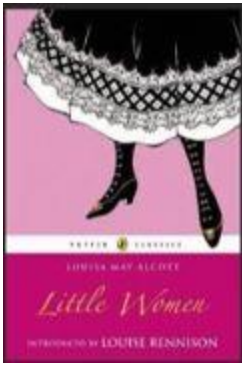


**John Mason School**

**Year 7**

**Recommended Reads**



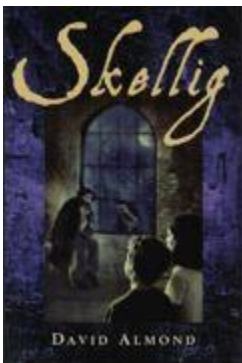


## Little Women by Louisa May Alcott

One of the original coming of age novels written by Louisa M Alcott in 1868/69.

Little Women follows the lives, loves and tribulations of four sisters growing up during the American Civil War and is one of the best loved books of all time

"I loved this book even though it made me cry!"



## Skellig by David Almond

When a move to a new house coincides with his baby sister's illness, Michael's world seems lonely and uncertain. One afternoon he stumbles into the garage and finds a strange creature, part owl, part angel, a being who needs Michael's and his new friend Mina's help to get back to full Health and in turn Michael learns how to deal with a new school and problems at home.

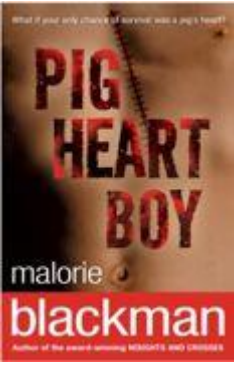
"I think this is a powerful book because you feel like you are right there."



## Carrie's War by Nina Bawden

It is wartime and Carrie and her little brother Nick have been evacuated from their London home to the Welsh hills. In an unfamiliar place, among strangers, the children feel alone. But when Carrie and Nick visit Albert, another evacuee, they are welcomed into Hepzibah Green's home. They settle into their new surroundings but their loyalties are tested. Will they be persuaded to betray their new friends?

"Nick was frightened of ogres and spiders and crabs and cold water and the dentist and dark nights, but he wasn't afraid of Mr Evans, even after that first dreadful night, because Mr Evans has false teeth that click when he talks."

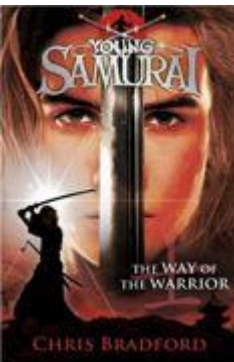


## **Pig Heart Boy by Malorie Blackman**

You are thirteen. All you want is a normal life. But most normal kids don't need heart transplants. So there is this doctor who says that there is a chance for you, but he also says it's experimental, controversial and risky and it has never been done before.

Shortlisted for the Carnegie Medal, this is a powerful, thought-provoking story from the award-winning Malorie Blackman.

"A bizarre yet strangely realistic book."

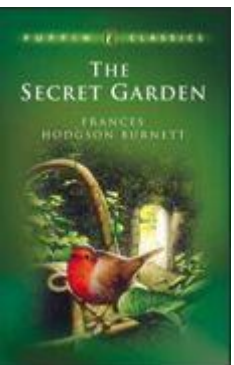


## **Young Samurai by Chris Bradford**

August 1611. Jack Fletcher is shipwrecked off the coast of Japan, his beloved father and the crew lie slaughtered by ninja pirates. Rescued by the legendary sword master Masamoto Takeshi, Jack's only hope is to become a samurai warrior and so his training begins. But life at the samurai school is a constant fight for survival, even with his friend Akiko by his side, Jack is singled out by bullies and treated as an outcast. With courage in his heart and his sword held high, can Jack prove

himself and face his deadliest rival yet?

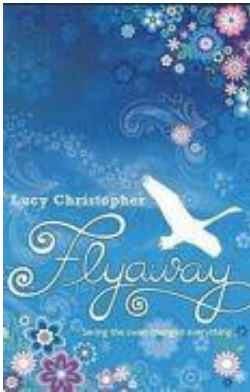
"An action packed martial arts adventure."



## **The Secret Garden by Frances Hodgson Burnett**

When Mary Lennox is sent to Misselthwaite Manor to live with her uncle, everybody says she is the most disagreeable-looking child ever seen. It is true, too. Mary is pale, spoilt and quite contrary, but she is also horribly lonely. Then one day, with the help of a friendly robin, she finds the way into the secret garden and starts to tend it, and a change comes over her.

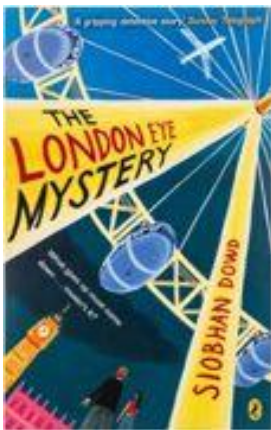
"A wonderful story that I could think myself into."



## **Flyaway by Lucy Christopher**

While visiting her father in hospital, 13 year old Isla meets Harry, the first boy to understand her and her love of the outdoors. But Harry is ill and as his health fails, Isla is determined to help him. Together they watch a lone swan struggling to fly on the lake outside Harry's window. Isla believes that if she can help the swan, she can help Harry. And in doing so, she embarks upon a magical journey of her own.

"This book will harness wings to your imagination and fly you through a wonderful tale."



## **The London Eye Mystery by Siobhan Dowd**

11.32 a.m. Ted and his sister Kat watch their cousin Salim get on board the London Eye. 12.02 p.m. The pod lands and the doors open and everyone exits except Salim. Has he spontaneously combusted? (Ted's theory.) Has he been kidnapped? (Aunt Gloria's theory.) Is he even still alive? (the family's unspoken fear). Ted does not see the world like most people he knows that with his unique operating system of a brain he can uncover the truth about Salim's disappearance.

"An un-put-downable spine tingling thriller."

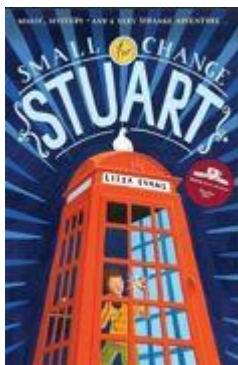


## **The Ingo Chronicles by Helen Dunmore**

Once there was a man who fell in love with a mermaid, he swam down into the sea to be with her and was never seen again...Sapphire's father told her that story when she was little but when he is lost at sea she cannot help but think of that old myth.

A spellbinding magical adventure of Sapphire and her brother Conor and their discovery of a powerful and exciting world under the sea named Ingo.

"A totally believable parallel world, I wish I could go to."



## Small Change for Stuart by Lissa Evans

Stuart Horten, ten years old and small for his age, is about to have the strangest adventure of his life. After moving to the boring town of Beeton, he finds himself swept up in an incredible quest to find his great-uncle's lost legacy: a magician's workshop stuffed with trickery and magic. There are clues to follow and puzzles to solve, but what starts as fun ends up as danger as Stuart begins to realise that he cannot finish the task on his own.

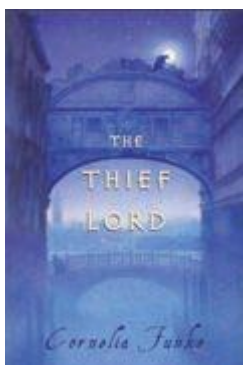
"A fast moving blend of comedy and magic."



## Flour Babies by Anne Fine

When the annual school Science Fair comes round, Mr Cartwright's class do not get to work on the Soap Factory, the Maggot Farm or the Exploding Custard Tins. To their disgust they get the Flour Babies, sweet little six-pound bags of flour that must be cared for at all times.

"Let chaos reign!!"



## The Thief Lord by Cornelia Funke

Winter has come early to Venice. Two orphaned children are on the run, hiding among the crumbling canals and misty alleyways of the city. Befriended by a gang of street children and their mysterious leader, the Thief Lord, they shelter in an old, disused cinema. On their trail is a bungling detective, but a greater threat to the boys' new-found freedom is something from a forgotten past. . . .

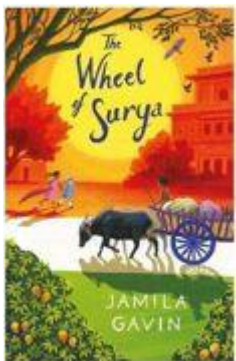
"I now want to see if Venice really is like this"



## **Coraline by Neil Gaiman**

There is something strange about Coraline's new home. It is 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. For ever. She knows that if she

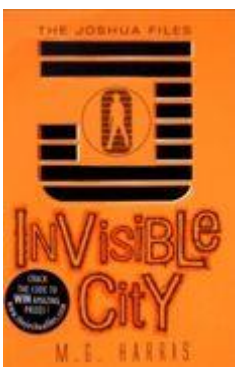
ventures through that door, she may never come back.



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

India, August 1947: Fleeing from their burnt-out village as civil war rages in the Punjab, Marvinder and Jaspal are separated from their mother, Jhoti. Marvinder has already saved her brother's life once, but now they both face a daily fight for survival. Together they escape across India and nearly halfway around the world to England, to find a father they hardly know in a new, hostile culture and find themselves in a completely different fight for survival

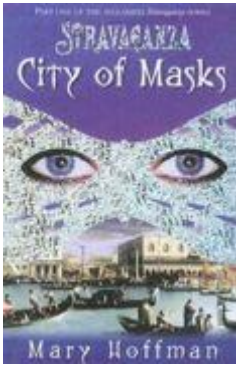
"The most important book I have ever read."



## **Invisible City by M.G. Harris**

Josh's dad died in Mexico. He was supposed to be excavating ancient Mayan ruins. So why was he flying an airplane, hundreds of miles from the site and did the UFOs sighted nearby have anything to do with his accident? Josh begins to uncover the truth. His father was not on just another archaeological dig. He was searching for a lost Mayan codex thought to contain a prophecy about the end of the world and somewhere in the world, Josh's research triggers an alarm.

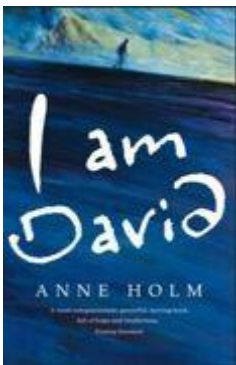
"Amazing book - a must for all adventure fans"



## City of Masks by Mary Hoffman

Set in Talia, a parallel world like 16th Century Italy, the narrative follows Lucien, who in this world is ill with cancer. Given a marbled notebook to help him communicate when his throat hurts too much to speak, this notebook is the means that transports Lucien to this magical, dangerous new world, one filled with intrigue, where life can be snuffed out with a flash of a blade.

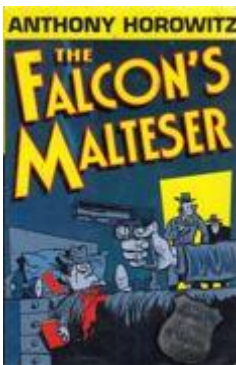
"sad and exciting at the same time"



## I am David by Anne Holm

This is the remarkable story of David's journey through Europe after escaping from the Concentration Camp from where he has spent his entire life. His introduction to the world, the sea, mountains and flowers, the colours of Italy, the taste of fruit, people laughing and smiling, all are new to David. David learns that his polite manner, his haunted eyes and his thin features are strange to other people. He must learn to fend for himself in this strange new world.

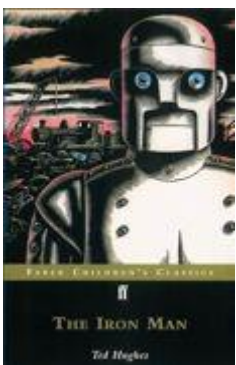
"Makes you realise how thankful we should be for the lives we lead."



## The Falcon's Malteser by Anthony Horowitz

When a dwarf comes in and leaves a package, Tim Diamond, the world's worst private detective, 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?

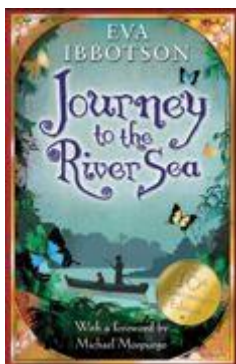
"Wonderfull, full of allusions to and parodies of detective films and stories."



## The Iron Man by Ted Hughes

A classic science fiction novella by British Poet Laureate Ted Hughes. Mankind must put a stop to the dreadful destruction caused by the Iron Man. A trap is set for him, but he cannot be kept down, he then befriends a small boy and when a terrible monster from outer space threatens to lay waste to the planet, it is the Iron Man who finds a way to save the world.

"A good mix of fantasy and real life adventure."



## **Journey to the River Sea by Eva Ibbotson**

It is 1910 and Maia, tragically orphaned at 13, has been sent from England to start a new life with distant relatives in Manaus, hundreds of miles up the Amazon. She is accompanied by an eccentric and mysterious governess who has secret reasons of her own for making the journey. Both soon discover an exotic world bursting with new experiences in this highly colourful, joyous and award-winning adventure.

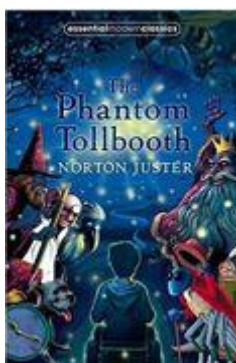
"Eva Ibbotson is a fantastic writer"



## **The Thornthwaite Inheritance by Gareth P Jones**

Orphaned twins Ovid and Lorelli have been trying to kill each other, for so long that neither twin can remember which act of attempted murder came first. A delightfully twisted and humorous gothic tale for fans of mayhem, mishap and misadventure. Ideal for both boys and girls with a flare for the mischievous and an appreciation of deadly whodunits.

"It was full of laughs and nasty tricks."

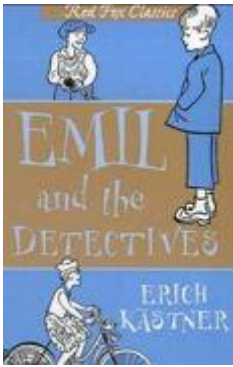


## **The Phantom Tollbooth by Norton Juster**

Milo's extraordinary voyage takes him into such places as the Land of Expectation, the Doldrums, the Mountains of Ignorance and the Castle in the Air. He meets the weirdest and most unexpected characters, such as Tock, the watchdog, the Gelatinous Giant and the Threadbare Excuse, who mumbles the same thing over and over again, and, once home, can hardly wait to try out the Tollbooth again. But will it still be there when he gets back from school?

"If you have ever been bored, read this book!"





## Emil and the Detective by Erich Kastner

If Mrs Tischbein had known the amazing adventures her son Emil would have in Berlin, she'd never have let him go.

Unfortunately, when his seven pounds goes missing on the train, Emil is determined to get it back - and when he teams up with the detectives he meets in Berlin, it's just the start of a marvellous money-retrieving adventure . . .

"The perfect introduction to the world of fictional crime detection"



## When Hitler Stole Pink Rabbit by Judith Kerr

This is a semi autobiographical story of a young Jewish girl called Anna, who is too busy with her schoolwork and tobogganing to listen to the talk of Hitler. But one day, Anna and her brother Max are rushed out of Germany in alarming secrecy, away from everything they know, because their father is wanted by the Nazis. This is the start of a huge adventure, sometimes frightening, very often funny and always exciting.

"A compassionate introduction to the whole subject of World War II."



## Crusade by Elizabeth Laird

The story of two young boys from opposing worlds at the siege of Acre during the Crusades. Muslim Salim is working for a Jewish doctor and Adam is English. We read about their families and values, including how they meet and ultimately help each other.

"One of the first books that made me question right and wrong."



## **The Haven by Simon Lelic**

Our City. Our Secret. Our Rules

Underneath the city there's a secret organization, far from adult eyes, where kids are in control. But there is also a battle to stop the destruction of the city above and time is running dangerously short.

"What a cool idea, modern street kids doing it themselves"



## **The Magician's Nephew by C. S. Lewis**

Hurled back in time to the birth of a new world, two young friends get caught in the epic struggle between Aslan and his nemesis the White Witch.

Journeys to the ends of the world, fantastic creatures, betrayals, heroic deeds, and friendships won and lost all come together in an unforgettable world of magic. So let the adventures begin.

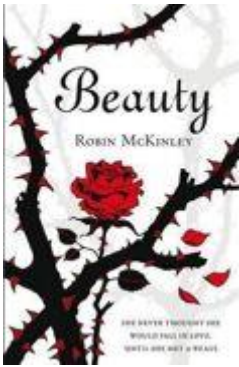
"Pure enchantment."



## **Back Home by Michelle Magorian**

Rusty comes back from America where she has been staying with relatives for five years as an evacuee during World War II. Both her Mum and her younger brother are like strangers and is immediately sent to a strict English Boarding School where she finds it difficult to make friends and is extremely lonely and unhappy.

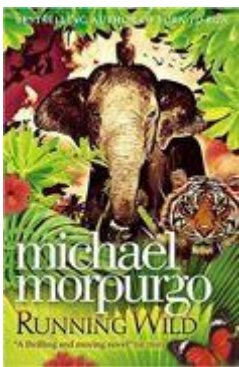
"a sad story. but it just tells you that you can do anything if you are determined and put your mind to it."



## **Beauty by Robin Mckinley**

When the family business collapses, Beauty and her two sisters are forced to leave the city and begin a new life in the countryside. However, when their father accepts hospitality from the elusive and magical Beast, he is forced to make promise to send one daughter to the Beast's castle, with no guarantee that she will be seen again. Beauty accepts the challenge, and there begins an extraordinary story of magic and love that overcomes all boundaries.

"Beauty is, very simply, a well-written retelling of Beauty and the Beast."

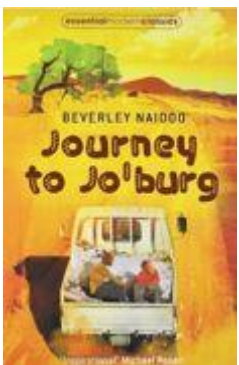


## **Running Wild by Michael Morpurgo**

For Will and his mother, going to Indonesia is not just a holiday. It is a chance to put things behind them, things like the death of Will's father. It seems to be just what they both needed. But when Will is riding Oona the elephant on the beach, a tsunami comes crashing in, and Oona begins to run and when the tsunami has gone, Oona just keeps running. With nothing to sustain him but a bottle of water, Will must learn to survive deep in the jungle. Luckily, though, he's not completely

alone...He's got Oona.

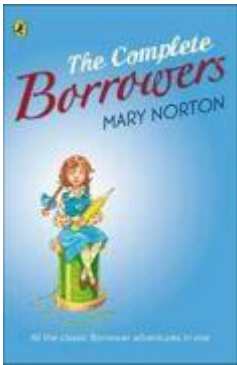
"A lovely story, with a mix of emotions to stir the spirit."



## **Journey to Jo'Burg by Beverley Naidoo**

Frightened that their baby sister Dineo will die from starvation, not an incurable disease, Naledi and her brother Tiro run away from their grandmother to Johannesburg, to find their mother who works there as a maid. Their journey illustrates the grim realities of apartheid; the pass laws, racism, the breakdown of family life.

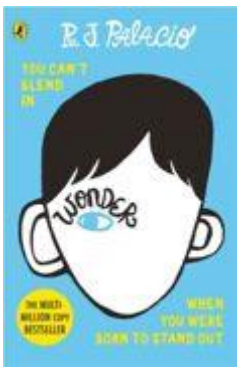
"This book is a cannot put down book"



## The Borrowers by Mary Norton

The Borrowers live in the secret places of quiet old houses. They own nothing, borrow everything and think that human beings were invented just to do the dirty work. Arrietty's father, Pod, was an expert Borrower he could scale curtains using a hatpin and bring back a doll's teacup without breaking it. Girls were not supposed to go borrowing, but as Arrietty was an only child her father broke the rule and then something happened which changed their lives. She made friends with the human boy living in the house.

"I loved this book I invented a game based on its characters!"

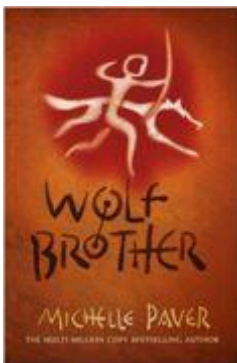


## Wonder by R J Palacio

Auggie wants to be an ordinary ten-year-old. He does ordinary things, eats ice cream, plays his Xbox. He feels ordinary inside. But ordinary kids do not make other ordinary kids run away screaming.

Born with a terrible facial abnormality and home-schooled his whole life, he is now going to attend a real school and he is dreading it. All he wants is to be accepted. Can he convince his new classmates that he is just like them, underneath it all?

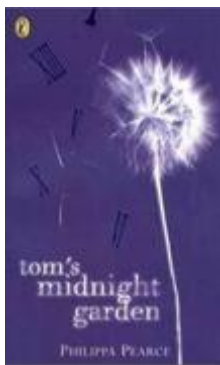
"A funny, frank, astonishing, moving book to read in one sitting."



## Wolf Brother by Michelle Paver

This is the first book in the series Chronicles of Ancient Darkness and takes place 6000 years ago during the New Stone Age. It tells the story of twelve-year-old boy named Torak of the Wolf Clan who embarks on a terrifying quest in a world of wolves, tree spirits and Hidden People, a world in which trusting a friend means risking your life.

"I love fantasy books, but Wolf Brother had a mix of reality in it as well."

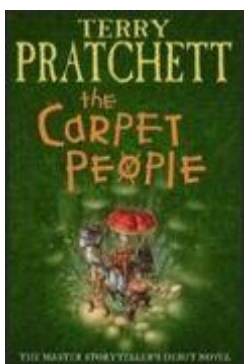


## Tom's Midnight Garden by Philippa Pearce

When Tom is sent to stay at his aunt and uncle's house for the summer, he resigns himself to endless weeks of boredom. As he lies awake in his bed he hears the grandfather clock downstairs strike . . .eleven . . . twelve . . . thirteen . . .

Thirteen! Tom races down the stairs and is transported back to the Victorian Age and goes into their garden, which does not exist. He meets lots of other children but only one can see him, Hatty.

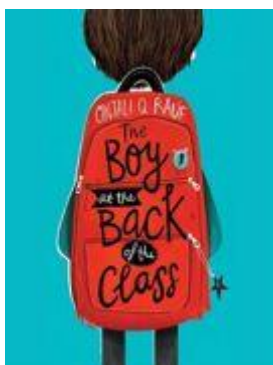
"Just about as good as a story book gets."



## The Carpet People by Terry Pratchett

In the beginning, there was nothing but endless flatness. Then came the Carpet.... That is the old story everyone knows and loves (even if they don't really believe it). But now the Carpet is home to many different tribes and peoples and there's a new story in the making. This story is about a tribe called Munrugs, who live in carpet world and are trying to find a new home after their village was destroyed by a mysterious natural force called Fray.

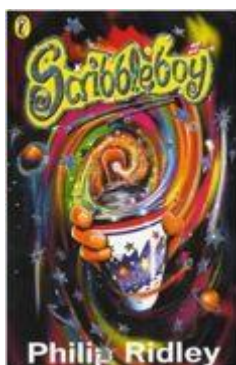
"This book has a delicious range of unforgettable characters."



## 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 there. He is a refugee who has run away from a war. A real one. With bombs and fires and bullies that hurt people. And the more his classmates find out about him, the more they want to help him.

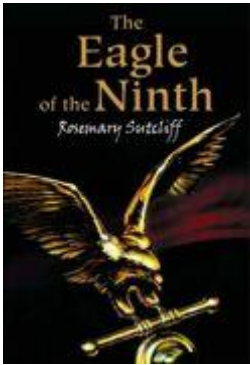
"The more you read this book, the more you love this book. It is happy and sad."



## Scribbleboy by Phillip Ridley

Bailey arrives in a new neighbourhood with his extraordinary family. He has no friends but receives a mysterious invitation from Ziggy Fuzz to join the Scribbleboy Fan Club but who is the mythical artist? Surprises are in store for Bailey.

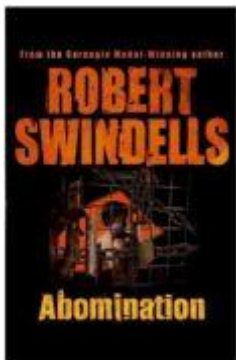
"It is a wonderful adventure in full colour and the descriptions of the scribbles are magical."



## **The Eagle of the Ninth by Rosemary Sutcliffe**

The Ninth Legion marched into the mists of northern Britain - and they were never seen again. Four thousand men disappeared and their eagle standard was lost. It's a mystery that's never been solved, until now . . . Marcus has to find out what happened to his father, who led the legion. So he sets out into the unknown, on a quest so dangerous that nobody expects him to return.

"A beautifully written and exciting tale of a young mans mission to save the reputation of his dead father."



## **Abomination by Robert Swindells**

Martha is twelve and very different from other kids, because of her parents. Strict members of a religious group, the Brethren. Their rules dominate Martha's life and one rule is the most important of all, she must never ever invite anyone home. If she does, their shameful secret could be revealed.

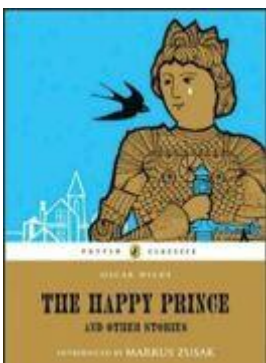
"Nightmarish, yet somehow disturbingly and inexplicably comfortable!"



## **Blitzcat by Robert Westall**

Lord Gort is a female black cat, growing up in England during World War Two. She is quite happy lazing in and around the house of her owner, until the young man disappears to fulfil his duties of war. Reluctantly, she leaves the suddenly deserted home and begins her search for her companion.

"Robert Westall is an excellent story teller."



## **The Happy Prince and Other Stories by Oscar Wilde**

A haunting, magical collection of fairy tales by Oscar Wilde including The Happy Prince, who was not so happy after all, a selfish giant who learned to love little children and a star child who did not love his parents as he should. Each of these stories shines with poetry and magic which will be enjoyed by children of every age.

"Magical Stories."



## **Fox Girl and the White Gazelle by Victoria Williamson**

Reema runs to remember the life she left behind in Syria. Caylin runs to find what she's lost. Under the grey Glasgow skies, twelve-year-old refugee Reema is struggling to find her place in a new country, with a new language and without her brother. But she isn't the only one feeling lost. Her Glaswegian neighbour Caylin is lonely and lashing out. When they form a wary friendship they are more alike than they could have imagined.

"A beautiful, lyrical story of displacement and belonging."