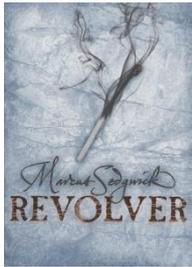




YEAR 8 CHALLENGE READS



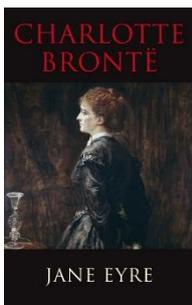
Revolver by Marcus Sedgwick

In 1910 in a remote cabin north of the Arctic Circle, Sig Andersson is alone except for the corpse of his father. Then a stranger arrives, and his tale of gold dust causes Sig's thoughts to turn to his father's prized possession, a Colt revolver.



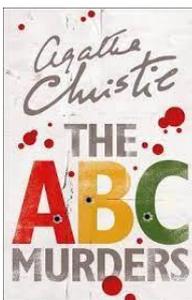
After the Fire by Will Hill

Father John controls everything inside The Fence. And Father John likes rules. Especially about never talking to Outsiders. Because Father John knows the truth. He knows what is right, and what is wrong. He knows what is coming. But Moonbeam is starting to see the lies behind Father John's words. She wants him to be found out. What if the only way out of the darkness is to light a fire?



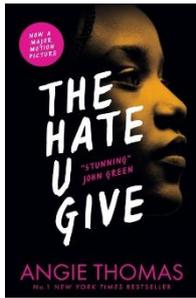
Jane Eyre by Charlotte Brontë

In this stormy, intense, introspective novel of the mid-nineteenth century, Jane Eyre is a plain, yet spirited, governess whose virtuous integrity, keen intellect, and perseverance break through class barriers to reach the man she loves.



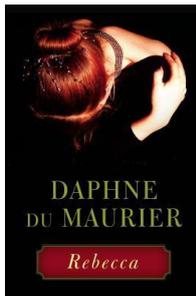
The ABC Murders by Agatha Christie

There's a serial killer on the loose, working his way through the alphabet - and the whole country is in a state of panic. A is for Mrs Ascher in Andover, B is for Betty Barnard in Bexhill, C is for Sir Carmichael Clarke in Churston. With each murder, the killer is getting more confident - but leaving a trail of deliberate clues to taunt the proud Hercule Poirot might just prove to be the first - and fatal - mistake.



The Hate U Give by Angie Thomas

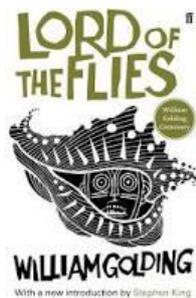
Sixteen-year-old Starr lives in two worlds: the poor neighbourhood where she was born and raised and her posh high school in the suburbs. The uneasy balance between them is shattered when Starr is the only witness to the fatal shooting of her unarmed best friend, Khalil, by a police officer. Now what Starr says could destroy her community.



Rebecca by Daphne du Maurier

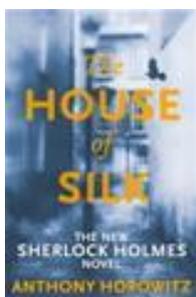
Last night I dreamt I went to Manderley again . . .

The novel begins in Monte Carlo, where our heroine is swept off her feet by the dashing widower Maxim de Winter and his sudden proposal of marriage. Orphaned and working as a lady's maid, she can barely believe her luck. It is only when they arrive at his massive country estate that she realizes how large a shadow his late wife will cast over their lives -presenting her with a lingering evil that threatens to destroy their marriage from beyond the grave.



Lord of the Flies by William Golding

At the dawn of the next world war, a plane crashes on an uncharted island, stranding a group of schoolboys. At first, with no adult supervision, their freedom is something to celebrate; this far from civilization the boys can do anything they want. They attempt to forge their own society, failing, however, in the face of terror, sin and evil. And as order collapses, as strange howls echo in the night, as terror begins its reign, the hope of adventure seems as far from reality as the hope of being rescued



The House of Silk by Anthony Horowitz

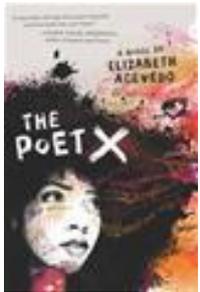
In 1890 London, Sherlock Holmes and Dr Watson find themselves mixed up in murder plots and an international conspiracy linking the worst criminals to the highest levels of government.

And as they dig, they begin to hear the whispered phrase-the House of Silk-a mysterious entity that connects the highest levels of government to the deepest depths of criminality. Holmes begins to fear that he has uncovered a conspiracy that threatens to tear apart the very fabric of society.



The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night Time by Mark Hadden

When Christopher finds a neighbour's dog killed he determines to unravel the mystery. But the world is a very strange place seen through the eyes of an autistic and gifted 15-year-old boy, and Christopher soon finds out more than he could ever imagine.



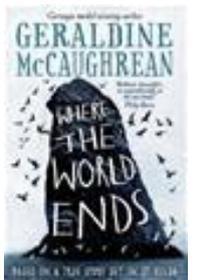
The Poet X by Elizabeth Acevedo

A young girl in Harlem discovers slam poetry as a way to understand her mother's religion and her own relationship to the world. Xiomara Batista feels unheard and unable to hide in her Harlem neighbourhood. Ever since her body grew into curves, she has learned to let her fists and her fierceness do the talking. But Xiomara has plenty she wants to say, and she pours all her frustration and passion onto the pages of a leather notebook.



The Book Thief by Marcus Zusak

Trying to make sense of the horrors of World War II, Death relates the story of Liesel, a young German girl whose book-stealing and story-telling talents help sustain her family and the Jewish man they are hiding, as well as their neighbours.



Where the World Ends by Geraldine McCaughrean

In the summer of 1727, a group of men and boys are put ashore on a remote sea stac to harvest birds for food. No one returns to collect them. Why? And how can they survive, housed in stone and imprisoned on every side of the ocean?



The Black Flamingo by Dean Atta

Join Michael's world as he travels from school to university where he comes to terms with his identity as a mixed-race gay teen and becomes a drag artist.



Alice's Adventures in Wonderland by Lewis Carroll

Alice lives an ordinary life, until the day she finds herself in the wonderful world of mad tea parties and remarkable characters.



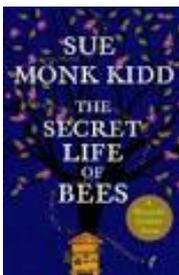
A Skinful of Shadows by Frances Hardinge

In the 1640s during the English Civil War, Makepeace, the twelve-year-old illegitimate daughter of an aristocratic family, shares the family's unique hereditary gift: the capacity to be possessed by ghosts.



Moonrise by Sarah Crossan

Joe hasn't seen his brother for ten years, and it's for the most brutal of reasons. Ed is on death row. But now Ed's execution date has been set, and this might be the last summer they have together



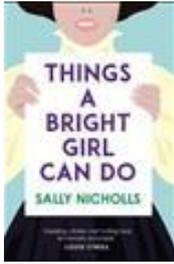
The Secret Life of Bees by Sue Monk Kidd

Set in South Carolina in 1964, *The Secret Life of Bees* tells the story of Lily Owens, whose life has been shaped around the blurred memory of the afternoon her mother was killed. When Lily's fierce-hearted black "stand-in mother," Rosaleen, insults three of the deepest racists in town, Lily decides to spring them both free. They escape to Tiburon, South Carolina - a town that holds the secret to her mother's past. Taken in by an eccentric trio of black beekeeping sisters, Lily is introduced to their mesmerizing world of bees and honey.



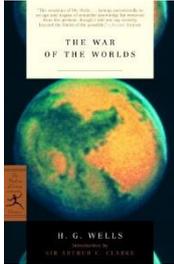
The Bunker Diary by Kevin Brooks

A boy wakes up in a low-ceilinged rectangular building made entirely of whitewashed concrete. There are six rooms along the corridor. There are no windows. No doors. If he's right, the lift will come down in five minutes. Only it won't be empty.



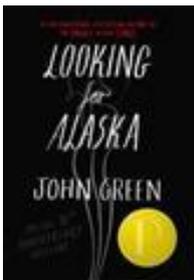
Things a Bright Girls Can Do by Sally Nicholls

Evelyn is rich and clever but is not allowed to go to university. May campaigns tirelessly for women's votes and she meets Nell, whom she falls in love with. How much are they all willing to sacrifice for their freedom?



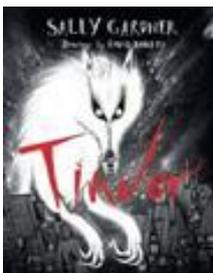
War of the Worlds by H.G. Wells

When an army of invading Martians lands in England, panic and terror seize the population. As the aliens traverse the country in huge three-legged machines, incinerating all in their path with a heat ray and spreading noxious toxic gases, the people of the Earth must come to terms with the prospect of the end of human civilization and the beginning of Martian rule.



Looking for Alaska by John Green

Sixteen-year-old Miles's first year at a prep school in Alabama includes good friends and great pranks, but is defined by the search for answers about life and death after a fatal car crash.



Tinder by Sally Gardner

A retelling of Hans Christian Andersen's classic fairytale, The Tinder Box; a story of love, prophecy, devilry and death.

Otto Hundebiss is tired of war, but when he defies Death he walks a dangerous path. A half beast half man gives him shoes and dice which will lead him deep into a web of dark magic and mystery. He meets the beautiful Safire - pure of heart and spirit, the scheming Mistress Jabber and the terrifying Lady of the Nail. He learns the powers of the tinderbox and the wolves whose master he becomes. But will all the riches in the world bring him the thing he most desires?