby, twelve years before Becky was born, Becky becomes haunted by the thought that her mum is keeping something from her. Stifled by her mum's over-protectiveness and depressive moods, Becky feels more alone than ever. The only place she finds comfort is at the beautiful local Butterfly Garden with her new friend, the wild-spirited and impulsive Rosa May. But Becky can't shake off the unanswered questions. Why can't she swim? Where is her dad? Who is the baby in the photo? And why is her mum lying to her? As the two girls spend more time together however, Rosa May's unpredictable temper and possessive streak suggests that she is hiding something as well...and in the heat of the sun-drenched summer, it seems that Becky is the only one in the dark.



### Bring Out the Banners - by Geoffrey Trease

An office worker and an aristocratic young lady become unlikely friends as they work together for women's right to vote. A thrilling story of secret meetings, police oppression and social upheaval, as well as an accurate account of the Suffragette movement in the years before the First World War.

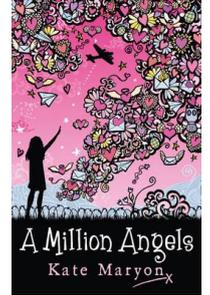


# Year 5 & 6 Book Suggestions

## Age 9+

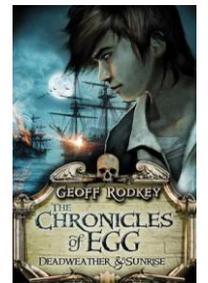
### **A Million Angels - by Kate Maryon**

We talk about everything, Dad and me. About all the mysteries inside of us. About all our wonderings of the world. But tomorrow my dad goes to war. Then what will I do? Jemima's dad's in the Army and he's off to Afghanistan again for six whole months. Her mum's about to have another baby and hasn't got the energy to worry about anything else. Gran is staying to help out, but her head is filled with her own wartime memories. So while Mima is sending Dad millions of guardian angels every night to keep him safe, who is looking out for her?



### **The Chronicles of Egg: Deadweather and Sunrise - by Geoff Rodkey**

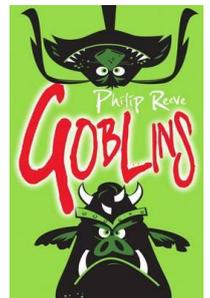
Deadweather, a sweaty little pirate-infested island, is home to Egg, thirteen years old and prey to a pair of cruel and stupid older siblings. But when Egg's family disappears in a freak accident, he finds himself living on Sunrise island with the glamorous Pembroke family and their feisty daughter Millicent. Finally, life seems perfect. Until someone tries to throw him off a cliff. Suddenly, Egg is lost in a world of cut-throat pirates and powerful villains. Only Millicent - and a one-handed, possibly deranged cabin boy - can help him as he hurtles into the deadliest adventure of his life...



### **Goblins - by Philip Reeve**

This is a wild world of magical creatures and heroic adventure from the extraordinary imagination of Philip Reeve. The squabbling goblins who live in the great towers of Clovenstone spend their time fighting and looting. Only clever young Skarper understands that dark magic created by a vanquished sorcerer is rising again. From the lands of men come fortune-seekers - and trolls, giants, cloud-midens, boglins, swamp monsters, tree-warriors and bloodthirsty goblins are swept into a fabulous magical conflict to thrill all fantasy fans.

(Other books in this series are: *Goblins Vs Dwarves* and *Goblin Quests*)



### **Shadow Forest - by Matt Haig**

Samuel Blink is the hero of this story, but he doesn't know it yet. Right now, he and his sister Martha are in the back of his parents car. He has no idea a giant log is about to fall from the sky and change his life forever. He doesn't know that he and Martha will be forced to move to Norway and eat their Aunt Eda's smelly brown cheese. He hasn't the slightest clue Martha will disappear into Shadow Forest. It is a forest full of one-eyed trolls, the sinister huldre-folk, deadly Truth Pixies and a witch who steals shadows - a forest ruled by the evil Changemaker. It is a forest so dangerous that people who enter never return. No. Samuel Blink doesn't know any of this. So don't tell him. It might ruin the book ...



# Year 5 & 6 Book Suggestions

## Age 9+

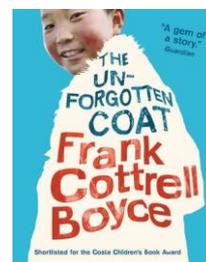
### Itch - by Simon Mayo

Itchingham Lofte - known as Itch - is fourteen, and loves science, especially chemistry. He's also an element-hunter: he's collecting all the elements in the periodic table. Which has some interesting and rather destructive results in his bedroom...Then, Itch makes a discovery. A new element, never seen before. At first no one believes him - but soon, someone hears about the strange new rock and wants it for himself. And Itch and his family are in serious danger...



### The Unforgotten Coat - by Frank Cottrell Boyce

This is a stunning magical story of a summer of friendship with darker undertones of the plight of refugees. Two refugee brothers from Mongolia are determined to fit in with their Liverpool schoolmates, but bring so much of Mongolia to Bootle that their new friend and guide, Julie, is hard-pressed to know truth from fantasy as she recollects a wonderful friendship that was abruptly ended when Chingis and his family were forced to return to Mongolia. Told with the humour, warmth and brilliance of detail which characterizes Frank Cottrell Boyce's writing, this magical and compelling story is enriched by stunning and atmospheric Polaroid photos.



### Coraline - by Neil Gaiman

There is something strange about Coraline's new home. It's not the mist, or the cat that always seems to be watching her, nor the signs of danger that Miss Spink and Miss Forcible, her new neighbours, read in the tea leaves. It's the other house - the one behind the old door in the drawing room. Another mother and father with black-button eyes and papery skin are waiting for Coraline to join them there. And they want her to stay with them. Forever. She knows that if she ventures through that door, she may never come back.



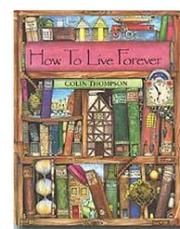
### The Spin - by Rebecca Lisle

Stormy is an orphan and a kitchen skivvy. He tends the compost, he scrubs the floors, and watches feasts make their way up the mountain as he survives on bread and water. A skivvy is all that Stormy can hope to be. But Stormy has a secret. He wants to be a sky-rider, to soar amongst the clouds on spitfyrers: flying horses that spit fire and smoke, and answer only to their riders. A chance meeting with an escaped convict turns Stormy's life upside down. Sent up to the Academy he uncovers a web of lies, deceptions and neglect, at the centre of which lies the mysterious thirteenth horse. Can Stormy save Thirteen, defeat the dark forces at work within the Academy and prove himself worthy as a sky-rider?



### How to Live Forever – by Colin Thomson

Our hero is searching for the one book that teaches a person how to live forever, and, when he finds it, our hero has to decide whether to read it. The knowledge it contains has serious and life altering consequences.

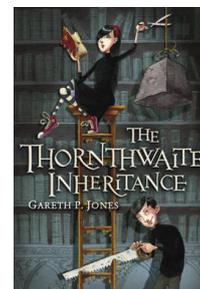


# Year 5 & 6 Book Suggestions

## Age 9+

### The Thornthwaite Inheritance - by Gareth P. Jones

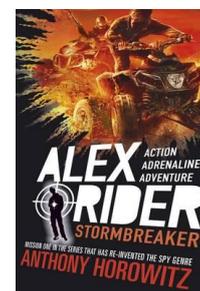
Ovid and Lorelli Thornthwaite are 13 year old twins and have been trying to kill each other for so long that neither twin can remember which act of attempted murder came first. But whoever struck first, trying to take each other's lives is simply what they do. Until one day a lawyer arrives at their house to take stock of its contents, and his accompanying son attracts their attention. Soon a new battle evolves - one in which the twins have to work together to solve the mystery of their parents' deaths. Can Lorelli and Ovid overcome their old animosities, and will they ever get to finish that game of chess?



### Alex Rider: Stormbreaker - by Anthony Horowitz

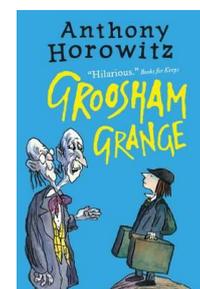
When his guardian dies in suspicious circumstances, fourteen-year-old Alex Rider finds his world turned upside down. Forcibly recruited into MI6, Alex has to take part in gruelling SAS training exercises. Then, armed with his own special set of secret gadgets, he's off on his first mission to Cornwall, where Middle-Eastern multi-billionaire Herod Sayle is producing his state-of-the-art Stormbreaker computers. Sayle has offered to give one free to every school in the country - but there's more to the gift than meets the eye.

(There are 10 books in the series)



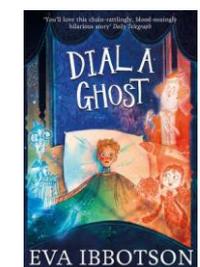
### Groosham Grange - by Anthony Horowitz

Sent to Groosham Grange as a last resort by his parents, David Eliot quickly discovers that his new school is a very weird place indeed. New pupils are made to sign their names in blood; the French teacher disappears every full moon; the assistant headmaster keeps something very chilling in his room...What's the meaning of the black rings everyone wears? Where do the other pupils vanish to at night? Most important of all, how on earth can David get away - alive?



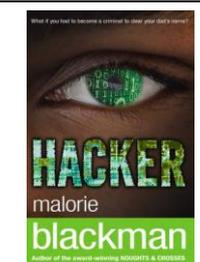
### Dial a Ghost - by Eva Ibbotson

'Get me some ghosts,' said Fulton Snodde-Brittle. 'Frightful and dangerous ghosts!' Fulton has gone to the Dial a Ghost agency with an evil plan. He wants to hire some truly terrifying ghosts to scare his nephew Oliver to death. The Shriekers are the most violent and sickening spectres the agency has, but a mix-up means the kind Wilkinson ghosts are sent in their place. Now Oliver has some spooky allies to help him outwit the wicked Snodde-Brittles .



### Hacker - by Malorie Blackman

MESSAGE: THIS IS THE SYSTEM OPERATOR. WHO IS USING THIS ACCOUNT? PLEASE IDENTIFY YOURSELF ...When Vicky's father is arrested, accused of stealing over a million pounds from the bank where he works, she is determined to prove his innocence. But how? There's only one way - to attempt to break into the bank's computer files. Even if Vicky is the best hacker in the world, will she find the real thief before they find her?

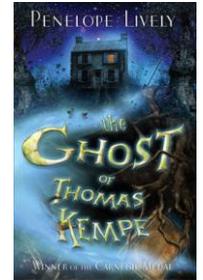


# Year 5 & 6 Book Suggestions

## Age 9+

### **The Ghost of Thomas Kempe - by Penelope Lively**

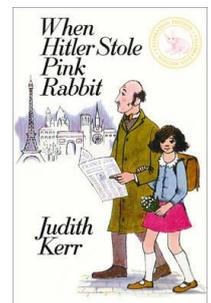
James is fed up. His family has moved to a new cottage - with grounds that are great for excavations, and trees that are perfect for climbing - and stuff is happening. Stuff that is normally the kind of thing he does. And he's getting blamed for it. But it's not him who's writing strange things on shopping lists and fences. It's not him who smashes bottles and pours tea in the Vicar's lap. It's a ghost - honestly. Thomas Kempe the apothecary has returned and he wants James to be his apprentice. No one else believes in ghosts. It's up to James to get rid of him. Or he'll have no pocket money or pudding ever again.



### **When Hitler Stole Pink Rabbit - by Judith Kerr**

This internationally acclaimed story of one Jewish family's flight from Hitler's Germany has become a much-loved classic, and this special edition hardback has been published to celebrate the 90th birthday of Judith Kerr. It features reproductions of the original cover and pages from its first printing in 1971, illustrated by the author.

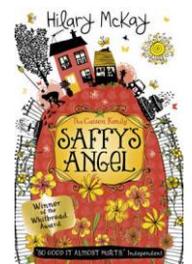
That is what happened to Anna in 1933. She was nine years old when it began, too busy to take much notice of political posters, but out of them glared the face of Adolf Hitler, the man who would soon change the whole of Europe – starting with her own small life.



### **Saffy's Angel - by Hilary McKay**

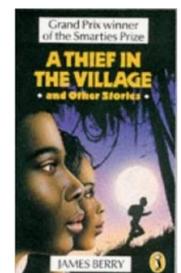
After Saffron Casson discovers that she's adopted, life is never quite the same again. Her artistic parents and doting siblings adore her, but Saffy wants a piece of her past. So when her grandfather bequests a stone angel to her, Saffy knows she has to find it.

Indigo, the sole boy of the Casson family, is determined to rid himself of this fear of heights. And the youngest, Rose, a budding artist, has a knack for baiting her pompous dad, with entertaining results ...



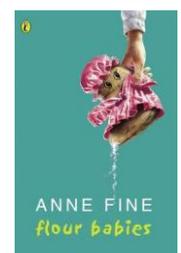
### **A Thief in the Village and Other Stories by James Berry**

This is a collection of short stories about children and young people in Jamaica. Full of wonderfully atmospheric background detail combined with the rhythms and patterns of speech, these contemporary narratives bring to life a culture highly relevant to multi ethnic Britain. Stories include Becky and the Wheels and Brake Boys ; A Thief in the Village ; Tukku Tukku and Sampson ; All other Days Run into Sunday ; The Mouth Organ Boys ; Elias and the Mongoose ; The Pet, The Sea and Little Buddy ; Fanso and Granny-Flo ; and, The Banana Tree.



### **Flour Babies - by Anne Fine**

When the annual school science fair comes round, Mr Cartwright's class don't get the soap factory, or the maggot farm, or the exploding custard tins. They get the flour babies - sweet little bags of flour that must be treated gently.

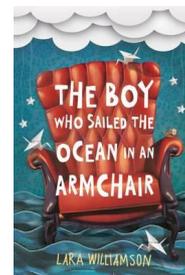


# Year 5 & 6 Book Suggestions

## Age 9+

### **The Boy Who Sailed the Ocean in an Armchair - by Lara Williamson**

All Becket wants is for his family to be whole again. But standing in his way are two things: 1) his dad, his brother and him seem to have run away from home in the middle of the night and 2) Becket's mum died before he got the chance to say goodbye to her. Arming himself with an armchair of stories, a snail named Brian and one thousand paper cranes, Becket ploughs on, determined to make his wish come true.



### **Wolf - by Gillian Cross**

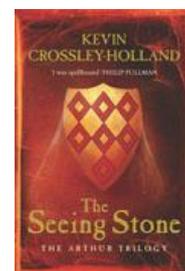
Cassy lives with her granny, until the night that she hears strange footsteps coming into their flat. The next morning, she is packed off to her mum's - a squat in London that her beautiful, simple mother shares with a couple of actors. Cassy does her best to throw herself into her mother's life, even agreeing to take part in their travelling show called 'Wolf'. But she can't ever get rid of the feeling that something is following her, and something bad is going to happen. Her fear grows as time passes, until Cassy knows she must face up to her past: who her father is, why he left and where he has gone. What she doesn't know is that some questions are better left unanswered...



### **The Seeing Stone - by Kevin Crossley Holland**

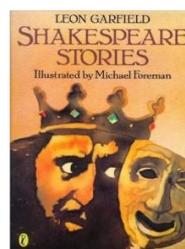
The year is 1199, the place the Welsh Marches. Young Arthur de Caldicot is given a shining stone in which his legendary namesake is revealed. In 100 short chapters that brilliantly evoke life in a medieval manor, stories of the boy King Arthur begin to echo and anticipate the secrets and mysteries that emerge in his own life.

(This book is part of a trilogy: *At the Crossing Places*, *King of the Middle March*)



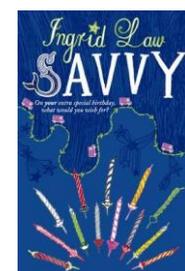
### **Shakespeare Stories - by Leon Garfield**

Twelve Shakespeare plays are presented afresh by Leon Garfield in narrative form. These are not simple retellings, but more like a refashioning of the dramas as stories, which remain true to the essential spirit of the original versions. The author has captured all the richness of character, plot, mood and setting in Shakespeare's works. It is the perfect introduction to Shakespeare for the young.



### **Savvy - by Ingrid Law**

For Mibs Beaumont's family, the day of their thirteenth birthday could be an adventure or a disaster. It's when they get an extra-special talent. But on Mibs' special day, their Poppa lies in a coma in hospital, and she has to reach him. The only way to get there is on the pink Bible bus, so, adventure or disaster, Mibs is getting on that bus.



# Year 5 & 6 Book Suggestions

## Age 9+

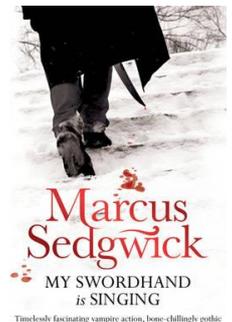
### Carrie's War - by Nina Bawden

Albert, Carrie and young Nick are war-time evacuees whose lives get so tangled up with the people they've come to live among that the war and their real families seem to belong to another world. Carrie and Nick are billeted in Wales with old Mr Evans, who is so mean and cold, and his timid mouse of a sister, Lou, who suddenly starts having secrets. Their friend Albert is luckier, living in Druid's Bottom with warm-hearted Hepzibah Green and the strange Mister Johnny, who can talk to animals but not to human beings. Carrie and Nick visit him there whenever they can for Hepzibah makes life exciting and enticing with her stories and delicious cooking. Gradually they begin to feel more at ease in their war-time home, but then, in trying to heal the rift between Mr Evans and his estranged sister, and save Druid's Bottom, Carrie does a terrible thing which is to haunt her for years to come. Carrie revisits Wales as an adult and tells the story to her own children.



### My Swordhand Is Singing - by Marcus Sedgwick

Peter is a young wood-cutter, living with his father Tomas, on the outskirts of a small village in a forested area of an Eastern European (presumed) country. His mother died in childbirth & Peter and his father have roamed for many years before building themselves a home near this place. Peter does much of the work as his dad is an alcoholic but he has a sweetheart in the village, Agnes, and the two of them seem quite content until some strange deaths start occurring in the village.... Then some travelling gypsies arrive, including the beautiful Sofia, and the dead don't seem to be staying in their graves...



### The Silver Sword - by Ian Serraillier

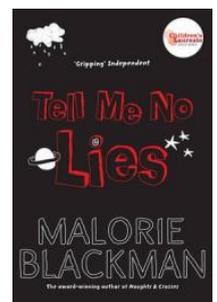
Although the silver sword was only a paper knife, it became the symbol of hope and courage which kept the Balicki children and their orphan friend Jan alive through the four years of occupation when they had to fend for themselves. And afterwards it inspired them to keep going on the exhausting and dangerous journey from war-torn Poland to Switzerland, where they hoped to find their parents.

Based on true accounts, this is a moving story of life during and after the Second World War.



### Tell Me No Lies - by Malorie Blackman

Gemma longs for her lost mother, taking comfort from the cuttings in her scrapbook; pictures of mothers who loved their children come what may. Mike is new to the area; a boy with a terrible secret to hide, a secret about his missing mother. Gemma and Mike are two kids hurt by their past and now inextricably linked. Their effect on each other's lives will be explosive.



# Year 5 & 6 Book Suggestions

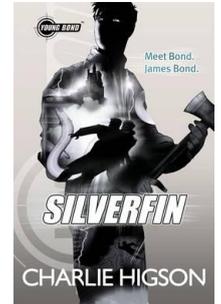
## Age 9+

### Young Bond : Silverfin - by Charlie Higson

Before the name became a legend. Before the boy became a man. Meet Bond. James Bond. There's something in the water at Loch Silverfin. Something deadly. Something that must be kept secret...

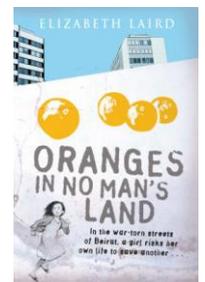
It's James Bond's first day at Eton, and he's already met his first enemy. This is the start of an adventure that will take him from the school playing fields to the remote shores of Loch Silverfin and a terrifying discovery that threatens to unleash a new breed of warfare.

(Other books in the series are: *Blood Fever*, *Double Or Die* and *Hurricane Gold*)



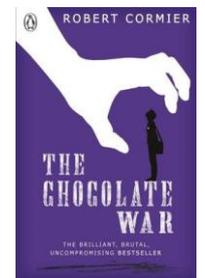
### Oranges In No Man's Land - by Elizabeth Laird

Since her father left Lebanon to find work and her mother tragically died in a shell attack, ten-year-old Ayesha has been living in the bomb-ravaged city of Beirut with her granny and her two younger brothers. When Granny falls desperately ill Ayesha sets off on a terrifying journey across no man's land to reach a doctor living in enemy territory.



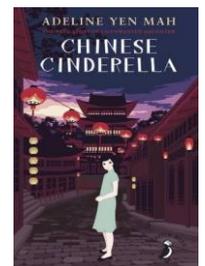
### The Chocolate War - by Robert Cormier

Every year, Trinity School runs a chocolate sale. Each boy volunteers to sell a quota of boxes. But this year it's different, because new kid Jerry Renault has refused to take part. This small act of defiance starts a chain reaction exposing the corruption running throughout the school.



### Chinese Cinderella - by 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.



### Tales of the Greek Heroes - by Roger Lancelyn Green

This title features the mysterious and exciting legends of the gods and heroes in Ancient Greece, from the adventures of Perseus, the labours of Heracles, the voyage of Jason and the Argonauts, to Odysseus and the Trojan wars.

(You could also try *Robin Hood* by the same author)



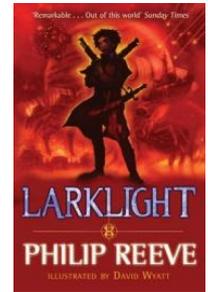
# Year 5 & 6 Book Suggestions

## Age 9+

### Larklight - by Philip Reeve

Larklight is a Victorian space adventure combining some entertaining period jokes with a fantastical trip into unknown worlds. Arthur Mumby and his sister Myrtle live with their father in the huge and rambling house, Larklight, travelling through space on a remote orbit far beyond the Moon. They receive a correspondence informing them that a gentleman is on his way to visit, a Mr Webster. But it is the wrong sort of preparation, as they discover when their guest arrives.

(The next books in this series are: *Startcross* and *Mothstorm*)



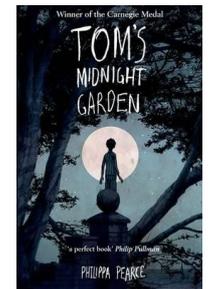
### A Wrinkle in Time (the Graphic Novel) - by Madeleine L'Engle

Meg needs to find her scientist father who has mysteriously gone missing. With her little brother Charles and friend Calvin, Meg travels by tesseract, a wrinkle in space-time, on a treacherous journey that leads them into space and to the heart of the terrible struggle between the Dark Thing and the galaxy. Can Meg rescue her father and will they all return home safely?



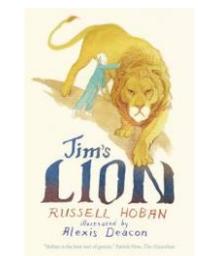
### Tom's Midnight Garden - by Philippa Pearce

When Tom hears the grandfather clock strike thirteen he is not prepared for what is going to happen. Outside the back door is a garden, which everyone tells him doesn't exist. But the magical place in which Tom finds himself is certainly a garden - his midnight garden. This book won The Carnegie Medal when it was first published in 1958.



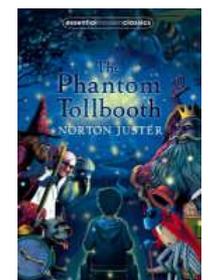
### Jim's Lion - by Russell Hoban

A touching story about a boy in hospital, who dreams wild and extraordinary dreams as he faces a life-saving operation. Jim is in hospital. He's frightened. What if the doctors send him somewhere that he can't find his way back from? Nurse Bami tells Jim that he must go to his "good place" and there, his "finder" will come looking for him. Everyone has a finder. And so, deep in Jim's dreams, he finds his: a lion.



### The Phantom Tollbooth - by Norton Juster

When Milo finds an enormous package in his bedroom, he's delighted to have something to relieve his boredom with school. And when he opens it to find -- as the label states -- One Genuine Turnpike Tollbooth, he gets right into his pedal car and sets off through the Tollbooth and away on a magical journey!

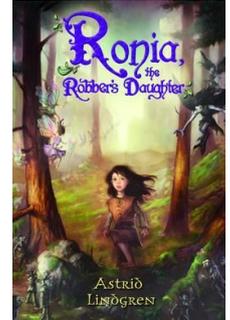


# Year 5 & 6 Book Suggestions

## Age 9+

### Ronia, the Robber's Daughter - by Astrid Lindgren

Ronia lives with her father, a robber chieftain, and his band of men in their fortress on the top of a mountain. On the night Ronia was born, a bolt of lightning split the stronghold in two, leaving a huge chasm - Hell's Gap - in between. Soon Ronia is old enough to explore the forest around her, but she must beware of the grey dwarfs and wild harpies that live there. One day she meets Birk, the son of a rival robber leader who has claimed the other side of Hell's Gap, and upon whom Ronia's father instantly declares war. Ronia and Birk develop a friendship that is as indestructible as the mountain fortress itself. But with their families sworn enemies they are forced to keep their friendship a secret until one fateful day when Ronia's father catches Birk ...prompting Ronia and Birk to escape into the woods and fend for themselves. How long can Ronia and Birk survive in the magical forest? And will their fathers ever put aside their differences to get their beloved children back?



### The Dark is Rising - by Susan Cooper

*'This night will be bad, and tomorrow will be beyond imagining.'*

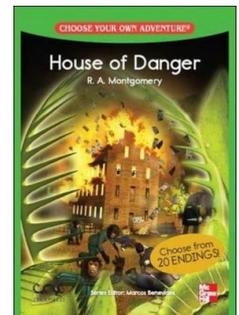
It's Christmas time in the Stanton family house: presents, carol singing, good cheer. But for eleven-year-old Will Stanton something sinister has begun, inching round his subconscious, shouting silent warnings he can't decipher. Then on Midwinter Day Will wakes up to a different world - silent, covered in snow and ancient forest, a world of another time. A world where evil lurks. Because Will is not the ordinary boy he always thought he was. He is the last of the Old Ones and the power to vanquish the evil magic of the Dark lies within him.



### Choose Your Own Adventure: House of Danger - by R. A. Montgomery

You are a detective. In your free time, you like to investigate cold cases that the police have given up on. The most mysterious case in your area centres round a house whose owner went missing years ago. People say that the house is haunted, or worse. Luckily, you don't believe in ghosts-or do you?

The Choose your Own Adventure series consists of 30 titles. What makes Choose Your Own Adventure different is that you, the reader, are the main character. You make the choices that can lead to a happy conclusion-or perhaps to a terrible fate! Each title is made up of several branching storylines, with up to 30 different endings.



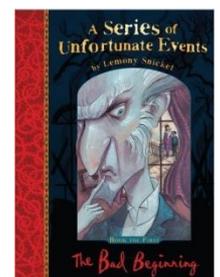
### Series of Unfortunate Events: The Bad Beginning – by Lemony Snicket

Dear reader,

There is nothing to be found in Lemony Snicket's 'A Series of Unfortunate Events' but misery and despair. You still have time to choose another international best-selling series to read. But if you insist on discovering the unpleasant adventures of the Baudelaire orphans, then proceed with caution...

Violet, Klaus, and Sunny Baudelaire are intelligent children. They are charming, and resourceful, and have pleasant facial features. Unfortunately, they are exceptionally unlucky. In *The Bad Beginning*, the siblings encounter a greedy and repulsive villain, itchy clothing, a disastrous fire, a plot to steal their fortune and cold porridge for breakfast.

(There are 13 books in the series if you love this one)

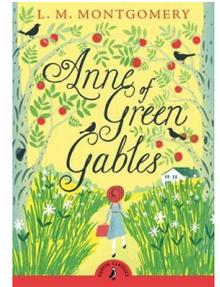


# Year 5 & 6 Book Suggestions

## Age 9+

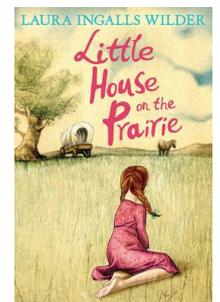
### Anne of Green Gables - by L. M. Montgomery

Marilla and Matthew Cuthbert are in for a big surprise. They are waiting for an orphan boy to help with the work at Green Gables - but a skinny, red-haired girl turns up instead. Feisty and full of spirit, Anne Shirley charms her way into the Cuthberts' affection with her vivid imagination and constant chatter. It's not long before Anne finds herself in trouble, but soon it becomes impossible for the Cuthberts to imagine life without 'their' Anne - and for the people of Avonlea to recall what it was like before this wildly creative little girl whirled into town.



### Little House on the Prairie - by Laura Ingalls Wilder

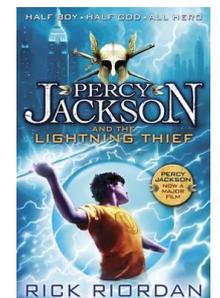
The sun-kissed prairie stretches out around the Ingalls family, smiling its welcome after their long, hard journey across America. But looks can be deceiving as they soon find that they must share the land with wild bears and Indians. Will there be enough room for all of them?



### Percy Jackson and the Lightning Thief - by Rick Riordan

Look, I didn't want to be a half-blood. I never asked to be the son of a Greek God. I was just a normal kid, going to school, playing basketball, skateboarding. The usual. Until I accidentally vaporized my maths teacher. Now I spend my time battling monsters and generally trying to stay alive.

(This is the first book in the *Percy Jackson series*)



### Amulet: The Stonekeeper - by Kazu Kibuishi

After the tragic death of their father, Emily and Navin move with their mother to the home of her deceased great grandfather, but the strange house proves to be dangerous. Before long, a sinister creature lures the kids' mom through a door in the basement. Emily and Navin, desperate not to lose her, follow her into an underground world inhabited by demons, robots, and talking animals. Eventually, they enlist the help of a small mechanical rabbit named Miskit. Together with Miskit, they face the most terrifying monster of all, and Emily finally has the chance to save someone she loves.

(There are 6 volumes in this series)



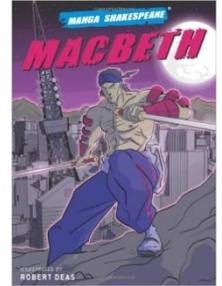
# Year 5 & 6 Book Suggestions

## Age 9+

### Manga Shakespeare: Macbeth - by Robert Deas

Samurai warriors have reclaimed a future post-nuclear world of mutants in the original manga version of Shakespeare's tale of skulduggery. A fusion of classic Shakespeare with manga visuals, these are cutting-edge books that will intrigue and grip readers.

(There are many other Shakespeare titles in this series)



### Lumberjanes – by Brooke Allen, Noelle Stevenson and Grace Ellis

Friendship to the max! Jo, April, Mal, Molly and Ripley are five best pals determined to have an awesome summer together...and they're not gonna let any insane quest or an array of supernatural critters get in their way!

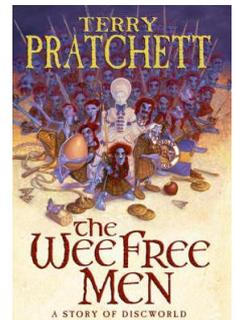
(This is a great series of Graphic novels)



### The Wee Free Men - by Terry Pratchett

There's trouble on the Aching farm - a monster in the river, a headless horseman in the driveway and nightmare spreading down from the hills. And now Tiffany Aching's little brother has been stolen by the Queen of the Fairies. Tiffany's got to get him back.

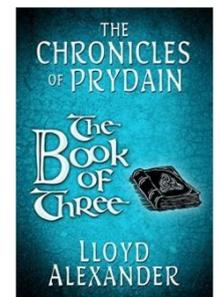
(This is the first book in the *Tiffany Aching series*)



### The Book of Three: The Chronicles of Prydain - by Lloyd Alexander

Taran is desperate for adventure. Being a lowly Assistant Pig-Keeper just isn't exciting. That is, until the magical pig, Hen Wen, disappears and Taran embarks on a death-defying quest to save her from the evil Horned King. His perilous adventures bring Taran many new friends: an irritable dwarf, an impulsive bard, a strange hairy beast and the hot-headed Princess Eilonwy. Together, they face many dangers, from the deathless Cauldron-Born warriors, dragons, witches and the terrifying Horned King himself. Taran learns much about his identity, but the mysterious Book of Three is yet to reveal his true destiny.

(This is the first book in the series)



# Year 5 & 6 Book Suggestions

## Age 9+

### Mars Evacuees - by Sophia McDougall

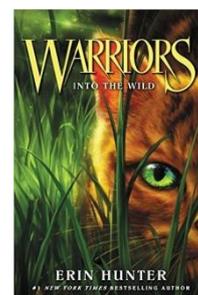
The fact that someone had decided I'd be safer on Mars, where you could still only sort of breathe the air and sort of not get sunburned to death, was a sign that the war with the aliens was not going fantastically well. I'd been worried that I was about to be told that my mother's space fighter had been shot down, so when I found out that I was being evacuated to Mars, I was pretty calm. And, despite everything that happened to me and my friends afterwards, I'd do it all again. Because until you have been shot at, pursued by terrifying aliens, taught maths by a laser-shooting robot goldfish and tried to save the galaxy, I don't think you can say that you've really lived. If the same thing happens to you, this is my advice: Always carry duct tape.



### Warriors: Into the Wild - by Erin Hunter

When 'kittypet' Rusty strays into the forest beyond his owner's garden and is ambushed by a wild cat, life as he knows it is over. After a brave fight, he is invited to leave the 'twoleg' world and join Thunderclan, one of four cat tribes, to train as a warrior. When the fearsome Shadowclan threaten Thunderclan's territory his warrior skills are put to the test. But how can he protect the clan when he suspects their own deputy of treachery?

(This book is the first in the series)



### Ever After High: The Storybook of Legends - by Shannon Hale

At Ever After High, an enchanting boarding school, the children of fairytale legends prepare themselves to fulfill their destinies as the next generation of Snow Whites, Prince Charmings and Evil Queens ...whether they want to or not. Each year on Legacy Day, students sign the Storybook of Legends to seal their scripted fates. For generations, the Village of Book End has whispered that refusing to sign means The End - both for a story and for a life. As the daughter of the Evil Queen, Raven Queen's destiny is to follow in her mother's wicked footsteps, but evil is so not Raven's style. She's starting to wonder, what if she rewrote her own story? The royal Apple White, daughter of the Fairest of Them All, has a happy ever after planned for herself, but it depends upon Raven feeding her a poison apple in their future. What if Raven doesn't sign the Storybook of Legends? It could mean a happily never after for them both.

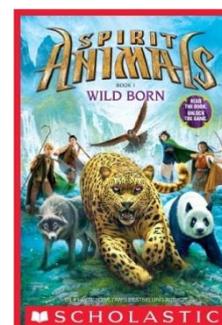
(This is the first book in the series)



### Spirit Animals: Wild Born - by Brandon Mull

Four children separated by vast distances all undergo the same ritual, watched by cloaked strangers. Four flashes of light erupt, and from them emerge the unmistakable shapes of incredible beasts -- a wolf, a leopard, a panda, a falcon. Suddenly the paths of these children -- and the world -- have been changed forever.

Enter the world of Erdas, where every child who comes of age must discover if they have a spirit animal, a rare bond between human and beast that bestows great powers to both. A dark force has risen from distant and long-forgotten lands, and has begun an onslaught that will ravage the world. Now the fate of Erdas has fallen on the shoulders of four young strangers . . . and on you.

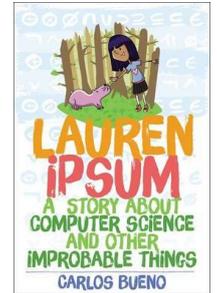


# Year 5 & 6 Book Suggestions

## Age 9+

### Lauren Ipsum A Story About Computer Science and Other Improbable Things - by Carlos Bueno

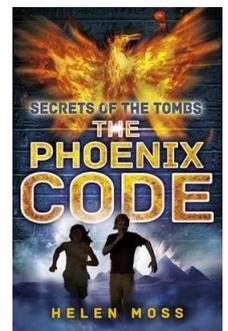
A looking glass tale for the computer age. School Library Journal Lauren Ipsum is a whimsical journey through a land where logic and computer science come to life. Meet Lauren, an adventurer lost in Userland who needs to find her way home by solving a series of puzzles. As she visits places like the Push & Pop Cafe and makes friends with people like Hugh Rustic and the Wandering Salesman, Lauren learns about computer science without even realizing it....



### The Phoenix Code - by Helen Moss

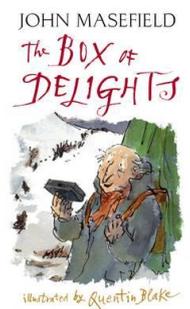
When Ryan Flint accompanies his journalist mother to an archaeological expedition in Egypt's Valley of the Kings, he isn't expecting life-threatening danger and a 3,000-year-old murder mystery - but that's exactly what he finds! Before he knows it, he has joined forces with Cleo McNeil, an archaeologist's daughter, to solve secret codes, discover an ancient treasure and outwit a strange cult intent on gaining possession of the relic. Can Ryan and Cleo unravel the mystery and solve the Phoenix Code before it's too late?

(*The Dragon Path* is the second book in the series)



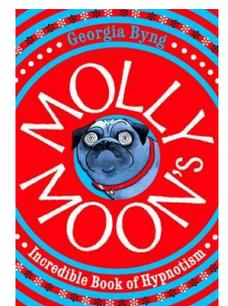
### The Box of Delights - by John Masefield

'And now, Master Harker, now that the Wolves are Running, perhaps you could do something to stop their Bite?' A magical old man has asked Kay to protect the Box of Delights, a Box with which he can travel through time. But Kay is in danger: Abner Brown will stop at nothing to get his hands on it. The police don't believe Kay, so when his family and the Bishop are scrobbled up just before Christmas, he knows he must act alone...



### Molly Moon's Incredible Book of Hypnotism – by Georgia Byng

Orphan Molly Moon was found as a baby in a box marked 'Moon's Marshmallows'. For ten miserable years she's lived under the cruel rule of Miss Adderstone in grim Hardwick House. But her life changes overnight when she finds a mysterious book on hypnotism and discovers an amazing talent - the power to make people do anything she want them to. Escaping from the orphanage, Molly flies to New York in search of fame and fortune. But her adventures in hypnotism lead her into the clutches of a dangerous enemy..



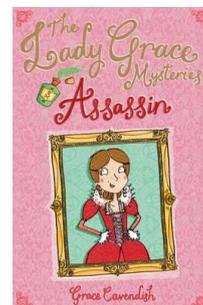
# Year 5 & 6 Book Suggestions

## Age 9+

### The Lady Grace Mysteries: Assassin - by Grace Cavendish

My name is Lady Grace Cavendish, and I'm Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth's favourite Maid of Honour. Everyone thinks growing up at the Royal Court is all parties and feasts and jewels - but mysterious, dangerous things always seem to happen! And because I am small and smart and very good at sneaking around, the Queen has made me her very own special secret investigator. Last night was the Valentine's Ball, and I was supposed to pick a suitor there (boring!). But later on, one of them was found dead - with a dagger in his back! And it's up to me to find the killer ...

(This is the first book in the series)



### The Golden Acorn - by Catherine Helen Cooper

When Jack Brenin finds a golden acorn lying in the grass, little does he know that it is the beginning of a thrilling and magical adventure. Just an ordinary boy, Jack has been chosen for a hugely important task, and enters a world he believed only existed in legend. Full of twists and turns, talking ravens and mischievous Spriggans.

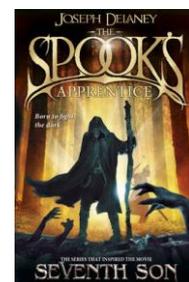
(The Golden Acorn is the first book in the Jack Brenin series)



### The Spook's Apprentice (Wardstone Chronicles) - by Joseph Delaney

*'Someone has to stand against the dark. And you're the only one who can'*

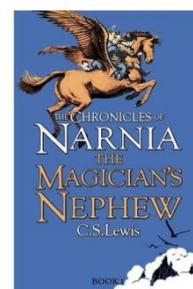
For years, the local Spook has been keeping the County safe from evil. Now his time is coming to an end, but who will take over? Many apprentices have tried. Some floundered, some fled, some failed to stay alive. Just one boy is left. Thomas Ward. He is the last hope. But does he stand a chance against Mother Malkin, the most dangerous witch in the County?



### The Magician's Nephew (The Chronicles of Narnia) - by C. S. Lewis

On a daring quest to save a life, two friends are hurled into another world, where an evil sorceress seeks to enslave them. But then the lion Aslan's song weaves itself into the fabric of a new land, a land that will be known as Narnia. And in Narnia, all things are possible.

(This is the first book in C. S. Lewis's classic fantasy series, The Chronicles of Narnia. The next book is *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*)

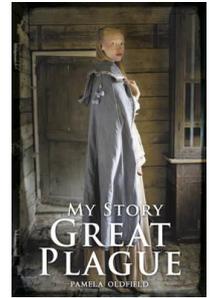


# Year 5 & 6 Book Suggestions

## Age 9+

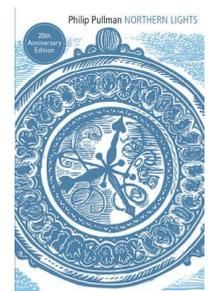
### The Great Plague - by Pamela Oldfield

The Great Plague is a thrilling story of a young girl during the epidemic of 1665. It's 1665, and Alice is looking forward to being back in London. But the plague is spreading quickly, and as each day passes more red crosses appear on doors. When her aunt is struck down with the plague, she is forced to make a decision that could change her life forever... Alice's chilling diary brings alive one of the darkest moments in British history: the Great Plague of 1665-1666.



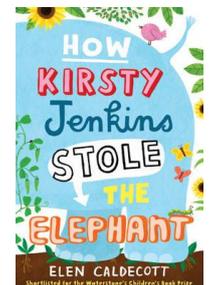
### Northern Lights - by Philip Pullman

Without this child, we shall all die. Lyra Belacqua and her animal daemon live half-wild and carefree among scholars of Jordan College, Oxford. The destiny that awaits her will take her to the frozen lands of the Arctic, where witch-clans reign and ice-bears fight. Her extraordinary journey will have immeasurable consequences far beyond her own world...



### How Kirsty Jenkins Stole the Elephant - by Elen Caldecott

Kirsty Jenkins adores the allotment her grandfather lovingly tends and, just before he dies, he asks Kirsty to look after it for him. But when horrible Mr Thomas from the council insists it must go to the next person on the waiting list, Kirsty is determined to find a way to keep her promise. After pleading with Mr Thomas and demonstrating at the council offices, Kirsty and her half-siblings undertake their most daring plan of all: to 'borrow' the stuffed elephant from the museum that Mr Thomas loves so much, in a last-ditch attempt to gain his attention and understanding.



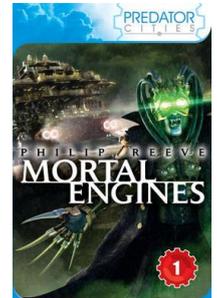
Perhaps this risky ruse might also shake Kirsty's dad from the quiet sadness he has fallen into ever since her grandfather died.

# Year 5 & 6 Book Suggestions

## Age 11+

### **Predator Cities: Mortal Engines - by Philip Reeve**

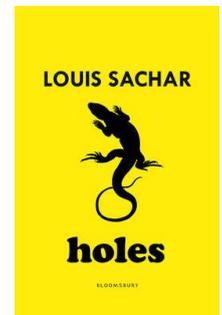
The Predator Cities quartet is a stunning blend of past and future technologies where the world of the traction era and mobile cities fight for survival in a post-apocalyptic future. *Mortal Engines*, the first in the quartet, sets the scene for a stunning quartet of action-packed novels set in a richly inventive world. Big cities gobble up smaller ones and London rules above them all. Tom Natsworthy, a third class apprentice in the Guild of Historians, has the adventure of his life after he sets out to try to find out what has happened to his parents. With a cast of inventive characters including Shrike, Anna Fang and Stalker, a deadly robot killer with a human brain, and cities whose imaginary and multi-layered architecture dazzles, this is a creation on a vast and imaginary scale.



### **Holes - by Louis Sachar**

Stanley Yelnats' family has a history of bad luck, so when a miscarriage of justice sends him to Camp Green Lake Juvenile Detention Centre (which isn't green and doesn't have a lake) he is not surprised. Every day he and the other inmates are told to dig a hole, five foot wide by five foot deep, reporting anything they find. The evil warden claims that it is character building, but this is a lie and Stanley must dig up the truth.

(Try more from this author - *Fuzzy Mud (Age 9+)* featuring some truly terrifying genetically modified mud...)



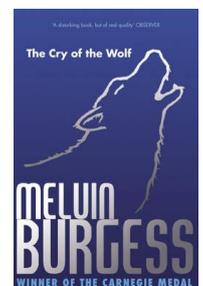
### **Fireweed - by Jill Paton Walsh**

Bill is a fifteen-year-old runaway evacuee, and he's finding that surviving on the streets of London is pretty easy, thank you very much. He's fed by a local cafe owner, he earns some cash as a barrow-boy in Covent Garden, and sleeping in the Underground air-raid shelters is cosy - if a bit smelly. Things get more complicated for Bill with the arrival of Julie. She's a runaway too, and although she's a bit posh, she's just as determined as Bill to stay free of interfering parents and 'the social'. But although it's fun for a while to duck Jerry missiles and camp out in bombed-out houses, the reality of living through the Blitz quickly begins to set in. Winter is coming, and Bill and Julie will discover that playing at being grown-ups can be a very dangerous game....



### **The Cry of the Wolf - by Melvin Burgess**

It was a mistake for Ben to tell the Hunter that there were still wolves in Surrey. For the Hunter was a fanatic, always on the lookout for unusual prey. Driven by an ambition to wipe out the last English wolves, the Hunter set out on a savage quest. But what happens when the Hunter becomes the hunted?



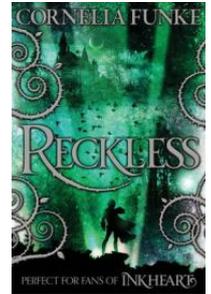
# Year 5 & 6 Book Suggestions

## Age 11+

### Reckless - by Cornelia Funke

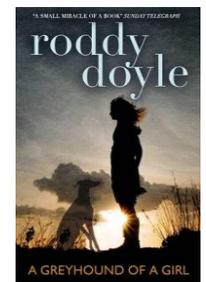
For the first time in his life, Jacob Reckless is afraid. For years he's stolen across to another world. A dark enchanted place he's loved for its treasure, secrets and dangers. Until now. Will, his younger brother, has followed him with terrible consequences: the boy will turn to beast; the girl he loves will break her heart and chaos will rule forever, unless Jacob can spin a fairytale to save them..

(*Fearless* is the second book in this series. Other books by this author are: *The Thief Lord & the Inkheart trilogy*)



### A Greyhound of a Girl - by Roddy Doyle

Scarlet, Mary, Tansey, Emer. Mothers and daughters heading off on a car journey. one of them dead, one of them dying, one of them driving, one of them just beginning. They're going back to the past on a matter of life and death. Meet 12 year old Mary and her beloved grandmother who is nearing the end of her life. Letting go is hard - until Granny's long-dead mammy appears at Mary's door, returning to help her dying daughter say goodbye.



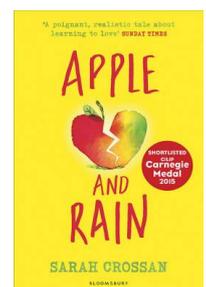
### Jessica's Ghost - by Andrew Norriss

Francis is a bit of an outsider and doesn't really have friends. But he finds it really easy to talk to Jessica. They've got lots in common and are firm friends within hours of meeting. It doesn't really matter to either that Jessica's a ghost.



### Apple and Rain - by Sarah Crossan

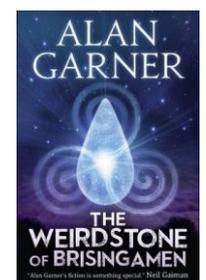
When Apple's mother returns after eleven years of absence, Apple feels whole again. She will have an answer to her burning question - why did you go? And she will have someone who understands what it means to be a teenager - unlike Nana. But just like the stormy Christmas Eve when she left, her mother's homecoming is bitter sweet, and Apple wonders who is really looking after whom. It's only when Apple meets someone more lost than she is, that she begins to see things as they really are.



### The Weirdstone Of Brisingamen - by Alan Garner

The wizard who saves Colin and Susan from the eerie creatures pursuing them across Alderley Edge has been looking for the Weirdstone of Brisingamen - a source of deep magic - for over 100 years. As evil closes in, the children realize that they are the key.

(Another book by this author is *The Owl Service*)

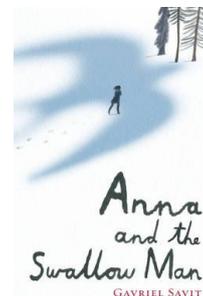


# Year 5 & 6 Book Suggestions

## Age 11+

### Anna and the Swallow Man - by Gavriel Savit

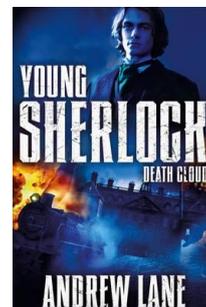
Krakow, 1939, is no place to grow up. There are a million marching soldiers and a thousand barking dogs. And Anna Lania is just seven years old when the Germans take her father and suddenly, she's alone. Then she meets the Swallow Man. He is a mystery, strange and tall. And like Anna's missing father, he has a gift for languages: Polish, Russian, German, Yiddish, even Bird. When he summons a bright, beautiful swallow down to his hand to stop her from crying, Anna is entranced. Over the course of their travels together, Anna and the Swallow Man will dodge bombs, tame soldiers, and even, despite their better judgement, make a friend. But in a world gone mad, everything can prove dangerous...



### Young Sherlock Holmes: Death Cloud - by Andrew Lane

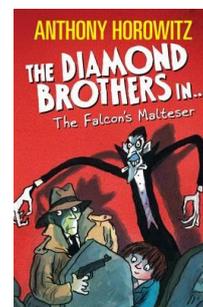
The year is 1868, and Sherlock Holmes is fourteen. His life is that of a perfectly ordinary army officer's son: boarding school, good manners, a classical education - the backbone of the British Empire. But all that is about to change. With his father suddenly posted to India, and his mother mysteriously 'unwell', Sherlock is sent to stay with his eccentric uncle and aunt in their vast house in Hampshire. So begins a summer that leads Sherlock to uncover his first murder, a kidnap, corruption and a brilliantly sinister villain of exquisitely malign intent...

(Death Cloud is the first in a series of novels in which the iconic detective is reimagined as a brilliant, troubled and engaging teenager. Lots of details can be found at [www.youngsherlock.com](http://www.youngsherlock.com))



### Falcon's Malteser - by Anthony Horowitz

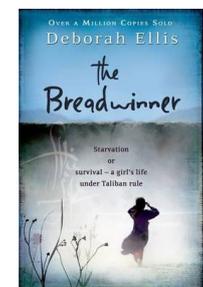
When a dwarf comes into the office and leaves a package, Tim Diamond, the world's worst private dick, is faced with his toughest case yet. The office is ransacked and the package is found to contain simply a box of Maltesers. Who was the dwarf and why was he murdered shortly after his visit?



### The Breadwinner - by Deborah Ellis

Afghanistan: Parvana's father is arrested and taken away by Taliban soldiers. Under Taliban law, women and girls are not allowed to leave the house on their own. Parvana, her mother, and sisters are prisoners in their own home. With no man to go out to buy food, they face starvation. So Parvana must pretend to be a boy to save her family. It is a dangerous plan, but their only chance. In fear, she goes out - and witnesses the horror of landmines, the brutality of the Taliban, and the desperation of a country trying to survive. But even in despair lies hope..

(Another book by this author is *My Name is Parvana*)



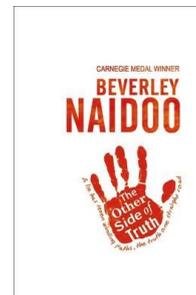
# Year 5 & 6 Book Suggestions

## Age 11+

### **The Other Side of Truth - by Beverley Naidoo**

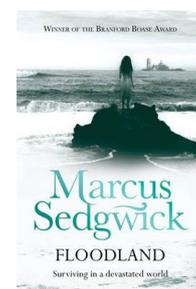
This is the story of 12 year-old Sade and her brother Femi who flee to Britain from Nigeria. Their father is a political journalist who refuses to stop criticising the military rulers in Nigeria. Their mother is killed and they are sent to London, with their father promising to follow.

Abandoned at Victoria Station by the woman paid to bring them to England as her children, Sade and Femi find themselves alone in a new, often hostile, environment. Seen through the eyes of Sade, the novel explores what it means to be classified as 'illegal' and the difficulties which come with being a refugee.



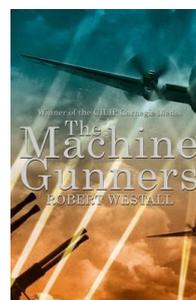
### **Floodland - by Marcus Sedgwick**

In an England covered by water, Zoe lives alone in the island of Norwich, lost by her parents in the rush to escape. Desperate to survive the marauding gangs, she digs a derelict boat out of the mud and makes her way to Eels Island, only to find that this island is dominated by danger too.



### **The Machine Gunners - by Robert Westall**

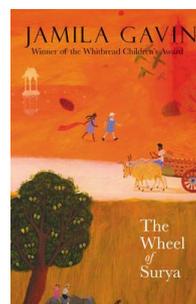
*'Some bright kid's got a gun and 2000 rounds of live ammo. And that gun's no pea-shooter. It'll go through a brick wall at a quarter of a mile.'* Chas McGill has the second-best collection of war souvenirs in Garmouth, and he desperately wants it to be the best. When he stumbles across the remains of a German bomber crashed in the woods - its shiny, black machine-gun still intact - he grabs his chance. Soon he's masterminding his own war effort with dangerous and unexpected results...



### **The Wheel of Surya by Jamila Gavin**

In 1947 India is rocked by the Independence movement and partition with Pakistan. Their lives disrupted by violence, Jaspal and Marvinder are sent from their Indian village to find their father, who is a student in England. This is a story touching on culture, class, faith and family set against the backdrop of Indian independence.

(Another book by this author is *Coram Boy*)



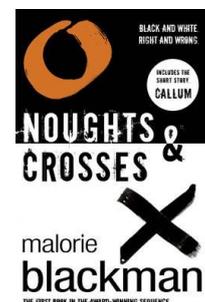
# Year 5 & 6 Book Suggestions

## Age 11+

### **Noughts and Crosses - by Malorie Blackman**

Sephy is a Cross - a member of the dark-skinned ruling class. Callum is a nought - a 'colourless' member of the underclass who were once slaves to the Crosses. The two have been friends since early childhood. But that's as far as it can go. Until the first steps are taken towards more social equality and a limited number of Noughts are allowed into Cross schools. Against a background of prejudice and distrust, intensely highlighted by violent terrorist activity by Noughts, a romance builds between Sephy and Callum - a romance that is to lead both of them into terrible danger.

(This is a 4 book series)



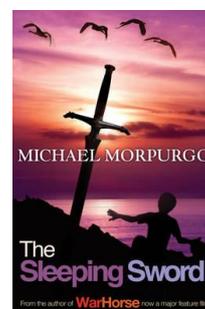
### **Airman - by Eoin Colfer**

One dark night on the island of Great Saltee, fourteen-year-old Conor is framed for a terrible crime he didn't commit. Thrown into prison by the dastardly Hugo Bonvilain, Conor is trapped in a sea swept dungeon and branded a traitor. He must escape and clear his name, he wants his old life back - his family, his friends... and his princess.



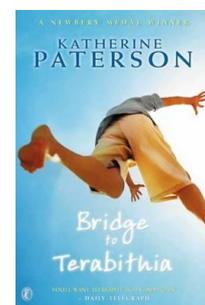
### **The Sleeping Sword - by Michael Morpurgo**

This fantastic tale interweaves the story of a blind boy who lives on the Scilly Isles, with the myth and truth of King Arthur, Michael Morpurgo takes the reader deep inside the mind of a boy who seems ordinary but is really anything but. The story is told by the boy, Bun, in the first person, as his own true story that becomes a story from his imagination about discovering a very special sword and shield in a tomb on his father's farm.



### **A Bridge to Terabithia - by Katherine Paterson**

Jess Aarons wants to be the fastest boy in the class, but when a girl named Leslie Burke moves into the neighbouring farm his life changes forever. Even though she runs faster than him, Jess begins to think Leslie might be okay - she's clever and funny and not a bit soppy. And it is Leslie who invents Terabithia, the secret country on an island across the creek where he can escape his troublesome family. The only way to reach Terabithia is by rope-swing where Jess and Leslie become King and Queen, defeating giants, sharing stories and dreams, and plotting against their enemies. They are invincible - until tragedy strikes. It is more dreadful than anything Jess had ever dreamed of, but as he struggles to cope with his grief and anger, he finds that his family value him more than he'd thought and that, still King, he could even save Terabithia for the future.

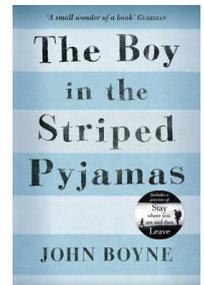


# Year 5 & 6 Book Suggestions

## Age 11+

### **The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas - by John Boyne**

Nine year old Bruno knows nothing of the Final Solution and the Holocaust. He is oblivious to the appalling cruelties being inflicted on the people of Europe by his country. All he knows is that he has been moved from a comfortable home in Berlin to a house in a desolate area where there is nothing to do and no-one to play with.



### **Eragon - by Christopher Paolini**

When Eragon finds a polished stone in the forest, he thinks it is the lucky discovery that will buy his family meat for the winter. But when the stone brings a dragon hatchling, Eragon soon realizes he has stumbled upon a legacy nearly as old as the Empire itself. His life is shattered and he is thrust into a perilous world of magic and power.

(This is the first book in the series)



### **One Wish - by Michelle Harrison**

Having the ability to see fairies means that Tanya Fairchild's life has never been easy. After all, real fairies are nothing like the ones in books; ones that grant wishes or leave money for teeth. Real fairies don't like to be talked about and cast spells if Tanya steps out of line, and the most she's ever received in exchange for one of her teeth is a chewed up toffee. Of course, it would help if Tanya knew someone, anyone else could see them, too ...When Tanya meets Ratty, she finds not only can he see fairies, but even has a fairy friend, Turpin - she's rude and spiteful, but funny and loyal too. When Ratty goes missing, Tanya discovers her new friend has another extraordinary ability; an ability that has the potential to destroy them both.

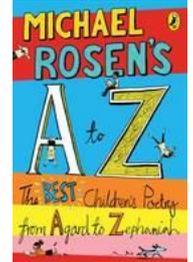


# Year 5 & 6 Book Suggestions

## Poetry

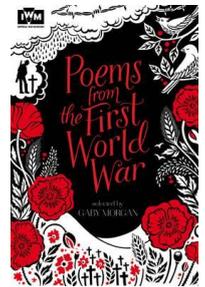
### Michael Rosen's A-Z The Best Children's Poetry from Agard to Zephaniah - by Michael Rosen

From Agard to Zephaniah, the very best of children's poetry from the very best of children's poets appears in this wonderful and exciting anthology edited by Michael Rosen, the Children's Laureate. Coinciding with his laureateship and a very welcome public promotion of the need for children's poetry in our education system, this future classic for Puffin will delight readers young and old, and make the perfect gift.



### Poems from the First World War - by Gaby Morgan

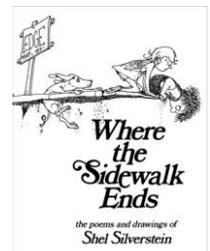
Poems from the First World War is a moving and powerful collection of poems written by soldiers, nurses, mothers, sweethearts and family and friends who experienced WWI from different standpoints. It records the early excitement and patriotism, the bravery, friendship and loyalty of the soldiers, and the heartbreak, disillusionment and regret as the war went on to damage a generation. It includes poems from Wilfred Owen, Rupert Brooke, Vera Brittain, Eleanor Farjeon, Edward Thomas, Laurence Binyon, John McCrae, Siegfried Sassoon and many more.



### Where the Sidewalk Ends - by Shel Silverstein

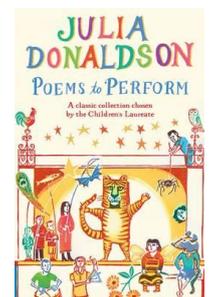
If you are a dreamer, come in, If you are a dreamer, A wisher, a liar, A hope-er, a pray-er, A magic bean buyer ...Come in ...for where the sidewalk ends, Shel Silverstein's world begins. You'll meet a boy who turns into a TV set, and a girl who eats a whale. The Unicorn and the Bloath live there, and so does Sarah Cynthia Sylvia Stout who will not take the garbage out. It is a place where you wash your shadow and plant diamond gardens, a place where shoes fly, sisters are auctioned off, and crocodiles go to the dentist.

(Try other poetry by this author: *Every Thing On It*, *A Light in the Attic* and *Falling Up*)



### Poems to Perform - by Julia Donaldson

Julia Donaldson has chosen poems with performance by children in mind, and her notes and ideas on performing them are included in a special section at the end of the book. The poems range from classics by Edward Lear, W H Auden and Eleanor Farjeon to contemporary work by Michael Rosen, John Agard and Clare Bevan.



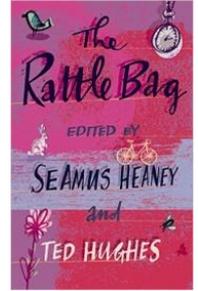
# Year 5 & 6 Book Suggestions

## Poetry

### **The Rattle Bag: An Anthology of Poetry – by Seamus Heaney and Ted Hughes**

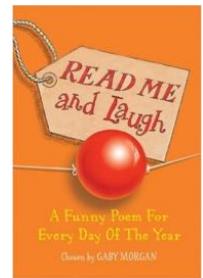
Edited by Seamus Heaney and Ted Hughes, and conceived of as a collection of their own favourite poems, *The Rattle Bag* has established itself as the classic anthology of our time. Heaney and Hughes have brought together an inspired and diverse selection, ranging from undisputed masterpieces to rare discoveries, as well as drawing upon works in translation and traditional poems from oral cultures.

(If you like these poems then also try *The School Bag*)



### **Read Me and Laugh: A funny poem for every day of the year - by Gaby Morgan**

The collection features a funny poem for every day of the year, from rhymes that will raise a gentle smile to verse that will make you laugh your socks off. This book is packed with gems new and old from poets such as Charles Causley, Roger McGough, Lewis Carroll, Paul Cookson and Wendy Cope.



# Year 5 & 6 Book Suggestions

## Books with Facts

### The Usborne Official Astronaut's Handbook - by Louie Stowell

Discover how you become an astronaut, the training you must undertake, how you travel into space and what you do when you're up there.

With a foreword from ESA astronaut Tim Peake, the first British astronaut to embark on a mission to the International Space Station. Published to coincide with Tim's ISS mission in November 2015, which is sure to inspire a whole generation of children, much as the moon landings did in the 1960s and '70s. This is a whole new era of space exploration and this book features the latest and most accurate information, as it is written in conjunction with experts from the UK Space Agency.

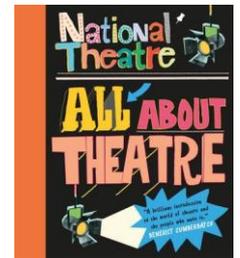


### National Theatre: All About Theatre - by National Theatre

Theatre brings people together to experience a story, but it isn't just about what is seen on stage. It takes many different people with many different skills to put on a play.

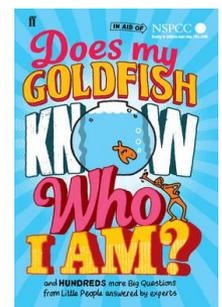
An exciting collaboration with the National Theatre which explores how plays are staged, from first idea to final curtain. *All About Theatre* is a richly illustrated hardback specially designed to take children behind the scenes and open up the world of theatre. This unique and lively book shows how plays like *War Horse*, *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* and many others are made and includes interviews with famous directors and actors.

Packed with tricks of the trade and insights from theatre experts like fight directors and prop-makers, this fascinating book tells you everything about theatre, from back stage to front of house. And with fun ideas to try at home, the book will inspire young readers to get involved in theatre themselves.



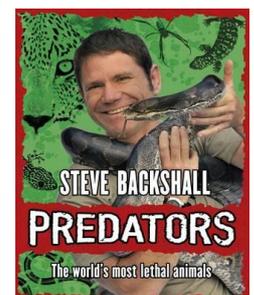
### Does My Goldfish Know Who I am? And Hundreds More Big Questions from Little People Answered by Experts

This book takes real children's questions gathered from primary schools across the UK and asks some of the greatest thinkers and experts of our time to give short and accessible answers. Brian Cox explores the edge of the universe, Sir David Attenborough tells us whether monkeys could ever turn into men, and Miranda Hart ponders why it's funny when someone farts.



### Predators - by Steve Backshall

Join DEADLY presenter Steve Backshall as he comes face to face with the world's deadliest animals, in a book packed with fascinating facts, killer statistics and stunning photographs. Combined with his own incredible experiences with creatures, large and small, Steve reveals tricks of camouflage, feats of strength, endurance, teamwork and speed, as well as giving us a glimpse into the lives of extremeophiles and looking at some of our planet's endangered species.

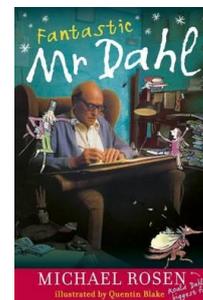


# Year 5 & 6 Book Suggestions

## Books with Facts

### Fantastic Mr Dahl - by Michael Rosen

Just how did Roald Dahl get into writing? Where did he get his ideas from? What ingredients in his life turned him into the kind of writer he was? Michael Rosen - poet, broadcaster and former Children's Laureate, comes up with some of the answers to these key questions in his lively biography of the world's Number1 storyteller. Full of stories and funny anecdotes from Roald Dahl's school days and family life, Michael Rosen's fascinating observations creates a vivid picture of one of the most famous writers of all time.



### 13 Photos Children Should Know - by Brad Finger

Some of the world's most renowned pictures are also the most exciting to view and discuss. From Neil Armstrong's first steps on the moon to the fall of the Berlin Wall; Lindbergh's historic landing in Paris to Nelson Mandela's release from prison; portraits of Albert Einstein, Princess Diana and the Beatles; the opening ceremony of the Beijing Olympics and the devastating oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico-these and other history-making photographs are presented in double-page spreads that offer stunning reproductions of the images themselves, helpful background information on the events and people they portray, and perspectives on the circumstances that inspired them.



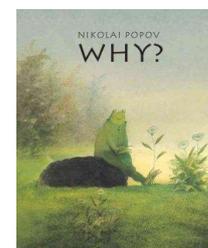
### Thing Explainer-Complicated Stuff in Simple Words – by Randall Munroe

A series of brilliantly simple diagrams ('blueprints' if you want to be complicated about it) that show how important things work: from the nuclear bomb to the biro...



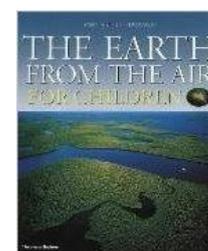
### Why? – by Nikolai Popov

A moving allegory of conflict and destruction Hundreds of flowers grow in the field, but the one that mouse wants is precisely the flower frog holds in her hand, and mouse does not hesitate to grab it. The frog calls her friends to the rescue, and mouse follows suit. The tension escalates.



### The Earth from the Air for Children Children's Edition - by Yann Arthus-Bertrand

These remarkable aerial photographs of the Earth will take children to a world of discovery. The supporting text reveals the fascinating story that each photograph tells.



# Year 5 & 6 Book Suggestions

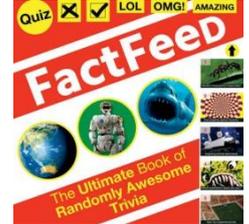
## Books with Facts

### Factfeed - by Penny Arlon

Find out the coolest animal facts, the most unbelievable science info and amazing 'did you know' details about everyday life. It's the ultimate book of randomly awesome trivia.

Including:

- the 10 most disgusting parasites
- 8 ways that plants 'think'
- 10 cool ways your body defends itself
- the 10 weirdest bits of space junk
- 10 gross lunch boxes from around the world
- 10 cool robots
- 5 ways social media is rewiring your brain



### The Guinness World of Records

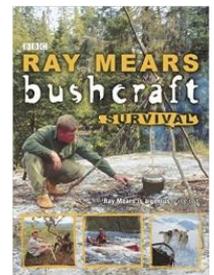
The world's best-selling annual is back and bursting with thousands of amazing new records, never-before-seen images, fact-packed infographics and mind-boggling trivia. And as always, we have a few more surprises in store for you..



### Bushcraft Survival - by Ray Mears

Ray Mears travels to some of the most remote and beautiful wildernesses in the world, and experiences firsthand the survival techniques of different indigenous cultures.

From the Hudson Bay in Canada, via Tanzania and the jungles of Venezuela, to the moors and highlands of Britain, BUSHCRAFT SURVIVAL explores a range of locations and techniques from indigenous peoples. Drawing on centuries of knowledge as well as his own experience, Ray demonstrates how our enjoyment of the wilderness comes through respect for our surroundings and the people, plants and animals that live there.

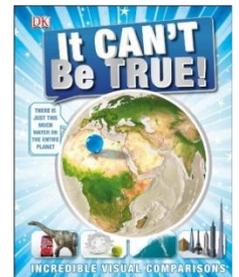


### It Can't be True!

*It Can't be True!* lets you in on life's little secrets that seem unbelievable but are totally true.

For example: Did you know that the Moon is the same size as Australia? Or that a blue whale's heart is as large as a car?

Explore a world of subjects, from the tiniest microchips to the massive, swirling planet Jupiter, with stunning photographs and images to help you visualise and understand each comparison.

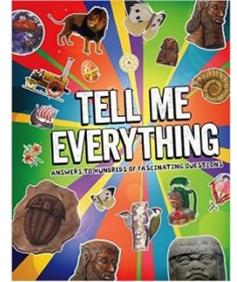


# Year 5 & 6 Book Suggestions

## Books with Facts

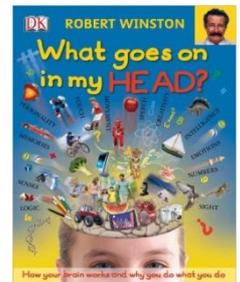
### Tell Me Everything

Whether you're looking up information for a project or coursework, or just out of interest, *Tell Me Everything* has the answers! Over 300 information-packed pages will take you through subjects such as The World, in which the animal kingdom, the plant world, earth and space and prehistory are all investigated.



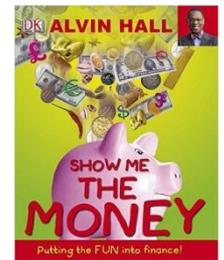
### What Goes On In My Head? - by Robert Winston

Introducing you to the most powerful, complicated computer network that exists - your brain. Make sense of the brain's mind-boggling structure and understand how it controls everything you do, you'll uncover the secrets of your inner world in incredible detail.



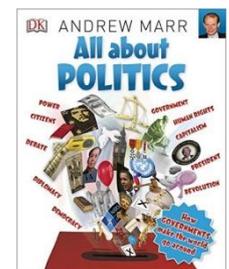
### Show Me the Money: Big Questions About Finance – by Alvin Hall

Money might make the world go around, but only if you know how to use it..... This book enters the world of business and economics learning about how money works, from its history to how it grows.



### All About Politic - by Andrew Marr

This is a straight-talking guide to how politics really work. All the political structures and ideas are covered, from ancient Greek philosophy to modern governments. Find out how different systems and beliefs have developed, the ways in which laws are made, what happens behind the scenes in parliament, and how you can get involved. Plus, it clearly explains those tricky words and definitions with bright graphics and clever illustrations.



### Stories of the First World War - by Jim Eldridge

A collection of short stories brings 1914-1918 to life through the experiences of twelve children and young people. From the efforts on the Home Front in both Britain and Germany, to the young soldiers in the trenches at the Western Front and from the horrors of Gallipoli to the naval battle of Jutland.

