

KS3 CHALLENGING READING

SUGGESTIONS

Steve Cole Young Bond: **Shoot to Kill** -Young James Bond is back in an explosive adventure. Expelled from Eton and determined never to trust again, James Bond's plans for a solitary summer are dashed by the discovery of a gruesome film reel – for which someone is prepared to kill. His friends are put in danger, his life is on the line, James must find his way out of a sinister blackmail plot, or die trying.

Eoin Colfer: **Airman**

One dark night on the island of Great Saltee, fourteen-year-old Conor is framed for a terrible crime he didn't commit. Thrown into prison by the dastardly Hugo Bonvilain, Conor is trapped in a sea-swept dungeon and branded a traitor. He must escape and clear his name; he wants his old life back – his family, his friends . . . and his princess. Conor knows there is only one way out. It's an impossible task, which has never been done before. But Conor is determined to do it. He'll have to fly.

Jo Cotterill: **Looking at the Stars**

This is the tale of an extraordinary child, whose wild imagination gives the people around her a reason to survive. This is the tale of Amina, separated from her family and forced to flee the war ravaging her country, who finds hope in the power of stories to never give up on the people she loves. An emotional tale of love and war, family and friendship.

Sally Gardner: **Tinder**

Wounded in battle, Otto Hundebiss defies Death and finds himself on a journey to a realm of dark magic and mystery... He meets Safire, brave of heart and pure of spirit, and learns the powers of the tinderbox and the secrets of the wolves. This incredible tale will appeal especially to fantasy enthusiasts. The book is further enhanced by the brilliant illustrations of David Roberts.

Linzi Glass: **Ruby Red**

Her opulent Johannesburg neighbourhood with its manicured lawns is a far cry from the streets of Soweto where anger and hatred simmer under the surface. Ruby can't resist the blue-eyed Afrikaans boy who brings her the exciting rush of first love, but whose presence brings hushed whispers and disapproving glances. She might not see race, colour or creed-but it seems everybody else does. For Ruby, making some choices means letting others go, and as the darkness begins to descend, she must find a way to follow a brighter path...

John Green: **The Fault in our Stars**

Despite the tumour-shrinking medical miracle that has bought her a few years, Hazel has never been anything other than terminal with her cancer diagnosis. When a gorgeous plot twist named Augustus Waters suddenly appears at Cancer kid Support Group, Hazel's story is about to be completely rewritten.

Elizabeth Laird: *The Fastest Boy in the World*

Eleven-year-old Solomon loves to run and dreams of being a gold-medal-winning athlete, in spite of his ragged shorts and bare feet. When Grandfather announces that he's taking Solomon to Addis Ababa, Ethiopia's capital city, Solomon cannot believe his luck. However, when Grandfather collapses following the long journey, Solomon knows that he's the only person who can run for help.

Geraldine McCaughrean: *The Middle of Nowhere*

When her mother dies from a snake bite, Comity's life in the Australian outback changes for ever. With her father lost in grief, Comity makes friends with Fred, the Aboriginal yard boy. Then the evil Quartz Hogg arrives, who delights in playing cruel games. When he sets his murderous sights on Fred, it's up to Comity to stop him.

Andy Mulligan: *Trash*

Raphael Lives on a dumpsite. Every day is spent wading through mountains of stinking trash. He even sleeps next to it. Then one unlucky day, Raphael's world is changed forever. He finds a small leather bag - a bag of clues. It's also a bag of hope. It's a bag that will change his life. Raphael and his friends Gardo and Rat are hunted mercilessly. Wanted by the police, it takes all their survival skills to stay ahead. The boys are chased from filthy gutters to wealthy avenues and as the net tightens, they uncover a dead man's mission to put right a terrible wrong.

Patrick Ness: *A Monster Calls*

The monster showed up after midnight. As they do. But it isn't the monster Conor's been expecting; the one from his nightmare, the one he's had nearly every night since his mother started her treatments, the one with the darkness and the wind and the screaming...

This monster is something different, though. Something ancient, something wild. And it wants the most dangerous thing of all from Conor. It wants the truth. *Marcus Sedgwick Revolver 1910*. A cabin north of the Arctic Circle. Fifteen-year-old Sig Andersson is alone. Alone, except for the corpse of his father, who died earlier that day after falling through a weak spot on the ice-covered lake. His sister, Anna, and step-mother, Nadya, have gone to the local town for help. Then comes a knock at the door. It's a man, the flash of a revolver's butt at his hip, and a mean glare in his eyes. Sig has never seen him before but Wolff claims to have unfinished business with his father. As Sig gradually learns the awful truth about Wolff's connection to his father, his thoughts are drawn to a certain box hidden on a shelf in the storeroom, in which lies his father's prized possession - a revolver. When Anna returns alone, and Wolff begins to close in, Sig's choice is pulled into sharp focus. Should he use the gun, or not?

Nikki Sheehan: *Who Framed Karis Cliff*

People used to call them friends and said how they were good for your brain, and then a day came when all that changed...When they became the enemy. Now anyone found harbouring a rogue imaginary person is in for the cosh-an operation that fries your imagination and zaps whatever is in there, out of existence. That's why I wish Klaris Cliff had never shown up!

Jerry Spinelli: Milkweed

This is the true story of Jews and Gypsies in Warsaw during the Nazi occupation. But it is also the story of a street orphan who survives on quick thinking schemes to find food: who believes in bread, mothers and angels. A tragic, honest but beautiful account through the eyes of an innocent.

Jason Wallace: Out of Shadows

If I stood you in front of a man, pressed a gun into your palm and told you to squeeze the trigger, would you do it?' Zimbabwe, 1980s. The war is over, independence has been won and Robert Mugabe has come to power offering hope, land and freedom to black Africans. It is the end of the Old Way and the start of a promising new era. For Robert Jacklin, it's all new: new continent, new country, new school. And very quickly he learns that for some of his classmates, the sound of guns is still loud, and their battles rage on . . . white boys who want their old country back, not this new black African government. Boys like Ivan. Clever, cunning Ivan. For him, there is still one last battle to fight, and he's taking it right to the very top.

Rachel Ward: Numbers

Since her mother's death, fifteen-year-old Jem has kept a secret. When her eyes meet someone else's, a number pops into her head the date on which they will die. Knowing that nothing lasts forever, Jem avoids relationships, but when she meets a boy called Spider, and they plan a day out together, her life takes a new twist and turn. Waiting for the London Eye, she sees everyone in the queue has the same number - something terrible is going to happen.

Markus Zusack: The Book Thief

Nine-year-old Liesel lives with her foster family on Himmel Street during the dark days of the Third Reich. Her Communist parents have been transported to a concentration camp, and during the funeral for her brother, she manages to steal a macabre book: it is, in fact, a gravediggers' instruction manual. This is the first of many books which will pass through her hands as the carnage of the Second World War begins to hungrily claim lives. Both Liesel and her fellow inhabitants of Himmel Street will find themselves changed by both words on the printed page and the horrendous events happening around them.