



## Year Six Reading List

These are books you might enjoy, and which we think may stretch you as well. You do not have to read any of them, but use this list as a guide to help you choose your reading.

We will be reading **Private Peaceful** in the Autumn so if you read some of the war stories that will help you to learn how war stories are written. Stories marked with a \* are about war. In the Lent Term we will study some **short stories** and in the summer we will read **A Midsummer Night's Dream** by William Shakespeare.

**Percy Jackson** (series) - Rick Riordan

\***The Silver Sword** – Ian Serrailler (children try to escape war torn Poland – a powerful story)

**The Lying Carpet** – David Lucas (truly wonderful story about Faith, a little girl – or is she a stone statue?)

**The Elephant in the Garden** – Michael Morpurgo (Germany after World War II)

**Journey to the River Sea** – Eva Ibbotson (adventure in Brazil)

**Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone** – JK Rowling (Better and more imaginative than the films, if you read the first book you will be hooked!)

**Clay** – David Almond (something comes alive...)

**Framed** – Frank Cottrell Boyce – a perfect crime and a work of art.

**Emil and the Detectives** – Erich Kastner (detective fiction)

**Groosham Grange** – Anthony Horowitz

**The Great Elephant Chase** – Gillian Cross (travels across America with an elephant)

**The Invention of Hugo Cabret** – Brian Selznik. This is an extraordinarily beautiful book about a boy and a clockmaker.

**Dolphin Song** – Lauren St John

**Pig Heart Boy** – Malorie Blackman (someone's heart is replaced...)

**Holes** – Louis Sachar (someone accidentally goes to prison)

\***Carrie's War** – Nina Bawden (children are evacuated to Wales during World War II and strange things happen)

**Jolly Foul Play** – Robin Stevens (a boarding school mystery)

\***Goodnight Mr Tom** – Michelle Magorian (the classic story of an evacuee. Related, by the same author, **Back Home**, about a girl who returns to England after spending the war abroad).

**The Outlaw Varjak Paw** – SF Said (a gang of cats tries to control its neighbourhood. This is in fact the second book about the gang. The first one, **Varjak Paw** is also beautiful and well-written)

\***The Dolphin Crossing** – Jill Paton Walsh (a daring rescue in World War II)

**Itch** – Simon Mayo. This is the first book of a trilogy about a boy who is incredibly good at science and discovers a new element – which brings all sorts of trouble. Also – **Itch Rocks** and **Itchcraft**.

**Blind Beauty** – KM Peyton. A horse story – a girl has to abandon her favourite horse.

**The Fib** – George Layton (short stories of a childhood long ago)

\***Blitzcat** – Robert Westall (World War II at home)

**Hero.com** – Andy Briggs – (superheroes download their power from the internet!)

**The Indian in the Cupboard** – Lynne Reid Banks (a boy brings toys to life)

**The Company of Ghosts** – Berlie Doherty (ghosts at sea)

**The Blood Stone** – Jamila Gavin (adventure on the seas).

**Monster Madness** – Guy Bass (training to be monsters)

**Scribbleboy** – Phillip Ridley

**Tom's Midnight Garden** – Philippa Pearce (Tom steps into the past every night when the clock strikes 13)

**The Invisible City** – MG Harris

**Bootleg** – Alex Shearer (chocolate? illegal?)

**Marianne Dreams** - Catherine Storr. This might seem a bit old fashioned but it is quite an unsettling story about a girl who seems to be able to control her dreams.

**Truth or Dare** – Celia Rees A real thriller, and a total page-turner. A boy uncovers a family secret about an uncle who died young.

**The Tulip Touch** – Anne Fine (a difficult friendship with an unpleasant friend but whose background has made her that way)

**The One Dollar Horse** – Lauren St John. A girl rescues a horse and nurses it to health, against the background of a difficult family situation.

**The Clock Tower Ghost** – Gene Kemp ( a family move into an old clock tower but it comes complete with a rather annoying ghost)

**The Dark Lord (Teenage Years)** – Jamie Thomson

**Dustbin Baby** – Jacqueline Wilson. A novel about rejection, loss and modern family life. In fact, **Midnight** is probably her best novel (in my view!)

**Nothing to Be Afraid Of** – Jan Mark (ten ghost stories!)

**The Trouble With Donovan Croft** – Bernard Ashley. A boy in 1970s Britain suffers terrible racism and stops speaking.

\***Once** – Morris Gleitzman. A Holocaust story, but this book manages to tell the story of persecuted Jews with sensitivity and without anything too disturbing. An important book to read.

**Thunder and Lightnings** – Jan Mark. A tale of friendship against the odds, and RAF interceptor jets.

**Moondial** – Helen Creswell. A strange story of time travel about a girl who disvoers a moondial in her garden.

**Out of the Ashes** – Michael Morpurgo. This is his take on the 2001 Foot and Mouth Disease outbreak. As moving as you would expect from this great author.

**The Stain on the Stone** – Emily Smith. A detective story set in Oxford.

\***I am David** – Anne Holm. A boy tries to escape from the Nazis in this exciting and moving novel.

\***Biggles** – WE Johns. These are classic novels of war-time adventure, about an RAF pilot.

### Poetry.

I strongly recommend: **The School Bag** (anthology) by Ted Hughes and Seamus Heaney. **Stars in Jars** by Chrissie Gittins – she is one of our foremost poets for young people. I recommend the nonsense poetry of Edward Lear and Spike Milligan. **Poems to Perform** edited by Julia Donaldson is a great collection of classic verse. **101 Poems for Children** chosen by Carol Ann Duffy is also a fine collection.

### Activities for the Summer:

Try to read 4-5 of the books on this list and some poetry. Your local library will be able to order them for you, so if you ring them or pop in at the start of the holidays you will have lots of time to read the books.

Don't write a book review: write something different. Write a poem based on a book, or a sequel. Write a letter from one of the characters. Design a new cover for the book. Write a new blurb for it. Draw a character and label the drawing. Draw a scene from the book. Write an essay explaining why this is a fabulous book. Write the script for a TV or radio advert for it.

If you read something brilliant not on this list, let me know and I will add it to the next edition of the list!

KJJD