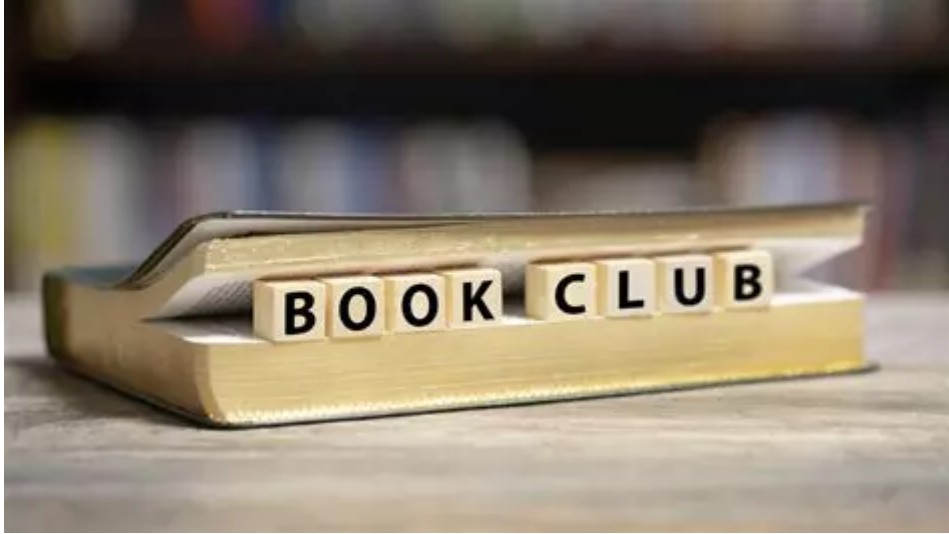


English Book Club 2024 reading list



A Man Called Ove by Fredrik Backman

Ove is a curmudgeonly man who sees little joy in life after his wife's death. As he plans his suicide, his new, boisterous neighbors interrupt him, leading to unexpected friendships and a rejuvenation of his zest for life. Ove's grumpy exterior conceals a history of love and loss, and his interactions with the lively neighborhood community ultimately transform him, revealing the profound impact of human connection and kindness.

The Insignificant Events in the Life of a Cactus by Dusti Bowling

Aven Green, a witty and determined girl born without arms, moves to Arizona and tackles the challenges of fitting into a new school. Alongside her new friends, including Connor, who has Tourette's syndrome, she uncovers a mystery at her family's amusement park. This heartwarming story celebrates diversity and the strength to overcome adversity, illustrating the importance of friendship and self-acceptance.

Jane Eyre by Charlotte Brontë

Jane Eyre, an orphaned girl, endures a harsh childhood before becoming a governess at Thornfield Hall, where she falls in love with the enigmatic Mr. Rochester. As she discovers his dark secret, Jane faces moral dilemmas and a quest for independence. This classic novel explores themes of social class, morality, and the struggle for self-respect, highlighting Jane's resilience and strong moral compass.

The War That Saved My Life by Kimberly Brubaker Bradley

During World War II, ten-year-old Ada escapes her abusive mother by fleeing London with her brother, Jamie, to the countryside. There, they are taken in by Susan, a reclusive woman who transforms their lives. Ada, who has a clubfoot, experiences freedom and learns to trust

and love for the first time. The story underscores themes of resilience, healing, and the transformative power of love and kindness.

Go Big by Matthew Burton

Matthew Burton offers practical advice and motivational stories to help young readers tackle their biggest goals and challenges. Combining humor and real-life examples, "Go Big" encourages kids to embrace their ambitions, develop a growth mindset, and persevere through obstacles. This book aims to inspire confidence and a proactive attitude in its readers.

When the Mountains Roared by Jess Butterworth

Ruby's life changes dramatically when her family moves to the Indian Himalayas. There, she grapples with her grief over her mother's death and the challenge of saving endangered animals from poachers. Through her journey, Ruby finds solace in nature and strength within herself, learning the importance of conservation and the resilience of the human spirit.

Dizzy by Cathy Cassidy

Dizzy's life is turned upside down when her estranged, free-spirited mother whisks her away to a series of summer festivals. As she navigates this chaotic new world, Dizzy grapples with her desire for stability and her love for her unpredictable mother. This coming-of-age story explores themes of family, belonging, and self-discovery.

Evil Under the Sun - Agatha Christie

On a secluded island resort, renowned detective Hercule Poirot is on vacation. When a glamorous actress, Arlena Stuart, is found strangled on the beach, Poirot is drawn into the investigation. As he interrogates the eclectic group of guests, he uncovers secrets and hidden motives, revealing that many had reasons to want Arlena dead. Through careful observation and logical deduction, Poirot ultimately exposes the true murderer in a surprising twist, showcasing Christie's mastery of the whodunit genre.

The Mysterious Affair at Styles - Agatha Christie

In her debut novel, Agatha Christie introduces Hercule Poirot, a retired Belgian detective. Emily Inglethorp, the wealthy matriarch of Styles Court, is poisoned, and Poirot is called to investigate. Through his meticulous attention to detail and astute deductions, Poirot navigates a web of family tensions, financial motives, and red herrings. His friend, Captain Hastings, narrates the case, adding a personal touch to the intricate mystery. Poirot's clever uncovering of the killer's identity sets the stage for Christie's future detective novels.

A Tale of Magic - Chris Colfer

Brystal Evergreen, a young girl in a repressive kingdom where magic is forbidden, discovers her magical abilities. She is taken to Madame Weatherberry's Academy of Magic, a sanctuary for young wizards and fairies. Under Madame Weatherberry's guidance, Brystal learns to harness her powers and confronts the malevolent forces threatening their world. As

she battles dark magic and societal prejudices, Brystal also uncovers secrets about her own heritage. Chris Colfer weaves a tale of self-discovery, courage, and the transformative power of magic.

The Land of Stories - Chris Colfer

Twins Alex and Conner Bailey are transported into a magical book that brings fairy tales to life. In this enchanting world, they meet classic characters like Cinderella, Red Riding Hood, and the Evil Queen. To return home, they must gather special items for a Wishing Spell, embarking on a perilous adventure filled with challenges and unexpected allies. Through their journey, they learn about their own family's deep connections to this fairy tale realm. Chris Colfer blends modern humor with timeless fantasy in this imaginative tale.

Charlie and the Chocolate Factory - Roald Dahl

Young Charlie Bucket lives in poverty with his family but dreams of visiting Willy Wonka's magical chocolate factory. When he finds a Golden Ticket, Charlie joins four other children on a tour of the factory, guided by the eccentric Willy Wonka. Each child's misbehavior leads to humorous and dire consequences, leaving Charlie as the last one standing. Wonka reveals his plan to make Charlie his heir, offering him and his family a new life in the factory. Dahl's whimsical story celebrates kindness, humility, and imagination.

The Witches - Roald Dahl

A young boy and his grandmother discover the existence of child-hating witches. The boy stumbles upon the witches' annual convention and learns of their plan to turn all children into mice. After being transformed into a mouse himself, he teams up with his grandmother to foil the witches' scheme. Through cleverness and bravery, they manage to thwart the Grand High Witch's plot. Roald Dahl's darkly humorous tale explores themes of courage and resourcefulness against seemingly insurmountable odds.

The Maze Runner - James Dashner

Thomas wakes up in a mysterious and ever-changing maze with no memory of his past. Along with other boys, he must navigate the maze, which is filled with deadly creatures called Grievers. They are part of an experiment to find a solution to a global catastrophe. As they uncover the maze's secrets and Thomas's own connection to it, the group strives to escape. Dashner's fast-paced novel delves into themes of survival, trust, and the quest for freedom in a dystopian world.

Flora & Ulysses - Kate DiCamillo

Flora Belle Buckman, a self-proclaimed cynic, rescues a squirrel named Ulysses, who gains superpowers after a near-death experience with a vacuum cleaner. Ulysses can understand human speech, type poetry, and fly. Together, they embark on a series of adventures, confronting both external challenges and personal growth. Flora learns to open her heart, and Ulysses helps her reconnect with her emotionally distant mother. Kate DiCamillo's whimsical story highlights the transformative power of friendship, hope, and the unexpected.

The Letter for the King - Tonke Dragt

Sixteen-year-old Tiuri is tasked with delivering a crucial letter to the king of a neighboring kingdom. Along his perilous journey, Tiuri faces numerous obstacles, including spies, knights, and treacherous landscapes. With bravery and integrity, he navigates these dangers to fulfill his mission. Tiuri's quest becomes a test of character and a path to self-discovery. Tonke Dragt's classic tale blends adventure, chivalry, and the timeless struggle between good and evil, offering a rich, immersive medieval fantasy.

The Great Shelby Holmes, Girl Detective - Elizabeth Eulberg

Nine-year-old John Watson moves to Harlem and meets his neighbor, Shelby Holmes, a brilliant but unconventional young detective. Despite initial misgivings, John becomes Shelby's sidekick as they investigate a missing dog case. Through Shelby's keen observations and John's grounded perspective, they navigate the complexities of the case and their budding friendship. Elizabeth Eulberg reimagines the iconic Holmes and Watson duo in a contemporary, youthful setting, emphasizing themes of teamwork, friendship, and the joys of detective work.

Who Let the Gods Out? - Maz Evans

Elliot Hooper's life changes when he accidentally releases the Greek god of the underworld, Thanatos, from imprisonment. With the help of Virgo, a young Zodiac constellation, and a motley crew of Greek gods, Elliot must stop Thanatos from wreaking havoc on Earth. Amidst the chaos, Elliot faces personal struggles, including his mother's illness and school challenges. Maz Evans blends humor, adventure, and mythology in a modern setting, creating a heartfelt story about bravery, friendship, and overcoming adversity.

Charlotte Sometimes - Penelope Farmer

Charlotte Makepeace arrives at a boarding school and wakes up in a different time, 1918, inhabiting the life of a girl named Clare. Every night, Charlotte and Clare swap places, navigating each other's lives and forming a bond across time. They face challenges adapting to different eras and the looming presence of World War I. Penelope Farmer's novel explores themes of identity, friendship, and the passage of time, offering a poignant reflection on the connections that transcend temporal boundaries.

Harriet the Spy - Louise Fitzhugh

Eleven-year-old Harriet M. Welsch dreams of becoming a writer and practices by spying on her neighbors and jotting down her observations in a notebook. When her classmates find and read her bluntly honest notes, Harriet faces their anger and ostracization. Through the turmoil, she learns about the complexities of friendship and the consequences of her actions. Louise Fitzhugh's classic story delves into the inner life of a young girl, highlighting the importance of empathy, self-awareness, and the challenges of growing up.

Never - Ken Follett

Set against the backdrop of global political tensions, "Never" weaves together multiple storylines involving a U.S. intelligence agent, a high-ranking Chinese official, and a desperate African refugee. As their lives intersect, the world teeters on the brink of a catastrophic conflict. Follett's novel is a gripping, meticulously researched thriller that explores the precarious balance of power, the intricacies of international relations, and the personal sacrifices made in the pursuit of peace and security.

Johnny Tremain - Esther Forbes

Johnny Tremain, a young and talented silversmith in pre-Revolutionary Boston, injures his hand, ending his apprenticeship. He becomes a messenger for the Sons of Liberty and gets involved in key events leading up to the American Revolution, including the Boston Tea Party and the Battles of Lexington and Concord. Through his journey, Johnny grows from a self-centered boy to a patriotic young man. Esther Forbes' historical novel vividly portrays the revolutionary spirit and the personal growth of its protagonist amidst historical upheaval.

My Side of the Mountain - Jean Craighead George

Sam Gibley, a young boy from New York City, runs away to the Catskill Mountains to live off the land. With limited supplies, he learns to survive by observing nature and using his resourcefulness. He builds a home in a hollow tree, befriends a peregrine falcon

Once - Morris Gleitzman

Felix, a Jewish boy in Nazi-occupied Poland, escapes from an orphanage to find his parents. Along the way, he meets Zelda, a young girl, and together they face the horrors of the Holocaust. Despite the atrocities they witness, Felix's vivid imagination and storytelling offer moments of hope. Morris Gleitzman's novel is a poignant, heart-wrenching tale of friendship, resilience, and the innocence of a child amidst the darkest of times.

The Fault in Our Stars - John Green

Hazel Grace Lancaster, a teenager with cancer, meets Augustus Waters at a support group. Their shared love for books and quick-witted banter draws them together, leading to a deep, romantic bond. They embark on a journey to Amsterdam to meet a reclusive author, confronting their fears and hopes. John Green's novel explores the intensity of young love, the impact of terminal illness, and the profound questions of life and death with humor and grace.

King Arthur - Roger Lancelyn Green

Roger Lancelyn Green retells the legendary tales of King Arthur, from his miraculous birth and the sword in the stone to the formation of the Knights of the Round Table and the quest for the Holy Grail. The stories weave together the exploits of Arthur, Merlin, Guinevere, Lancelot, and other iconic characters. Green's version brings to life the chivalry, magic, and epic battles of Arthurian legend, emphasizing themes of bravery, loyalty, and the eternal struggle between good and evil.

The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time - Mark Haddon

Christopher Boone, a 15-year-old with autism, discovers his neighbor's dog dead and decides to solve the mystery. His investigation reveals more than he anticipated, including hidden truths about his own family. Christopher's unique perspective provides an insightful and poignant view of his experiences with everyday life. Mark Haddon's novel is a compelling exploration of a young boy's quest for understanding, presenting themes of truth, trust, and the challenges of living with a developmental disorder.

Donner Dinner Party - Nathan Hale

"Donner Dinner Party" is a graphic novel that recounts the harrowing tale of the Donner Party, a group of American pioneers who became stranded in the Sierra Nevada during the winter of 1846-1847. Facing starvation and extreme conditions, some members resorted to cannibalism to survive. Nathan Hale's illustrated account provides a historical narrative with a balance of humor and gravity, making a grim episode in American history accessible and engaging for younger readers.

George's Secret Key to the Universe - Stephen Hawking and Lucy Hawking

George, a curious boy, befriends his new neighbors, scientist Eric and his daughter Annie. Through a supercomputer named Cosmos, George embarks on thrilling space adventures, learning about black holes, planets, and the universe's mysteries. When Eric's work is threatened by a greedy businessman, George and Annie must save the day using their newfound knowledge. Co-authored by Stephen Hawking, the book blends a captivating story with educational insights about space, science, and the importance of curiosity and friendship.

The Secret Garden - Frances Hodgson Burnett

Mary Lennox, a spoiled orphan, is sent to live with her reclusive uncle in England. She discovers a neglected garden on the estate and, with the help of new friends Dickon and her sickly cousin Colin, restores it to its former glory. As the garden flourishes, so do Mary and Colin, finding health, happiness, and a sense of belonging. Frances Hodgson Burnett's classic novel celebrates the healing power of nature, friendship, and the transformative impact of nurturing both plants and people.

Journey to the River Sea - Eva Ibbotson

Orphaned Maia is sent from England to live with distant relatives in the Amazon rainforest. She discovers the Carters, her new guardians, are selfish and unpleasant, but she finds solace in her friendship with a local boy, Finn. Together, they explore the lush, vibrant environment and uncover secrets about Finn's past and his connection to the native tribes. Eva Ibbotson's novel is a richly detailed adventure that highlights themes of resilience, discovery, and the importance of embracing different cultures and environments.

The Star of Kazan - Eva Ibbotson

Annika, an orphan raised by loving caretakers in Vienna, discovers a mysterious past when a woman claiming to be her aristocratic mother arrives to take her to a grand estate. However, Annika soon realizes that all is not as it seems and uncovers deceit and greed. With the help of her friends and a hidden treasure, Annika learns about her true origins and finds her place in the world. Eva Ibbotson's novel is a heartwarming tale of family, identity, and the enduring power of love and friendship.

Illuminae - Amie Kaufman and Jay Kristoff

Kady and Ezra's lives are shattered when their planet is attacked by a megacorporation. As they flee on separate spaceships, they uncover a sinister conspiracy involving a deadly plague and rogue AI. Through hacked documents, emails, and interviews, the story unfolds in a unique format, blending sci-fi action with a gripping, fast-paced narrative. Amie Kaufman and Jay Kristoff's "Illuminae" is a thrilling, genre-bending novel that explores themes of survival, courage, and the power of human connection amidst chaos.

Kay's Anatomy - Adam Kay

In "Kay's Anatomy," former doctor Adam Kay takes young readers on a humorous, informative journey through the human body. Using witty explanations and quirky illustrations, Kay demystifies complex medical concepts, explaining how various body parts function and what happens when things go wrong. The book is both entertaining and educational, aiming to spark curiosity and provide a better understanding of human biology in a fun and accessible way.

Stig of the Dump - Clive King

Barney, a young boy, discovers a chalk pit near his grandparents' house and befriends Stig, a caveman living in a den. Despite their differences, they bond over shared adventures, solving problems, and building things together. Barney helps Stig modernize his home while Stig introduces Barney to a simpler, more resourceful way of life. Clive King's classic novel is a heartwarming tale of friendship, imagination, and understanding, highlighting the joy of discovering and learning from those different from ourselves.

Diary of a Wimpy Kid - Jeff Kinney

Greg Heffley, a middle schooler, documents his daily life in a journal filled with humorous observations, drawings, and tales of his misadventures. From dealing with his annoying older brother Rodrick and his embarrassing parents to navigating school popularity and friendship issues, Greg's experiences are both relatable and laugh-out-loud funny. Jeff Kinney's "Diary of a Wimpy Kid" captures the awkwardness and trials of adolescence with wit and charm, resonating with readers of all ages.

Lottie Brooks's Totally Disastrous School Trip - Katie Kirby

Lottie Brooks is excited for her school trip but things quickly spiral into chaos. From embarrassing moments to unexpected challenges, Lottie navigates a series of hilarious and

cringe-worthy situations. Along the way, she learns important lessons about friendship, resilience, and being true to herself. Katie Kirby's book combines humor with heartfelt moments, offering a relatable and entertaining story about the ups and downs of school life and growing up.

Catfishing on CatNet - Naomi Kritzer

Steph, a teenager on the run with her mom, finds solace in an online community called CatNet, run by a sentient AI named CheshireCat. When her mother goes missing, Steph turns to her online friends and CheshireCat for help. Together, they uncover a dangerous conspiracy and face real-world threats. Naomi Kritzer's novel is a gripping cyber-thriller that explores themes of identity, trust, and the impact of technology on human relationships, blending suspense with a heartwarming tale of friendship and courage.

The Chronicles of Narnia - C.S. Lewis

C.S. Lewis's "The Chronicles of Narnia" series follows the adventures of children who discover the magical land of Narnia, where they encounter talking animals, mythical creatures, and epic battles between good and evil. Key books include "The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe," where the Pevensie siblings help Aslan, the lion, defeat the White Witch, and "Prince Caspian," where they aid the rightful heir to Narnia's throne. The series blends fantasy with moral allegories, exploring themes of bravery, redemption, and the power of faith and imagination.

Goodnight Mister Tom - Michelle Magorian

During World War II, young Willie Beech is evacuated from London to the English countryside, where he is placed with Tom Oakley, a reclusive and gruff widower. Under Tom's care, Willie blossoms, experiencing love, kindness, and stability for the first time. The two form a deep bond, helping each other heal from past traumas. Michelle Magorian's novel is a poignant and moving story about the transformative power of friendship, resilience, and the impact of war on individuals and families.

Keepers of the Lost Cities - Shannon Messenger

Twelve-year-old Sophie Foster, a telepath, discovers she is not human but an elf with extraordinary abilities. She is taken to the hidden world of the elves, where she attends the prestigious Foxfire Academy. As she adjusts to her new life, Sophie uncovers secrets about her past and the truth behind her powers. Alongside her new friends, she faces dangerous foes and uncovers a conspiracy that threatens both the human and elven worlds. Shannon Messenger's series is a thrilling blend of fantasy, adventure, and the quest for identity.

Operation Red Jericho - Joshua Mowll

Set in the 1920s, siblings Doug and Becca MacKenzie search for their missing parents in the Far East. They join their uncle's expedition aboard the mysterious ship Expedient, uncovering secret societies, ancient maps, and advanced technology along the way. Their

quest leads them to the dangerous Red Fortress and a hidden order known as the Honourable Guild of Specialists. Joshua Mowl's novel combines historical fiction with adventure, featuring detailed illustrations and documents that enhance the immersive, fast-paced narrative.

Mrs. Frisby and the Rats of NIMH - Robert C. O'Brien

Mrs. Frisby, a widowed field mouse, seeks help from a group of highly intelligent rats to save her sick son, Timothy, before their home is destroyed by plowing. These rats, escaped lab subjects from the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH), have developed advanced technology and literacy. They assist Mrs. Frisby by moving her home and reveal their plans for a self-sufficient society. Robert C. O'Brien's novel is a captivating tale of bravery, cooperation, and the ethical treatment of animals.

Animal Farm - George Orwell

George Orwell's "Animal Farm" is an allegorical novella depicting the rise of totalitarianism through a farm animal rebellion. The animals, led by pigs Napoleon and Snowball, overthrow their human farmer to establish an equal society. However, as the pigs seize control, the farm's governance becomes increasingly tyrannical and corrupt. The novel critiques the corruption of socialist ideals and the nature of power, using the farm as a microcosm of the Soviet Union under Stalin. Its themes of propaganda, betrayal, and the cyclical nature of oppression remain poignant and relevant.

Wonder - R.J. Palacio

"Wonder" follows Auggie Pullman, a young boy with a severe facial deformity, as he attends mainstream school for the first time in fifth grade. The story is told from multiple perspectives, including Auggie's, his sister's, and his classmates', providing a rounded view of the challenges and triumphs he faces. Despite bullying and initial prejudice, Auggie's kindness, resilience, and humor help him make friends and gain acceptance. R.J. Palacio's novel is a touching exploration of empathy, acceptance, and the importance of looking beyond appearances to see the person within.

Eragon - Christopher Paolini

Eragon, a young farm boy, discovers a mysterious blue stone that hatches into a dragon named Saphira. He learns he is one of the last Dragon Riders, destined to fight against the tyrannical ruler, King Galbatorix. Guided by his mentor Brom and with Saphira by his side, Eragon embarks on a perilous journey of self-discovery, magic, and battles. Christopher Paolini's fantasy novel, the first in the Inheritance Cycle, combines classic elements of adventure, heroism, and the timeless struggle between good and evil.

Murtagh by Christopher Paolini

"Murtagh" follows the journey of Eragon's half-brother, Murtagh, as he grapples with his past and seeks redemption. It delves into his complex relationship with the dragon Thorn, his struggles against the forces of evil, and his quest for freedom and identity.

To Sleep in a Sea of Stars by Christopher Paolini

Set in a futuristic universe, the novel follows xenobiologist Kira Navárez, who discovers an alien relic that changes her life. She becomes entwined in a battle for survival, exploring themes of love, loss, and the meaning of humanity as she encounters various alien species and technologies.

Field of Screams by Wendy Parris

This mystery novel centers on Abby, who moves to a new town and starts experiencing supernatural occurrences. As Halloween approaches, she and her friends uncover dark secrets about their town's history, leading to a thrilling adventure filled with ghostly encounters and eerie revelations.

Bridge to Terabithia by Katherine Paterson

A poignant story of friendship, the novel follows Jess Aarons and Leslie Burke, two fifth-graders who create an imaginary kingdom called Terabithia in the woods. Their bond and imaginative escapades help them cope with personal struggles, but tragedy strikes, profoundly affecting Jess's life.

Tom Gates by L. Pichon

This humorous, illustrated series revolves around the everyday life of Tom Gates, a mischievous schoolboy. It chronicles his antics at school, his creative doodles, his attempts to impress his crush, and his struggles with his annoying older sister, all told through Tom's quirky perspective.

Wonka by Sibeal Pounder

A prequel to "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory," this book explores the origins of Willy Wonka. It delves into his childhood, the inspirations behind his magical inventions, and the adventures that led him to create the world's most famous chocolate factory.

The Westing Game by Ellen Raskin

A mystery novel about sixteen heirs who are summoned to solve the puzzle of their benefactor, Sam Westing's, will. They must uncover the identity of his murderer among them to inherit his fortune, leading to a complex and engaging game filled with twists and turns.

Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children by Ransom Riggs

Jacob Portman discovers a mysterious orphanage for children with extraordinary abilities. Guided by clues left by his grandfather, Jacob unravels the secrets of the home and its inhabitants, confronting dark forces and uncovering his own peculiar heritage.

Percy Jackson by Rick Riordan

The series follows Percy Jackson, a demigod and the son of Poseidon, as he discovers his divine heritage and embarks on quests to prevent the Titans from overthrowing the Olympian gods. It blends Greek mythology with modern adventure, focusing on friendship, courage, and identity.

The Boy Who Made Everyone Laugh by Helen Rutter

This heartwarming novel tells the story of Billy Plimpton, a boy with a stammer who dreams of becoming a stand-up comedian. Through humor, determination, and the support of his

friends and family, Billy navigates the challenges of his speech impediment and strives to make his dream come true.

All Pieces of Me by Libby Scott

This novel, co-written by autistic author Libby Scott, follows the story of a young girl navigating life with autism. Through her unique perspective, the book explores themes of acceptance, understanding, and the challenges and joys of being neurodiverse.

When You Reach Me by Rebecca Stead

Set in 1970s New York, this mystery novel follows twelve-year-old Miranda, who starts receiving mysterious notes predicting the future. As she pieces together the clues, Miranda uncovers a connection to her favorite book and learns profound lessons about friendship, time, and the nature of reality.

Murder Most Unladylike by Robin Stevens

Set in a 1930s English boarding school, this mystery novel follows young detectives Daisy Wells and Hazel Wong as they investigate the suspicious death of their teacher. With sharp wit and clever sleuthing, they navigate school politics and danger to uncover the truth.

The Mysterious Benedict Society by Trenton Lee Stewart

A group of gifted children—Reynie, Sticky, Kate, and Constance—are recruited by the eccentric Mr. Benedict to infiltrate the Learning Institute for the Very Enlightened. Their mission is to stop the nefarious plans of the Institute's headmaster, leading to an adventure filled with puzzles, teamwork, and bravery.

The Fellowship of the Ring by J.R.R. Tolkien

The first book in "The Lord of the Rings" trilogy, it follows Frodo Baggins as he inherits the One Ring and embarks on a quest to destroy it. Joined by a diverse group of allies, including Aragorn, Gandalf, Legolas, and Gimli, they face numerous dangers on their journey to Mount Doom.

They Called Them the Unadoptables by Hana Tooke

Set in 19th-century Amsterdam, this novel follows five orphans who escape their orphanage to avoid being separated. Each child has unique talents, and together they uncover secrets about their past while facing adventures and dangers as they search for a place to call home.

The Secret Diary of Adrian Mole, Aged 13¾ by Sue Townsend

A humorous and poignant diary of a teenage boy, Adrian Mole, as he navigates the trials and tribulations of adolescence. Set in the 1980s, Adrian's entries cover his crushes, family issues, and his aspirations to be an intellectual, all with a witty and self-deprecating charm.

Wings of Fire by Tui T. Sutherland

A fantasy series that follows young dragonets destined to end a long-standing war among dragon tribes. Each book focuses on different characters and their quests, exploring themes of destiny, friendship, and the struggle for peace in a richly detailed dragon world.

Tom Sawyer by Mark Twain

A classic novel about the adventures of a mischievous boy, Tom Sawyer, growing up along

the Mississippi River. Tom's escapades include witnessing a murder, getting lost in a cave, and searching for hidden treasure, all while exploring themes of childhood, freedom, and moral growth.

Brightstorm by Vashti Hardy

Twins Arthur and Maudie Brightstorm set out on a daring adventure to find their missing explorer father. They join an expedition to the uncharted South Polaris, facing sky-ships, exotic creatures, and treacherous terrain, all while uncovering secrets about their family and themselves.

Bad Dad by David Walliams

Frank's father, Gilbert, turns to crime to support his family after losing his job. When Gilbert ends up in prison, Frank devises a plan to break him out and set things right. The story combines humor and heart, highlighting the bond between father and son and the lengths they'll go for each other.

Ratburger by David Walliams

Zoe, a young girl with a difficult life, discovers her pet rat, Armitage, has a unique talent. When the villainous Burt from Burt's Burgers tries to capture Armitage for his disgusting burger business, Zoe and her rat must outwit him in a tale filled with Walliams' signature humor and warmth.

The 1000 Year Old Boy by Ross Welford

Alfie Monk looks like any other 11-year-old, but he's actually been alive for a thousand years. After losing his mother, Alfie decides he wants to grow up and live a normal life. With the help of new friends Aidan and Roxy, Alfie embarks on a quest to find the secrets of aging and truly live.

Janitors by Tyler Whitesides

When Spencer discovers that his school is infested with magical creatures called Toxites, which feed on students' potential, he learns that the janitors are secret warriors fighting these pests. Spencer joins their battle, uncovering a hidden world of magic and cleaning supplies used as weapons.

Refugee Boy by Benjamin Zephaniah

The story follows Alem, a young Ethiopian-Eritrean boy, who is left in London by his father to escape the conflict in his homeland. Alem navigates the challenges of being a refugee, facing bureaucratic hurdles and prejudice, while finding friendship and support in his new environment.

The Book Thief by Markus Zusak

Set in Nazi Germany, the novel is narrated by Death and follows Liesel Meminger, a young girl who finds solace in stealing books and sharing them with others. Through her foster parents, particularly her bond with Max, a Jewish man hiding in their basement, Liesel learns about love, loss, and the power of words.