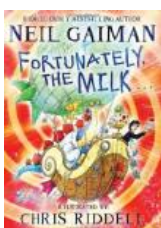


Some Summer Reading

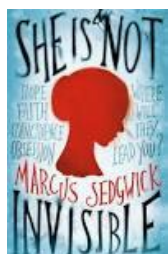


Fortunately the Milk by Neil Gaiman. *Bloomsbury*. Age 10+

The story tells a tale of a father who, on remembering that his children have no milk for their breakfast cereal, pops out to the corner shop to get some. The children then ponder what is taking him so long and when father eventually returns his tale is truly fantastical – involving talking dinosaurs, time-travel, and large dollops of humour.

Picture Me Gone by Meg Rosoff. *Puffin*. Age 12+

Mila is a bright and intuitive 12-year old who accompanies her father, Gil, on a trip to upstate New York to visit his best friend, Matthew, whom he hasn't seen for many years. The trouble is, Matthew has vanished. But why has he disappeared just when his oldest friend and his daughter are about to cross the Atlantic to visit him? And where has he gone? Mila is determined to find out.

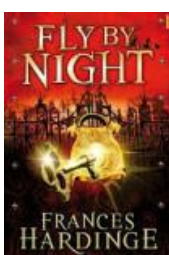
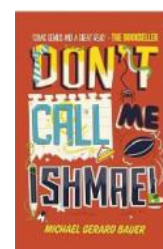


She Is Not Invisible by Marcus Sedgwick. *Indigo*. Age 14+

Laureth Peak's father is a writer. For years he's been trying, and failing, to write a novel about coincidence. His wife thinks he's obsessed, Laureth thinks he's on the verge of a breakdown. He's supposed to be doing research in Austria, so when his notebook shows up in New York, Laureth knows something is wrong. On impulse she steals her mother's credit card and heads for the States, taking her strange little brother Benjamin with her. Reunited with the notebook, they begin to follow clues inside, trying to find their wayward father. Ahead lie challenges and threats, all of which are that much tougher for Laureth than they would be for any other 16-year old. Because Laureth Peak is blind.

Don't Call Me Ishmael by Michael Gerard Bauer. *Templar*. Age 11+

Hounded by the school bully and struck dumb in the presence of girls, the year doesn't get off to a good start for Ishmael when he is asked to take misfit James Scobie under his wing. However, life takes some unexpected turns for Ishmael and his friends as they embark on the most embarrassingly awful...and best year of their lives.

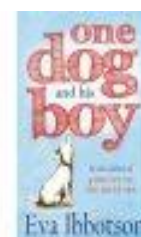


Fly by Night by Frances Hardinge. *Macmillan*. Age 11+

Combines an alternate 18th century with plenty of twisty intrigue, complicated and multilayered supporting cast, vivid description, witty and memorable dialogue, a powerful discussion of freedom of thought and a splendidly tough and sympathetic heroine. Orphaned Mosca leaves her uncle's home with only her aggressive gander for company. On her way she rescues smooth-talking swindler Eponymous Clent from the stocks, and together the three set off for a new life in the Fractured Kingdom.

One Dog and His Boy by Eva Ibbotson. *Marion Lloyd Books*. Age 11+

Hal really longs for a dog of his own, but a dog would damage the expensive carpets in his glamorous home, and his wealthy parents refuse to consider one. Then they discover Easy Pets, a convenient dog-rental agency. Terrier Fleck arrives on Hal's birthday, but when Hal discovers that his dog must be returned, he runs away. Hal and Fleck are joined by a group of pedigree breeds joyfully escaping from Easy Pets.



Momentum by Sacci Lloyd. *Hodder*. Age 12+

London, the near future. Energy wars are flaring across the globe – oil prices have gone crazy, regular power cuts are a daily occurrence. The cruel Kossak soldiers prowl the streets, keeping the Outsiders – the poor, the disenfranchised – in check. Hunter is a Citizen: one of the privileged of society, but with his passion for free running and his rebel friend Leo he cannot help but be fascinated by the Outsiders. So when he meets Outsider Uma, he is quickly drawn into their world – and into an electrifying and dangerous race to protect everything they hold dear.



The Maze Runner by James Dashner. *Chicken House*. Age 12+

When the doors of the lift crank open, the only thing Thomas remembers is his first name. But he's not alone. He's surrounded by boys who welcome him to the Glade – a walled encampment at the centre of a bizarre and terrible stone maze. Like Thomas, the Gladers don't know why or how they came to be there – or what's happened to the world outside. All they know is that every morning when the walls slide back, they will risk everything – even the Grievors, half-machine, half-animal horror that patrols its corridors – to find out.

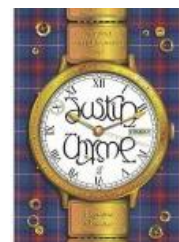
Shadow by Michael Morpurgo. *Harper Collins*. Age 10+

This is the story of Aman, as told in his own words – a boy from Afghanistan fleeing the horror of the Afghan war. When a western dog shows up outside the caves where Aman lives with his mother, Aman is initially repulsed – it is not customary for people to keep dogs as pets in his part of the world. But when Aman and his mother finally decide to make a bid for freedom, the dog Aman has called Shadow will not leave their side. Soon it becomes clear: the destinies of boy and dog are linked, and always will be.



Justin Thyme by Panama Oxridge. *Inside Pocket*. Age 10+

Justin Thyme is a self-made billionaire living in a castle overlooking Loch Ness. The day he turns thirteen, he receives an anonymous gift: a fabulous watch with a puzzling message hidden on it. When he tells his father of his plans to build a time machine, the Laird of Thyme reveals tantalising fragments of past espionage and warns his son of a ruthless enemy keeping him under constant surveillance.



The Thornthwaite Inheritance by Gareth P Jones. *Bloomsbury*. Age 10+

Ovid and Lorelli Thornthwaite have been trying to kill each other for so long that neither twin can remember which act of attempted murder came first. But whoever struck first, trying to take each other's lives is simply what they do. Until one day a lawyer arrives at their house to take stock of its contents, and his accompanying son attracts their attention. Soon a new battle evolves – one in which the twins have to work together to solve the mystery of their parents' deaths. Can Lorelli and Ovid overcome their old animosities, and will they ever get finish that game of chess?



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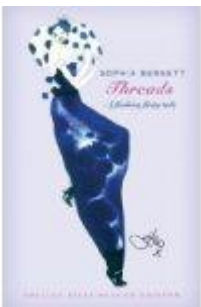
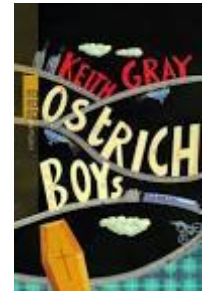


The Book Thief by Markus Zusak. *Black Swan*. Age 12+

Nine-year-old Liesel lives with her foster family on Himmel Street during the dark days of the Third Reich. Her Communist parents have been transported to a concentration camp, and during the funeral for her brother, she manages to steal a macabre book: it is, in fact, a gravediggers' instruction manual. This is the first of many books which will pass through her hands as the carnage of the Second World War begins to hungrily claim lives. Both Liesel and her fellow inhabitants of Himmel Street will find themselves changed by both words on the printed page and the horrendous events happening around them.

Ostrich Boys by Keith Gray. *Definitions*. Age 12+

Kenny, Sim and Blake steal their best friend's ashes to give him a proper send-off in a place he would have wanted to be. The three young men are not only chased by police, but also by memories of their dead best friend, all while being typical teenage boys.

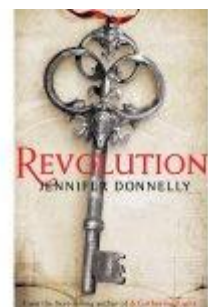


Threads by Sophia Bennett. *Chicken House*. Age 11+

When best friends Nonie, Edie and Jenny meet a young African refugee girl wearing a pair of pink fairy-wings and sketching a dress in the Victoria and Albert Museum, they get the chance to do something truly wonderful – and make all their fashion dreams come true.

Revolution by Jennifer Donnelly. *Bloomsbury*. Age 12+

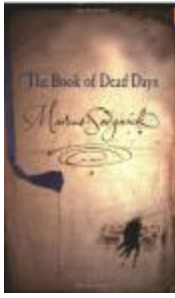
At the beginning of *Revolution* we're introduced to cool, incredibly talented Andi, a teenage girl living in present day New York. Andi goes to a prestigious private school for talented students and her talent is music. It would seem that Andi has the world at her feet but that is before her younger brother Truman dies in an accident that Andi believes is her fault. It's in Paris that Andi stumbles upon a lost diary belonging to Alex, a girl of her age who worked in the palace looking after Louis-Charles during the French revolution.



Twilight Robbery by Frances Hardinge. *Macmillan*. Age 11+

Mosca Mye and Eponymous Clent are in trouble again. Escaping disaster by the skin of their teeth, they find refuge in Toll, the strange gateway town where visitors may neither enter nor leave without paying a price. By day, the city is well-mannered and orderly; by night, it's the haunt of rogues and villains.



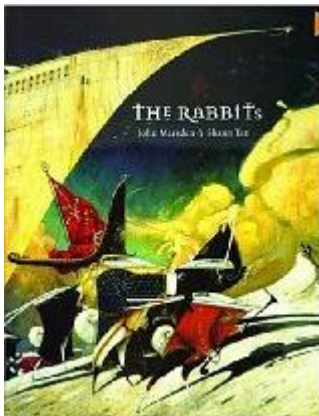
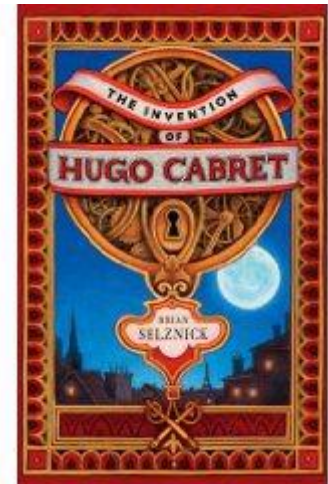


The Book of Dead Days by Marcus Sedgwick. *Orion*. Age 11+

The days between Christmas and New Year's Eve are dead days, where spirits roam and magic shifts restlessly just below the surface of our lives. A lot can happen in the dead days. There is a magician called Valerian who must save his own life, or pay the price for the pact he made with evil so many years ago. But will alchemy and sorcery be any match against the demonic power pursuing him? Helping him is his servant, Boy, a child with no name and no past, and the quick-witted Willow, his new female companion. Set in a dark, dangerous city and in the frozen countryside of a distant time and place, this is a story of power, corruption and desperate magic.

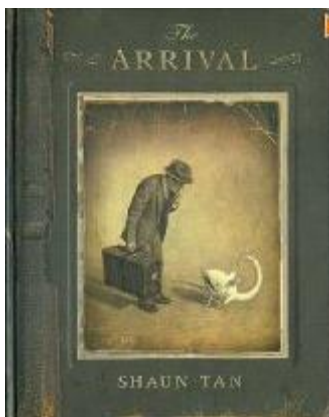
The Invention of Hugo Cabret by Brian Selznick. *Scholastic*. Age 10+

The story takes place in the early days of the Depression in Paris. Hugo Cabret is a 12-year-old boy who loses his parents and is taken in by his uncle, a timekeeper in a railway station. The uncle makes Hugo do all of the work, but won't even feed Hugo who has to turn to stealing in order to eat. When the uncle disappears, Hugo is left to fend for himself. But Hugo has a dream. He will repair an automaton (an early type of robot) that he rescued from a museum fire.



The Rabbits by John Marsden and Shaun Tan. *Simply Read Books*. Age 12+

A dramatically moving allegory of colonisation told from the perspective of animals. Examining the consequences of the arrival of a group of rabbits with unfamiliar ways, the story shows how colonisation can result in the domination of the environment and its other inhabitants.

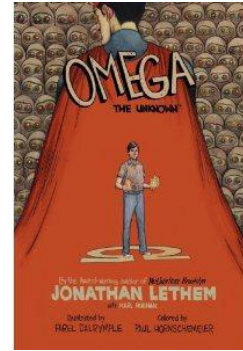


The Arrival by Shaun Tan. *Hodder Children's Books*. Age 12+

This book tells a moving, compelling story. It captures well that first encounter with a new country, the "arrival" when one is getting to know a new place, new language, new foods and trying to make sense of it all. Is this world safer than the one you've left behind? What dangers forced you to leave?

Omega the Unknown by Jonathan Lethem. *Marvel Comics*. Age 14+

The story revolves around a teenage boy whose robot parents are killed in a car crash, leading to his adoption by a nurse living in New York's Hells Kitchen. Having been entirely homeschooled and more or less isolated from the world, the emotionless and unsocialized kid has to come to terms with his environment, as well as with his strange dreams about a mysterious alien superhero who battles robots.



I Kill Giants by Joe Kelly and Jim Ken Niimura. *Image Comics*. Age 12+

Barbara Thorson is a new kind of hero. A quick-witted, sharp-tongued high school student who isn't afraid of anything. Why would she be? After all, she's the only girl in the school who carries an ancient Norse warhammer in her purse and kills giants for a living.....At least, that's what she'll tell you, but where does the fantasy end and reality begin in the heart of this troubled teenager? More importantly, what if she's telling the truth?



The Amulet of Samarkand (A Bartimaeus Novel) by Jonathan Stroud and Andrew Dorkin. *Corgi Books*. Age 12+

Nathaniel, a young magician's apprentice, has revenge on his mind. Desperate to defy his master and take on more challenging spells, he secretly summons the 5000-year-old djinni, Bartimaeus. But Bartimaeus's task is not an easy one – he must steal the powerful Amulet of Samarkand from Simon Lovelace, a master magician of unrivalled ruthlessness and ambition. Before long, Bartimaeus and Nathaniel are caught up in a terrifying flood of intrigue, rebellion and murder. This is a beautifully drawn and coloured graphic adaptation of a popular novel which will appeal particularly to sophisticated young readers with a sense of humour.

