



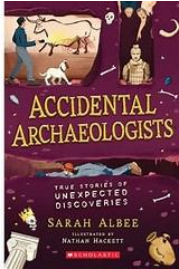
Tower House School Reading List: Year 5-6

The books on this list have been selected as suitable for readers in Year 5 and 6. They aim to inspire, stretch and challenge.

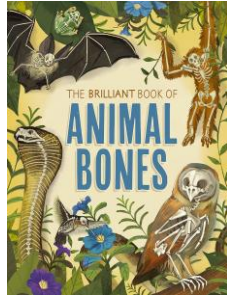
Click on a cover for a link to a synopsis!

NON-FICTION

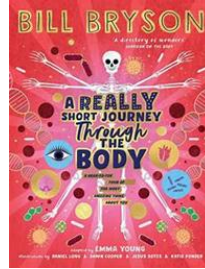
Accidental Archaeologists: True Stories of Unexpected Discoveries - Sarah Albee



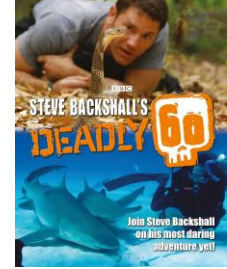
The Brilliant Book of Animal Bones – Anna Claybourne



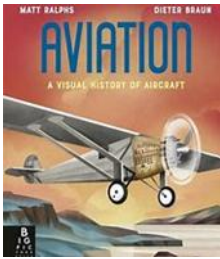
A Really Short Journey Through the Body - Bill Bryson & Emma Young



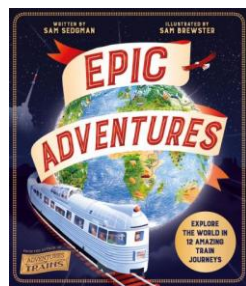
Deadly 60 – Steve Backshall



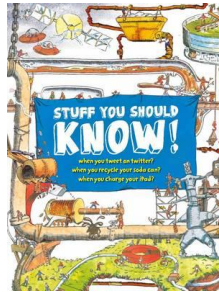
Aviation - Matt Ralphs & Dieter Braun



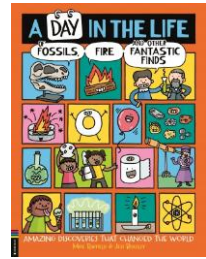
Epic Adventures – Sam Sedgman



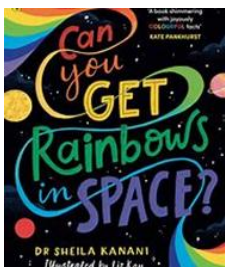
Stuff You Should Know – John Farndon and Rob Beattie



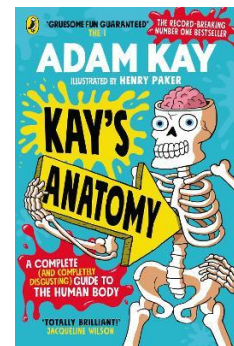
A Day in the Life of Fossils, Fire and Other Fantastic Finds – Mike Barfield and Jess Bradley



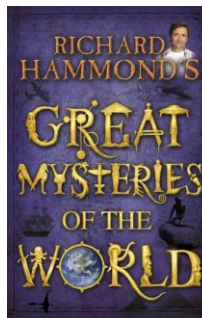
Can You Get Rainbows in Space? - Dr Sheila Kanani



Kay's Anatomy – Adam Kay



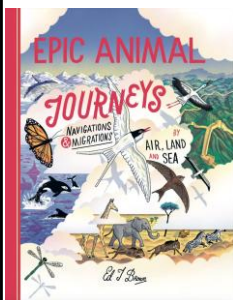
Great Mysteries of the World – Richard Hammond



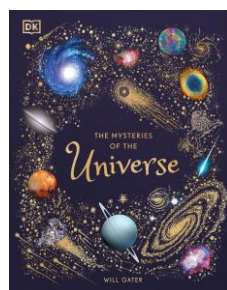
I Ate Sunshine for Breakfast - Michael Holland & Philip Giordano



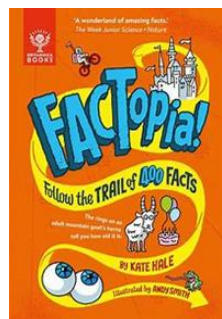
Epic Animal Journeys – Ed J. Brown



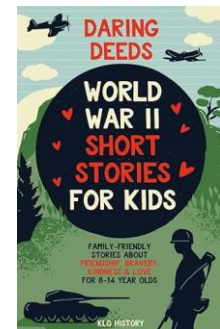
The Mysteries of the Universe – Will Gater



FACTopia! - Kate Hale & Andy Smith



Daring Deeds – KLG History





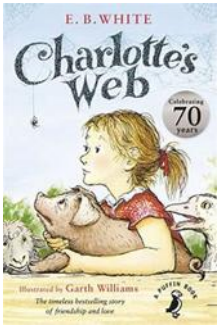
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FICTION

Charlotte's Web – E.B. White



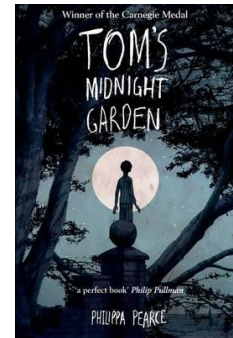
Hacker - Malorie Blackman



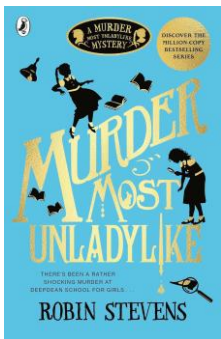
Goodnight Mister Tom – Michelle Magorian



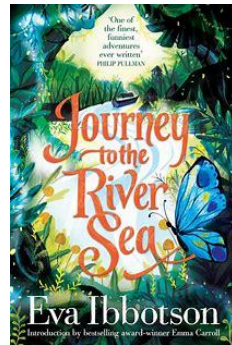
Tom's Midnight Garden – Philippa Pearce



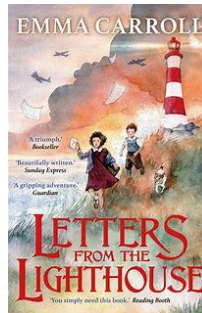
Murder Most Unladylike – Robin Stevens



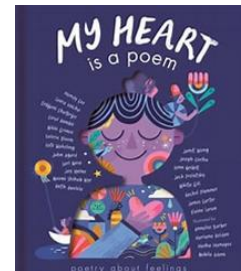
Journey to the River Sea - Eva Ibbotson



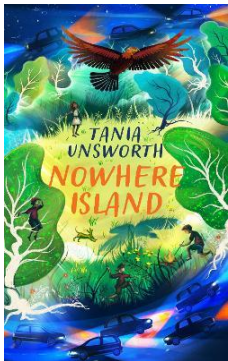
Letters From the Lighthouse – Emma Carroll



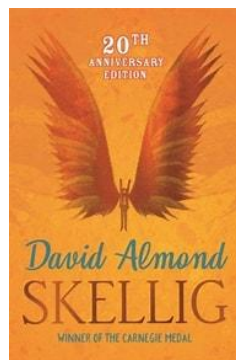
My Heart is a Poem - Various authors & illustrators



Nowhere Island – Tania Unsworth



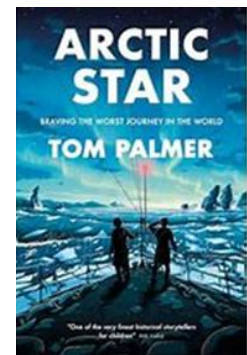
Skellig – David Almond



Percy Jackson and the Lightning Thief - Rick Riordan



Arctic Star – Tom Palmer



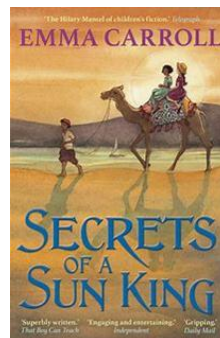
Roman Mystery Series - Caroline Lawrence



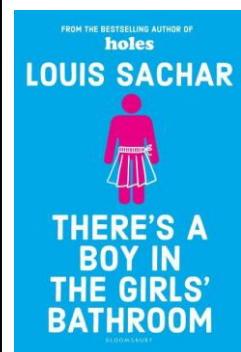
Scrap - Guy Bass & Alessia Trunfio



Secrets of a Sun King - Emma Carroll



There's a Boy in the Girls' Bathroom – Louis Sachar





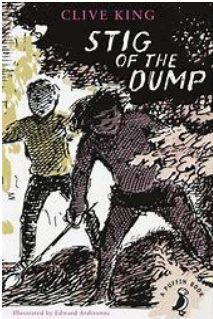
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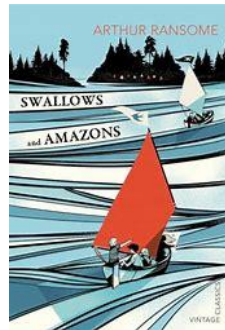
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FICTION

Stig of the Dump – Clive King



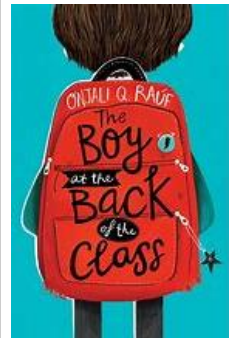
Swallows and Amazons
Arthur Ransome



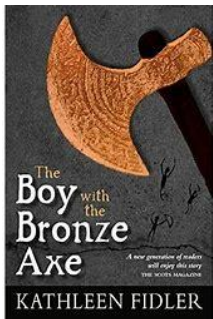
The Last Bear - Hannah Gold & Levi Pinfold



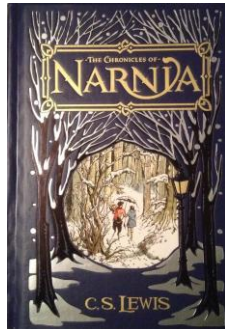
The Boy at the Back of the Class – Onjali Raúf



The Boy with the Bronze Axe - Kathleen Fidler



The Chronicles of Narnia - C.S. Lewis



The Diary of Anne Frank - Anne Frank



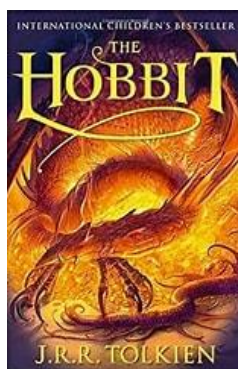
The Final Year – Matt Goodfellow



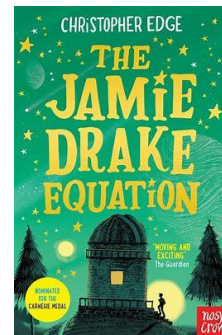
Viking Boy - Tony Bradman



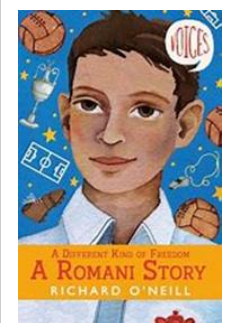
The Hobbit - J.R.R. Tolkien



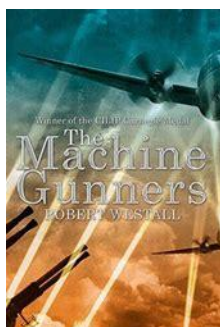
The Jamie Drake Equation - Christopher Edge



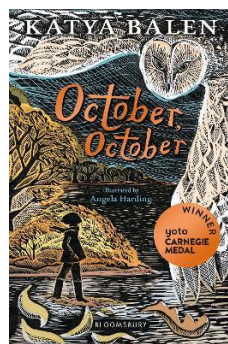
A Romani Story - Richard O'Neill



The Machine Gunners - Robert Westall



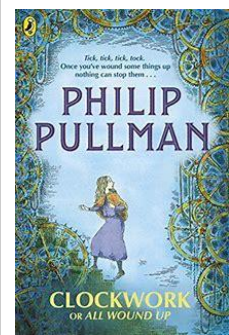
October, October – Katya Balen



Hunt for the Golden Scarab - M.G. Leonard



Clockwork – Philip Pullman





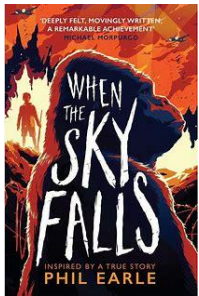
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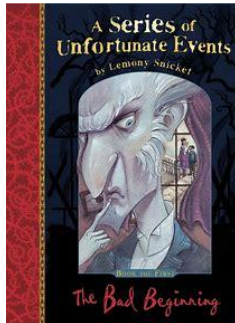
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FICTION

When the Sky Falls – Phil Earle



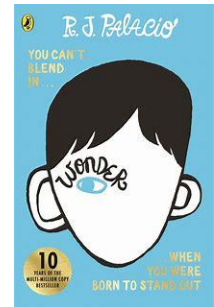
A series of Unfortunate Events – Lemony Snicket



Windrush Child - Benjamin Zephaniah



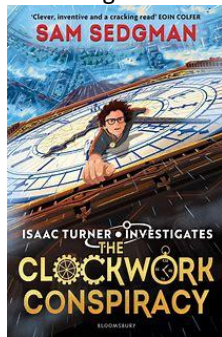
Wonder – R. J. Palacio



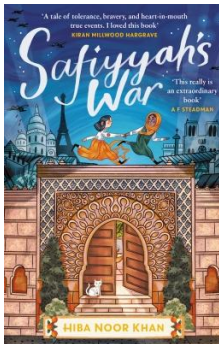
Wonderscape – Jennifer Bell



Clockwork Conspiracy – Sam Sedgman



Safiyyah's War – Hiba Noor Khan



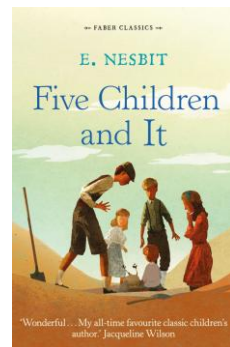
Dragon Mountain – Katie Tsang and Kevin Tsang



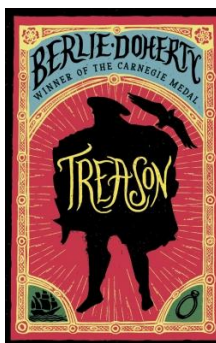
Code Name Kingfisher – Liz Kessler



Five Children and It – E. Nesbit



Treason – Berlie Doherty



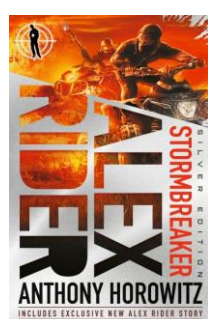
Brightstorm – Vashti Hardy



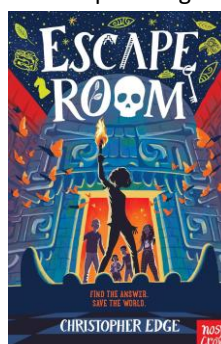
War Horse – Michael Morpurgo



The Alex Rider Series – Anthony Horowitz



Escape Room – Christopher Edge



Stitch – Pádraig Kenny





Classic Stories for 11+ Preparation

For the 11+ English exam, children really benefit from being familiar with the storylines, characters, and themes of classic works, even if they don't read the full text. This is not compulsory, but beneficial.

Oliver Twist – Charles Dickens
Great Expectations – Charles Dickens
A Christmas Carol – Charles Dickens
Moby-Dick – Herman Melville
Treasure Island – Robert Louis Stevenson
Kidnapped – Robert Louis Stevenson
Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde – Robert Louis Stevenson
Gulliver's Travels – Jonathan Swift
Robinson Crusoe – Daniel Defoe
The Swiss Family Robinson – Johann David Wyss
The Jungle Book – Rudyard Kipling
Black Beauty – Anna Sewell
The Secret Garden – Frances Hodgson Burnett
Alice's Adventures in Wonderland & Through the Looking-Glass – Lewis Carroll
Peter Pan – J.M. Barrie
20,000 Leagues Under the Sea – Jules Verne
Frankenstein – Mary Shelley
Dracula – Bram Stoker
Sherlock Holmes: *The Hound of the Baskervilles* – Sir Arthur Conan Doyle
The Railway Children – E. Nesbit
The Wind in the Willows – Kenneth Grahame
Shakespeare's Plays (The most well known)
Grimm's Fairy Tales – Brothers Grimm
Fairy Tales – Hans Christian Andersen
Greek Myths (e.g. Odysseus, Persephone, Hercules) – various retellings
(This list is just a guide; there are many classic titles associated with these authors and time periods.)

Exam boards like these texts because:

The language is *challenging but not impossible*.

They offer strong themes (morality, justice, courage, resilience).

They provide excellent material for descriptive writing models.

Tip for parents:

Children don't need to struggle through the full Victorian texts at age 11.

They can:

Read abridged or illustrated editions (e.g. Usborne, Puffin Classics).

Use summaries or retellings (e.g. Michael Morpurgo's retellings of classics, or the *Classic Starts* series).

Watch thoughtful adaptations (films, stage plays, or BBC/CBBC versions) to reinforce plot and themes.