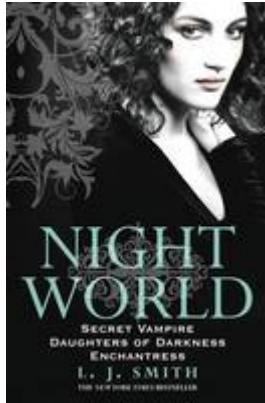


## Key Stage Three Reading List

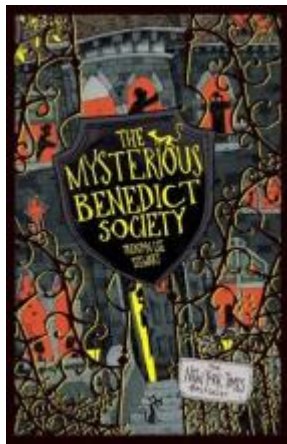
This list should be used as a guide only; not all of the titles are appropriate for all students on the basis of their maturity or reading level. The librarians are always on hand to help with book selection and would love to chat about new titles, favourite books and reading in general.



### *Night World: Bind Up Vol 1 Books 1-3* by L.J. Smith

ISBN: 97803409966

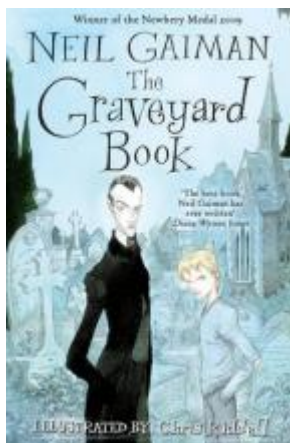
In 'Secret Vampire', Poppy is dying. Her best friend, James can offer her eternal life - as a vampire. One kiss and she sees into his soul. But can she follow him into death ...and beyond? In 'Daughters of Darkness', there are three sisters with a secret, on the run from their cruel and ruthless brother. Can their new human friend Mary Lynette resist the powerful charm of their brother -and save the sisters and herself from a deadly fate at the hands of a werewolf? In 'Enchantress', Blaise is irresistible. She's lethal. She bewitches boys for sport. then she meets a boy who matters to her cousin. Thea. They become rivals in love. It's Thea's white magic against Blaise's black magic. They're both breaking the rules. But it's Thea who risks expulsion from the Night World ...



### *The Mysterious Benedict Society* by Trenton Lee Stewart

ISBN: 9781906427023

This is a No. 1 New York Times Bestseller that we've been raving about since it went stratospheric across the pond earlier this year. Here you will meet four very unusual children each with three things in common – all orphans, all incredibly talented and all utterly and completely honest. Akin to *Lemony Snicket* but in our view loads better, readers are plunged head-first into a world of puzzles and logic, testing their ingenuity and cunning as well as that of the four children. It's fast-paced, brilliantly plotted and the characters are incredibly endearing in their individual ways.



### *The Graveyard Book* by Neil Gaiman (illustrated by Chris Riddell)

ISBN: 9780747594802

When a baby escapes a murderer intent on killing the entire family, who would have thought it would find safety and security in the local graveyard? Brought up by the resident ghosts, ghouls and spectres, Bod has an eccentric childhood learning about life from the dead. But for Bod there is also the danger of the murderer still looking for him - after all, he is the last remaining member of the family. A stunningly

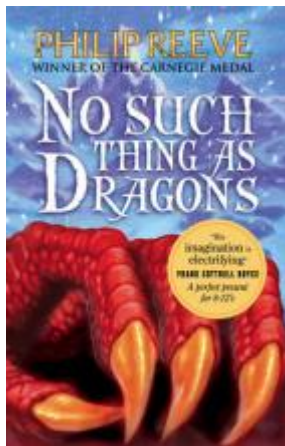
original novel deftly constructed over eight chapters, featuring every second year of Bod's life, from babyhood to adolescence. Will Bod survive to be a man?



### ***Threads* by Sophia Bennett**

ISBN: 9781905294985

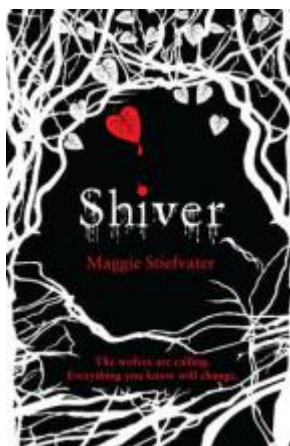
A wonderfully vibrant, funny, totally absorbing and thought-provoking debut novel for fashion-conscious girls. Three girls, all best friends: one a budding actress, one with a passion for fashion and the other a humanitarian who wants to save the world. Together, when they meet a young African refugee girl, they get the chance to pool their talents and do something truly wonderful. Dealing with modern friendships and contemporary world issues in an honest and truly inspirational way the reader cannot fail to be moved.



### ***No Such Thing as Dragons* by Philip Reeve**

ISBN: 9781407114835

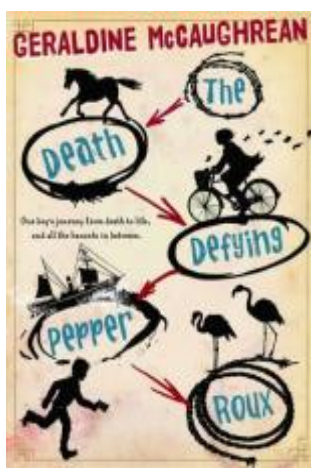
This is a dragon story with a brilliant twist from multi award-winning writer, Philip Reeve. Ansel's new master slays dragons for a living. He says he's hunted the monstrous worms all over Christendom and has the scars to prove it. But is Brock just a clever trickster in shining armour? Ansel is sure there are no such things as dragons. So what is the man-eating creature that makes its lair in the crags of Dragon Mountain? Ansel and Brock must climb the ice face to discover the terrifying truth.



### ***Shiver* by Maggie Stiefvater**

ISBN: 9781407115009

Grace is fascinated by the wolves in the woods behind her house; one yellow-eyed wolf in particular. Every winter, she watches him but every summer, he disappears. Sam leads two lives. In winter, he stays in the frozen woods, with the protection of the pack. In summer, he has a few precious months to be human ...until the cold makes him shift back again. When Grace and Sam finally meet they realize they can't bear to be apart. But as winter nears, Sam must fight to stay human - or risk losing himself, and Grace, for ever.



### ***The Death-Defying Pepper Roux* by Geraldine McCaughrean**

ISBN: 9780192756022

Pepper Roux has a charmed life, not only because he confounded his mad aunt's prediction that he was going to

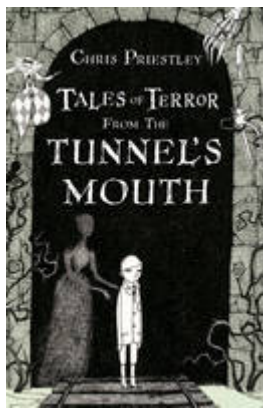
die at 14 by remaining alive, but also because he can step into any role he likes and have an adventure. Pepper becomes a sea captain and a sausage-seller, amongst other things, creating chaos wherever he goes.



***The Vanishing Act of Katharina Linden* by Helen Grant**

ISBN:9780141325736

On the day Katharina Linden disappears, Pia is the last person to see her alive. Terror is spreading through the town. How could a girl vanish in a place where everybody knows everybody else? Pia is determined to find out what happened to Katharina. But then the next girl disappears.



***Tales of Terror from the Tunnels* by Chris Priestley**

ISBN: 9781408800140

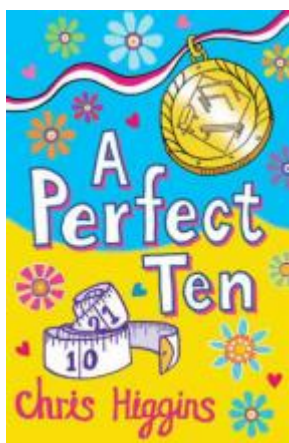
A boy is put on a train by his stepmother to make his first journey on his own. But soon that journey turns out to be more of a challenge than anyone could have imagined as the train stalls at the mouth of a tunnel and a mysterious woman in white helps the boy while away the hours by telling him stories - stories with a difference.



***The Medusa Project: the Set Up* by Sophie McKenzie**

Isbn: 9781847385253

Fourteen years ago, scientist William Fox implanted four babies with the Medusa gene - a gene for psychic abilities. But Fox died and the babies were hidden away for years. Now the children are teenagers - and unaware that their psychic powers are about to kick in. Cocky, charismatic Nico thinks his emerging telekinetic abilities will bring him money, power and the girl of his dreams. He's about to find out just how wrong he is...



***A Perfect Ten* by Chris Higgins**

Isbn9780340950692

Eva wants to be the best, just like her sister Amber. Now she's queen of the gymnastics club, the girl everyone envies. Her life seems perfect. But her hard work comes at a price. When new girl Patty joins the club, Eva's plans start to

unravel and secrets that have long been hidden threaten to surface...



## ***The Escape* by Robert Muchamore**

ISBN: 9780340956489

MOST SECRET

1 October 1940

Dear Charles

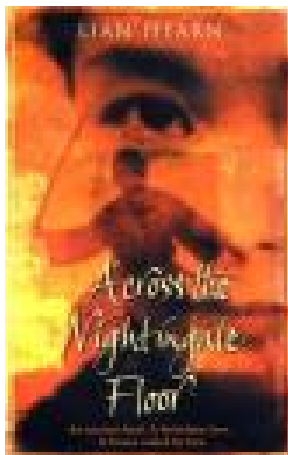
Following your memorandum on the value of underage operatives in occupied France and our discussions in London last week, we have, somewhat reluctantly agreed to your proposal to train an espionage unit comprised entirely of boys aged between 11 and 17 years. I am uncomfortable with a use of boys that borders on exploitation, but these are desperate times and both the Prime Minister and I were compelled by your argument that these young men could give us a

significant edge in the struggle that lies ahead of us. The funds and necessary equipment for your new unit will be made available through your commanding officer, Eileen McAfferty.

Yours sincerely,

Eric Mews (Deputy Minister for Economic Welfare)

Summer, 1940. Hitler's army is advancing towards Paris, and millions of French civilians are on the run. Amidst the chaos, two British children are being hunted by German agents. British spy Charles Henderson tries to reach them first, but he can only do it with the help of a twelve-year-old French orphan. The British secret service is about to discover that kids working undercover will help to win the war. For official purposes, these children do not exist.



## ***Across The Nightingale Floor* by Lian Hearn**

ISBN: 978-0330415286

In his black-walled fortress at Inuyama, the murderous warlord, Iida Sadamu, surveys his famous nightingale floor. Constructed with exquisite skill, it sings at the tread of each human foot. No assassin can cross it unheard. Brought up in a remote mountain village among the Hidden, a reclusive and spiritual people, Takeo has learned only the ways of peace. Why, then, does he possess the deadly skills that make him so valuable to the sinister Tribe? These supernatural powers will lead him to his violent destiny within the walls of Inuyama - and to an impossible longing for a girl who can never be his.

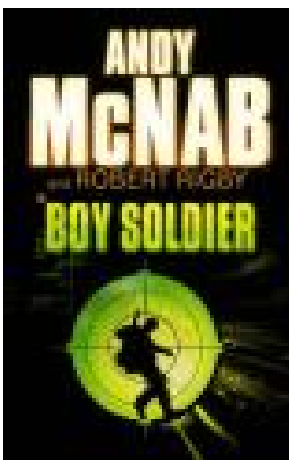
His journey is one of revenge and treachery, honour and loyalty, beauty and magic, and the passion of first love.



## ***Animal Farm*** by George Orwell

ISBN: 978-0140278736

Having got rid of their human master, the animals of Manor Farm look forward to a life of freedom and plenty. But as a clever, ruthless elite among them takes control, the other animals find themselves hopelessly ensnared in the old ways. Orwell's chilling story of the betrayal of idealism through tyranny and corruption, is as fresh and relevant today as when it was first published in 1945.

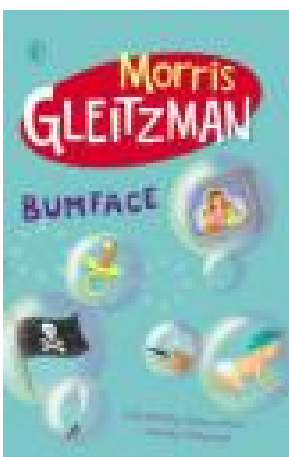


## ***Boy Soldier*** by Andy McNab, Robert Rigby

ISBN: 978-0552552219

Danny Watts' grandfather, Fergus, was a traitor - one of the worst sort and an SAS explosives expert who betrayed his country and his Regiment for money - drug money. He was arrested and left to rot and die in a Columbian jail. At least, that's what seventeen-year-old Danny is told when his hopes of becoming a soldier are destroyed for ever. But he knows something the army doesn't seem to know. Fergus Watts is alive and in the UK, living in secret under an assumed name - but where? Fergus is Danny's only living relative. Burning with fury and desire for revenge, Danny sets out to track down his grandfather and expose him. In doing so, he sets in train an explosive sequence of events which throw Danny and Fergus together on the run from the people who want Fergus, and now

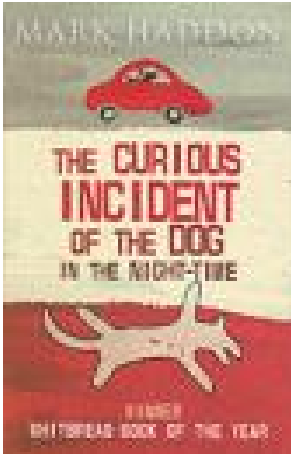
Danny, dead. Packed with breathtaking action, SAS procedures and surveillance and survival techniques, this is a fast-moving, action-packed thriller for teenagers.



## ***Bumface*** by Morris Gleitzman

ISBN: 978-0141303550

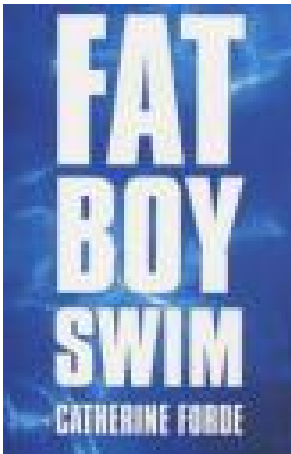
Angus worships his two younger siblings and helps his much-married, actress mother to take care of them. But he is tired of his "Mr Dependable" tag and starts to resent his mum's perpetual flirtations with unsuitable men that leave him, quite literally, holding the baby while husbands one, two and three get on with their own lives. And when taking care of the little ones threatens to interfere with rehearsals for the school play, Angus decides that something has to be done, especially when he realises that his errant and incredibly fertile mother could well be en route to another pregnancy.



## ***Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time*** by Mark Haddon

ISBN: 978-0099456766

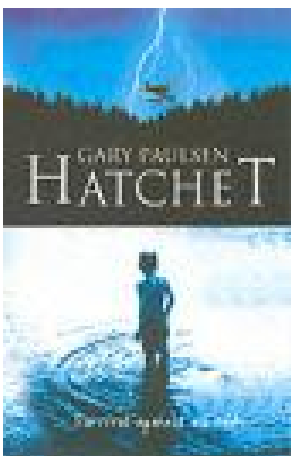
Christopher is 15 and lives in Swindon with his father. He has Asperger's Syndrome, a form of autism. He is obsessed with maths, science and Sherlock Holmes but finds it hard to understand other people. When he discovers a dead dog on a neighbour's lawn he decides to solve the mystery and write a detective thriller about it. As in all good detective stories, however, the more he unearths, the deeper the mystery gets - for both Christopher and the rest of his family.



## ***Fat Boy Swim*** by Catherine Forde

ISBN: 978-1405202398

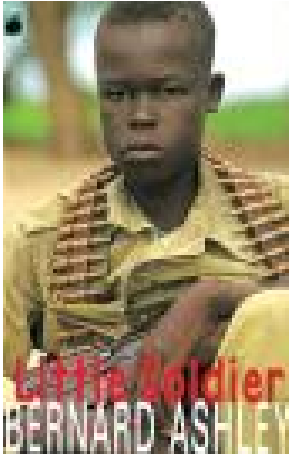
What's the hook? A humorous novel driven with gritty realism and thrilling imagination. The good mix of girl and boy characters make this book great for whole class work. What are the themes? Social issues such as bullying, self-image and confidence make Fat Boy Swim suitable for cross-curricular use in PSHE Teaching points? Scottish setting and the use of Scottish dialect expressions make it ideal for exploring dialect and cultural diversity.



## ***Hatchet*** by Gary Paulsen

ISBN: 978-0330439725

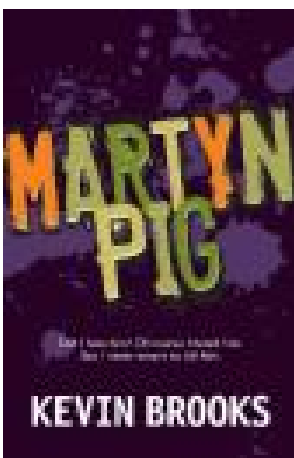
There was a wild crashing sound, a ripping of metal, and the plane blew through the trees, out over the water and down, down to slam into the lake ...Brian is a city boy. Not used to living rough. Until his plane crash-lands in the Canadian wilderness. All he has is a hatchet - and a desperate will to survive. Now Brian must learn to live the hard way - or die.



### ***Little Soldier* by Bernard Ashley**

ISBN: 978-1860398797

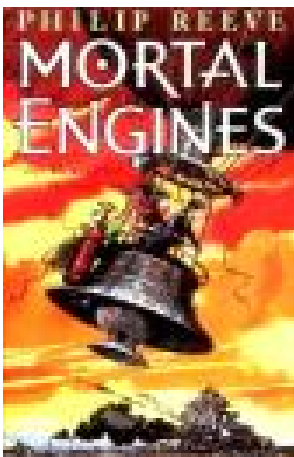
When Kaninda survives a brutal attack on his village in East Africa he joins the rebel army, where he's trained to carry weapons, and use them. But aid workers take him to London, to a new family and a comprehensive school. Clan and tribal conflicts are everywhere, and on the streets it's estate versus estate, urban tribe against urban tribe. All Kaninda wants it to get back to his own war and take revenge on his enemies. But together with Laura Rose, the daughter of his new family, he is drawn into a dangerous local conflict that is spiraling out of control.



### ***Martyn Pig* by Kevin Brooks**

ISBN: 978-1905294169

With his father dead, Martyn has a choice. Tell the police what happened - and be suspected of murder. Or get rid of the body and get on with the rest of his life. Simple, right? Not quite. One story leads to another. Secrets and lies become darker and crazier. And Martyn is faced with twists and turns that leave him reeling. Life is never easy. But death is even harder.



### ***Mortal Engines* by Philip Reeve**

ISBN: 978-0439982221

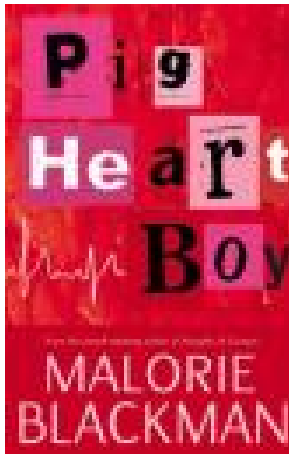
Tom and Hester have been thrown together. Truly-thrown out of a city on wheels that's left them stranded and starving in the middle of nowhere while it hares off after its prey. Hester is desperate for revenge, and Tom is only desperate to get back on board his beloved London. This is a stunning literary debut from Philip Reeve. A novel that defies easy categorisation, it is a gripping adventure story set in an inspired fantasy world, where moving cities trawl the globe. Peopled with convincing and utterly likeable characters, this story is a magical and unique read.



## ***Noughts and Crosses* by Malorie Blackman**

ISBN: 978-0552555708

Sephy is a Cross - a member of the dark-skinned ruling class. Callum is a nought - a 'colourless' member of the underclass who were once slaves to the Crosses. The two have been friends since early childhood. But that's as far as it can go. Until the first steps are taken towards more social equality and a limited number of Noughts are allowed into Cross schools...Against a background of prejudice and distrust, intensely highlighted by violent terrorist activity by Noughts, a romance builds between Sephy and Callum - a romance that is to lead both of them into terrible danger...



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

ISBN: 978-0552559799

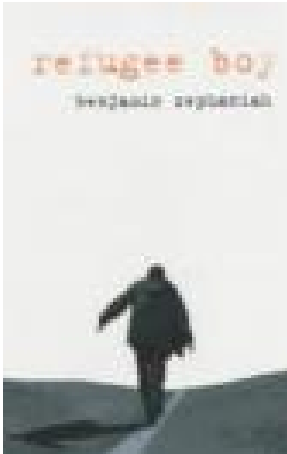
Cameron is thirteen and in need of a heart transplant when a pioneering doctor approaches his family with a startling proposal. He can give Cameron a new heart - but from a pig. I Cameron is fed up with just sitting on the side of life, always watching and never doing. He has to try - to become the world's first pig-heart boy.



## ***Private Peaceful* by Michael Morpurgo**

ISBN: 978-0007150076

Michael Morpurgo is the third Children's Laureate, and is one of the most well-known and best-loved of children's authors. He has written over ninety books, short stories, screenplays and two musicals, and has won many prizes, both here and in Europe, including the Whitbread Award for *The Wreck of the Zanzibar*, the Children's Book Award for *Kensuke's Kingdom*, and the Writers' Guild Award and the Smarties Prize for *The Butterfly Lion*.

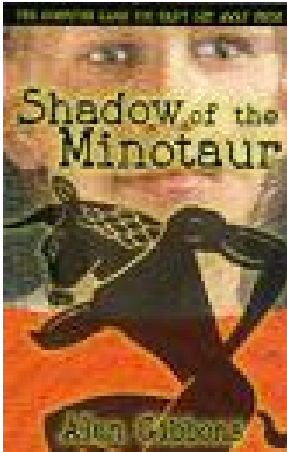


## ***Refugee Boy*** by Benjamin Zephaniah

ISBN: 978-0747550860

Alem is on holiday with his father for a few days in London. He has never been out of Ethiopia before and is very excited. They have a great few days together until one morning when Alem wakes up in the bed and breakfast they are staying at to find the unthinkable. His father has left him. It is only when the owner of the bed and breakfast hands him a letter that Alem is given an explanation. Alem's father admits that because of the political problems in Ethiopia both he and Alem's mother felt Alem would be safer in London - even though it is breaking their hearts to do this. Alem is now on his own, in the hands of the social services and the Refugee Council. He lives from letter to letter, waiting to hear from his

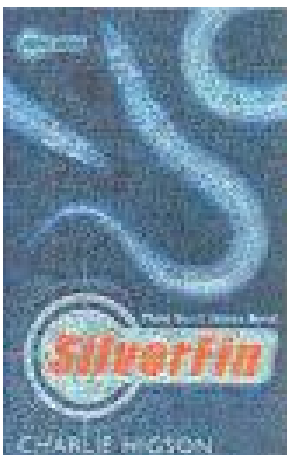
father, and in particular about his mother, who has now gone missing...A powerful, gripping new novel from the popular Benjamin Zephaniah.



## ***Shadow of the Minotaur*** by Alan Gibbons

ISBN: 978-1858817217

'Real life' or the death defying adventures of the Greek myths, with their heroes and monsters, daring deeds and narrow escapes - which would you choose? For Phoenix it's easy. He hates his new home and the new school where he is bullied. He's embarrassed by his computer geek dad. But when he logs on to The Legendeer, the game his dad is working on, he can be a hero. He is Theseus fighting the terrifying Minotaur, or Perseus battling with snake-haired Medusa. It feels as though he's really there... The Legendeer is more than just a game. Play it if you dare.



## ***Silverfin*** by Charlie Higson

ISBN: 978-0141318592

How does an ordinary boy become the world's most famous secret agent? Discover how the legend began in Silverfin, the first in a series for younger readers about the young James Bond, a 13-year-old growing up in Britain in the 1930's.



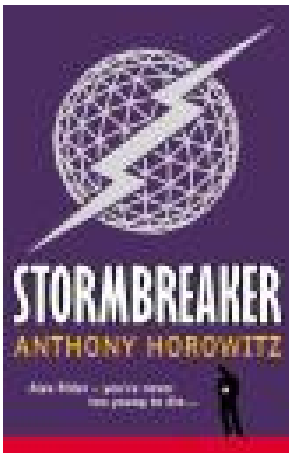
## *Skulduggery Pleasant* by Derek Landy

ISBN: 978-0007241620

Meet the great Skulduggery Pleasant: wise-cracking detective, powerful magician, master of dirty tricks and burglary (in the name of the greater good, of course). Oh yeah. And dead. Then there's his sidekick, Stephanie. She's! well, she's a twelve-year-old girl. With a pair like this on the case, evil had better watch out! "So you won't keep anything from me again?" He put his hand to his chest. "Cross my heart and hope to die." "Okay then. Though you don't actually have a heart," she said. "I know." "And technically, you've already died." "I know that too." "Just so we're clear."

Stephanie's uncle Gordon is a writer of horror fiction. But when he dies and leaves her his estate, Stephanie learns that while he may

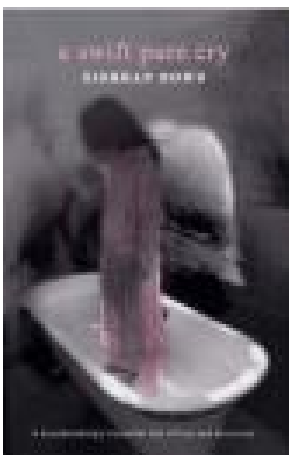
have written horror, it certainly wasn't fiction. Pursued by evil forces intent on recovering a mysterious key, Stephanie finds help from an unusual source -- the wisecracking skeleton of a dead wizard. When all hell breaks loose, it's lucky for Skulduggery that he's already dead. Though he's about to discover that being a skeleton doesn't stop you from being tortured, if the torturer is determined enough. And if there's anything Skulduggery hates, it's torture! Will evil win the day? Will Stephanie and Skulduggery stop bickering long enough to stop it? One thing's for sure: evil won't know what's hit it.



## *Stormbreaker* by Anthony Horowitz

ISBN: 978-1844280926

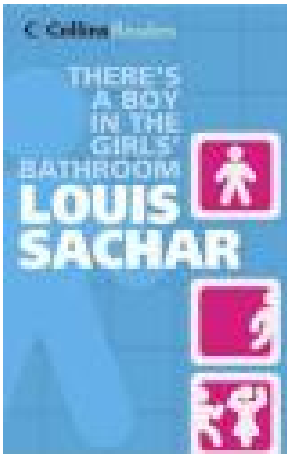
When his guardian dies in suspicious circumstances, fourteen-year-old Alex Rider finds his world turned upside down. Forcibly recruited into MI6, Alex has to take part in gruelling SAS training exercises. Then, armed with his own special set of secret gadgets, he's off on his first mission to Cornwall, where Middle-Eastern multi-billionaire Herod Sayle is producing his state-of-the-art Stormbreaker computers. Sayle has offered to give one free to every school in the country - but there's more to the gift than meets the eye.



## *A Swift Pure Cry* by Siobhan Dowd

ISBN: 978-0099488163

After Shell's mother dies, her obsessively religious father descends into alcoholic mourning and Shell is left to care for her younger brother and sister. Her only release from the harshness of everyday life comes from her budding spiritual friendship with a naive young priest, and most importantly, her developing relationship with childhood friend, Declan, charming, eloquent and persuasive. But when Declan suddenly leaves Ireland to seek his fortune in America, Shell finds herself pregnant and the centre of a scandal that rocks the small community in which she lives, with repercussions across the whole country. The lives of those immediately around her will never be the same again.

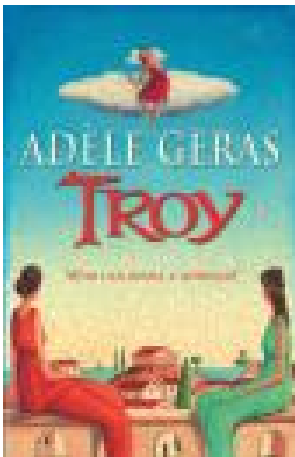


## *There's A Boy in the Girl's Bathroom* by

Louis Sachar

ISBN: 978-0747552574

"Give me a dollar or I'll spit on you." That's Bradley Chalker for you. He is the oldest child in the class. He tells enormous lies. He picks fights with girls, and the teachers say he has "serious behaviour problems." No one likes him - except Carla, the new school counsellor. She thinks Bradley is sensitive and generous, and she even enjoys his far-fetched stories. Carla knows that Bradley could change, if only he weren't afraid to try. Sometimes the hardest thing in the world is believing in yourself.



## *Troy* by Adele Geras

ISBN: 978-0439950954

Who can resist a goddess? The most famous war in history is brought to life through the eyes of two sisters. Marpessa is gifted with God-sight, Xanthe has the healing touch. But then Aphrodite, Goddess of Love, decides to play with their hearts ... and contrives for them to fall in love with the same young warrior.

Authors you may also like to explore include:

- Darren Shan – horror, adventure and detective
- Jeremy Strong and Michael Lawrence – humour
- Scott Westerfield – The Uglies Quartet - science fiction with a contemporary twist particularly suitable for girls.
- Chris D'Lacey – fantasy
- Karen McCrombie, Cathy Hopkins, Jacqueline Wilson – friendships, families and relationships.

**\*\*Many students seem keen on autobiography so if your child has a favourite celebrity, pop star, or sporting hero you may want to consider choosing something like this.**