

Dear Parents and Carers,

At the Marlborough Science Academy, we believe in the importance of reading for pleasure. Not only is reading an important skill to develop but reading for pleasure is also a fantastic form of relaxation and escapism, which supports mental wellbeing.

We have therefore put together a suggested reading list for your children and would be delighted to receive any book reviews that they would like to send in to me at [s.nixon@marlborough.herts.sch.uk](mailto:s.nixon@marlborough.herts.sch.uk) The best reviews will be posted on our LRC Instagram account which you can find here <https://www.instagram.com/marlboroughlrc/> All our posts are public so you don't need an Instagram account to view them. We will also use reviews for a display in the LRC in September.

There is also a list of books for reluctant and less confident readers and a poster with books that reflect our school values of Dignity, Kindness, Compassion, Courage and Endeavour.

To access the books, I would suggest joining the public library if you aren't already a member. You can join online here <https://herts.spydus.co.uk/cgi-bin/spydus.exe/MSGTRN/OPAC/JOIN?HOMEPRMS=GENPARAMS> and in addition to physical books you can access both ebooks and audiobooks via their app BorrowBox.

If you would like to purchase any of the books, I can recommend our local independent bookseller Brenda Parkhouse, who can arrange delivery locally or collection from her address in St Albans. The school will receive a percentage of any sales in books for the LRC. Brenda's details are below.

Brenda Parkhouse  
24 Flora Grove  
St Albans  
AL1 5ET

Telephone: 07808850123

Email: [Brendaparkhouse@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:Brendaparkhouse@hotmail.co.uk)

If you have any queries, please do get in touch.

I look forward to meeting your children in September.

Yours faithfully



Mrs S Nixon  
LRC Manager



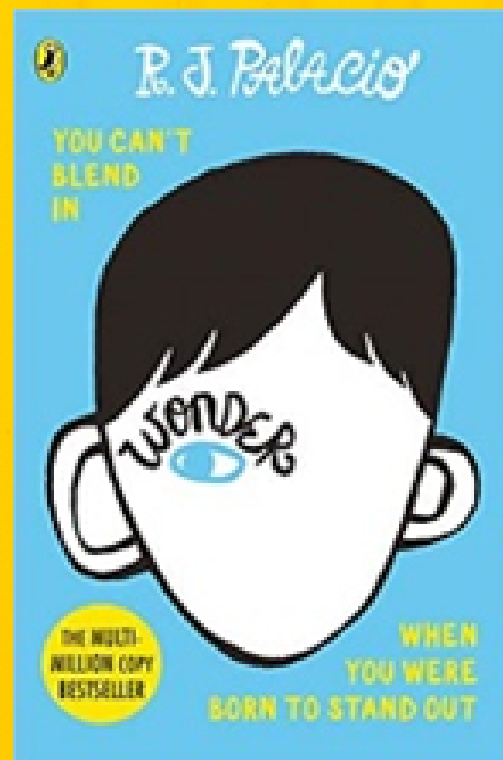
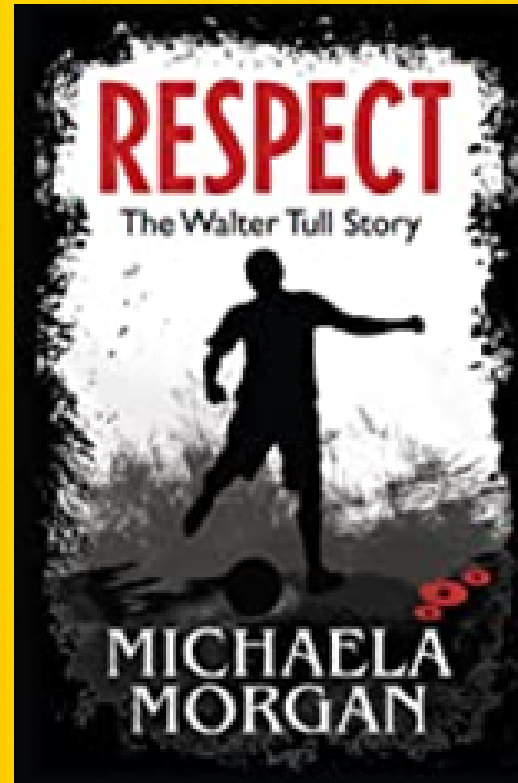


# BOOKS OF VALUE

## YEAR 6 into 7



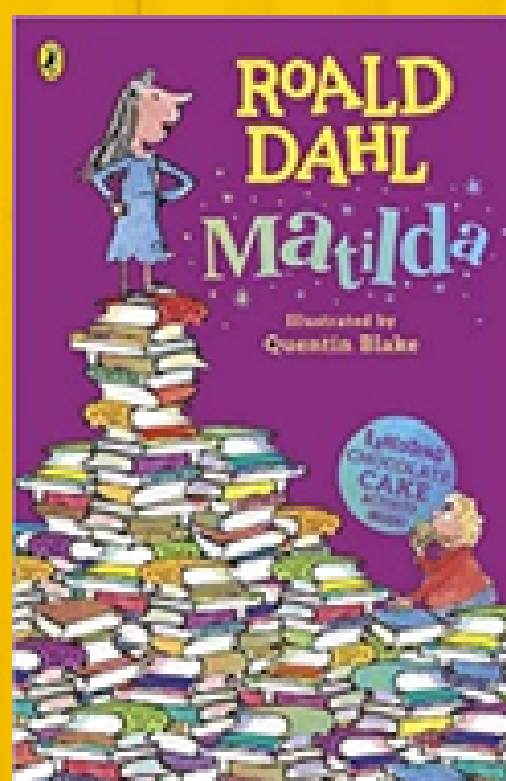
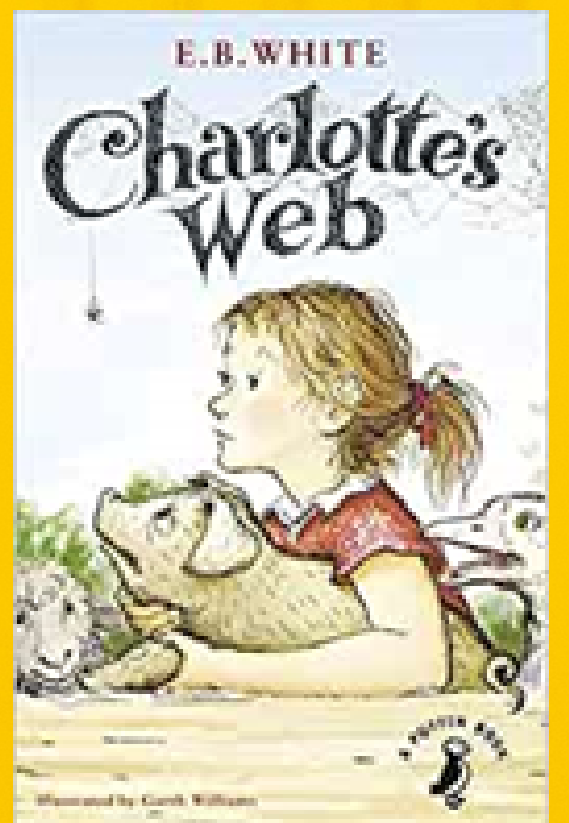
Based on the true story of Walter Tull, and his fight to be treated with **dignity** and respect as a Black British soldier and footballer during the First World War.



Auggie just wants to fit in at school despite his facial abnormality and be treated with **kindness** by his fellow students.



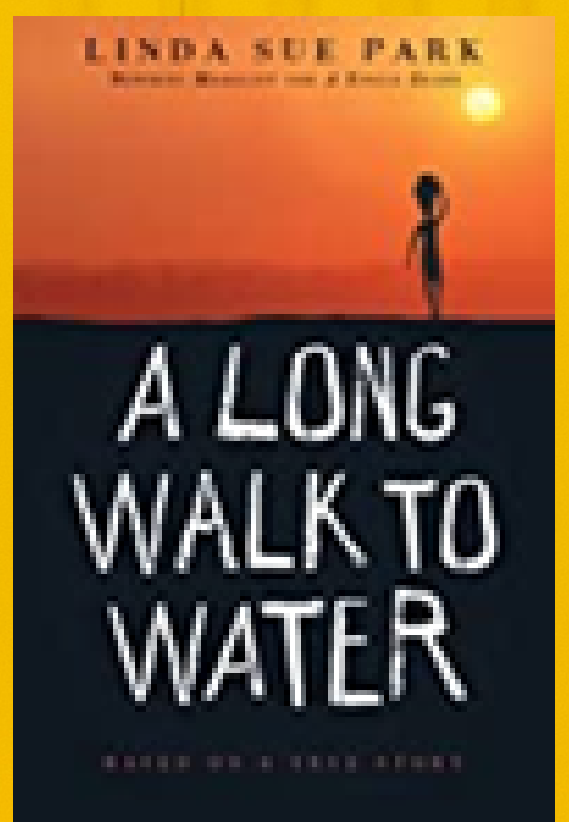
Wilbur the pig is shown **compassion** by Fern who saves him when he is born and Charlotte the spider who hatches an ingenious plan to keep him alive.



Matilda needs **courage** to stand up to her family and her horrible headmistress, Miss Trunchbull.



Salva, who is forced to flee his village on foot as a child, uses the determination gained by this **endeavour** to improve the lives of Nya, and others in her village, many years later.





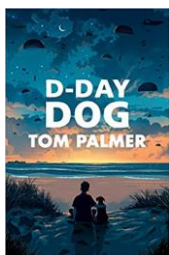
## Suggestions for Year 6 into 7 students

### A Pocketful of Stars by Aisha Bushby



Safiya and her mum have never seen eye to eye. Her mum doesn't understand Safiya's love of gaming and Safiya doesn't think they have anything in common. As Safiya struggles to fit in at school she wonders if her mum wishes she was more like her confident best friend Elle. But then her mum falls into a coma and, when Safiya waits by her bedside, she finds herself in a strange and magical world that looks a bit like one of her games. And there's a rebellious teenage girl, with a secret, who looks suspiciously familiar . . .

### D-Day Dog by Tom Palmer – Winner of the Children's Book Award 2020



Jack can't wait for the school trip to the D-Day landing beaches. It's his chance to learn more about the war heroes he has always admired - brave men like his dad, who is a reserve soldier. But when his dad is called up to action and things at home spiral out of control, everything Jack believes about war is thrown into question. Finding comfort only in the presence of his loyal dog, Finn, Jack is drawn to the heart-wrenching true story of one particular D-Day paratrooper. On 6 June 1944, Emile Corteil parachuted into France with his dog, Glen - and Jack is determined to discover their fate ...

### The Explorer by Katherine Rundell

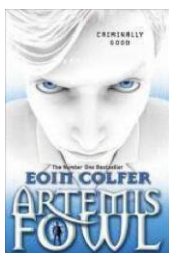


From his seat in the tiny aeroplane, Fred watches as the mysteries of the Amazon jungle pass by below him. He has always dreamed of becoming an explorer, of making history and of reading his name amongst the lists of great discoveries. If only he could land and look about him.

As the plane crashes into the canopy, Fred is suddenly left without a choice. He and the three other children may be alive, but the jungle is a vast, untamed place. With no hope of rescue, the chance of getting home feels impossibly small.

Except, it seems, someone has been there before them.

### Artemis Fowl – 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!

### The Bad Beginning (A Series of Unfortunate Events) – Lemony Snicket



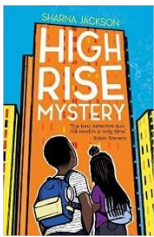
This book follows the turbulent lives of Violet, Klaus, and Sunny Baudelaire after their parents' death in an arsonous house fire. The children are placed in the custody of their distant cousin Count Olaf, who begins to abuse them and openly plots to embezzle their inheritance. After the Baudelaires are removed from his care by their parents' estate executor, Arthur Poe, Olaf begins to doggedly hunt the children down, bringing about the serial slaughter and demise of a multitude of characters.

## The Graveyard Book – Neil Gaiman



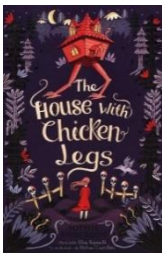
When a baby escapes a murderer intent on killing the entire family, who would have thought it would find safety and security in the local graveyard? Brought up by the resident ghosts, ghouls and spectres, Bod has an eccentric childhood learning about life from the dead. But for Bod there is also the danger of the murderer still looking for him - after all, he is the last remaining member of the family. A stunningly original novel deftly constructed over eight chapters, featuring every second year of Bod's life, from babyhood to adolescence. Will Bod survive to be a man?

## High-Rise Mystery by Sharna Jackson



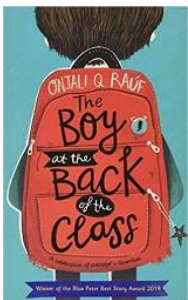
Summer in London is hot, the hottest on record, and there's been a murder in THE TRI: the high-rise home to resident know-it-alls, Nik and Norva. Who better to solve the case? Armed with curiosity, home-turf knowledge and unlimited time - until the end of the summer holidays anyway.

## The House with the Chicken Legs – Sophie Anderson



Marinka dreams of a normal life, but her house has chicken legs and moves on without warning. Her grandmother is Baba Yaga, who guides spirits between this world and the next. Marinka longs to change her destiny but her house has other ideas...

## The Boy at the Back of the Class by Onjali Q Rauf



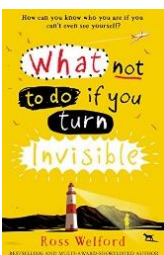
There used to be an empty chair at the back of my class, but now a new boy called Ahmet is sitting in it.

He's nine years old (just like me), but he's very strange. He never talks and never smiles and doesn't like sweets - not even lemon sherbets, which are my favourite!

But then I learned the truth: Ahmet really isn't very strange at all. He's a refugee who's run away from a War. A real one. With bombs and fires and bullies that hurt people. And the more I find out about him, the more I want to help.

That's where my best friends Josie, Michael and Tom come in. Because you see, together we've come up with a plan. . .

## What not to do if You Turn Invisible by Ross Welford

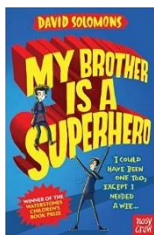


Turning invisible at will: it's one way of curing your acne. But far more drastic than 13 year-old Ethel Leatherhead intended when she tried a combination of untested medicines and a sunbed.

It's fun at first, being invisible. And aided by her friend Boydy, she manages to keep her extraordinary ability secret. Or does she...?

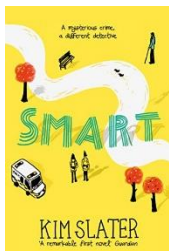
When one day the invisibility fails to wear off, Ethel is thrown into a nightmare of lies and deception as she struggles to keep herself safe, to find the remedy that will make her seen again – and solve the mystery of her own birth...

## My Brother is a Superhero by David Solomons



Luke is a comic-mad eleven-year old who shares a treehouse with his geeky older brother, Zack. Luke's only mistake is to go for a wee right at the wrong time. While he's gone, an alien gives his undeserving, never-read-a-comic-in-his-life brother superpowers and then tells him to save the universe. Luke is massively annoyed about this, but when Zack is kidnapped by his arch-nemesis, Luke and his friends have only five days to find him and save the world...

## Smart by Kim Slater



There's been a murder, but the police don't care. It was only a homeless old man after all.

Kieran cares. He's made a promise, and when you say something out loud, that means you're going to do it, for real. He's going to find out what really happened. To Colin. And to his grandma, who just stopped coming round one day. It's a good job Kieran's a master of observation and knows all the detective tricks of the trade.

But being a detective is difficult when you're Kieran Woods. When you're amazing at drawing but terrible at fitting in. And when there are dangerous secrets everywhere, not just outside, but under your own roof.

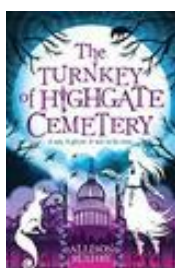
## The Crossover by Kwame Alexander



12-year-old Josh and his twin Jordan have basketball in their blood. They're kings of the court, star players for their school team. Their father used to be a champion player and they each want nothing more than to follow in his footsteps.

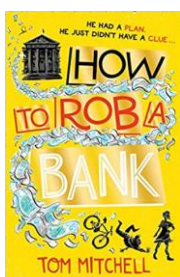
Both on and off the court, there is conflict and hardship which will test Josh's bond with his brother. In this heartfelt novel in verse, the boys find that life doesn't come with a play-book and it's not all about winning.

## The Turnkey of Highgate Cemetery by Allison Rushby



Flossie Birdwhistle is the Turnkey at London's Highgate Cemetery. As Turnkey, Flossie must ensure all the souls in the cemetery stay at rest. This is a difficult job at the best of times for a twelve-year-old ghost, but it is World War II and each night enemy bombers hammer London. Even the dead are unsettled. When Flossie encounters the ghost of a German soldier carrying a mysterious object, she becomes suspicious. What is he up to? Before long, Flossie uncovers a sinister plot that could result in the destruction of not only her cemetery, but also her beloved country. Can Flossie stop him before it is too late?

## How to Rob a Bank by Tom Mitchell

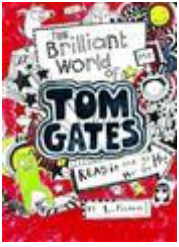


*Some people rob banks because they're greedy. Others enjoy the adrenalin rush. Me? I robbed a bank because of guilt. Specifically: guilt and a Nepalese scented candle...*

When fifteen-year-old Dylan accidentally burns down the house of the girl he's trying to impress, he feels that only a bold gesture can make it up to her. A gesture like robbing a bank to pay for her new home. Only an unwanted Saturday job, a tyrannical bank manager, and his unfinished history homework lie between Dylan and the heist of century. And really, what's the worst that could

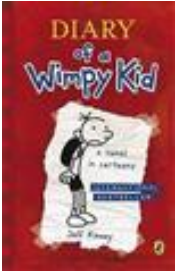
## Suggestions for reluctant or less confident readers

### The Brilliant World of Tom Gates by Liz Pichon



Tom's battered homework diary is crammed with his scribbles and stories, cartoons and ideas - as well as comments from the long-suffering Mr Fullerman.

### Diary of a Wimpy Kid by Jeff Kinney



Greg records his sixth grade experiences in a school where he and his friend Rowley hope to survive as undersized weaklings amid boys who need to shave twice daily. And when Rowley grows more popular, Greg must take measures to save their friendship.

### Owen and the Soldier by Lisa Thompson



When Owen discovers a crumbling stone soldier in the local park, it feels like he finally has someone he can talk to about his worries. But the town council want to remove him. Can Owen find the courage he needs to save the soldier before it's too late?

### The Lost Diary of Sami Star



Life is hard for Hannah. At home, everyone's always arguing, and when she tries to talk to her friends, it feels like they're not really there for her. But everything changes when she comes across a diary in the park belonging to a girl called Sami Star.

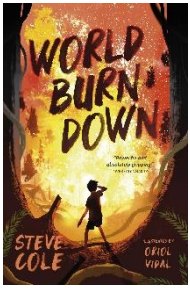
### The Griffin Gate by Vashti Hardy



Grace's family are wardens of the Griffin Map, using its teleport technology to fight crime across Moreland. Although Grace is still too young, she longs to go on missions herself. After all, if her brother, Bren, can do it, why can't she? So when Grace finds herself alone with the map when a distress call comes in, she jumps at the chance to prove she's up to the task



## World Burn Down by Steve Cole



Carlos's mother works for IBAMA, Brazil's Environmental Authority. As head of a specially trained task force, her role is to protect the Amazon from the farmers, loggers and miners who are illegally destroying the precious rainforest. It's a dangerous role and when she upsets some of these land-grabbers, they decide to teach her a lesson by kidnapping her son, Carlos. Taken deep into the Amazon, Carlos manages to escape his captors only to find himself trapped by the fast-moving fires. Will he be able to outrun the flames as the world around him burns to the ground?

## A Dangerous Game by Malorie Blackman



Although Sam has a long-term illness, he wants to lead a normal life. He is thrilled when his parents let him go on the school trip to the Scottish Highlands. Sam wants to prove he's just as strong as his friends but the trip turns out to be dangerous.

## Still Waters by Chris Priestley



Evacuated from London at the outbreak of war, Rosie is taken in by kind Mrs Taylor and her daughter Mary. But all is not as it seems. Mary resents and bullies Rosie, and Mrs Taylor is hiding a dark secret. When Rosie comes across a strange girl swimming in a local pond, she hopes they will become friends. But instead her appearance leads to a horrifying revelation that will have terrifying consequences...

## Run Wild by Gill Lewis



Izzy and Asha need a space to call their own, where they can practise skateboarding away from the Skull brothers and trouble at home. But the wasteland they claim already belongs to something else - an injured wolf that desperately needs their help.

## The 13-Storey Treehouse by Andy Griffiths and Terry Denton



In a treehouse with a bowling alley and a lemonade fountain, Andy and Terry are too busy with flying cats and sea-monkey mishaps to work on their next book.