



ChildVision

National Education Centre for Blind Children

**ChildVision Library:
DAISY Catalogue 2018**

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A

Author: Albom, Mitch

Title: Have A Little Faith

Reading Age: 14+

Summary: In "Have a Little Faith", Mitch Albom offers a beautifully written story of a remarkable eight-year journey between two worlds – two men, two faiths, two communities – that will inspire readers everywhere.

"Have a Little Faith" begins with an unusual request: an eighty-two-year-old rabbi from Albom's old hometown asks him to deliver his eulogy. Feeling unworthy, Albom insists on understanding the man better, which throws him back into a world of faith he'd left years ago. Meanwhile, closer to his current home, Albom becomes involved with a Detroit pastor – a reformed drug dealer and convict – who preaches to the poor and homeless in a decaying church with a hole in its roof. Moving between their worlds,

Christian and Jewish, African-American and white, impoverished and well-to-do, Almond observes how these very different men employ faith similarly in fighting for survival: the older, suburban rabbi embracing it as death approaches; the younger, inner-city pastor relying on it to keep himself and his church afloat. "Have a Little Faith" is a book about a life's purpose; about losing belief and finding it again; about the divine spark inside us all. It is one man's journey, but it is everyone's story.

Author: Almond, David

Title: Skellig

Reading Age: 12+

Summary: The beautiful and haunting novel that launched David Almond as one of the best children's writers of today.

When a move to a new house coincides with his baby sister's illness, Michael's world seems suddenly lonely and

uncertain. Then, one Sunday afternoon, he stumbles into the old, ramshackle garage of his new home, 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...

B

Author: Bawden, Nina

Title: Carrie's War

Reading Age: 12+

Summary: 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.

Author: Binchy, Maeve

Title: Circle of Friends

Reading Age: 14+

Summary: Big, generous-hearted Benny and the elfin Eve Malone have been best friends growing up in sleepy Knockglen. Their one thought is to get to Dublin, to university and to freedom...

On their first day at University College, Dublin, the inseparable pair are thrown together with fellow students Nan Mahon, beautiful but selfish, and handsome Jack Foley. But trouble is brewing for Benny and Eve's new circle of friends, and before long, they find passion, tragedy – and the independence they yearned for.

Author: Blackman, Malorie

Title: Cloud Busting

Reading Age: 12+

Summary: Despite his Mum's insistence, Sam doesn't want to be friends with Davey; he thinks Davey's a first class, grade A, top of the dung heap moron. But one day Davey saves Sam's life and a bond is formed between them. Sam is still embarrassed to be seen with Davey, but little by little he has to admit, when it's just the two of them, Davey is a lot of fun. But then something terrible happens to Davey... Told in verse, in first person, this

is the touching story of an extraordinary friendship, that changes two boys' lives forever. An uplifting tale that truly sings out.

Author: Blackman, Malorie

Title: Fuadaithe

Reading Age: 12

Summary: Blindfolded. Alone. Afraid. The only thing Cáit knows is that she's been kidnapped. Will her father pay the ransom? Does she have the courage to escape on her own? (as Gaeilge)

Author: Boyne, John

Title: The Dare

Reading Age: 12+

Summary: At the start of his school holidays, Danny Delaney is looking forward to a trouble-free summer. But when his mother returns home one afternoon, flanked by two policemen, he knows that something terrible has

happened. Mrs. Delaney has accidentally hit a small boy with her car. The boy is in a coma at the local hospital and nobody knows if he will ever wake up. Consumed by guilt, Danny's mother closes herself off, while Danny and his father are left to pick up the pieces of their fractured family.

Author: Brown, Jeff

Title: Flat Stanley

Reading Age: 5-8

Summary: Stanley Lambchop was just an ordinary boy – until a noticeboard fell on him. Now he's flat as a pancake! Being flat is fantastic – he can be rolled up, sent in the post and even fly like a kite. But it's not all fun and games ... there are thieves in town. Can Flat Stanley be a hero?

Author: Byars, Betsy

Title: The Midnight Fox

Reading Age: 12+

Summary: Tom, a town boy, is horrified when his parents tell him he has to stay on Aunt Millie's farm while they are away. He finds country life every bit as strange and uncomfortable as he feared. But soon, he discovers a rare black fox with green eyes, living with her cubs in the forest. Suddenly, the summer is full of excitement. That is, until Uncle Fred decides to go after the fox – will Tom save her and her family in time?

C

Author: Cameron, Elspeth

Title: In the Shadow of the Gun

Reading Age: 14+

Summary: Tam Elliot founded Eden Creek to be a utopia of peace and prosperity. The town achieved neither, and in despair Elliot took his own life. His daughter Allison rechristened the town Suicide, blaming its folks for its failure. From her hillside house, she collects property dues from the lost souls unfortunate enough to still reside there – and punishes anyone attempting to leave. John McBride came west to start a new life, only to find himself saddled with the moniker – Tenderfoot Kid – after a single gunfight. He purchased a restaurant in Suicide hoping to put his past behind him, but with marauding Apaches, vicious outlaws, and rising tensions between the townsfolk and Allison Elliot, the town is a

powder keg waiting to explode – and McBride's presence just may be enough to light the fuse...

Author: Carey, Anna

Title: The Real Rebecca

Reading Age: 10+

Summary: My name is Rebecca Rafferty, and my mother has ruined my life. Again.

I didn't mind her writing boring books for grown-ups. But now she's written one about an awful girl my age and everyone thinks it's me!

Including the boy who delivers our newspapers, aka Paperboy, aka the most gorgeous boy in the whole world. Oh, the shame!

And if that wasn't awful enough, the biggest pain in my class wants to use my 'fame' to get herself on the reality show 'My Big Birthday Bash'.

I've just got to show everyone the REAL Rebecca. But how?

Author: Colfer, Eoin

Title: Benny and Omar

Reading Age: 12+

Summary: A hilarious book from this first-time author in which a young sporting fanatic is forced to leave his beloved Wexford, home of all his heroes, and move with his family to Tunisia! How will he survive in a place like this? Then he teams up with Omar, and a madcap friendship between the two boys leads to trouble, crazy escapades, a unique way of communicating, and heartbreaking challenges.

Author: Colfer, Eoin

Title: The Legend of Spud Murphy

Reading Age: 5-8

Summary: Will has four brothers and it's chaos in his house! If he's not being teased by his big brother Marty, he has to deal with the terrible, three-headed bundle of cuteness that is his three younger brothers. Even worse, his mother has the brilliant idea of packing Will and Marty off to the library during the holidays. She just doesn't understand! Not only is the library no fun, it's also the habitat of the legendary librarian Spud Murphy. If you put a foot wrong, it's rumoured she will use her dreaded gas-powered spud gun and you don't want that. Just ask Ugly Frank how he got his nickname! Eventually Will and Marty discover a love of books and that Mrs. Murphy isn't so bad after all!

Author: Collins, Suzanne

Title: The Hunger Games

Reading Age: 14+

Summary: First in the ground-breaking "Hunger Games" trilogy. Set in a dark vision of the near future, a terrifying reality TV show is taking place. Twelve boys and twelve girls are forced to appear in a live event called The Hunger Games. There is only one rule: kill or be killed. When sixteen-year-old Katniss Everdeen steps forward to take her younger sister's place in the games, she sees it as a death sentence. But Katniss has been close to death before. For her, survival is second nature.

Author: Collins, Suzanne

Title: The Hunger Games: Catching Fire

Reading Age: 14+

Summary: After winning the brutal Hunger Games, Katniss Everdeen returns to her district, hoping for a peaceful future.

But Katniss starts to hear rumours of a deadly rebellion against the Capitol. A rebellion that she and Peeta have helped to create. As Katniss and Peeta are forced to visit the districts on the Capitol's cruel Victory Tour, the stakes are higher than ever. Unless Katniss and Peeta can convince the world that they are still lost in their love for each other, the consequences will be horrifying. The terrifying sequel to The Hunger Games.

Author: Collins, Suzanne

Title: The Hunger Games: Mockingjay

Reading Age: 14+

Summary: Against all odds, Katniss Everdeen has survived the Hunger Games twice. But now that she's made it out of the bloody arena alive, she's still not safe. The Capitol is angry. The Capitol wants revenge... The thrilling final instalment of this ground-breaking trilogy.

Author: Conlon-McKenna, Marita

Title: Fields of Home

Reading Age: 9+

Summary: The final book in the Children of the Famine trilogy, set during the Irish famine. Michael is a stable-boy at the Big House, learning about horses, while Eily struggles to survive in her cottage on a scrap of land and Peggy still works in America. Will Michael forget his past and his sisters?

Author: Conlon-McKenna, Marita

Title: Safe Harbour

Reading Age: 12+

Summary: Sophie and Hugh are left homeless when their house is bombed during the London Blitz. Their mother is seriously injured and their Dad is away fighting, so the children are sent to their grandfather in Ireland. Sophie is scared – they have never met grandfather but his letters cause such trouble in the house,

and their Dad never speaks of him. How will they live in a strange country, with a man who probably hates them – and will the family ever be together again?

D

Author: Dahl, Roald

Title: Danny the Champion of the World

Reading Age: 8+

Summary: Danny lives in a gipsy caravan with his father, the most marvellous and exciting father any boy ever had.

All the land around them belongs to Mr. Victor Hazell, a rich snob with a great glistening beery face and tiny piggy eyes. Nobody likes him, not one-little bit. So one day, Danny and his father concoct a daring plot that will give the old blue-faced baboon Victor Hazell the greatest shock of his life – so long as they don't get caught...

Author: Dahl, Roald

Title: George's Marvellous Medicine

Reading Age: 7+

Summary: George Kranky's Grandma is a miserable grouch. George really hates

that horrid old witchy woman. One Saturday morning, George is in charge of giving Grandma her medicine. So-ho! Ah-ha! Ho-hum! George knows exactly what to do. A magic medicine* it will be. One that will either cure her completely ... or blow off the top of her head.

***WARNING:** Do not try to make George's Marvellous Medicine yourselves at home. It could be dangerous.

Author: Dahl, Roald

Title: The Magic Finger

Reading Age: 6+

Summary: Every Saturday morning the Greg family goes off to shoot animals and birds. But the girl who lives next door hates hunting. Now it's made her so angry she's **PUT THE MAGIC FINGER ON THEM ALL**. And very strange things have begun to happen.

Author: Dahl, Roald

Title: Matilda

Reading Age: 6+

Summary: Matilda Wormwood's father thinks she's a little scab. Matilda's mother spends all afternoon playing bingo. And Matilda's headmistress Miss Trunchbull? Well, she's the worst of all. She is a big bully, who thinks all her pupils are rotten and locks them in the dreaded Chokey. As for Matilda, she's an extraordinary little girl with a magical mind – and now she's had enough. So all these grown-ups had better watch out, because Matilda is going to teach them a lesson they'll never forget.

Author: DiTerlizzi, Tony

Title: The Search for WondLa

Reading Age: 12+

Summary: Eva Nine is a curious and sensitive twelve-year-old who has existed only in a subterranean home called Sanctuary, cared for by a robot named

Muthr. Eva's great desire is to go aboveground, and her wish comes true, though not as she had imagined. On the surface, Eva goes in search of other humans – she has never met one – and soon meets both friend and foe.

Author: Doyle, Roddy

Title: The Giggler Treatment

Reading Age: 6+

Summary: Gloriously silly comedy from Booker prize winner and bestseller Roddy Doyle. If adults are mean to children, they get the Giggler Treatment. It's smelly. It's squishy. And it sticks to your shoe. But sometimes, just sometimes, the Gigglers make a mistake... Can Robbie, Kayla, Jimmy and Rover the dog come to Mr. Mack's rescue before the poo hits the shoe? Look out for more cheeky runaway comedies starring the Mack family and Rover the wonder-dog.

Author: Doyle, Roddy

Title: Rover Saves Christmas

Reading Age: 6+

Summary: Gloriously silly comedy from Booker prize winner and bestseller Roddy Doyle.

It's Christmas Eve and Rudolph's got the flu! Jimmy and Robbie Mack are so desperate for Christmas that they've left twenty-seven sandwiches out for Santa. But Rudolf is off sick and Santa's grounded the sleigh – with all the presents. Will the big day be cancelled? Or can Rover the wonder-dog come to the rescue? Look out for more cheeky runaway comedies starring the Mack family and Rover.

E

Author: Eilis, Deborah

Title: The Breadwinner

Reading Age: 12+

Summary: Since the Taliban took over Afghanistan, 11-year-old Parvana has rarely been outdoors. Barred from attending school, shopping at the market, or even playing in the streets of Kabul, the heroine of Deborah Ellis's engrossing children's novel "The Breadwinner" is trapped inside her family's one-room home. That is, until the Taliban hauls away her father and Parvana realises that it's up to her to become the "breadwinner" and disguise herself as a boy to support her mother, two sisters, and baby brother.

F

Author: Fitzgerald, F. Scott

Title: The Great Gatsby

Reading Age: 14+

Summary: Young, handsome and fabulously rich, Jay Gatsby is the bright star of the Jazz Age, but as writer Nick Carraway is drawn into the decadent orbit of his Long Island mansion, where the party never seems to end, he finds himself faced by the mystery of Gatsby's origins and desires. Beneath the shimmering surface of his life, Gatsby is hiding a secret: a silent longing that can never be fulfilled. And soon, this destructive obsession will force his world to unravel. In "The Great Gatsby", Fitzgerald brilliantly captures both the disillusionment of post-war America and the moral failure of a society obsessed with wealth and status. But he does more than render the essence of a particular time and place, for

– in chronicling Gatsby's tragic pursuit of his dream – Fitzgerald re-creates the universal conflict between illusion and reality.

Author: Friel, Brian

Title: Dancing at Lughnasa

Reading Age: 14+

Summary: It is 1936 and harvest time in County Donegal. In a house just outside the village of Ballybeg live the five Mundy sisters, barely making ends meet, their ages ranging from twenty-six up to forty. The two male members of the household are Brother Jack, a missionary priest, repatriated from Africa by his superiors after 25 years, and the seven-year-old child of the youngest sister.

G

Author: Gantos, Jack

Title: Joey Pigza Swallowed the Key

Reading Age: 9+

Summary: Joey is a good kid, maybe even a great kid, but his teachers never know what he's going to do next. He sharpens his finger in the pencil-sharpener and swallows his house key. He can't sit still for more than a minute – Joey is buzzing!

Told from Joey's own unique viewpoint by acclaimed American author Jack Gantos, this is an exceptionally funny and touching story about a boy with severe attention deficit disorder (ADD).

Author: Gallagher, Brian

Title: Across the Divide

Reading Age: 10+

Summary: Liam and Nora form an unlikely friendship when he lends her a

helping hand during a music competition. Liam's father, a mechanic, is a proud trade union member, while Nora's father is a prosperous wine importer. When Jim Larkin takes on the might of the employers in 1913, resulting in strikes, riots and lockouts, Liam and Nora's friendship is challenged and their loyalties torn. Caught up in events that they don't fully understand, the two come face to face with hardship and danger, but also find humour and generosity as they set out on an adventure that may make or break their friendship, but will definitely change their lives forever. The historical events of the Dublin 1913 Lockout vividly portrayed through the lives of two young friends.

Author: Gleitzman, Morris

Title: Once

Reading Age: 12+

Summary: Once by Morris Gleitzman is the story of a young Jewish boy who is determined to escape the orphanage he lives in to save his Jewish parents from the Nazis in the occupied Poland of the Second World War.

Author: Golding, William

Title: Lord of the Flies

Reading Age: 14+

Summary: A plane crashes on an uninhabited island and the only survivors, a group of schoolboys, assemble on the beach and wait to be rescued. By day they inhabit a land of bright fantastic birds and dark blue seas, but at night their dreams are haunted by the image of a terrifying beast.

In this, his first novel, William Golding gave the traditional adventure story an ironic, devastating twist. The boys' delicate sense of order fades, and their childish fears are transformed into

something deeper and more primitive. Their games take on a horrible significance, and before long the well-behaved party of schoolboys has turned into a tribe of faceless, murderous savages.

Author: Gray, Kes

Title: Daisy and the Trouble with Kittens

Reading Age: 5-8

Summary: Daisy is going on holiday! In an actual plane to actual Spain! It's so exciting! She's never seen a palm tree before, or eaten octopus, or played zombie mermaids, or made so many new friends! Trouble is, five of them are small and cute and furry kittens!!!! And guess who wants to be their new English Mum?!?

Author: Gray, Kes

Title: Daisy and the Trouble with Zoos

Reading Age: 5-8

Summary: It's Daisy's birthday and she's having a special birthday treat! Mum has invited her best friends, Gabby and Dylan, on a trip to the zoo – and, best of all, Mum has arranged for Daisy to go into the actual penguin cage with the actual zoo keeper and FEED actual penguins! REAL ACTUAL PENGUINS! With actual beaks and everything!! Trouble is, Daisy doesn't just feed the penguins; she "adopts" one to take home and everything...

Author: Gunning, Peter

Title: Reaching the Heights

Reading Age: 9+

Summary: "Reaching the Heights" is set in MacGillicuddy Heights, Cork, where we focus on three teenagers and their troubles. We first meet Naylor and Tosh who live in the Heights. Naylor is determined, persevering and loyal to his family and friends. Then there's Tosh who's lovesick in this story and he's funny,

kind and intelligent. We then meet Aisling who lives in the richer part of the city. Aisling is loyal and kind.

Author: Gunning, Peter

Title: Stanley

Reading Age: 8+

Summary: From the beginning of his life, he was trouble! He came into the world holding his breath and winking at nurses. His adventures are never normal. He takes on boxing, farming, being a "mother", dog-painting, baking clay cookies, pet horses and cutting up money!

H

Author: Hinton, Nigel

Title: Buddy

Reading Age: 12+

Summary: Buddy has a hopeless father who is an ageing rocker, interested only in Elvis and bikes, and living on the fringes of the under-world. The two manage to strike up some kind of relationship when Buddy's mum walks out – until Buddy realises that his dad is involved in something more serious than he suspected.

Author: Hinton, S.E.

Title: The Outsiders

Reading Age: 12+

Summary: Youngsters in a small Oklahoma town have split into two gangs, divided by money, tastes and attitude. The Socs' idea of having a good time is beating up Greasers like Ponyboy Curtis.

Ponyboy knows what to expect and knows he can count on his brothers and friends – until the night someone takes things too far.

Author: Hodgson Burnett, Frances

Title: The Secret Garden

Reading Age: 9+

Summary: Mary Lennox was horrid. Selfish and spoilt, she was sent to stay with her hunchback uncle in Yorkshire. She hated it. But when she finds the way into a secret garden and begins to tend it, a change comes over her and her life. She meets and befriends a local boy, the talented Dickon, and comes across her sickly cousin Colin who had been kept hidden from her. Between them, the three children work astonishing magic in themselves and those around them.

Author: Holm, Anne

Title: I am David

Reading Age: 12+

Summary: David escapes from the concentration camp where he has spent his entire life and flees across Europe. He is utterly alone – who can he trust? What will await him? And all the while, how can he be sure that they won't catch up with him ...

This is the remarkable story of David's introduction to the world: 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.

Author: Horowitz, Anthony

Title: Stormbreaker

Reading Age: 12+

Summary: In the first book in the number one bestselling Alex Rider series by

Anthony Horowitz, fourteen-year-old Alex is forcibly recruited into MI6. Armed with secret gadgets, he is sent to investigate Herod Sayle, a man who is offering state-of-the-art Stormbreaker computers to every school in the country. But the teenage spy soon finds himself in mortal danger.

I

Author: Ibsen, Henrik

Title: A Doll's House

Reading Age: 14+

Summary: The slamming of the front door at the end of "A Doll's House" shatters the romantic masquerade of the Helmers' marriage. In their stultifying and infantilised relationship, Nora and Torvald have deceived themselves and each other both consciously and subconsciously, until Nora acknowledges the need for individual freedom.

A revised student edition of classic set text: "A Doll's House" (1879) is a masterpiece of theatrical craft which, for the first time portrayed the tragic hypocrisy of Victorian middle class marriage on stage. The play ushered in a new social era and "exploded like a bomb into contemporary life". "Meyer's translations of Ibsen are a major fact in

one's general sense of post-war drama. Their vital pace, their unforced insistence on the poetic centre of Ibsen's genius, have beaten academic versions from the field" (George Steiner)

K

Author: King Smith, Dick

Title: The Sheep Pig

Reading Age: 6-9

Summary: When Babe, the little orphaned piglet, is won at a fair by Farmer Hogget, he is adopted by Fly, the kind-hearted sheep-dog. Babe is determined to learn everything he can from Fly. He knows he can't be a sheep-dog. But maybe, just maybe, he might be a sheep-pig.

L

Author: Lewis, Gill

Title: SkyHawk

Reading Age: 9+

Summary: When Callum and his friends find Iona on Callum's farm they try to chase her back into the village. But Iona runs from them up into the hills. It is late and dark and snow lies in the mountain gullies. Worried for Iona's safety, Callum follows to find her shivering with cold but refusing to leave. She is guarding a secret hidden in the forest above the dark waters of the loch. So they make a deal. Iona shares the secret and in return Callum allows her back onto the farm. They form a deep bond of friendship and make a promise to keep their secret safe. It is a promise that will change Callum's world forever... Soar above the clouds in this enthralling tale of friendship, loyalty, and hope.

Author: Leyden, Paula

Title: Butterfly Heart

Reading Age: 9+

Summary: A lyrical story from the butterfly heart of Africa. Bul-Boo and Madillo are worried about their friend Winifred, who has lost her gentle smile and no longer puts up her hand in class. Then the twins discover her secret: she is to be married off to her uncle's friend, who drinks heavily and is old enough to be her grandfather. While Winifred has become resigned to her fate, her friends are determined to put a stop to the marriage. But what can they do? They ask the advice of Ifwafwa, the snake man, who promises to think about the problem. Ifwafwa is wise and has a gift with snakes, but he does not like to hurry and Bul-Boo becomes impatient. Will he be too late to save their friend?

Author: Lingard, Joan

Title: Twelfth Day of July

Reading Age: 12+

Summary: "The Twelfth Day of July" is first of Joan Lingard's influential "Kevin and Sadie" books, set in Belfast during the Troubles. It is one of The Originals from Penguin – iconic, outspoken, first. Sadie is Protestant, Kevin is Catholic – and on the tense streets of Belfast their lives collide. It starts with a dare – kids fooling around – but soon becomes something dangerous. Getting to know Sadie Jackson will change Kevin's life forever. But will the world around them change too?

Author: Lingard, Joan

Title: Across the Barricades

Reading Age: 12+

Summary: "Across the Barricades" is part of Joan Lingard's ground-breaking "Kevin and Sadie" series, the sequel to "The

Twelfth Day of July". Kevin and Sadie just want to be together, but it's not that simple. Things are bad in Belfast. Soldiers walk the streets and the city is divided. No Catholic boy and Protestant girl can go out together – not without dangerous consequences.

Author: Llywelyn, Morgan

Title: Strongbow

Reading Age: 9+

Summary: The dramatic story of the Norman conquest of Ireland in the 12th century. Full of battles and warfare, but a story of love, too, between an unlikely pair – wilful and wild Irish princess Aoife, and Strongbow, the greatest of the Norman knights to come to Ireland. A clash of cultures and a vivid story of one of the Greats of Irish history.

M

Author: Magorian, Michelle

Title: Goodnight Mr. Tom

Reading Age: 12+

Summary: Young Willie Beech is evacuated to the country as Britain stands on the brink of the Second World War. 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.

Author: Mansfield, Creina

Title: My Nasty Neighbours

Reading Age: 9+

Summary: David and his family are typical – three messy, noisy teenagers; two tidy, organised parents. It just doesn't work, does it? But when Mum inherits some money, they find a solution – two houses next door to each other. Now they

can split up, teens in number 8 and parents in number 10. At first it seems like paradise, but then things begin to go wrong...

Author: Martin, Ann M.

Title: How to find a Lost Dog

Reading Age: 9+

Summary: 11-year-old Rose is autistic and struggles to understand her classmates. But when her father gives her a stray dog, which she names Rain, the dog becomes her best friend, her anchor in a confusing world. So when Rain goes missing during a storm, Rose refuses to stop looking for her.

Author: McCabe, Eugene

Title: Death and Nightingales

Reading Age: 14+

Summary: It is 1883 and against the fearsome beauty of the Fermanagh landscape, the fate of Beth Winters slowly

unfolds. Beth is determined to decide her own destiny yet seems doomed to repeat the tragic mistakes of her family. Through the events of the day of her twenty-fifth birthday, decades of pain and betrayal finally build to a devastating climax. In this powerful and gripping novel McCabe creates a lyrical indictment of the tensions that tear both families and nations apart.

Author: McDermid, Val

Title: Out of Bounds

Reading Age: 14+

Summary: When a teenage joyrider crashes a stolen car and ends up in a coma, a routine DNA test could be the key to unlocking the mystery of a twenty-year-old murder inquiry. Detective Chief Inspector Karen Pirie is an expert at solving the unsolvable. With each cold case closed, justice is served. So, finding

the answer should be straightforward, but it's as twisted as the DNA helix itself. Meanwhile Karen finds herself irresistibly drawn to another case, one that she has no business investigating. And as she pieces together decades-old evidence, Karen discovers the most dangerous kinds of secrets. Secrets that someone is willing to kill for...

Author: McGahern, John

Title: Amongst Women

Reading Age: 14+

Summary: Moran is an old Republican whose life was forever transformed by his days of glory as a guerilla leader in the War of Independence. Now, in old age, living out in the country, Moran is still fighting – with his family, his friends, even himself – in a poignant struggle to come to terms with the past.

Author: McKenzie, Sophie

Title: Girl Missing

Reading Age: 14+

Summary: Lauren has always known she was adopted but when a little research turns up the possibility that she was snatched from an American family as a baby, suddenly Lauren's life seems like a sham. How can she find her biological parents? And are her adoptive parents really responsible for kidnapping her?

Author: Mendoza, Eduardo

Title: Sin Noticias de Gurb

Reading Age: 12+

Summary: This fun novel tells of the search for an alien (Gurb) who has disappeared in Barcelona, after adopting the appearance of the singer Marta Sánchez. But the protagonist of the story is not Gurb, but another alien who is searching for him and whose diary is the basis of the story. (In Spanish)

Author: Mitchell, Jane

Title: Chalkline

Reading Age: 12+

Summary: It's an ordinary morning at nine-year-old Rafiq's school in rural Kashmir when the silence of dawn prayers is ripped apart by gunfire. Soldiers of the Kashmir Freedom Fighters have raided the village in search of new recruits – they scrawl a line in chalk across the schoolroom wall, and any boy whose height reaches the line will be taken to fight. Rafiq is tall for his age – the first boy to cross the chalkline into a life of brutality and terrorism. This is the story of Rafiq's transformation from child to boy soldier, as he is indoctrinated into the cause of fanatical belief. But his family have not forgotten him; when he can no longer recognize himself, they remember the boy he was, and reach out a hand of

redemption as he spirals towards a final act of atrocity.

Author: Morpurgo, Michael

Title: Alone on a Wide Wide Sea

Reading Age: 8+

Summary: There were dozens of us on the ship, all up on deck for the leaving of Liverpool, gulls wheeling and crying over our heads, calling good-bye...

That is all I remember of England.

When six-year-old orphan Arthur Hobhouse is shipped to Australia after WWII he loses his sister, his country and everything he knows. Overcoming enormous hardships with fellow orphan Marty, Arthur is finally saved by the extraordinary people he meets and by his talent for boat-design and sailing. Now he has built a special boat for his daughter Allie – a solo yacht designed to carry her to England in search of his long-lost sister.

Will the threads of Arthur's life finally come together?

I was there on the quayside to see Allie take her out for the first time, saw her dancing through the waves, and I knew I'd never built a finer boat.

Author: Morpurgo, Michael

Title: Born to Run

Reading Age: 8+

Summary: The bag wasn't just drifting gently along; it was turning of its own accord. There was something inside it, squeaking and squealing in terror. Patrick didn't think about it. He shrugged off his school bag and leaped into the canal. For Best Mate, being rescued from drowning as a young puppy is only the start of his adventures. From unwanted burden to favourite companion, and from pet to champion race dog, this remarkable greyhound proves that it's not just cats

who have more than one life. Cast aside, kidnapped, adopted or living rough on the streets, Best Mate can always find a way to survive. But will he ever find a real home?

Author: Morpurgo, Michael

Title: Farm Boy

Reading Age: 8+

Summary: This touching story of the close relationship between grandson and grandfather, and the special secret they share, is enhanced by factual illustrations of farming history from the beginning of the century.

Author: Morpurgo, Michael

Title: Friend or Foe

Reading Age: 9+

Summary: "There was nothing threatening or frightening about them, they were just two exhausted, pale-looking men with sad eyes and kind faces.

These were the men who had bombed London and Plymouth and killed thousands. Yet one of them had saved his life." It's the Second World War, and the Germans are bombing London. Everyone hates them, especially David: they killed his father. Now, because of the Blitz, David and his friend Tucky have been evacuated to the countryside, where they must live with strangers. Then one night they see a German plane crash on the moors. They feel they should hate the airmen inside, but can they just leave them to die?

Author: Morpurgo, Michael

Title: The Ghost of Grania O'Malley

Reading Age: 8+

Summary: Everyone knows the Big Hill is full of gold, and now the islanders are intent on cutting the top off it and making themselves rich. Jessie and Jake are determined to save the Big Hill but what

can they do? A plan is needed, and fast. Could the ghost of Grania O'Malley, the pirate queen, be the answer? You don't know what you can do until you try.

Author: Morpurgo, Michael

Title: Little Foxes

Reading Age: 8+

Summary: Bullied at school, nagged in Aunt May's tenth-floor council flat, there's only one place ten-year-old Billy really feels alive – in the wilderness by the canal. There he watches a cygnet on the water and protects a family of fox cubs. Then his secret place is discovered and the fox family decimated. Unwanted and unloved, Billy and the last fox run for their lives...

Author: Morpurgo, Michael

Title: Little Manfred

Reading Age: 7+

Summary: In the Imperial War Museum is a wooden Dachshund, carved by a German prisoner of war for the children of the British family with which he stayed after the fighting ended. This is the story of how it got there...

When the Bismarck sinks, one of the only German survivors is taken on board a British ship as a prisoner of war. Sent to live with a host family, Walter must adapt to a new way of life, in the heart of an enemy country. Gradually, though, he finds a friend in ten-year-old Grace. So when the time finally comes to go back to Germany, it's an emotional parting, with Walter leaving Grace with only a carved wooden dog to remember him by. The question is, will Walter and Grace ever meet again? In 1966, with the World Cup coming to Britain, that opportunity may just have come along.

Author: Morpurgo, Michael.

Title: Mozart Question, The
(1 Volume, Arial 24)

Reading Age: 8+

Summary: When Lesley is sent to Venice to interview world-renowned violinist Paulo Levi on his fiftieth birthday, she cannot believe her luck. She is told that she can ask him anything at all – except the Mozart question. But it is Paulo himself who decides that the time has come for the truth to be told. And so follows the story of his parents in a Jewish concentration camp, forced to play Mozart violin concerti for the enemy; how they watched fellow Jews being led off to their deaths and knew that they were playing for their lives. As the story unfolds, the journalist begins to understand the full horror of war – and how one group of musicians survived using the only weapon they had.

Author: Morpurgo, Michael

Title: Outlaw – The Story of Robin Hood

Reading Age: 9+

Summary: After a fierce storm, a boy discovers a human skull, buried beneath the roots of an ancient tree. A skull with a legendary story...

Vivid re-imagining of the legendary hero Robin Hood by bestselling author of War Horse.

“Tell the sheriff, tell Sir Guy of Gisbourne, tell everyone in Nottingham, that the Outlaws rule here in Sherwood, that we rule in the king’s name... I am Robin Hood.”

Homeless and lost in a dark, strange forest, young Robin is rescued by a motley crew of misfits. He yearns to avenge his father and seek justice against cruel oppressors, to finally defeat the Sheriff of Nottingham, once and for all. And through his friends, Robin Hood

finds the courage to become a legendary hero.

Author: Morpurgo, Michael

Title: Private Peaceful

Reading Age: 10+

Summary: Told in the voice of Private Tommo Peaceful, the story follows twenty-four hours at the front, and captures his memories of his family and his village life – by no means as tranquil as it appeared. Full of vivid detail and engrossing atmosphere, leading to a dramatic and moving conclusion, "Private Peaceful" is both a compelling love story and a deeply moving account of the First World War.

Author: Morpurgo, Michael

Title: Running Wild

Reading Age: 9+

Summary: An epic and heart-rending jungle adventure from the bestselling author of "Kaspar" and "Born to Run". For Will and his mother, going to Indonesia

isn't just a holiday. It's an escape, a new start, a chance to put things behind them – things like the death of Will's father. And to begin with, it seems to be just what they both needed. But then Oona, the elephant Will is riding on the beach, begins acting strangely, shying away from the sea. And that's when the tsunami comes crashing in, and Oona begins to run. Except that when the tsunami is gone, Oona just keeps on running. With nothing on his back but a shirt and 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.

Author: Murphy, Frank

Title: Charlie Harte and his Two Wheeled Tiger

Reading Age: 5+

Summary: Charlie would love a bike, but his family cannot afford one. Then he

manages to assemble a strange-looking bike from old bits and pieces -- not exactly cool, but full of character. In fact, so full of character that it almost begins to develop a life of its own! This strange bike changes Charlie's life ...

N

Author: Ní Ghlinn, Áine

Title: Thar an Trasnán

Reading Age: 9+

Summary: A football game for sixth class with the boys against the girls. Just for fun, the teachers said! But Eoghan considers there is a lot more than this in question for the boys – their status, pride, and honour. (as Gaeilge)

O

Author: O'Casey, Sean

Title: Juno and the Paycock

Reading Age: 14+

Summary: This play is set in Dublin in the early 1920s during the Irish Civil War period. Jack Boyle and his old friend Joxer Daly are two Dublin tenement dwellers who put more effort into avoiding work than most do in securing it! Jack's wife Juno is the breadwinner and moral powerhouse, but she can't stop her life unravelling.

Author: O'Laighléis, Ré

Title: Gafa

Reading Age: 14+

Summary: O'Laighléis' highly acclaimed novel tells the horrific and gruelling tale of teenager Eoin's slide into the world of drug addiction and his involvement with its murky and danger-filled underworld.

"Gafa" ("Hooked" in English) also relates the parents' story: Eithne's world is thrown into turmoil, first by the realisation that her 17-year-old son is in the throes of heroin addiction and then by the discovery of her husband's infidelity. (as Gaeilge)

Author: O'Laighléis, Ré

Title: Goimh agus Scéalta Eile

Reading Age: 14+

Summary: A collection of eight short stories handling the theme of racism. The author describes in frightening detail how hate and rash words can drive people to commit ugly deeds. A modern, powerful and important collection. (as Gaeilge)

P

Author: Palacio, R.J

Title: Wonder

Reading Age: 12+

Summary: '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, underneath it all?

WONDER is a funny, frank, astonishingly moving debut to read in one sitting, pass on to others, and remember long after the final page.

Author: Parkinson, Siobhan

Title: Amelia

Reading Age: 12+

Summary: The year is 1914 and Amelia Pim will soon be thirteen. There are rumours of war and rebellion, and Dublin is holding its breath for major, dramatic events. But all that matters to Amelia is what she will wear to her birthday party and how she can be the envy of her friends. But where are Amelia's friends when disaster strikes her family? Now that the Pims have come down in the world, what use will Amelia have for a shimmering emerald-green dress? When Mama's political activities bring the final disgrace, it is Amelia who must hold

the family together. Only the friendship of the servant girl Mary Ann seems to promise any hope.

Author: Parkinson, Siobhan

Title: No Peace for Amelia

Reading Age: 12+

Summary: It's 1916 but Amelia Pim's thoughts are on Frederick Goodbody and not on the war in Europe. Then Frederick enlists. The pacifist Quaker community is shocked but Amelia is secretly proud of her hero and goes to the quayside to wave him farewell. For her friend MaryAnn, there are problems too, with her brother's involvement in the Easter Rising. What will become of the two young men and what effect will it have on the lives of Amelia and MaryAnn?

Author: Parkinson, Siobhan

Title: Kate

Reading Age: 12+

Summary: When Kate goes to her very first Irish dancing lesson she is smitten: It's like flying, she decides. It's the best thing she's ever done. But, coming from a poor family in Dublin's Liberties in the 1930s, how can Kate continue with her dancing? How could she ever manage to buy a fancy dancing costume? Still, Kate has her dreams – and sometimes dreams come true, even if not in the way we imagine!

Author: Picoult, Jodi

Title: My Sister's Keeper

Reading Age: 14+

Summary: In all thirteen years of Anna's life, her parents have never given her a choice: she was born to be her sister Kate's bone marrow donor and she has always given Kate everything she needs. But when Anna is told Kate needs a new kidney, she begins to question how much she should be prepared to do to save the

older sibling she has always been defined by. So Anna makes a decision that will change their family forever – perhaps even fatally for the sister she loves.

Author: Plato

Title: The Last Days of Socrates

Reading Age: 14+

Summary: The trial and condemnation of Socrates on charges of heresy and corrupting young minds is a defining moment in the history of Classical Athens. In tracing these events through four dialogues, Plato also developed his own philosophy, based on Socrates' manifesto for a life guided by self-responsibility.

"Euthyphro" finds Socrates outside the court-house, debating the nature of piety, while the "Apology" is his robust rebuttal of the charges of impiety and a defence of the philosopher's life. In the "Crito", while awaiting execution in prison, Socrates counters the arguments of friends urging him to escape. Finally, in the "Phaedo", he

is shown calmly confident in the face of death, skilfully arguing the case for the immortality of the soul.

Author: Portis, Charles

Title: True Grit

Reading Age: 14+

Summary: There is no knowing what lies in a man's heart. On a trip to buy ponies, Frank Ross is killed by one of his own workers. Tom Chaney shoots him down in the street for a horse, \$150 cash, and two Californian gold pieces. Ross's unusually mature and single-minded fourteen-year-old daughter Mattie travels to claim his body, and finds that the authorities are doing nothing to find Chaney. Then she hears of Rooster - a man, she's told, who has grit - and convinces him to join her in a quest into dark, dangerous Indian territory to hunt Chaney down and avenge her father's murder.

R

Author: Robson, Jenny

Title: Balaclava Boy

Reading Age: 8+

Summary: Why is the new boy at school wearing a balaclava? The other kids are intrigued and come up with all sorts of theories, but every single one is wrong. As their curiosity grows, Tommy's new friends think of a plan to reveal his secret, but you'll never guess what it is. A short novel with an intriguing story. Appeal to reluctant readers.

Author: Ryan, Donal

Title: The Spinning Heart

Reading Age: 14+

Summary: In the aftermath of Ireland's financial collapse, dangerous tensions surface in an Irish town. As violence

flares, the characters face a battle between public persona and inner desires. Through a chorus of unique voices, each struggling to tell their own kind of truth, a single authentic tale unfolds. "The Spinning Heart" speaks for contemporary Ireland like no other novel. Wry, vulnerable, all-too human, it captures the language and spirit of rural Ireland and with uncanny perception articulates the words and thoughts of a generation. Donal Ryan's brilliantly realised debut announces a stunning new voice in literary fiction.

S

Author: Sachar, Louis

Title: The Boy Who Lost His Face

Reading Age: 9+

Summary: David is only trying to be cool when he helps some of the popular kids steal Old Lady Bayfield's cane. But when the plan backfires, he's the one the "old witch" curses. Now David can't seem to do anything right. The cool kids taunt him and his only friends are freaks. He even walks into Spanish class with his fly unzipped! And when he finally gets up the nerve to ask out a cute girl, his pants fall down in midsentence. Is it the Bayfield curse at work? Or is David simply turning into a total loser?

Author: Sachar, Louis

Title: Holes

Reading Age: 9+

Summary: Stanley Yelnat's 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.

Author: Salinger, J.D

Title: Catcher in the Rye

(2 Volume, Arial 24)

Reading Age: 14+

Summary: It's Christmas and Holden Caulfield has just been expelled from yet another school. Fleeing the crooks at Pencey Prep, he pinballs around New York City seeking solace in fleeting encounters - shooting the bull with strangers in dive hotels, wandering alone

round Central Park, getting beaten up by pimps and cut down by erstwhile girlfriends.

The city is beautiful and terrible, in all its neon loneliness and seedy glamour, its mingled sense of possibility and emptiness. Holden passes through it like a ghost, thinking always of his kid sister Phoebe, the only person who really understands him, and his determination to escape the phonies and find a life of true meaning.

The Catcher in the Rye is an all-time classic coming-of-age story: an elegy to teenage alienation, capturing the deeply human need for connection and the bewildering sense of loss as we leave childhood behind.

Author: Scott, Jonathan

Title: Leopard's Tale

Reading Age: 8+

Summary: A classic account tells the story of the mother leopard as a solitary hunter providing for herself and her offspring. He records encounters with baboon, hyena and man, hazards facing the cubs as they learn to fend for themselves and periods of play and relaxation. Some years after Chui disappeared, a young female appeared, Half-Tail. Jonathan and Angela have followed her and her daughter Zawadi, stars of the BBC's Big Cat Diary, for the past twenty years, bringing the story up to date.

Author: Sewell, Anna

Title: Black Beauty

Reading Age: 6+

Summary: A captivating retelling of Anna Sewell's classic novel beautifully illustrated by Alan Marks, perfect for encouraging independent reading. This title is part of Series Two of the Usborne

Young Reading Programme, specially written for readers growing in confidence.

Author: Serrailier, Eduardo

Title: The Silver Sword

Reading Age: 9+

Summary: Alone and fending for themselves in a Poland devastated by World War Two, Jan and his three homeless friends cling to the silver sword as a symbol of hope. As they travel through Europe towards Switzerland, where they believe they will be reunited with their parents, they encounter many hardships and dangers. This extraordinarily moving account of an epic journey gives a remarkable insight into the reality of a Europe laid waste by war.

Author: Shakespeare, William

Title: Hamlet (Folens ed.)

Reading Age: 14+

Summary: A tragedy by William Shakespeare for Leaving Certificate English. This edition includes: a general introduction to Shakespeare and the play; complete text of the play; each scene is followed by: a summary, an analysis and an in-depth character study.

Author: Shan, Darren

Title: Cirque Du Freak

Reading Age: 9+

Summary: Darren goes to a banned freak show with his best mate Steve. It's the wonderfully gothic Cirque Du Freak where weird, frightening half human/half animals appear who interact terrifyingly with the audience. Darren – a spider freak – "falls in love" with Madam Octa – an enormous tarantula owned by Mr Crepsley. Darren determines to steal the spider so that he can train it to perform amazing deeds. But his daring theft goes horribly wrong and

Darren finds himself having to make a bargain with a creature of the night. Something out of the ordinary is set against the background of children's normal lives to chilling effect. Atmospheric, funny, realistic, moving and... terrifying.

Author: Simon, Francesca

Title: Horrid Henry Gets Rich Quick

Reading Age: 5+

Summary: In this collection, Horrid Henry makes sure he gets the presents he wants for Christmas, sabotages the school sports, day, runs away from home, and thinks of a brilliant way to get rich quick – by selling off his little brother!

Author: Simon, Francesca

Title: Horrid Henry's Haunted House

Reading Age: 5+

Summary: Henry slugs it out with his little brother over what TV show to watch, gets

on TV himself, cheats in a competition,
and goes to stay in a house his cousin
assures him is haunted.

Author: Steinbeck, John

Title: Of Mice and Men

Reading Age: 12+

Summary: Drifters in search of work, George and his childlike friend Lennie, have nothing in the world except the clothes on their back – and a dream that one day they will have some land of their own. Eventually they find work on a ranch in California's Salinas Valley, but their hopes are dashed as Lennie – struggling against extreme cruelty, misunderstanding and feelings of jealousy – becomes a victim of his own strength. Tackling universal themes of friendship and shared vision, and giving a voice to America's lonely and dispossessed, "Of Mice and Men" remains Steinbeck's most popular work.

Author: Strong, Jeremy

Title: The Hundred Mile an Hour Dog

Reading Age: 7+

Summary: Streaker is no ordinary dog. She's a rocket on four legs with a woof attached, and Trevor has got until the end of the holidays to train her. If he fails, he'll lose his bet with horrible Charlie Smugg, and something very, very yucky involving frogspawn will happen...

Award-winning Jeremy Strong has written many funny books for kids aged 7-teen, including "My Dad's Got an Alligator" and "My Brother's Famous Bottom".

Author: Swindells, Robert

Title: Stone Cold

Reading Age: 12+

Summary: A tense thriller plot is combined with a perceptive and harrowing portrait of life on the streets as a serial killer preys on the young and vulnerable homeless. Link, aged 17, is distrustful of people until he pairs up with Deb, another homeless youngster. But what Deb doesn't tell him is that she's an ambitious

young journalist on a self-imposed assignment to track down the killer and she's prepared to use herself as bait.

T

Author: Taylor, Marilyn

Title: Faraway Home

Reading Age: 12+

Summary: Karl and Rosa's family watch in horror as Hitler's troops parade down the streets of their home city – Vienna. It has become very dangerous to be a Jew in Austria, and after their uncle is sent to Dachau, Karl and Rosa's parents decide to send the children out of the country on a Kindertransport, one of the many ships carrying refugee children away from Nazi danger. Isolated and homesick, Karl ends up in Millisle, a run-down farm in Ards in Northern Ireland, which has become a Jewish refugee centre, while Rosa is fostered by a local family. Hard work on the farm keeps Karl occupied, although he still waits desperately for any news from home. Then he makes friends with locals Peewee and Wee Billy, and also with the

girls from neutral Dublin who come to help on the farm, especially Judy. But Northern Ireland is in the war too, with rationing and air-raid warnings, and, in April 1941 the bombs of the Belfast Blitz bring the reality of war right to their doorstep. And for Karl and Rosa and the other refugees there is the constant fear that they may never see their parents again.

Author: Taylor, Theodore

Title: The Cay

Reading Age: 12+

Summary: Phillip is excited when the Germans invade the small island of Curaçao. War has always been a game to him, and he's eager to glimpse it firsthand – until the freighter he and his mother are traveling to the United States on is torpedoed. When Phillip comes to, he is on a small raft in the middle of the sea. Besides Stew Cat, his only companion is an old West Indian, Timothy. Phillip

remembers his mother's warning about black people: "They are different, and they live differently." But by the time the castaways arrive on a small island, Phillip's head injury has made him blind and dependent on Timothy.

Author: Tóibín, Colm

Title: Brooklyn

Reading Age: 14+

Summary: It is Ireland in the early 1950s and for Eilis Lacey, as for so many young Irish girls, opportunities are scarce. So when her sister arranges for her to emigrate to New York, Eilis knows she must go, leaving behind her family and her home for the first time. Arriving in a crowded lodging house in Brooklyn, Eilis can only be reminded of what she has sacrificed. She is far from home – and homesick. And just as she takes tentative steps towards friendship, and perhaps something more, Eilis receives news

which sends her back to Ireland. There she will be confronted by a terrible dilemma – a devastating choice between duty and one great love.

U

Author: Uí Dhufaigh, Máire

Title: Raic

Reading Age: 12+

Summary: On Leic Island off the Atlantic coast of Ireland, Cairíona's only worry is how she and her friends will spend the long school summer holidays ahead of her – and how to make an impression on the handsome Séamas. She is delighted to be offered a summer job working with Séamas, but he doesn't show much interest in her. Hoping to make him jealous, she goes on a date with another young man who seems very interested in her, and with that begins an adventure that leaves Cairíona in grave danger. Romance and teenage fun are entwined in this thriller about unscrupulous thieves and a valuable cargo at the bottom of the sea. (as Gaeilge)

V

Author: Virgil

Title: The Aeneid

Reading Age: 14+

Summary: Inspired by Homer, and the inspiration for Dante and Milton, Virgil's "The Aeneid" is an immortal epic poem of the ancient world that lies at the heart of Western life and culture, translated from the Latin with an introduction by David West in Penguin Classics.

After a century of civil strife in Rome and Italy, Virgil wrote "The Aeneid" to honour the emperor Augustus by praising Aeneas – Augustus' legendary ancestor. As a patriotic epic imitating Homer, "The Aeneid" also set out to provide Rome with a literature equal to that of ancient Greece. It tells of Aeneas, survivor of the sack of Troy, and of his seven-year journey – to Carthage, where he tragically fell in love with Queen Dido; then to the

underworld, in the company of the Sybil of Cumae; and finally to Italy, where he founded Rome. It is a story of defeat and exile, of love and war, hailed by Tennyson as "the stateliest measure ever moulded by the lips of man".

W

Author: Walsh, Alison

Title: Hugh O'Flaherty – His Wartime Adventures

Reading Age: 10+

Summary: Hugh O'Flaherty was an ordinary man who did extraordinary things. A Kerryman who loved sport, he was cheerful and full of energy. He was in Rome in 1939 when the Second World War broke out and when Mussolini sided with Hitler. From his safe base in the Vatican, he developed a network of contacts, including donors of money and food, to help escaped prisoners of war and others whose lives were in danger. But the work was very dangerous, especially when he ventured out in disguise. This earned him the nickname

'the Pimpernel of the Vatican'. The Gestapo chief in Rome ordered that he be killed or captured but Hugh was never caught. When the Allies freed Rome, Hugh had helped over 6,500 people to escape imprisonment or even death. He was awarded many high honours for his bravery and courage, and retired to Kerry in 1960. He died in 1963 and is buried in Caherciveen.

Author: Whelan, Gerard

Title: The Guns of Easter

Reading Age: 12+

Summary: It is 1916 and Europe is at war. From the poverty of the Dublin slums twelve-year-old Jimmy Conway sees it all as glorious, and loves the British Army for which his father is fighting. But when war comes to his own streets Jimmy's loyalties are divided. The rebels occupy the

General Post Office and other parts of the city, and Jimmy's uncle is among them. Dublin's streets are destroyed, business comes to a halt. In an attempt to find food for his family, Jimmy crosses the city, avoiding the shooting, weaving through the army patrols, hoping to make it home before curfew. But his quest is not easy and danger threatens at every corner.

Z

Author: Zusak, Markus

Title: The Book Thief
(5 Volumes, Arial 24)

Reading Age: 12+

Summary: It is 1939. Nazi Germany. The country is holding its breath. Death has never been busier, and will become busier still. Liesel Meminger is a foster girl living outside of Munich, who scratches out a meagre existence for herself by stealing

when she encounters something she can't resist ... books. With the help of her accordion-playing foster father, she learns to read and shares her stolen books with her neighbours during bombing raids as well as with the Jewish man hidden in her basement.