

Wider reading and 'reading for pleasure':

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YEAR 7 SUGGESTED READING

FICTION

ALCOTT, Louisa May. *Little Women*

ALMOND, David. *The Fire-Eaters; Heaven Eyes; Kit's Wilderness; Skellig; The True Tale of the Monster Billy Dean; My Name Is Mina*

ANDERSON, Laurie Halse. *Chains; Forge*

BAWDEN, Nina. *Carrie's War*

BOWLER, Tim. *Tales from the Dark Side: Blood on Snow, Walking with the Dead; River Boy; Sea of Whispers*

BOYCE, Frank Cottrell. *The Unforgotten Coat*

BRESLIN, Theresa. *The Divided City; The Medici Seal; Spy for the Queen of Scots*

BUCKLEY-ARCHER, Linda. *The Enlightenment of Peter Schock Series*

BURNETT, Francis Hodgson. *A Little Princess; The Secret Garden*

CHADDA, Sarwat. *The Ash Mistry Chronicles*

CHOTJEWITZ, David. *Daniel Half Human*

CLARE, Cassandra' *The Mortal Instruments Series*

COLFER, Eoin. *Airman; Artemis Fowl Series; Half Moon Investigations; W.A.R.P.: The Reluctant Assassin*

CORDER, Zizou. *Lionboy Series*

CRAIG, Joe. *Jimmy Coates Series*

CREECH, Sharon. *Ruby Holler*

CROSS, Gillian. *Lost Trilogy: The Dark Ground, The Black Room, The Nightmare Game; After Tomorrow*

CROSSAN, Sarah. *The Weight of Water*

CROSSLEY-HOLLAND, Kevin. *Arthur Trilogy; The Viking Sagas: Bracelet of Bones, Scramasax*

DAHL, Roald. *The BFG; James and the Giant Peach; Matilda*

DOHERTY, Berlie. *Abela: the Girl who Saw Lions; Treason*

DOLAMORE, Jaclyn. *Magic Under Glass*

DOWD, Siobhan. *A Swift Pure Cry; The London Eye Mystery*

DOWSWELL, Paul. *The Cabinet of Curiosities; Sektion 20*

DOYLE, Roddy, *A Greyhound of a Girl*

DUNMORE, Helen. *Ingo Series: Ingo, The Tide Knot, The Deep, The Crossing of Ingo; The Greatcoat; Stormsept*

EVANS, Lissa. *Small Change for Stuart*

FISHER, Catherine. *The Chronoptika Series: The Obsidian Mirror; The Box of Red Brocade*

FUNKE, Cornelia. *Inkheart Trilogy: Inkheart, Inkspell, Inkdeath; MirrorWorld Series: Reckless, Fearless*

GAIMAN, Neil. *Coraline; The Graveyard Book*

GARDNER, Sally. *The Red Necklace; The Silver Blade; Maggot Moon*

GARNER, Alan. *The Owl Service*

GLEITZMAN, Morris. *Once; Then; Now; After*

GRANT, Helen. *The Vanishing of Katharina Linden*

HARRISON, Michelle. *One Wish; The Thirteen Treasures series*

HARTNETT, Sonya. *The Silver Donkey; The Midnight Zoo*

HIGSON, Charlie. *The Enemy Series; The Enemy, The Dead, The Fear, The Sacrifice, The Fallen*

HOFFMAN, Mary. *The Falconer's Knot; Stravaganza: City of Masks, City of Stars, City of Flowers*

HOROWITZ, Anthony. *Alex Rider Series; Diamond Brothers Series; Power of Five Series*

IBBOTSON, Eva. *Journey to the River Sea*

JACQUES, Brian. *Redwall*

JONES, Diana Wynne. Any titles, including *The Game; Enchanted Glass; Howl's Moving Castle* and seven books in the *Chrestomanci* series

KERR, Judith. *When Hitler Stole Pink Rabbit; A Small Person Far Away; Bombs on Aunt Dainty*

LAKE, Nick. *In Darkness*

LAWRENCE, Caroline. *The Roman Mysteries Series*

MCNISH, Cliff. *The Hunting Ground;*

MACPHAIL, Catherine. *Nemesis Series; Out of the Depths; Secret of the Shadows*

MATTHIAS, Sarah. *Tom Fletcher and the Angel of Death; Tom Fletcher and the Three Wise Men*

MORPURGO, Michael. *Alone on the Wide Wide Sea; Private Peaceful; Shadow; A Medal for Leroy*

MOSS, Fletcher. *Poison Boy*

MUCHAMORE, Robert. *Cherub Series: The Recruit; Class A; Maximum Security; The Killing; Divine Madness; Man vs Beast; The Fall; Mad Dogs; The Sleepwalker; The General; Brigands MC; Shadow Wave; Series 2: People's Republic; Guardian Angel; Black Friday; The Henderson's Boys Series: The Escape; Eagle Day; Secret Army; Grey Wolves; The Prisoner*

NESBIT, E. *The Railway Children;*

NESS, Patrick. *A Monster Calls*

NEWBERY, Linda. *Nevermore; The Treasure House*

NICHOLLS, Sally. *Ways to Live Forever; Season of Secrets; All Fall Down*

NIMMO, Jenny. *Children of the Red King Series*

NIX, Garth. *Keys to the Kingdom Series; A Confusion of Princes*

PALACIO, R. J. *Wonder*

PAOLINI, Christopher. *Eldest; Eragon; Brisingr*

PAVER, Michelle. *Chronicles of Ancient Darkness Series: Wolf Brother, Spirit Walker, Soul Eater, Outcast, Oath Breaker; Ghost Hunter; Gods and Warriors*

PITCHER, Annabel. *My Sister Lives on the Mantelpiece*

POWELL, Laura. *Burn Mark; Witch Fire*

PRATCHETT, Terry. *Nation; I Shall Wear Midnight; Snuff; Dodger*

PRIESTLEY, Chris. *Uncle Montagues's Tales of Terror; Tales of Terror from the Black Ship; Mister Creecher*

PRUE, Sally. *Wheels of War; Ice Maiden; Song Hunter*

PULLMAN, Philip. *His Dark Materials Trilogy: Northern Lights, The Subtle Knife, The Amber Spyglass*

RANSOME, Arthur. *Swallows & Amazons;*

REES, Celia. *The Fool's Girl; This is Not Forgiveness*

REID BANKS, Lynne. *The Indian in the Cupboard; Return of the Indian; Secret of the Indian*

RIORDAN, Rick. *Heroes of Olympus: The Lost Hero, The Son of Neptune, The Mark of Athena; Percy Jackson Series; The Kane Chronicles: The Red Pyramid, The Throne of Fire, The Serpent's Shadow*

ROWLING, J. K. *Harry Potter Series*

SACHAR, Louis. *Holes; Small Steps; Pig City; The Cardturner*

SCARROW, Alex. *TimeRiders*

SEDGWICK, Marcus. *The Book of Dead Days, The Dark Flight Down; Blood Red, Snow White; My Swordhand is Singing; White Crow; Midwinterblood*

SHELTON, Dave. *A Boy and a Bear in a Boat*

SNICKET, Lemony. *A Series of Unfortunate Events Series*

ST JOHN, Lauren. *Dead Man's Cove; Race the Wind*

STEWART, Paul. *The Edge Chronicles Series; Wurmeweald: Returner's Wealth, Bloodhoney, The Bone Trail*

STROUD, Jonathan. *The Bartimaeus Trilogy: The Amulet of Samarkand, The Golem's Eye, Ptolemy's Gate; The Ring of Solomon*

SWINDELLS, Robert. *A Skull in Shadows Lane*

THOMPSON, Kate. *The New Policeman; The White Horse Trick*

TOLKIEN, J. R. R. *The Hobbit*

WEIN, Elizabeth. *Code Name Verity*

WESTERFELD, Scott. *Behemoth; Uglies; Pretties; Specials*

ZEPHANIAH, Benjamin. *Gangsta Rap; Teacher's Dead*

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YEAR 8 SUGGESTED READING

FICTION

ADAMS, Richard. *Watership Down*
ALMOND, David. *Jackdaw Summer; Kit's Wilderness*
AUSTEN, Jane. *Pride and Prejudice; Northanger Abbey; any title*
BLACKMAN, Malorie. *Noughts and Crosses; Knife Edge; Checkmate; Double Cross; Boys Don't Cry; Noble Conflict; Chasing the Stars*
BOWLER, Tim. *Frozen Fire; Apocalypse; Shadows; Storm Catchers; Bloodchild; Starseeker; Buried Thunder; Runner*
BOYNE, John. *The Boy at the top of the Mountain*
BRESLIN, Theresa. *Remembrance; Prisoner of the Inquisition*
BRONTË, Charlotte. *Jane Eyre*
BROOKS, Kevin. *Kissing the Rain; Lucas; i Boy; The Bunker Diary*
BURGESS, Melvin. *The Cry of the Wolf; The Baby and Fly Pie; Burning Issy*
CASSIDY, Anne. *Looking for JJ; Moth Girls*
COTTERILL, Jo. *A Library of Lemons*
CREECH, Sharon. *The Unfinished Angel; Walk Two Moons*
CROSS, Gillian. *Where I Belong; After Tomorrow*
CROSSAN, Sarah. *One*
DAHL, Roald. *Skin and Other Stories; The Wonderful Story of Henry Sugar & Six More; Roald Dahl's Book of Ghost Stories*
DICKENS, Charles. *Oliver Twist; David Copperfield; The Old Curiosity Shop; any title*
DOWD, Siobhan. *Bog Child*
DOYLE, Arthur Conan. *The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes; The Hound of the Baskervilles*
DURRELL, Gerald. *My Family and Other Animals*
FALKNER, John. *Moonfleet*
FRAILLON, Zana. *The Bone Sparrow*
GARDNER, Sally. *I, Coriander; Tinder*
GLASS, Linzi. *Ruby Red*
GRANT, Helen. *Silent Saturday; The Vanishing of Katharina Linden*
GREEN, Julia. *Breathing Underwater*
HARDINGE, Frances. *Cuckoo Song; The Lie Tree*

HARGRAVE, Kiran Millwood. *The Girl of Ink and Stars*
HAUTZIG, Esther. *The Endless Steppe*
HEARN, Julie. *Rowan the Strange*
HEARN, Lian. *Across the Nightingale Floor*
HENDRY, Diana. *The Seeing*
HILL, Susan. *I'm the King of the Castle; The Mist in the Mirror*
HITCHCOCK, Bonnie-Sue. *The Smell of Other People's Houses*
HOOPER, Mary. *Fallen Grace*
JANSEN, Hanna. *Over a Thousand Hills I Walk with You*
KEYES, Daniel. *Flowers for Algernon (science-fiction)*
LOWRY, Lois. *The Giver series (dystopian fiction)*
MAGORIAN, Michelle. *A Little Love Song*
MCCAUGHREAN, Geraldine. *The Death Defying Pepper Roux; The Middle of Nowhere; Greek Myths*
MALLEY, Gemma. *The Declaration; The Resistance; The Legacy (dystopian, ideal for fans of The Hunger Games)*
MONTGOMERY, L.M. *Anne of Green Gables; (if you enjoy it, there are 7 more in the series about Anne's life!)*
NAIDOO, Beverley. *The Other Side of Truth*
NESS, Patrick. *Chaos Walking trilogy: The Knife of Never Letting Go; The Ask and the Answer; Monsters of Men; A Monster Calls*
NIX, Garth. *Old Kingdom Series: Sabriel; Lirael; Abhorsen; Shade's Children*
ORWELL, George. *Animal Farm*
PULLMAN, Philip. *Ruby in the Smoke; The Shadow in the North*
REEVE, Philip. *Railhead*
ROSOFF, Meg. *Just in Case; How I live now*
SEDGWICK, Marcus. *The Dark Horse; Revolver; Midwinterblood; The Foreshadowing*
SEWELL, Anna. *Black Beauty*
SMITH, Dodie. *I Capture the Castle*
STEINBECK, John. *Of Mice and Men*
STEVENSON, Robert Louis. *Kidnapped; Treasure Island*
SUTCLIFFE, William. *The Wall*
SWINDELLS, Robert. *Stone Cold*
TAYLOR, Mildred. *Roll of Thunder, Hear my Cry*
TOLKIEN, J.R.R. *The Hobbit; The Lord of the Rings Trilogy*
TWAINE, Mark. *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer; The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*
VALENTINE, Jenny. *Finding Violet Park*
VERNE, Jules. *Around the World in Eighty Days*
WALLACE, Jason. *Out of Shadows*
WELFORD, Ross. *Time Travelling with a Hamster*
WELLS, H.G. *War of the Worlds; The Time Machine*
WOLK, Lauren. *Wolf Hollow*
ZAFON, Carlos Ruiz. *The Prince of Mist*

ZEPHANIAH, Benjamin. *Refugee Boy*

ZUSAK, Markus. *The Book Thief*

Biography/Autobiography – There is a large section of biography/autobiography available to borrow from the LRC. Below are just a few suggestions:

FRANK, Anne. *The Diary of a Young Girl*

YOUSAFZAI, Malala. *I am Malala*

GRYLLS, Bear. *Mud, Sweat & Tears*

ENNIS, Jessica. *Unbelievable*

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YEAR 9 SUGGESTED READING

FICTION

AUSTEN, J. *Any title*
BALLARD, *Empire of the Sun*
BARNARD, Sara. *A Quiet Kind of Thunder*
BARR, Emily. *The One Memory of Flora Banks*
BRONTE, Emily. *Wuthering Heights*
BRYSON, Bill. *Any title*
CONAN DOYLE, Arthur. *Any Sherlock Holmes story*
CROSS, Gillian. *Wolf*
DANGAREMBGA, Tsitsi. *Nervous Conditions*
DICKENS, Charles. *Any title*
DONNELLY, Jennifer. *A Gathering Light*
DU MAURIER, Daphne. *Rebecca*
FRAILLON Zana. *The Bone Sparrow*
HADDON, Mark. *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time*
HEARN, Julie. *Ivy; Hazel; The Merrybegot*
HINTON, S.E. *The Outsiders*
LAKE, Nick. *In Darkness*
LANDMAN, Tanya. *Buffalo Soldier* (Carnegie medal winner 2014), *Beyond the Wall*
LEE, Harper. *To Kill a Mockingbird*
LEE, Laurie. *Cider with Rosie*
LOCKHART, E. *We were liars*
MARTEL, Yann. *The Life of Pi*
MONK KIDD, Sue. *The Secret Life of Bees*
MULLIGAN, Andy. *Trash*
NIVEN, Jennifer. *All the Bright Places*
ORWELL, George. *1984*
REEVE, Philip. *Railhead*
SALINGER, J.D. *The Catcher in the Rye*
SEPETYS, Ruta. *Between Shades of Grey; Salt to the Sea*
SHELLEY, Mary. *Frankenstein*

SPARK, Muriel. *The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie*
SPINELLI, Jerry. *Stargirl*
STEVENSON, R. L. *The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde*
STOKER, Bram. *Dracula*
TALLEY, Robin. *Lies we tell ourselves*
TOWNSEND, Sue. *The Secret Diary of Adrian Mole aged 13¾*
WEIN, Elizabeth. *Code Name Verity*
WILLIAMSON, Lisa. *The Art of being Normal*
WYNDHAM, John. *The Midwich Cuckoos; Day of the Triffids*

BIOGRAPHY/AUTOBIOGRAPHY

ANGELOU, Maya. *I know why the Caged Bird Sings; (first in a series of 7)*
BRIERLEY, Saroo. *A Long Way Home (the film 'Lion' was based on this)*
BUFFORD, Michelle. *Courage to Soar: A Body in Motion, A Life in Balance (Biography of gymnast Simone Biles)*
DEPRINCE, Michaela & Elaine. *Hope in a Ballet Shoe: Orphaned by War, Saved by Ballet*
BRITTAIN, Vera. *Testament of Youth*

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YEAR 10 AND 11 WIDER SUGGESTED READING

The texts included in this list are suggestions only and are all based loosely around themes connected to childhood (for example, friendship, relationship with families, a child's view of the adult world, the way adults view childhood).

CONTEMPORARY FICTION

Kate Atkinson: *Behind the Scenes at the Museum*

This novel opens with the moment when the main character, Ruby, is conceived. Told in the first person, the story immediately plunges the reader into Ruby's world. The descriptions of her early life, her relationships with her sisters and mother are interwoven with a story unravelling a family secret from the past.

Margaret Atwood: *Cat's Eye*

Cat's Eye is a powerful exploration of girls and their friendships. The novel describes the dark side of childhood and explores the influence of childhood experiences on the adult. Set in Canada, it is a first person narration which weaves together the story of the main character's past and present.

Guy Burt: *The Dandelion Clock*

A story of childhood games, friendships and secrets. Told through a series of long flashbacks the novel both evokes the intensity of childhood experiences and their repercussions in adult life.

Emmanuel Carrère: *Class Trip*

A gripping read in which the reader is left wondering what the truth really is. Written from the point of view of a young boy this story about a school skiing trip is a taut, psychological thriller. Fear, uncertainty, half understood insights and a child's vivid imagination make this a particularly interesting novel. *Class Trip* was made into a film in 1999.

Roddy Doyle: *The Commitments; The Van; The Snapper*

Powered by vivid dialogue, humour and feisty characters, the three novels which make up this trilogy about the Rabbitte family are definitely good reads. *The Commitments* follows Jimmy as he forms and manages a soul band. *The Snapper* tells the story of Jimmy's sister Sharon's pregnancy. In *The Van* Mr Rabbitte drags himself out of unemployment and depression by setting up a fish and chip van.

Roddy Doyle: *Paddy Clarke Ha Ha Ha*

Paddy Clarke Ha Ha Ha takes us into the world of a ten year old boy growing up in the late

1960s in the fictional Irish town of Barrytown. In this novel we are inside the mind of the child, seeing the world through his eyes. Young Patrick is so distressed over his parents' fighting with each other that he stays up all night trying to prevent their quarrels. Like many children whose parents break up, Patrick thinks he is somehow responsible, but he does not understand what is going wrong or why.

Esther Freud: *Hideous Kinky*

Two children find themselves whisked off to Morocco by their hippie mother. Written in the first person, the novel explores childhood interests and concerns and family relationships. A film adaptation, starring Kate Winslett, is available on film.

Barry Hines: *A Kestrel for a Knave*

A gripping story about Billy Casper, a disadvantaged and disaffected boy, whose life is given

meaning through his friendship with the kestrel hawk, Kes. Ken Loach's film *Kes* was re-released in 1999.

Nick Hornby: *About a Boy*

A novel exploring the role of boys and men in contemporary society. Chapters are written from the perspective of Marcus, a young boy and Will, a single man he adopts as a father figure. As well as being a good read this novel is particularly interesting for its attempt to capture in both content and style the different perspectives of the man and boy.

Patrick McCabe: *The Butcher Boy*

An incredible journey through madness as experienced inside the head of teenager, Francis.

Through his eyes the reader is forced to see how events can fatally affect a young mind damaged by loneliness and isolation. Set in a small town in Ireland in the 50s, this book is by turns chilling, hilarious and sad.

Shyama Perera: *Haven't Stopped Dancing Yet*

This story of four young girls growing up in London during the 60s and 70s moves at a terrific

pace. Although it touches on more serious issues (racism, depression, inequality, drug abuse) the tone is light and the emphasis is on the girls racing through their teenage years, grabbing hold of life.

Bruce Robison: *The Peculiar Memoirs of Thomas Penman*

From the author of *Withnail and I*, this is the story of a young boy growing up and his reflections on his family. The first few chapters are particularly peculiar – if you find it hard going at first, don't worry. Once you get into the style, it is very readable, so persevere.

Meera Syal: *Anita and Me*

It is a story about growing up, and wanting to be grown up, about friends and enemies, about belonging to a family, and wanting to escape from them, and about the changes which happen to individuals, families and communities. Although the novel tackles serious subjects, such as racism and bullying, it is also a very funny book. Meera Syal uses a first person narrator to tell the story from the point of view of Meena. The narrator is the adult Meena looking back on her childhood.

Rose Tremain: *Sacred Country*

At four years old Mary Ward decides she is a boy trapped in the body of a girl. The novel traces her troubled childhood and adolescence as she comes to terms with her sexuality and her decision, as an adult, to live as the man she believes she is.

Alan Warner: *The Sopranos*

It is the day of the school choir competition and the Sopranos – the elite members of the convent school choir and the 'in' gang – are ready to take Edinburgh by storm. As the girls shop, drink, shoplift and go clubbing they confront the realities of growing up in the 90s. Many of the issues explored are serious (for example, death, illness, sexuality, love, friendship, teenage pregnancy). Despite this the style is lively and the tone often comic.

Jeanette Winterson: *Oranges are not the Only Fruit*

An exuberant, painful and often humorous account of a childhood living with a strict mother who is a religious fundamentalist. Written in the first person the novel examines the mother-daughter relationship and a teenager's exploration of her identity.

TWENTIETH CENTURY CLASSICS

William Golding: *Lord of the Flies*

A horrifying exploration of what happens when a group of children are forced to fend for themselves isolated from the normal rules of society. It challenges the reader's view of childhood as a time of innocence and exposes disturbing truths about human nature and the way adult society is run.

Graham Greene 'The End of the Party' in *Twenty-One Stories*

A tense psychological short story exploring the fears of a young boy.

L.P Hartley: *The Go-Between*

Discovering an old diary, the narrator, now in his 60s, is drawn back to his teenage self and the summer which affected the rest of his life. The forbidden relationships amongst the adult characters are portrayed through the unknowing eyes of Leo, the narrator's younger self. His innocent involvement highlights the corruption of the adult world. Other themes explored include class difference, prejudice, friendship and family relationships.

James Joyce: 'An Encounter' in *Dubliners*

The narrator, now an adult, reflects on his childhood, particularly his desire for adventure. The central section of the story recounts his exploits when truanting from school. It ends in a meeting with an old man and a moment of revelation as Joyce attempts to use this one experience to say something important and truthful about childhood.

J.D Salinger: *Catcher in the Rye*

The classic story of adolescence. Written from the point of view, and in the language of the hero, Holden Caulfield, the novel rejects the traditional conventions of the 19th century autobiographical novel, creating a new sort of adolescent voice. The teenage narrator sets himself apart from society, revolted by the 'phoniness' he sees in the adult world.

PRE-1914 FICTION AND POETRY

William Blake: *Songs of Innocence and Experience*

A series of poems exploring childhood as a way of seeing and responding to the world – innocent, imaginative and open, the opposite of the corrupt, constrained mind-set of the adult society.

Charlotte Bronte: *Jane Eyre*

A first person account of the orphan Jane's childhood living with unsympathetic relatives, her suffering at school and her development as a strong and independent woman.

Charles Dickens: *David Copperfield*

A fictional autobiography which charts the childhood, adolescence and early adulthood of David Copperfield. The early chapters in which the narrator recounts his attempt to recall and order his memories, his suffering at home, his friendships and his time at school.

George Eliot: *The Mill on the Floss*

The story of the struggles of brother and sister Maggie and Tom Tulliver as they grow up attempting to cope with the expectations of society and family. Book 1 focuses on Maggie's childhood and is written from her point of view. Book 2 focuses on Tom's schooldays. The presentation of the brother-sister relationship, the influence of the extended family and the characterisation of Maggie – awkward, rebellious and intelligent – are interesting aspects of the novel.

George Eliot: *Silas Marner*

The story focuses on Silas Marner, a weaver who, betrayed by his friend and community, rejects society and devotes himself to his love of gold. The majority of the novel establishes his character as a miser and a hater of those around him. The novel is interesting for its presentation of the child Eppie and her influence on Silas Marner.

Miles Franklin: *My Brilliant Career*

A first person narrative telling the story of a young girl from the Australian bush, growing up and making strong decisions about her life and relationships.

Elizabeth Gaskell: 'The Half Brothers' in *Nineteenth century short stories*

This 19th century moral tale deals with the tragedies and tensions of family life. Brought up by his step-father and aunt, Gregory is neglected, treated like a servant by

everyone including his half brother, the narrator of the story. Gaskell uses the story to explore innocence, goodness, guilt and repentance.

Henry James: *The Turn of the Screw*

A terrifying ghost story and psychological drama. The main story, written from the point of view of the governess, presents a complex and ambiguous portrait of childhood. Are the children innocent victims or knowing and willing participants in the corruption of the adult world? Is the evil in the children, the governess or the adult society?

Henry James: *What Maisie Knew*

An excellent account of a child's view of the adult world and the forbidden affairs of those responsible for her. Persevere with the difficult style to see how skilfully James portrays Maisie's mixture of naiveté and worldliness.

D.H Lawrence: 'Odour of Chrysanthemums' in *Selected Short Stories*

A woman waits for her husband to return from his shift in the mines. The story is told from the point of view of the wife struggling to hold herself and family together. Lawrence explores the anxieties of a woman married to an irresponsible alcoholic, bringing up a family in grinding poverty.

Mark Twain *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*

Set in America, this novel explores the themes of childhood, friendship, social class and race through the exuberant adventures of Tom.

William Wordsworth: *The Prelude*

An autobiographical poem written and re-written throughout Wordsworth's life, *The Prelude* not only explores the themes associated with childhood, but illustrates the influence of childhood on the development of the mature adult. It is particularly interesting to focus on Books 1 and 2 which recount the poet's memories of his early childhood.

NON-FICTION AND AUTOBIOGRAPHY

Maya Angelou: *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*

The first part of the writer's autobiography recounting her experiences as a black child in the American South of the 1930s. Angelou uses many of the writing techniques of fiction and poetry. This humorous and moving book has proved appealing to students over many years.

Andrea Ashworth: *Once in a House on Fire*

Andrea Ashworth's memoir recounts her story of growing up in inner-city Manchester in the 1970s and '80s. The story follows Andrea, her two sisters and her mother in their battle with poverty, domestic violence and the effects of depression. "My father drowned when I was 5 years old," Andrea Ashworth writes of her early years with her sister Laurie. "By the time I was 6, our mother's stomach was swollen full of a third child. A looming, red-faced man, quite a bit older than her, stepped into our house for tea and was introduced to Laurie and me as our new daddy." So begins "Once in a House on Fire. Through the eyes of an anguished child, Ashworth vividly depicts the abuse, physical and sexual; a disastrous move to Canada; a life of poverty; and repeated rescue attempts by loyal friends.

Roald Dahl: *Boy and Going Solo*

The popular children's author tells the story of his life in his usual engaging and lively style.

Readers claim it is as frightening and funny as his fiction, grotesque and compulsive.

Anne Frank: *The Diary of Anne Frank*

Famous for its depiction of life during the holocaust, this diary is also a fascinating and perceptive account of adolescence. In it Anne Frank not only explores the fears and tensions of living in hiding from the Nazis, but also the concerns of a typical teenager: her appearance, relationships with her family, love and her ambitions for the future.

Nick Hornby: *Fever Pitch*

This autobiography is structured round the author's obsession with football, particularly the fortunes of his team Arsenal. The specific matches which inspire and focus his memories are only the starting point for amusing reflections on his own life and character, the nature of football, obsession, family and relationships and society in general.

Laurie Lee: *Cider With Rosie*

A humorous, entertainingly written autobiography recollecting a country childhood from the perspective of the child, with commentary from the adult narrator.

Frank McCourt: *Angela's Ashes*

An autobiographical account of an Irish childhood. Despite the powerful descriptions of desperate poverty the book is also very funny and a gripping read. Written from the point of view of 'Frank', the author's younger self, *Angela's Ashes* charts his development from childhood through adolescence to adulthood. The style reflects his growing emotional and intellectual awareness.

Blake Morrison: *And When Did You Last See Your Father?*

An autobiographical exploration of the author's relationship with his father. Morrison interweaves incidents from his childhood with accounts of his father's final illness and death. Both childhood and adult memories are written in the present tense and in the first person. The style attempts to capture and reflect the different perspectives of the maturing child.

ANTHOLOGIES

ed. Peter Haining: *Great Irish Stories of Childhood*

A collection of short stories, mainly written in the first person, capturing the experiences, impressions and perspectives of the child. The anthology includes stories written before 1914, for example, 'The Roads' by Patrick Pearse.

ed. Ian Jack: *Childhood* (Granta 'Autumn 1996')

This edition of Granta includes stories, observations and non-fiction articles on the themes of childhood. The extract re-printed on the website explores life in North Manchester from the perspective of a young Jewish girl. The style attempts to capture the thought processes and language of the young girl.

ed. Lorrie Moore: *The Faber Book of Contemporary Stories about Childhood*

An anthology of short stories from around the world. The collection includes both stories written from the perspective of the child and from the point of view of the adult attempting to make sense of their early, formative experiences. Many of the stories focus on adolescence as an ambiguous time, between childhood and maturity, innocence and experience and expose the hypocrisy and corruption of the adult world.