Reading is often described as the single biggest skill to improve a child's life chances.

At Beehive Lane, in addition to our class texts which are used as a source of inspiration for our English curriculum, we also provide children in KS2 with "Book Club" texts which they read in small groups and share their thoughts of characters, plots, surprises, predictions and everything else designed to foster a love of reading.

YEAR 5

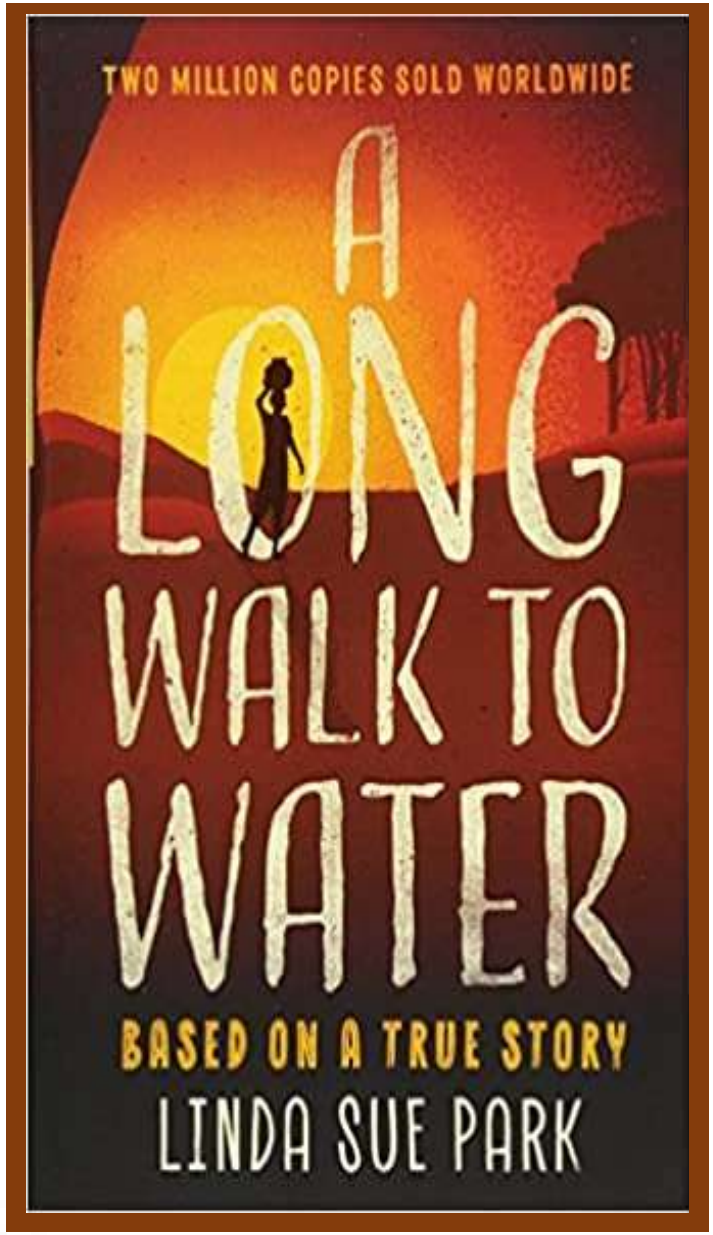
BEEHIVE LANE

BOOK CLUB

A Long Walk to Water
by Linda Sue Park

A Long Walk to Water begins as two stories, told in alternating sections, about a girl in Sudan in 2008 and a boy in Sudan in 1985. The girl, Nya, is fetching water from a pond that is two hours' walk from her home: she makes two trips to the pond every day. The boy, Salva, becomes one of the "lost boys" of Sudan, refugees who cover the African continent on foot as they search for their families and for a safe place to stay. Enduring every hardship from loneliness to attack by armed rebels to contact with killer lions and crocodiles, Salva is a survivor, and his story goes on to intersect with Nya's in an astonishing and moving way.

A LONG WALK TO WATER



Artemis Fowl
by Eoin Colfer

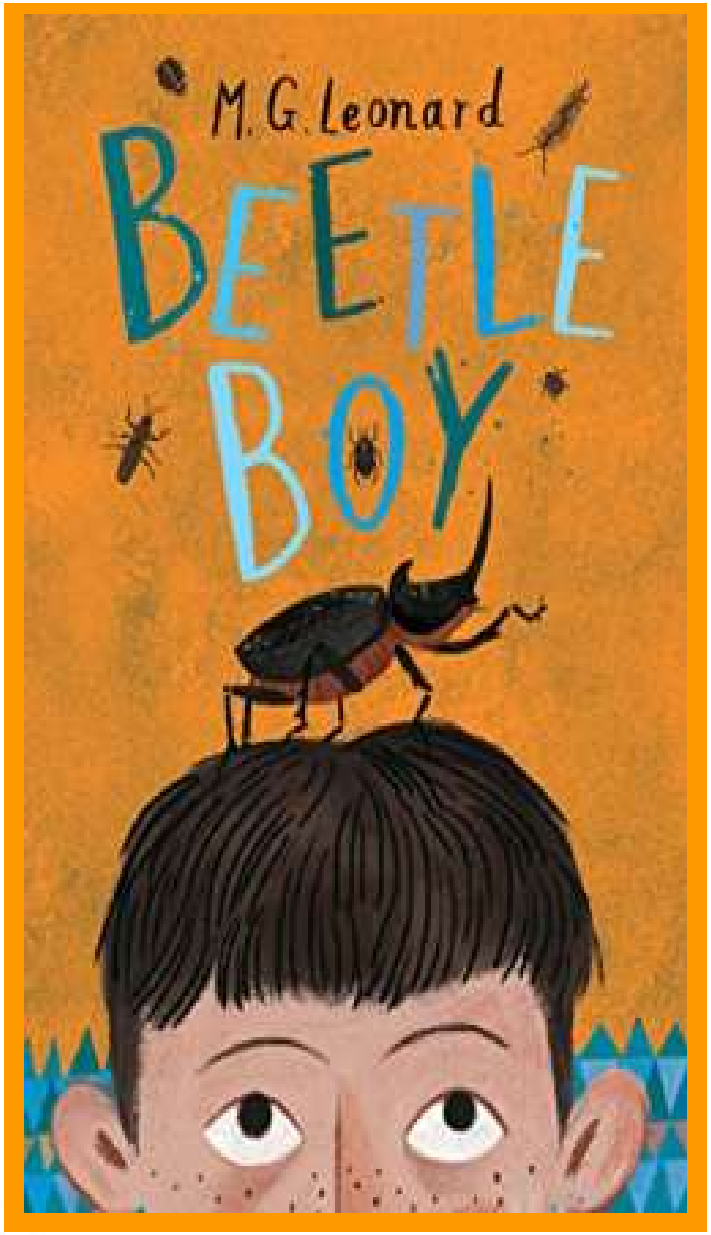
Artemis Fowl is a 12-year-old genius and descendant of a long line of criminal masterminds. He soon finds himself in an epic battle against a race of powerful underground fairies who may be behind his father's disappearance.

ARTEMIS FOWL

Beetle Boy
by M. G. Leonard

Can a boy be best friends with a beetle? Thirteen-year-old Darkus Cuttle's search for his kidnapped father leads him to discover a mountain of extraordinary beetles, and pits him against the mad-scientist of the fashion world, Lucretia Cutter, an haute couture villainess with an alarming interest in insects.

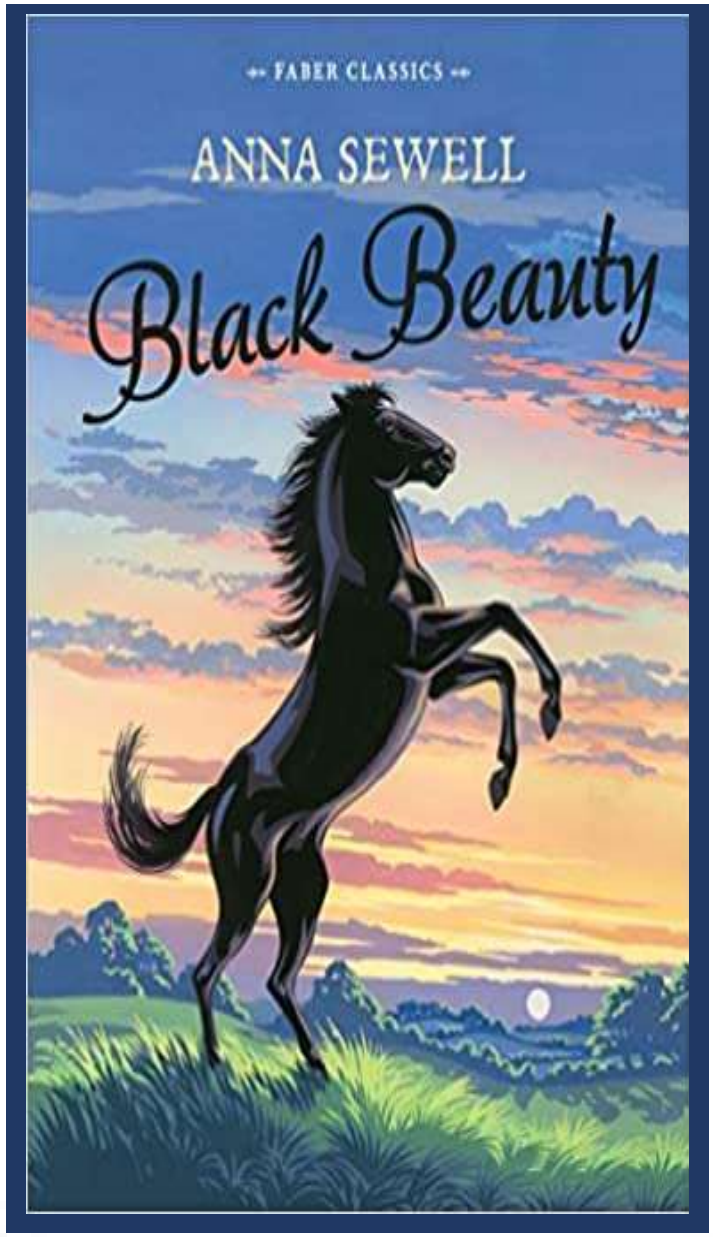
BEETLE BOY



Black Beauty
by Anna Sewell

A beautiful classic: the story is narrated in the first person as an autobiographical memoir told by the horse in the title, named Black Beauty—beginning with his carefree days as a colt on an English farm with his mother, to his difficult life pulling cabs in London, to his happy retirement in the country.

BLACK BEAUTY



Boy: Tales of Childhood
by Roald Dahl

This is an autobiographical book by British writer Roald Dahl. This book describes his life from birth until leaving school, focusing on living conditions in Britain in the 1920s and 1930s, the public school system at the time, and how his childhood experiences led him to writing as a career. It's funny, insightful and sometimes grotesque!

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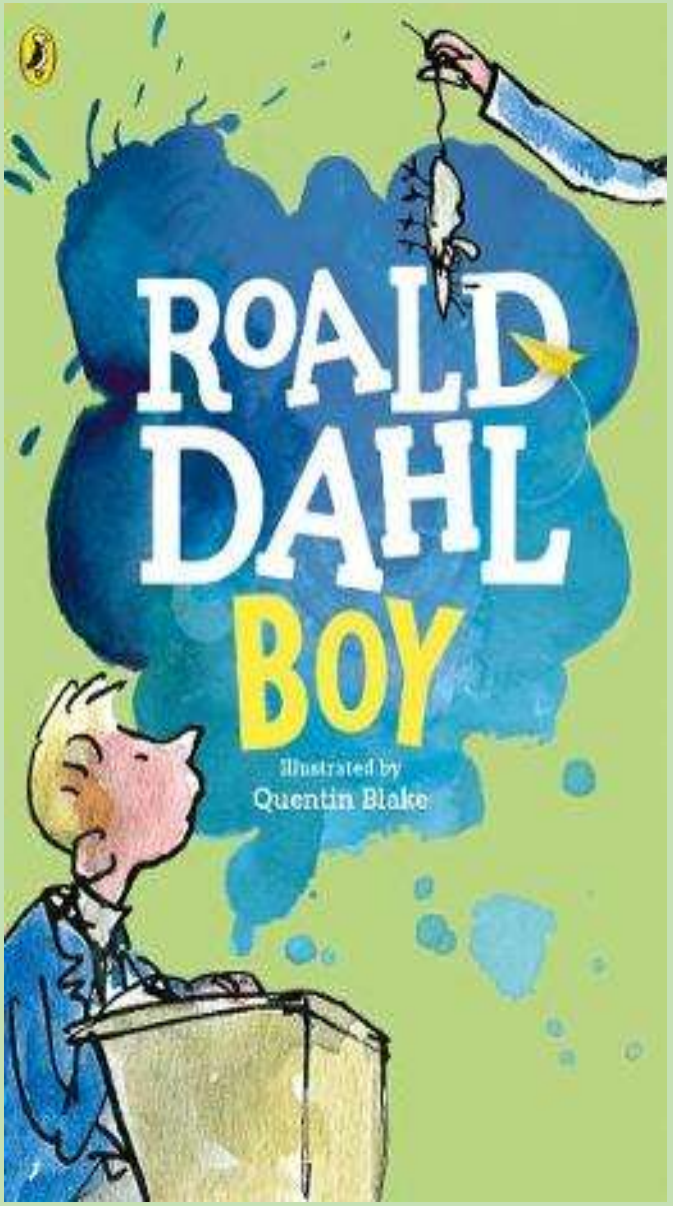
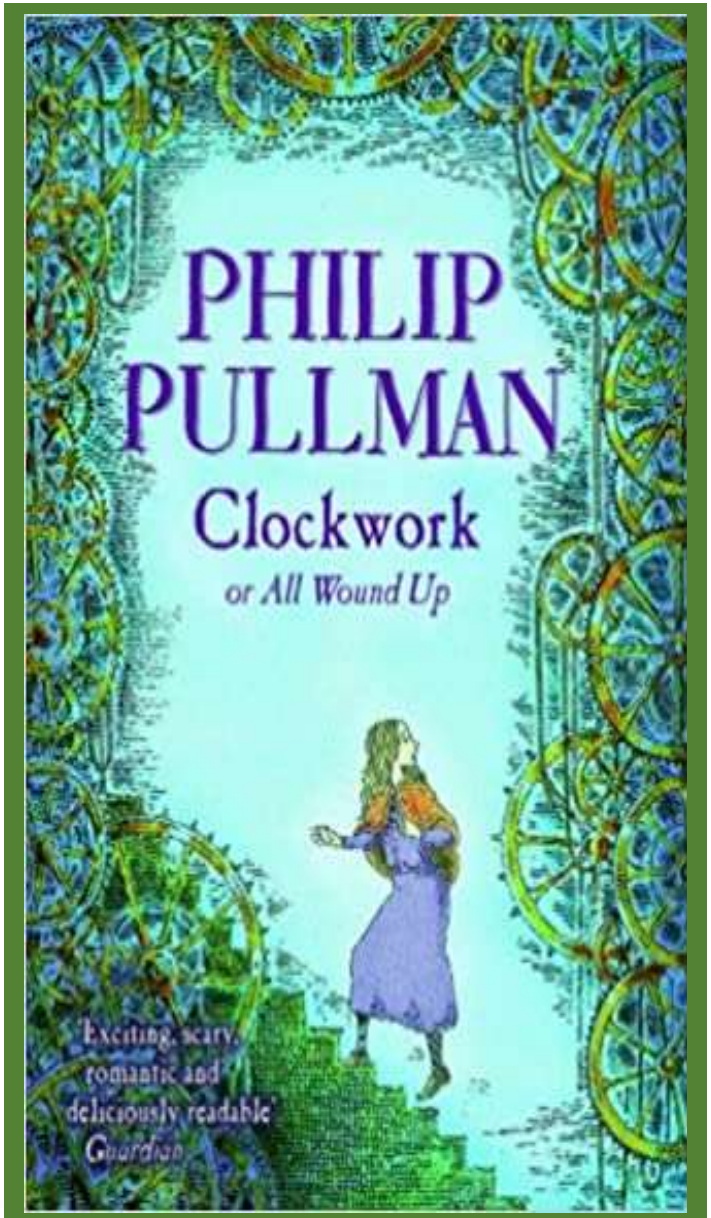


Clockwork
by Philip Pulman

It's a snowy winter night in the town, and a young apprentice clockmaker is in despair. Tradition holds that each apprentice, as a final test and rite of passage, must design and build a mechanical figure to be added to the town's impressive clockwork. But on the night before his work is due to be unveiled, young Karl has not even begun work on his design. No wonder, then, that when a shadowy, sinister stranger enters the tavern where Karl sits, and offers him a wondrous piece of clockwork, a knight so intricate and so real. Will he be tempted to accept?

CLOCKWORK



Heard it in the Playground
by Allan Ahlberg

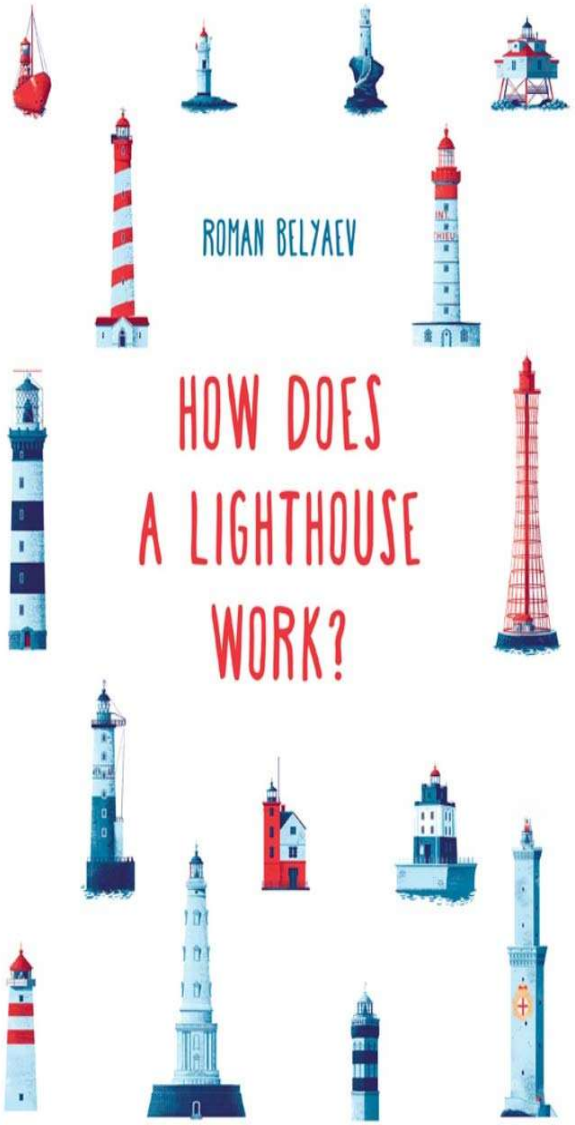
Allan Ahlberg's collection of poems and songs paint a funny and accurate portrait of primary school life, with highly appealing and atmospheric illustrations by Fritz Wegner.

HEARD IT IN THE PLAYGROUND

How Does a Lighthouse Work by Roman Belyaev

Inspiring both emerging architects and budding scientists, the narrative aims to decipher the beating heart of the lighthouse, from the way it works on the most basic scientific level, to the question of why there are different types of lighthouses, to the role of the keeper. The information is clearly written and accompanied by beautiful, relevant imagery.

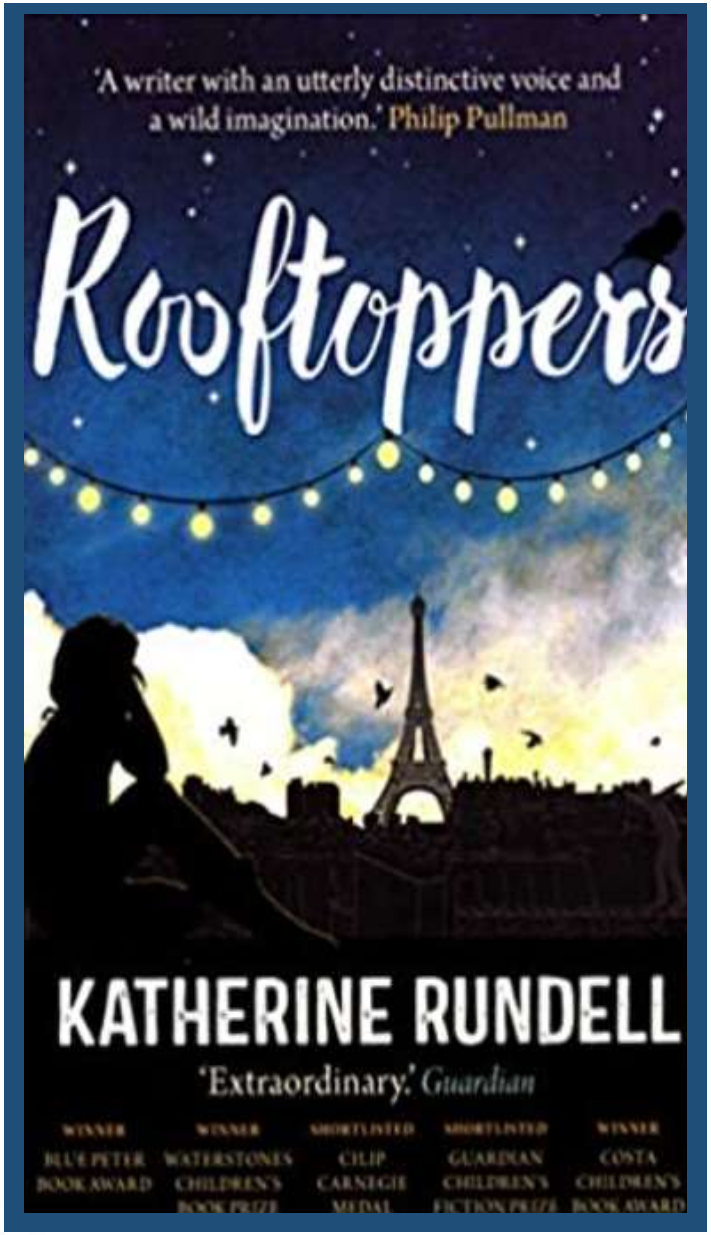
HOW DOES A LIGHTHOUSE WORK?



Rooftoppers
by Katherine Rundell

Baby Sophie is found floating in a cello case after the passenger ship she was on sinks in the English Channel. She's adopted and raised by Charles, a fellow survivor, but when she is twelve, the authorities determine that as a single man Charles is not a fit parent for the young girl. But before they can take her away to an orphanage, the discovery of a chance clue in her cello case makes Charles and Sophie decide to ignore their decrees, and instead run away to Paris in search of Sophie's long lost-mother, whatever the consequences ...

ROOFTOPPERS

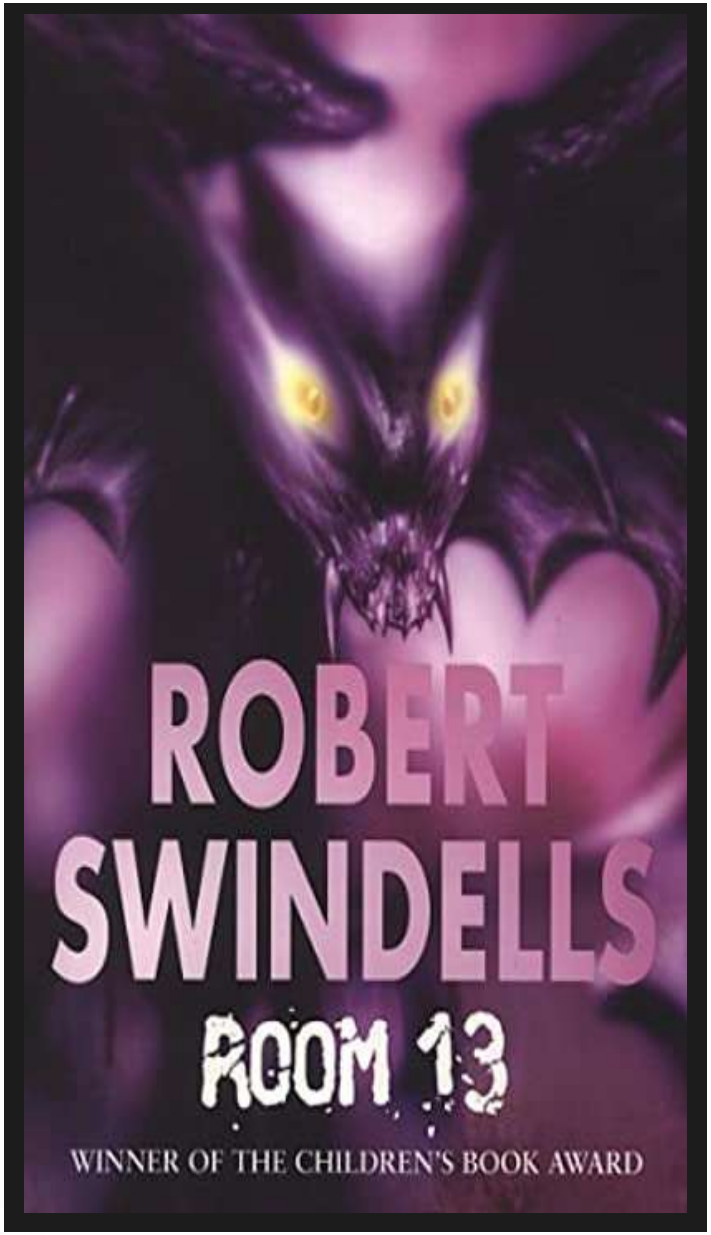


Room 13
by Robert Swindells

Somebody was in there. Somebody – or something… There is no room thirteen in the creepy Crow's Nest Hotel, where Fliss and her friends are staying on a school trip. Or is there? For at the stroke of midnight, something peculiar happens to the door of the linen cupboard next to room 12. And something is happening to Ellie-May Sunderland, too—something very sinister

A gripping page-turner from a master of spooky suspense, award-winning Robert Swindells. Don't read this under the covers at midnight!

ROOM 13



Stormbreaker
by Anthony Horowitz

This features the teenage spy – Alex Rider. In this novel, Alex's uncle dies in what he is told is a car accident. However, after some investigating of this own, Alex disagrees. Alex continues to investigate which leads to a meeting with Uncle Ian's employers who tell Alex his uncle was a spy. Alex is blackmailed into finishing his uncle's case which turns out to be dangerous.
Stormbreaker is an exciting, suspenseful novel that jumpstarts the career of a highly unusual spy

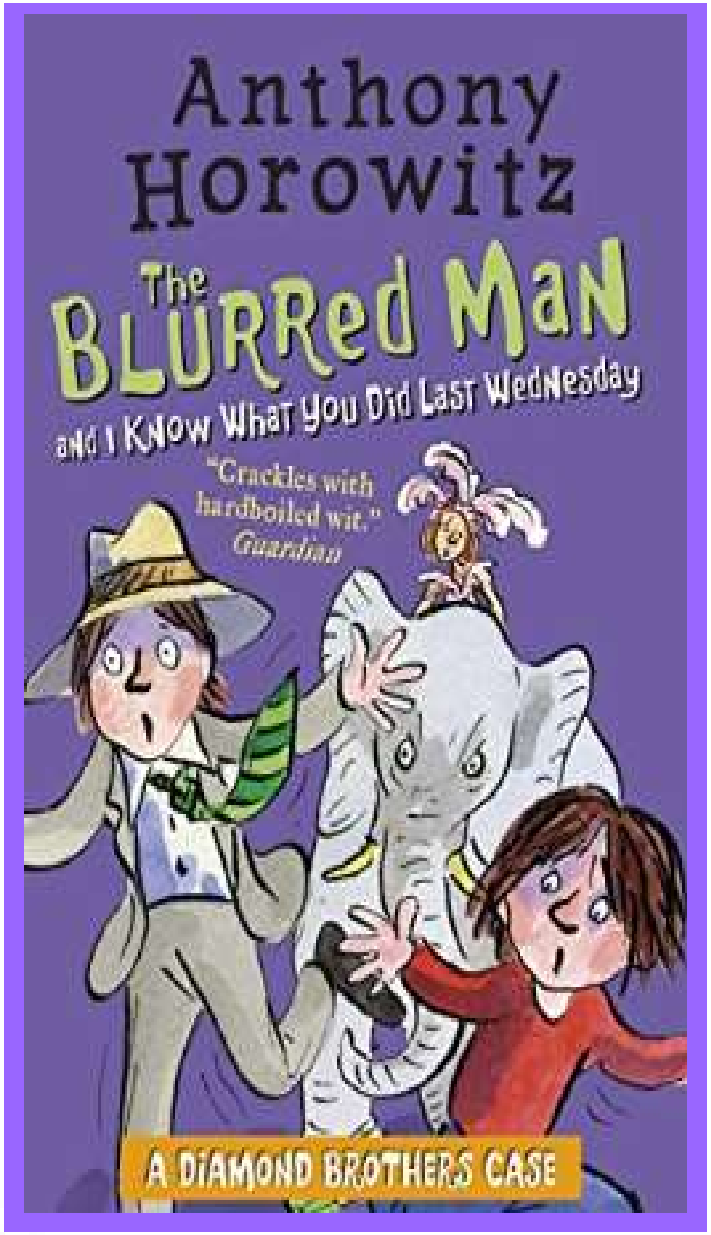
STORMBREAKER

The Blurred Man
by Anthony Horowitz

Lenny Smile has been run over by a steamroller. He used to run a children's charity called Dream Time, financed by millionaire Joe Carter. Now Carter wants to know what happened to Smile... and to his money. Unfortunately, he's hired the Diamond Brothers - the world's worst private detectives - to solve the mystery!

This is a short and clever book with a twist at the end!

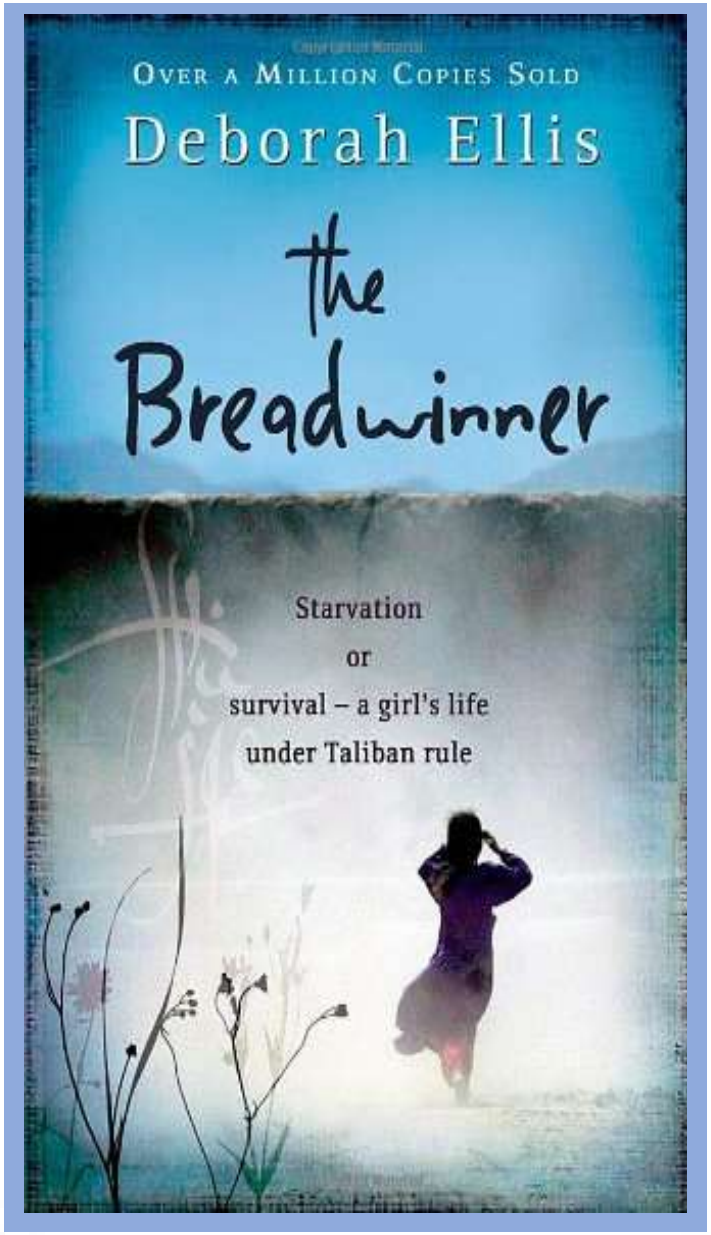
THE BLURRED MAN



The Breadwinner
by Deborah Ellis

Parvana is an 11-year-old girl who lives under Taliban rule in Afghanistan in 2001. After the wrongful arrest of her father, Parvana cuts off her hair and dresses like a boy to support her family. Working alongside a friend, she soon discovers a new world of freedom and danger. Drawing strength from the fantastical stories she invents, Parvana embarks on an epic quest to find her father and reunite her family.

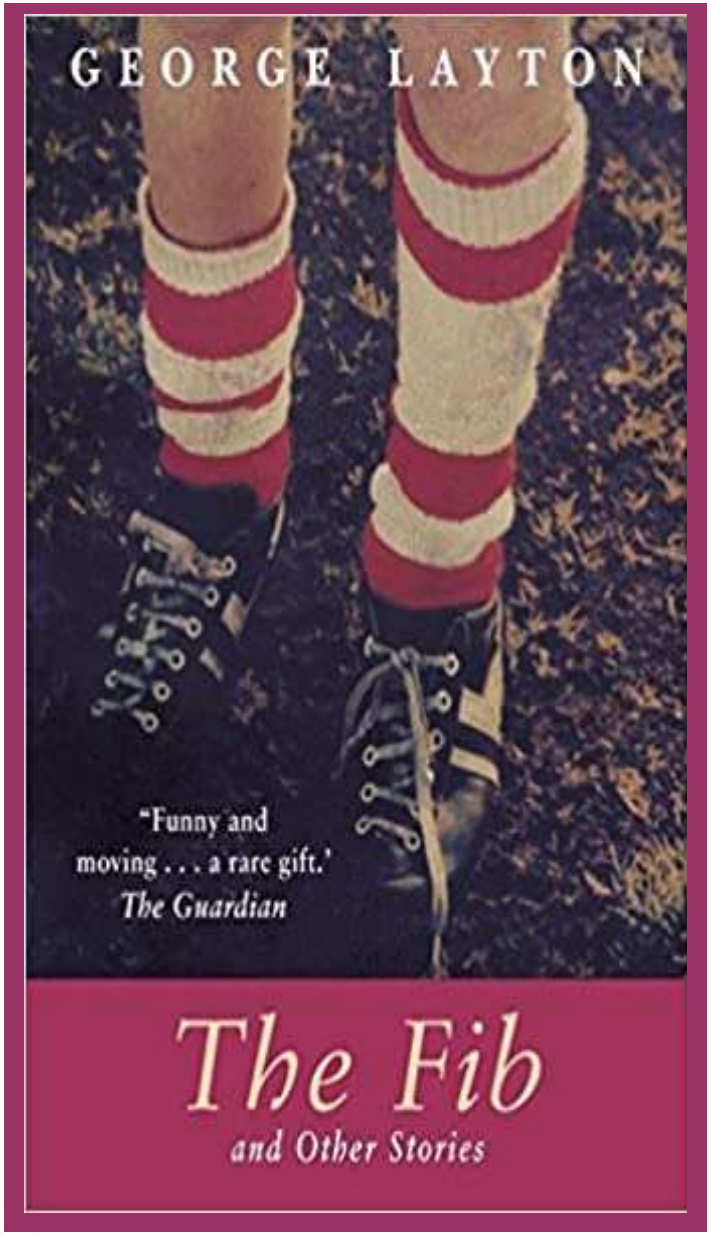
THE BREADWINNER



The Fib and Other Stories by George Layton

In these bittersweet stories about growing up in the 1950s, getting in trouble seems to be easier than getting out of it! A collection of funny and moving stories.

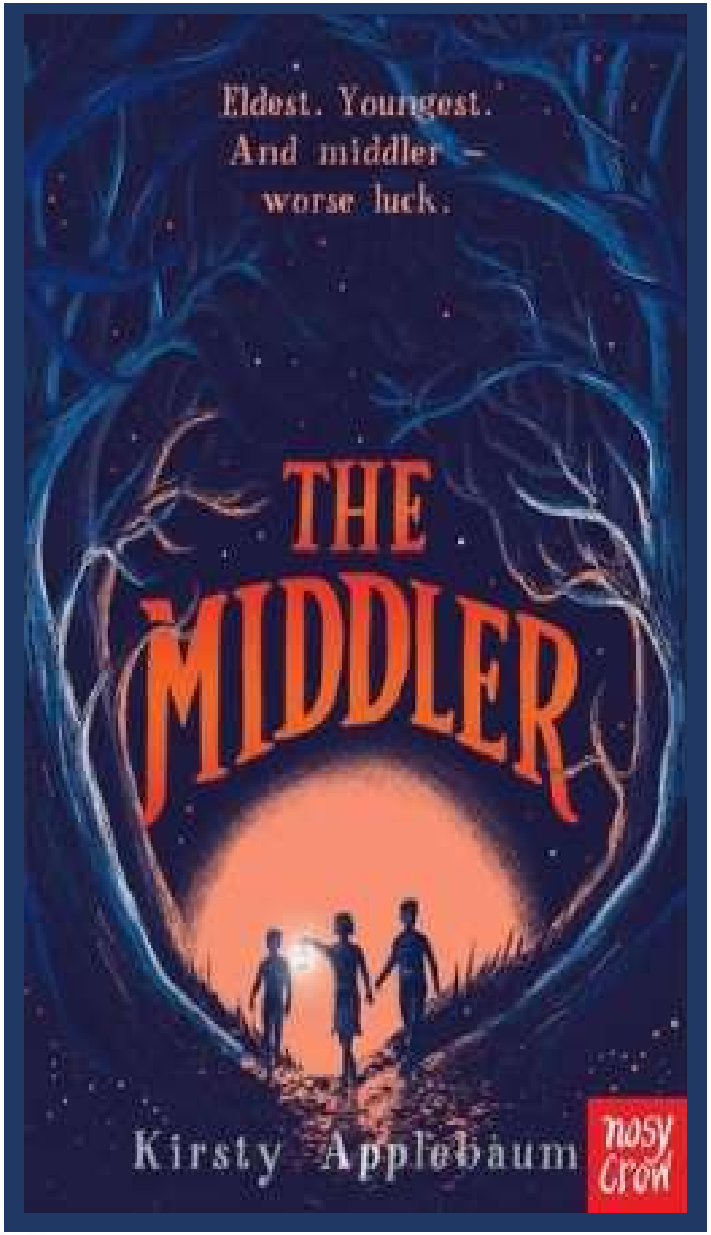
THE FIB



The Middler
by Kirsty Applebaum

A smart, dystopian novel which is gripping from the beginning. Maggie's village is safe but she knows war is raging beyond its boundaries. Then she meets someone from outside and begins to wonder whether the politicians are telling the truth.

THE MIDDLER

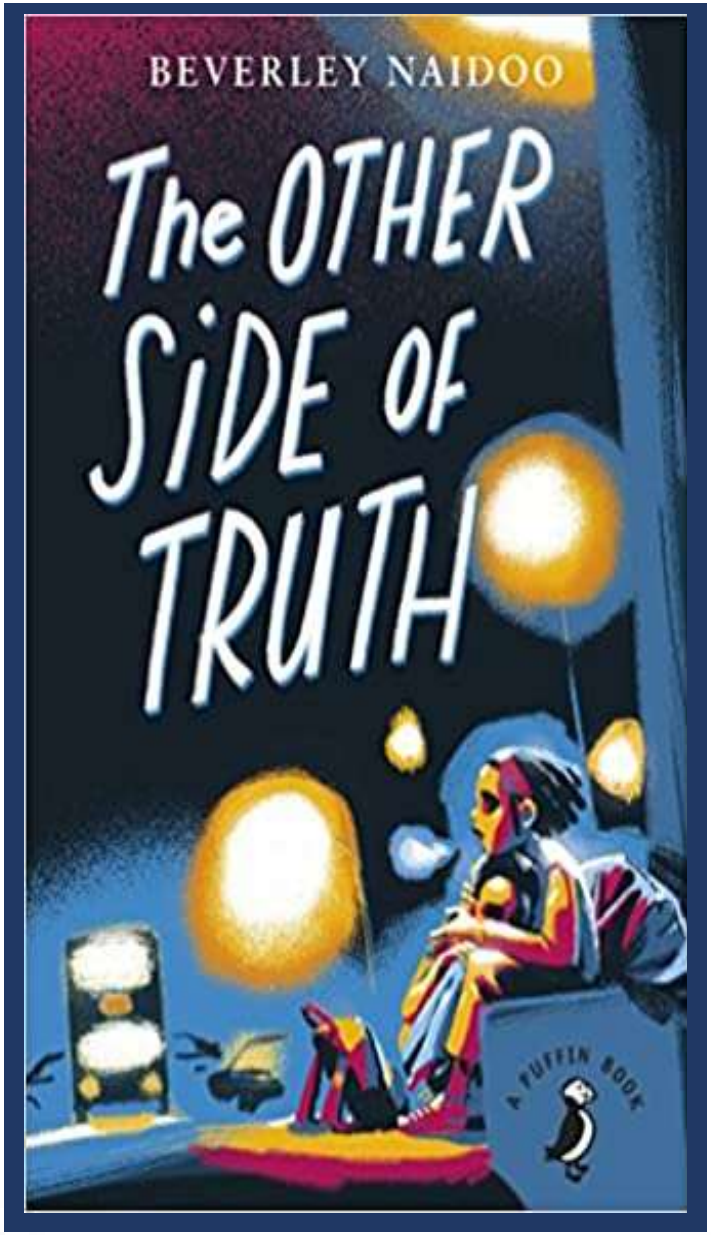


The Other Side of Truth
by Beverley Naidoo

This is the unforgettable story of 12 year-old Sade and her brother Femi who flee to Britain from Nigeria after a tragic event.

Abandoned at Vitoria Station by the woman paid to bring them to England as her children, Sade and Femi find themselves alone in a new, often hostile environment. The novel explores what it is to be 'illegal' and the difficulties which come with being a refugee.

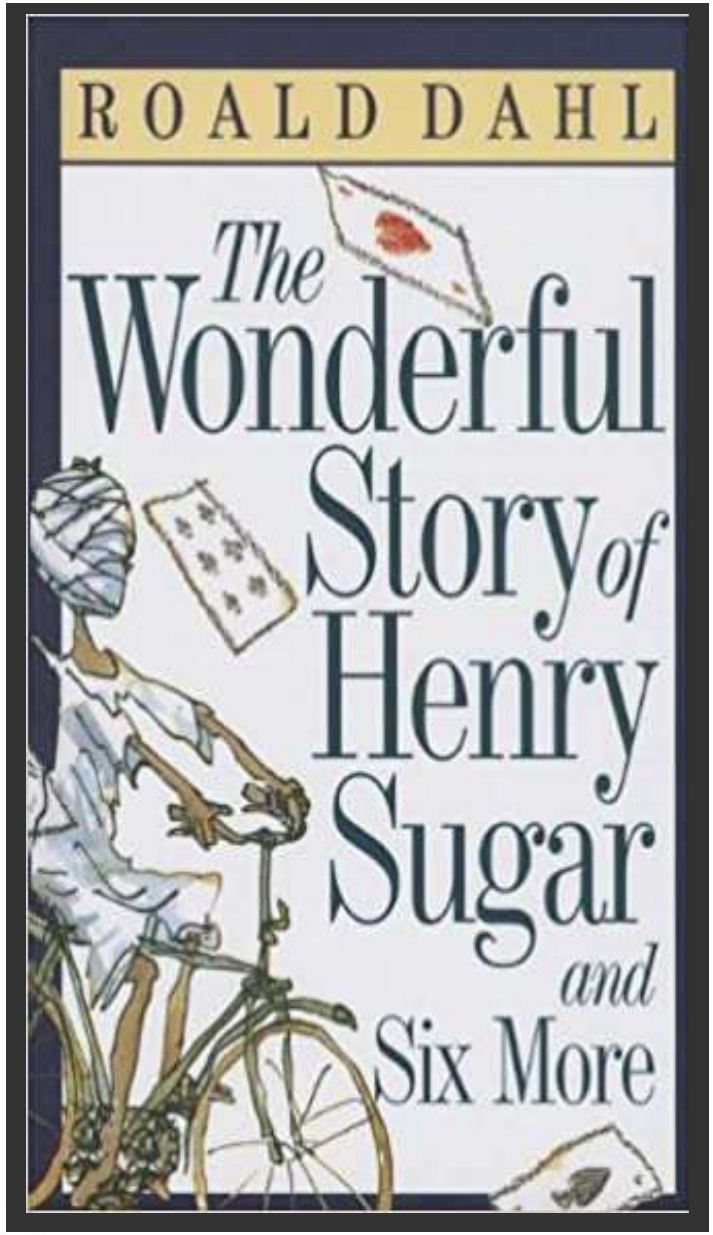
THE OTHER SIDE OF TRUTH



The Wonderful Story of Henry Sugar
by Roald Dahl

If you could see with your eyes closed...Would you use your power for good or for personal gain? The life story of The Man Who Could See Without His Eyes, inspires Henry Sugar with a wonderful idea. Such an amazing ability could allow Henry to cheat at cards! Henry undertakes years of training to achieve this remarkable feat and promptly uses his new power to win, and win big, but he soon discovers that more than his eyes have been changed by his studies...

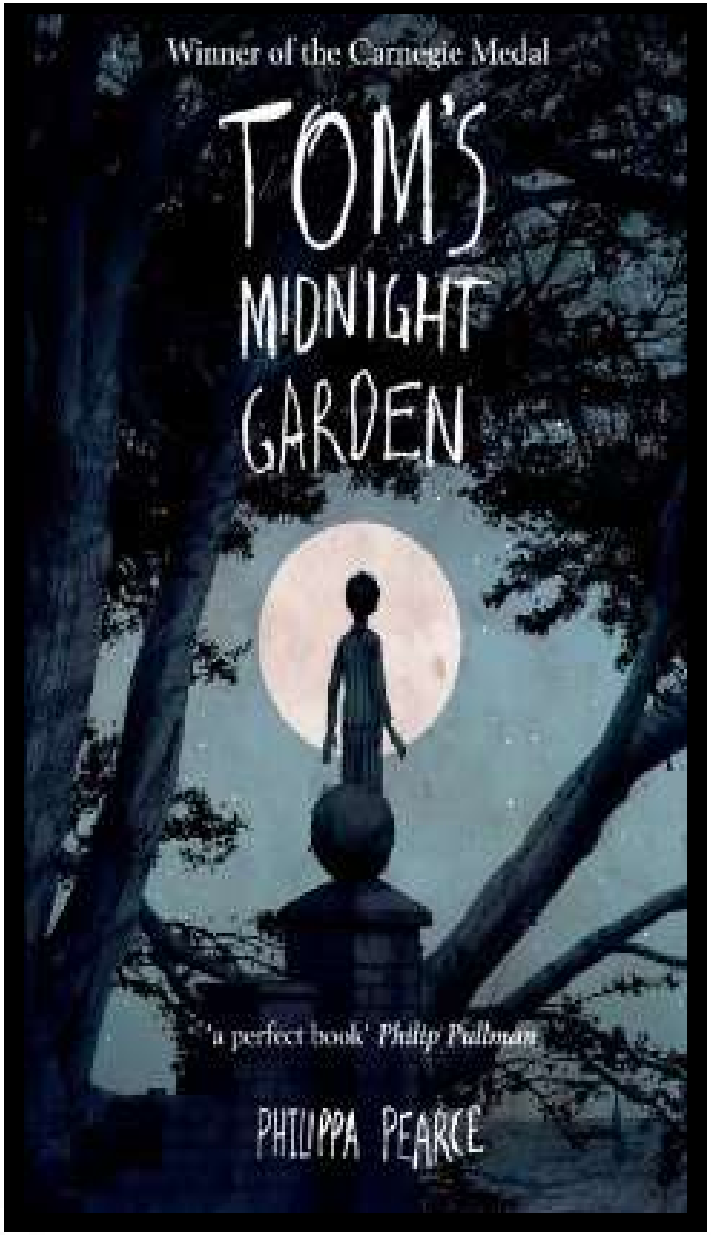
THE WONDERFUL STORY OF HENRY SUGAR



Tom's Midnight Garden
by Philippa Pearce

A ghost story with a difference! Tom is sent away to stay with his aunt and uncle for the summer holidays. With no garden or children to play with, he feels lonely and unhappy, until one night he hears the clock striking thirteen and he makes a miraculous discovery! This is a classic.

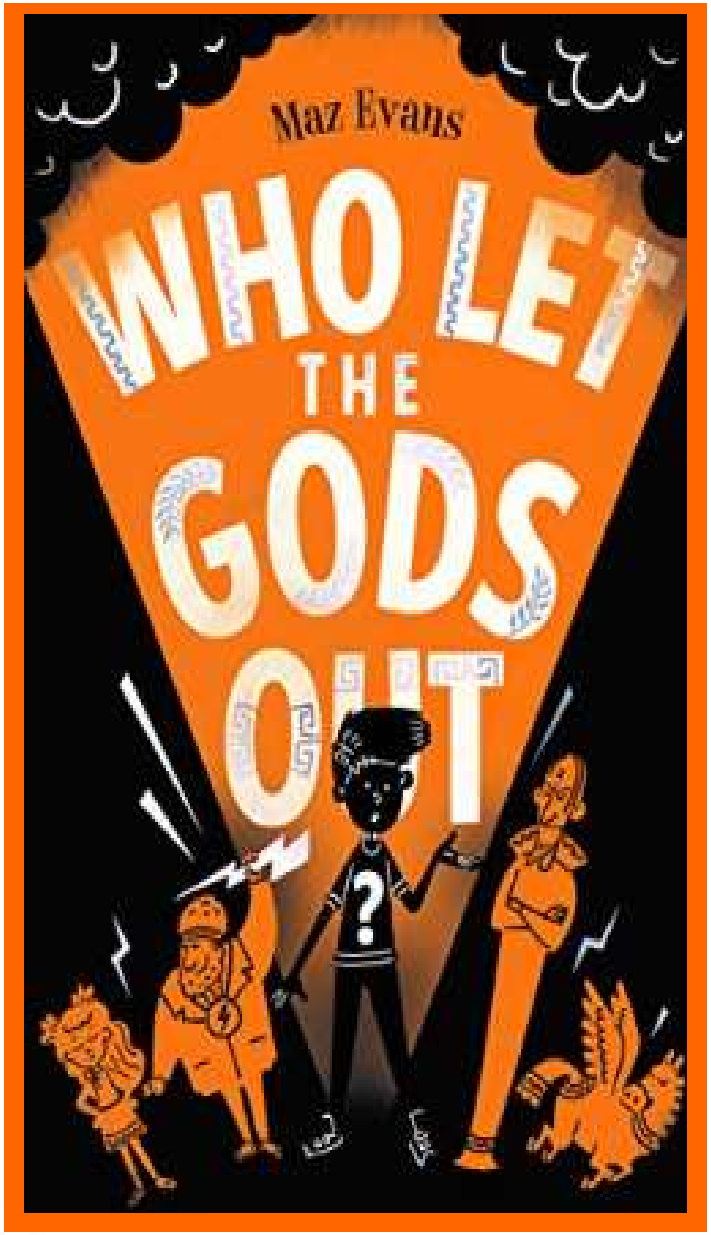
TOM'S MIDNIGHT GARDEN



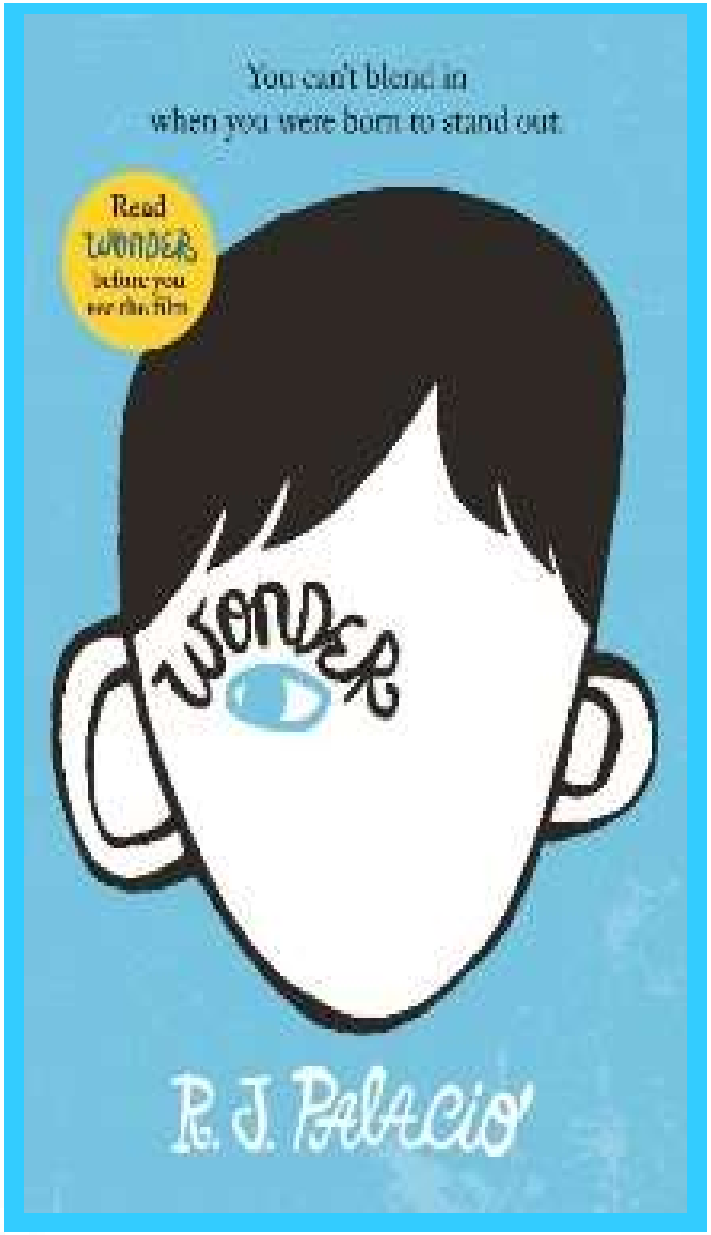
Who Let the Gods Out
by Maz Evans

When a shooting star crashes to earth, it lands Eliot smack bang in the path of Virgo - a young Zodiac goddess on a mission. But when the pair accidentally release Thanatos, a wicked death daemon imprisoned beneath Stonehenge, they've got nowhere to turn for help but to the old Olympian gods.

WHO LET THE GODS OUT



Wonder
by R. J. Palacio

This is the incredibly heart-warming and inspiring story of Auggie Pullman. Born with facial differences that, up until now, have prevented him from going to a mainstream school, Auggie becomes the most unlikely of heroes when he enters the local fifth grade. As his family, his new classmates, and the larger community all struggle to discover their compassion and acceptance, Auggie's extraordinary journey will unite them and prove you can't blend in when you were born to stand out.

WONDER