

## S1-3 READING LIST

### Relationships

#### Elizabeth Acevedo : The Poet X

Written in verse, this is the story of Xiomara, fighting against her background and her mother's expectations to join a slam-poetry group in school. Also try Clap When You Land which tells of two sisters, Camino and Yahaira, who know nothing of each other's existence until their father is killed in a plane crash. Not only do they have to come to terms with his death, but the realization that he was a man living a double life ...

#### Emily Barr : The One Memory of Flora Banks

Flora, a 17-year old teenager, can't retain new memories . The slow-paced and repetitive tone of the book conveys this well as she struggles her way through everyday life and relationships.

#### Clementine Beauvais : Piglettes

Three girls refuse to let online bullying get them down and hit back by taking a road trip to Paris.

#### Malorie Blackman : Noughts and Crosses

The complicated relationship between Sephy ( a privileged 'Cross') and Callum ( a 'nought' - a second class citizen) is told in an intelligent, original and captivating story . It continues in Knife Edge , Checkmate etc. Also read Boys Don't Cry, a story of teenage fatherhood seen through the eyes of Dante, whose ex-girlfriend turns up on the doorstep with the daughter he didn't know he had...

#### Sarah Crossan

In Toffee, Allison runs away from home, taking refuge in the garden of Marla, an old lady with dementia. The book - written in verse- tells of the developing friendship between them and covers hard-hitting issues such as bereavement and domestic abuse. Other books include Moonrise and The Weight of Water.

#### Phil Earle

In Heroic, Sonny struggles to cope with the changes in his brother who is newly-returned from fighting in Afghanistan. Also read Being Billy about a teenage boy put into care when his parents become unable to look after him.

#### Aimee Lucido :In the Key of Code

Story of Emmy who, struggling to fit in at her new school in California, joins a computer club . There, her interest in coding ties in with her love of music and opens up new friendships to her.

**Patrick Ness : A Monster Calls**

Powerful and visual story of Conor, a young boy struggling to cope with his mother's terminal illness. On a similar theme, try Damian Kelleher : **Life, Interrupted**; for a lighter read, try Alice Kruijpers : **Life On the Refrigerator Door**.

**R.J Palacio : Wonder**

The story of Auggie, a boy with a severe facial deformity, starting life at a new school. Written from various viewpoints, this is an amazing book, full of warmth and humour, Also try Benjamin Zephaniah : **Face**

**Mal Peet : The Keeper**

A famous goalkeeper tells how an old fashioned coach helped him become a world class player. The story continues in **The Penalty** and **Exposure**. Insight into life in 1960s America and Britain is given in **Life : An Exploded Diagram**, suitable for more mature readers

**Annabel Pitcher**

**My Sister Lives on the Mantelpiece** tells how the death of a child affects a family - seen through the eyes of 10-year-old Jamie whose sister was killed in a terrorist bomb attack in London.

**Bali Rai**

**Rani and Sukh** has overtones of 'Romeo and Juliet' with its theme of forbidden love between two warring families; **Killing Honour** deals with the topic of arranged marriage and tells how Sat becomes concerned about the changes in his sister and doesn't believe she has disappeared voluntarily

**Jason Reynolds : Long Way Down**

Hard-hitting book about gangs, guns and knife-crime and the impact they have on the lives of perpetrators and their families. It centres on Will, devastated by the death of his brother, who meets a series of characters from the past who try to talk him out of revenge.

**Robin Talley : Lies We Tell Ourselves**

Set in 1959, against a background of civil rights in America, this is a tale of prejudice and the unlikely friendship between Sarah, a black student, and Linda, daughter of an ardent segregationist.

**Angie Thomas : The Hate You Give**

Starr flits between two worlds - the poor, black neighbourhood of her childhood and the white, middle-class setting of her school. When her best friend is shot by a police officer, she has to decide where she truly belongs. Also read **On The Come-Up**, about Bri who dreams of becoming a hip-hop legend.

**Jason Wallace : Out of Shadows**

The story of Robert, an English boy sent to boarding school in Zimbabwe at a time of high racial tension there. Powerful account of prejudice and bullying.

**Lara Williamson : A Boy Called Hope**

When his Dad runs off with the lady from the local chip shop and becomes a celebrity TV presenter, Dan is desperate to re-connect with him. A book full of humour and emotional highs and lows.

**Nicola Yoon : Everything, Everything**

Maddy is confined to the house by her many allergies, but with the internet, is able to strike up a friendship with Olly, the boy next-door. Also read **The Sun Is Also a Star**, in which Tasha falls in love, just as she's about to be deported from the USA back to Jamaica

**Benjamin Zephaniah : Refugee Boy**

Alem is an African boy seeking political asylum in Britain, a theme echoed in Rachel Anderson's : **Asylum**

## **Adventure and Thriller**

**Malorie Blackman : The Stuff of Nightmares**

When Kyle is involved in a train crash, he finds himself inside his classmates' nightmares - chilling stuff !

**Theresa Breslin : Divided City**

Set in Glasgow, this hard-hitting but humorous book shows the developing friendship between two teenage boys, set against a background of sectarianism and attacks on asylum seekers .

**Michael Byrne : Lottery Boy**

A homeless boy finds a winning lottery ticket which could change his life forever - but will it be for the better ?

**Lari Don: Mind Blind**

Ciaran Bane is a criminal with the useful talent of being able to read minds - but this often feels like a curse . When he's forced to work with Lucy , they encounter death, crime, betrayal and chases... A fast-paced novel set partly in Edinburgh

**Michael Grant**

The **Gone** series tells of teenage love, deception and power struggles in a world where all adults have disappeared. The **Messenger of Fear** stories are darker, more violent tales in which Mara and the Messenger seek revenge on those who have committed malicious deeds.

**Elle McNicoll : Show Us Who You Are**

Futuristic thriller in which Cora and Aiden, both autistic, get involved with the Pomegranate Institute, which uses Artificial Intelligence to recreate dead people - but without their 'flaws'. A story of strong friendship and the need to accept people for what or how they are.

**Patrick Ness: The Knife of Never Letting Go**

An escape story based around Todd ,the last boy in Prentisstown, a place where you can hear other people's innermost thoughts and where females don't exist... Known as the 'Chaos Walking' trilogy, the story continues in The Ask and The Answer and Monsters of Men

**Alex Nye : Darker Ends**

Set in present-day Glencoe, two siblings await the return of their parents in an isolated inn. When a stranger seeks shelter from a storm, all is not what it seems ...

**Tom Palmer**

**Black Op,** set in Krakow, Euro 2012; a group of undercover spies pose as members of England's youth football team ....

**Terry Pratchett : Nation**

Survival story set in the 1860s telling of the friendship between Mau and Daphne, who are thrown together after a volcanic eruption. Humorous in places and very moving.

**Gary Paulsen : Hatchet**

When the plane in which he's travelling crashes into the wilderness, city-boy Brian must learn to survive

**Ransom Riggs : Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children**

The story of a children's home where strange children were quarantined in the 1940s; part fantasy and illustrated with vintage photography, this is a haunting and memorable story

**Katherine Rundell : The Explorer**

Four children fight for survival after their plane crashes over the Amazon jungle.

**Fiona Shaw : Outwalkers**

Set in a dystopian England, cut off from Scotland and Europe , this is the story of Jacob and his dog Jet, making a hazardous journey north in search of family members.

**Lisa Thomson : Goldfish Boy**

The story of Matthew, a 12 year old boy trapped at home by his OCD, who becomes key in solving the mysterious disappearance of the toddler next-door. Reminiscent of Mark Haddon's The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time; also read Kim Slater : Smart

**Scott Westerfield : Uglies**

When you turn 16 you can become a Pretty and enter a high-tec, fun-filled world; but Shay and Tally aren't sure it's what they want ...

**Alex Wheatle**

Based on his own upbringing and struggles ( he was jailed for his involvement in the 1980s Brixton riots), Wheatle writes engagingly about urban life for teenagers - their relationships, gangs etc - in titles which include Crongton Knights and The Humiliations of Welton Blake

## War, Revolution and History

### Laurie Halse Anderson : Chains

A story of slavery and spies set in New York City at the time of the American Revolution. It centres on Isabel and her younger sister Ruth, who not only fight for their personal freedom, but also strive for truth in the midst of political upheaval and treachery.

### Theresa Breslin : Spy For the Queen of Scots

Story of the friendship between Mary and Jenny, and of what happens when Mary returns from France to claim her crown.

### Raymond Briggs : Ethel and Ernest

Beautifully illustrated, this tells the true life story of Raymond Briggs' parents from their meeting in 1928 ; in graphic novel form, it follows their experiences during WW2, their family life and their ultimate separation by death. A simple and very moving book.

### Lissa Evans : Old Baggage

Since the battle for equality was won, Mattie, an ex-Suffragette, has been unsure what to do with her life. This book follows her adventures, with her flatmate The Flea, as they try to educate young girls and promote their new-found independence.

### Morris Gleitzman : Once

The story of Felix, a young Polish boy searching for his Jewish parents at the time of Nazi power. Despite its serious subject-matter, there are moments of great humour in the book , and the story continues in the sequels , Then , Now & After. Also try John Boyne : The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas

### Nicola Morgan : Fleshmarket

Set in C19th Edinburgh, Robbie gets caught up in the murky and criminal world of Burke and Hare. Gripping and well-written, with a stomach-churning first chapter.

### Sally Nicholls : Things A Bright Girl Can Do

The story of three young girls, from different social backgrounds, their lives during WW1 and their involvement in women's rights

### Tom Palmer

An author who successfully combines war stories with sport, his titles include Over the Line, about a group of footballers who enlist to fight in WW1 and Armistice Runner, which tells of Lily discovering family secrets dating back to WW1

### Elizabeth Wein : Code Name Verity

The story of Verity and Madeleine, who become best friends during WWII. When Verity is captured by the Gestapo, she chooses to write down her confession and the secrets of the Allied Forces ...also try Rose Under Fire, the story of a young female pilot during WW2. The setting for White Eagles is Poland in 1939 -Kristina , a member of the White Eagles air force, attempts a daring escape, not realizing she has a stowaway on board.

### **Benjamin Zephaniah : Windrush Child**

Leonard moves from Jamaica to England when he is 10 years old. His family hope it will give them a 'better life', so are shocked by the racism and hostility which face them. Despite this, Leonard goes to school, works and raises his own family. When, aged 70, he decides on a return visit to Jamaica he discovers he is an illegal immigrant who should never have been in England in the first place .... An important book which illustrates the prejudice and injustice heaped on many who came to Britain from the Caribbean after 1948.

## **Fantasy and Science Fiction**

### **John & Carole Barrowman : Hollow Earth**

A story of magic, mystery and mythology and twins who have the power to make artwork come to life.

### **Holly Black**

Magic, romance, spying and politics combine in **The Cruel Prince**, a story of a mortal girl trapped in a fantasy land after the murder of her parents . **The Coldest Girl in Coldtown** deals with a walled city full of dead or infected people and vampires.

### **Nicole Burstein : Other Girl**

Erica and Louisa are best friends. Erica has super-powers and is busy saving the world; Louise has none and is busy sorting Erica's life out - fashion, family and boys . An amusing tale of life as a superhero's sidekick !

### **Joseph Delaney**

The books in the Spooks series form 'The Wardstone Chronicles' and tell of Tom, the 7<sup>th</sup> son of a 7<sup>th</sup> son, who has the ability to see ghosts and spirits. Very popular series, full of action and suspense .

### **Amy Ewing : Jewel**

The story of Violet, aka Lot 197, a girl destined to be auctioned off and sold to a family where she will be responsible for producing a healthy heir . A similar theme is explored in Louise O'Neill's : **Only Ever Yours**

### **Frances Hardinge**

**Cuckoo Song** is set against the background of WW1 and is a magical fantasy story which combines family issues with a creepy thriller. In **A Face like Glass**, Neverfell lives in Caverna, a strange place where faces can't show emotion. **The Lie Tree** is set in Victorian times and focusses on Faith who finds a 'lie tree' which will gradually reveal the secrets of her father's death to her.

### **Leo Hunt : 13 Days of Midnight**

Luke inherits 8 ghosts when his estranged father dies. They want revenge for their long enslavement and create havoc when they realise Luke can't control them - but he needs their help before Halloween...

**Ross Mackenzie : Evernight**

When Larabelle finds a wooden box in the sewers underneath the city, it triggers an adventure packed with dark magic and sinister characters like Shadow Jack and Mrs Hester (who steals the souls of other people to keep herself young). If you like fantasy fiction set in other-worlds with witches, spells and lots of tension, this could be the book for you!

**Alison Noel : Fated**

Daire and Dace, soul seeker and shape shifter ... is their destiny to be together or destroy each other ?

**Philip Reeve : Railhead**

The story of a boy called Zen and futuristic trains which roam through the galaxy in hyperspace tunnels.

## **Humour**

**Chloe Bennett : Boywatching**

Light-hearted story of Chloe, a teenage girl desperate to find a 'hot date' for the annual school dance.

**Morris Gleitzman : Toad Rage**

The story of Limpy, a cane toad, who sets off for the Olympics to find out why humans hate him so much.

**Mandy Hubbard : Fool Me Twice**

Landon and Mackenzie were a happy couple - until he dumped her ! Now it's one year later and Landon's got amnesia; he thinks they are still an item, Mack thinks it's perfect timing for revenge ...

**Greg James & Chris Smith : Kid Normal**

Murph Cooper has a problem - he seems to be the only kid at his school with no superpower !

**Jeff Kinney : Diary of a Wimpy Kid**

Comic fiction, written in diary form, telling of the friendship between school 'new-boy' Greg and his side-kick, Rowley.

**Tom Pichon**

The Tom Gates series is the story of a schoolboy who, forever doodling and reading comic books, is the bane of his teacher's life. Very funny, easy to read ; titles include

**Tom Gates Best Book Day Ever**, **Tom Gates: A Tiny Bit Lucky**  
and **Tom Gates Is Absolutely Fantastic**

**Andy Robb : Geekhood**

Archie excels in the world of computer role-play but finds real-life situations more challenging, especially those with girls ...

**William Sutcliffe : The Gifted, The Talented and Me**

When his family move to London, Sam is enrolled at the North London Academy for the Gifted and Talented, a place where he feels he has nothing to offer and is completely out of place . A very funny book dealing with family rivalries, teenage awkwardness and some cringe-worthy moments we can all relate to !

**Sue Townsend : The Secret Diary of Adrian Mole**

Family life, spots and girlfriend trouble through the eyes of an 'intellectual' teenage schoolboy. Incredibly funny.

**Ross Welford : What Not To Do If You Turn Invisible**

In a desperate attempt to stop the school bullies picking on her because of her acne, Ethel Leatherhead tries a sunbed and an internet potion - and turns invisible ! At first this seems great fun, but Ethel soon realizes that invisibility has downsides as well. A lovely, humorous story, with touching accounts of family life and friendships. Also try : The 1000 Year Old Boy by Ross Welford