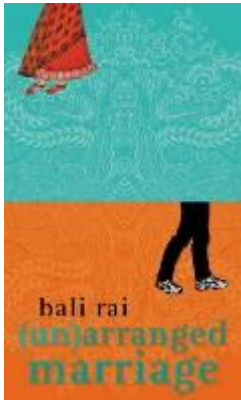


Recommended Reading List - Year 9

If you have read all these titles then try the books from the Year 10/11 list.



(Un)arranged Marriage

Bali Rai

Set partly in the UK and partly in the Punjab region of India, "(Un)arranged Marriage" is a perceptive look at a young man's fight to free himself from family expectations and an arranged marriage he doesn't want.



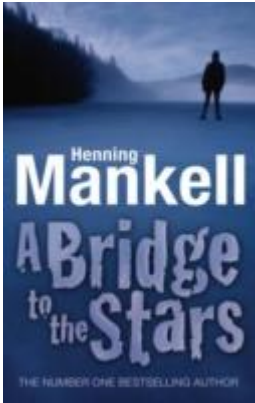
Animal Farm George Orwell

Having got rid of their human master, the animals of Manor Farm look forward to a life of freedom and plenty. But as a clever, ruthless elite among them takes control, the other animals find themselves hopelessly ensnared in the old ways. Orwell's chilling story of the betrayal of idealism through tyranny and corruption, is as fresh and relevant today as when it was first published in 1945.



Blood Red, Snow White Marcus Sedgwick

Set at the time of the Russian Revolution, the end of a centuries old dynasty, the rise of the Bolsheviks sent shockwaves around the world. This is the story of one man who was there. It's real history - about the riches and excesses, the glory of the Russian nobility, Nicholas and Alexandra, their haemophiliac son, Alexei, notorious Rasputin, Lenin and Trotsky who ruled from palaces where the Czars had once danced till dawn. The man was real too, his name was Arthur Ransome. He was a writer, accused of being a spy, perhaps even a double agent, and he left his wife and beloved daughter and fell in love with Russia and a Russian woman, Evgenia.



Bridge to the Stars **Henning Mankell**

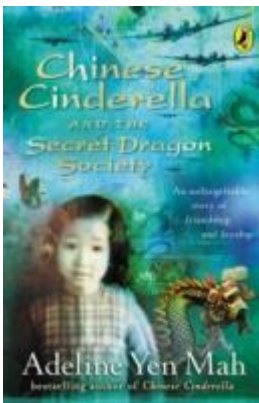
12 year old Joel lives with his father in the cold northern part of Sweden. At night he often sneaks out of his father's house to look for a lonely dog he has seen from his window. On the bridge across the icy river he starts a secret society and has adventures.

But one night he discovers that his father's bed is also empty and will have to come terms with his father's new found love. The harsh reality of Joel's world comes vividly to life and leaves the reader spellbound.



Brother in the Land **Robert Swindells**

This is an 'After-the-Bomb' story told by teenage Danny, one of the survivors - one of the unlucky ones. Set in Shipley, an ordinary town in the north of England, this is a powerful portrayal of a world that has broken down. Danny not only has to cope in a world of lawlessness and gang warfare, but he has to protect and look after his little brother, Ben, and a girl called Kim. Is there any hope left for a new world?



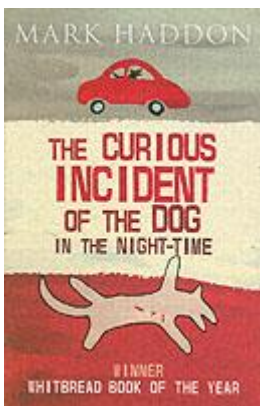
Chinese Cinderella and the Secret Dragon Society **Adeline Yen Mah**

During her lonely childhood in Shanghai, Adeline Yen Mah wrote adventure stories to escape from her terrible step-mother and cruel siblings. The characters she created often became more real to her than her own family. In Chinese Cinderella and the Secret Dragon Society, Adeline tells the story of Chinese Cinderella, a young girl who, after being thrown out of her home, has no choice but to go out and seek her own destiny. Soon she meets up with a group of children, all orphaned but each from a different background, who live with an old lady called Grandma Wu. Chinese Cinderella, or CC for short, decides her future after consulting an ancient book which helps to show her the way forward. And her choice takes her on a mission to save the lives of others. Based on a true-life incident during World War II. CC and the others bravely rescue a group of American pilots whose plane crashed after a bombing raid on Japan. Although her father is looking for her, CC knows that she can never go back to live with her cruel stepmother, and now there is no turning back.



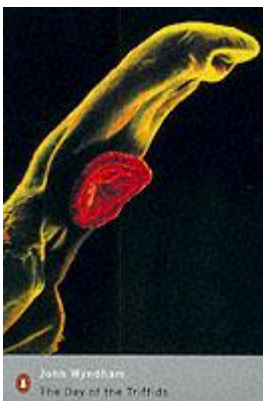
Coram Boy **Jamila Gavin**

Otis takes babies and money off desperate mothers, promising to deliver them to the Coram Foundling Hospital in London. Instead, he murders them and buries them by the roadside, to the helpless horror of his mentally ill son, Mish. When Melissa, beloved of Alexander Ashbrook and daughter of his governess becomes pregnant by him, her mother arranges for the Otis to take the child, telling Melissa it was stillborn. Alexander, not knowing Melissa's condition, has fled his home for a career in music. But Mish manages to save Melissa's baby, Aaron, and he grows up with Toby, the son of an African slave, inseparable friends. Toby is a plaything at the house of rich Mr Gaddarn, who is, in fact, Otis. When Mish sees Aaron and Alexander together, and realises the family link, he takes Aaron and Toby to Otis, who rejects them. A way must be found to rescue them, but a great friend must die before the family can be reunited.



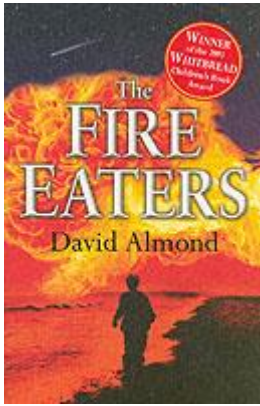
The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time **Mark Haddon**

Christopher is 15 and lives in Swindon with his father. He has Asperger's Syndrome, a form of autism. He is obsessed with maths, science and Sherlock Holmes but finds it hard to understand other people. When he discovers a dead dog on a neighbour's lawn he decides to solve the mystery and write a detective thriller about it. As in all good detective stories, however, the more he unearths, the deeper the mystery gets - for both Christopher and the rest of his family.



The Day of the Triffids **John Wyndham**

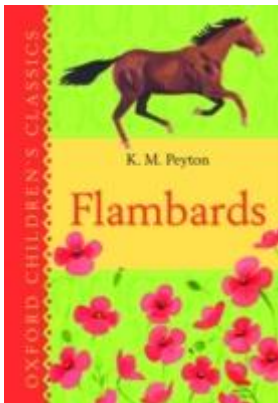
When Bill Masen wakes up blindfolded in hospital there is a bitter irony in his situation. Carefully removing his bandages, he realizes that he is the only person who can see: everyone else, doctors and patients alike, have been blinded by a meteor shower. Now, with civilization in chaos, the triffids - huge, venomous, large-rooted plants able to 'walk', feeding on human flesh - can have their day. "The Day of the Triffids", published in 1951, expresses many of the political concerns of its time: the Cold War, the fear of biological experimentation and the man-made apocalypse. However, with its terrifyingly believable insights into the genetic modification of plants, the book is more relevant today than ever before.



The Fire Eaters

David Almond

There he was, below the bridge, half-naked, eyes blazing. He had a pair of burning torches. He ran them back and forth across his skin. He sipped from a bottle, breathed across a torch, and fire and fumes leapt from his lips. The air was filled with the scent of paraffin. He breathed again, a great high spreading flag of fire. He glared. He roared like an animal. That summer, life had seemed perfect for Bobby Burns. But now it's autumn and the winds of change are blowing hard. Bobby's dad is mysteriously ill. His new school is a cold and cruel place. And worse: nuclear war may be about to start. But Bobby has a wonder-working friend called Ailsa Spink. And he's found the fire-eater, a devil called McNulty. What can they do together on Bobby's beach? Is it possible to work miracles? Will they be able to transform the world?



Flambards

K M Peyton

If you love a good story, then look no further. Oxford Children's Classics bring together the most unforgettable stories ever told. They're books to treasure and return to again and again.

Christina is sent to live with her uncle in his country house, Flambards, and knows from the moment she arrives that she'll never fit in. Her uncle is fierce and domineering and her cousin, Mark, is selfish - but despite all this, Christina discovers a passion for horse-riding and finds a true friend in Will.

What Christina has yet to realize, though, is the important part she has to play in the future of this strange household...

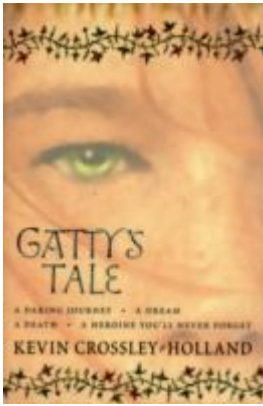


Style Sisters

Liz Elwes

Friends, fashion and finally boys - it is all here! 'Hi Kate it's me.' 'Me?' 'It's me, the crappiest friend from crap-friends' town.' 'Ah that clears that up' 'Kate, I am so sorry, I don't know what to say...' 'How about this; My once sharp brain has been taken over by a mysterious boy-power which has robbed me of my senses. My dreamy Danny, whom I have known for three and a half seconds, is now the most important thing in my life, and my dearest friends Kate and Chloe, whom I have known since reception class, will now be spurned for Danny's love.' 'Ouch, ouch, okay, okay.' Carrie has finished grieving for

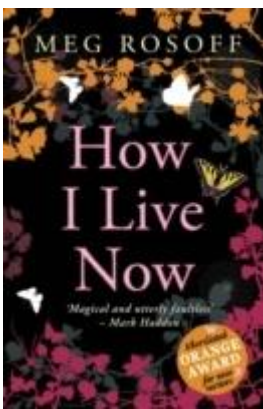
Danny who left a week ago to live in Birmingham and now she must make amends to her neglected friends. From now on she is going to put her friends first and do as many good deeds as she can. With Kate and Chloe, Carrie starts by forming a 'style' group that will help the others and give everyone more confidence. But things never quite work out as planned...



Gatty's Tale **Kevin Crossley-Holland**

Of all the characters in *THE SEEING STONE* and *AT THE CROSSING-PLACES*, it is Gatty the village girl - steadfast, forthright, innocent and wise - who has won the hearts of readers. This is her story. Gatty, who has never been further than her own village, is picked by Lady Gwyneth of Ewloe to join the band of pilgrims accompanying her to Jerusalem. The journey is fraught with danger and uncertainty, but opens Gatty's eyes to new wonders and transforms her. A joyful, heartrending, triumphant novel, packed with incident, teeming with characters, and a long-awaited treat for the many

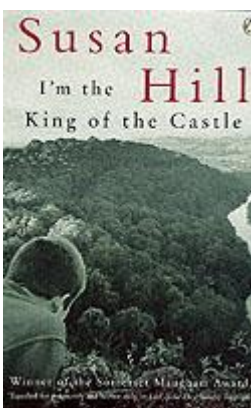
readers who want to know what happened to Gatty after the Arthur trilogy. This ambitious novel creates a magnificently vivid and realistic picture of life and times in the Europe of 1202.



How I Live Now **Meg Rosoff**

Daisy is sent from New York to England to spend a summer with cousins she has never met. They are Isaac, Edmond, Osbert and Piper. And two dogs and a goat. She's never met anyone quite like them before - and, as a dreamy English summer progresses, Daisy finds herself caught in a timeless bubble. It seems like the perfect summer. But their lives are about to explode. Falling in love is just the start of it. War breaks out - a war none of them understands, or really cares about, until it lands on their doorstep. The family is separated. The perfect summer is blown apart. Daisy's life is changed

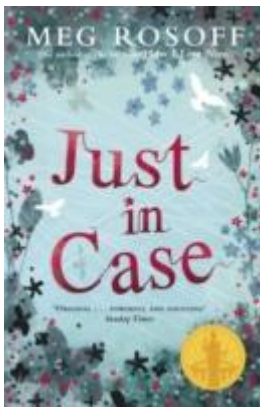
forever - and the world is too. Together, they must make a dramatic and extraordinary journey across Scotland so that Davie can claim his rightful inheritance. This is an epic story of adventure, friendship, murder and revenge!



I'm the King of the Castle **Susan Hill**

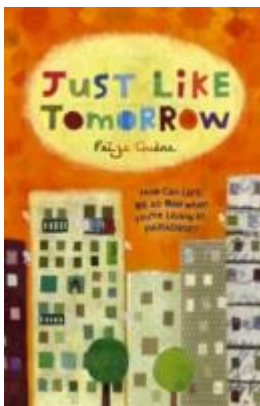
'I didn't want you to come here.' So says the note that the boy Edmund Hooper passes to Charles Kingshaw upon his arrival at Warings. But, young Kingshaw and his mother have come to live with Hooper and his father in the ugly, isolated Victorian house for good. To Hooper, Kingshaw is an intruder, a boy to be subtly persecuted, and Kingshaw finds that even the most ordinary object can be turned by Hooper into a source of terror. In Hang Wood their roles are briefly reversed, but Kingshaw knows Hooper will never let him be.

Kingshaw cannot win, not in the last resort. He knows it, and so does Hooper. And the worst is still to come...



Just in Case **Meg Rosoff**

What if Fate were out to get you? The day David Case saves his brother's life, his whole world changes. Suddenly, every moment is fizzing with significance, full of what ifs? He must hide, become an entirely new person to escape Fate ...if he can. Will changing his name, befriending an astrophysicist and gaining an imaginary pet be enough? Bewildered and obsessive, he'll try anything to survive.



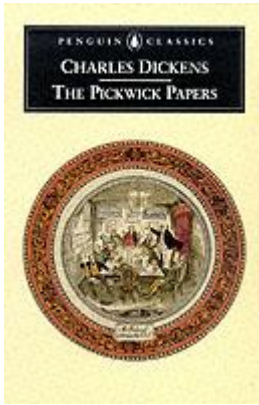
Just Like Tomorrow **Faiza Guene**

Fifteen-year-old Doria isn't in a good place. Or to be precise: she's in the sadly misnamed Paradise Estate on the outskirts of Paris. Her father has gone off back to Morocco to find a wife who can give him a boy, and her illiterate, non French-speaking mother is having to fend for herself with a cleaning job in a grim motel. What's more, her favourite soap star has turned out to be gay and it looks like the only school that is going to accept Doria is the one for future hairdressers. Still, it could be worse: Doria could be like Samra, the girl in the flat above, whose father doesn't let her out, or Youssef who has been banged up for a year for dealing in drugs and stolen cars. At least Hamoudi - twenty-eight and the coolest guy on the estate - is her friend. And at least she gets a free weekly session with psychologist Mrs Burland, who is about the only person who listens, even if she doesn't quite understand...In this fabulous first novel, Faiza Guene has created an unforgettable voice. Doria is both clued up and innocent, acutely aware of what's in store for her and powerless to change it. She is funny, clever and tragically trapped. But in the end, her dogged determination not to be down-trodden and humiliated wins through and it looks like things can only get better.



Nineteen Eighty-four **George Orwell**

Newspeak, Doublethink, Big Brother, the Thought Police - George Orwell's novel coined new and potent words of warning for us all. It is one of the most brilliant satires on totalitarianism ever written. 'It is a volley against the authoritarian in every personality, a polemic against every orthodoxy, an anarchistic blast against every unquestioning conformist...' "Nineteen Eighty-four" is a great novel and a great tract because of the clarity of its call, and it will endure because its message is a permanent one: erroneous thought is the stuff of freedom' - Ben Pimlott.

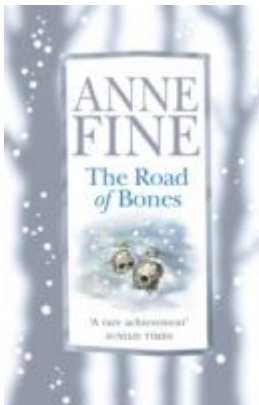


Pickwick Papers

Charles Dickens

"The Pickwick Papers" began as a literary spoof centred around sketches of stock sporting fops by caricaturist Robert Seymour. Following the success of "Sketches by Boz", Dickens was recruited to compose the words which would accompany the illustrations. Dickens quickly made the project his own and created some of his most popular characters: Samuel Pickwick, and his companions Winkle, Augustus Snodgrass, and Tracy Tupman.

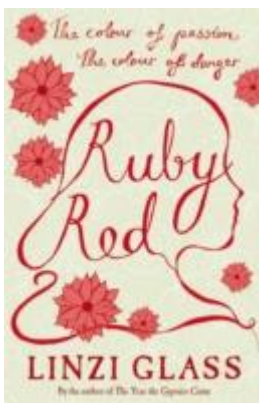
At the height of its popularity "The Pickwick Papers" sold 40,000 copies a month and catapulted the 24 year old Dickens to fame.



The Road of Bones

Anne Fine

Told who to cheer for, who to believe in, Yuri grows up in a country where no freedom of thought is encouraged - where even one's neighbours are encouraged to report any dissension to the authorities. But it is still a shock when a few careless words lead him to a virtual death-sentence - sent on a nightmare journey up north to a camp amidst the frozen wastes. What, or who, can he possibly believe in now? Can he even survive? And is escape possible ...?



Ruby Red

Linzi Glass

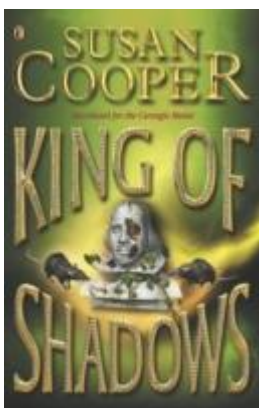
In Ruby Winters' world, colour opens some doors and slams others shut. Her opulent Johannesburg neighbourhood is a far cry from the streets of Soweto where anger and hatred simmer under the surface. Ruby can't resist the blue-eyed Afrikaans boy who brings her the exciting rush of first love, but whose presence brings hushed whispers and disapproving glances.

She might not see race, colour or creed - but it seems everybody else does... This dazzling novel will entrance teenage and adult readers alike.



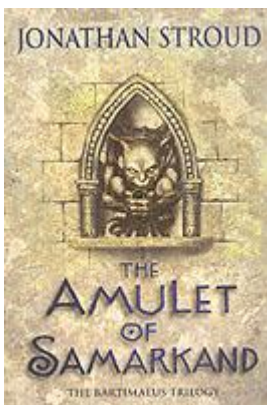
What I Was **Meg Rosoff**

'I'd been kicked out of two boarding schools and the last thing I wanted was to be here, on the East Anglian coast, in a third. But without St. Oswald's, I would not have discovered the fisherman's hut with its roaring fire, its striped blankets, its sea monster stew. Without St. Oswald's, I would not have met the boy with the beautiful eyes, the flickering half-smile, and no past. Without St. Oswald's, I would not have met Finn. And without Finn, there would be no story. Shall we begin?'



King of Shadows **Susan Cooper**

Nat Field is a young actor who has travelled from America to rehearse and perform as Puck in a "Midsummer Night's Dream", at the new Globe Theatre in London. As rehearsals intensify, Nat's health begins to fail and soon the rest of the cast are horrified to hear that he's been rushed into hospital with Bubonic Plague! Something strange happens, and as Nat's friends worry about him, he is experiencing an amazing adventure with the King of Shadows, William Shakespeare himself, and performing in the original Globe Theatre.



The Amulet of Samarkand **Jonathan Stroud**

When the 5,000-year-old djinni Bartimaeus is summoned by Nathaniel, a young magician's apprentice, he expects to have to do nothing more taxing than a little levitation or a few simple illusions. But Nathaniel is a precocious talent and has something rather more dangerous in mind: revenge. Against his will, Bartimaeus is packed off to steal the powerful Amulet of Samarkand from Simon Lovelace, a master magician of unrivalled ruthlessness and ambition.

Before long, both djinni and apprentice are caught up in a terrifying flood of magical intrigue, murder and rebellion. Set in a modern-day London controlled by magicians, this hilarious, electrifying thriller will enthral readers of all ages.