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**CHES**

BOOK RECOMMENDATIONS/SUGGESTED GOOD READS

Some students often ask for book recommendations, and in celebration of World Book Day last March, we asked staff at CHES to give some thoughts to what books really inspired or engaged them. Below are the responses with all of you in mind. Student recommendations to follow, so please keep emailing ideas in.

There is also a section of reading recommendations that we feel are books that may interest, inspire and get you thinking. Some you may well have read already, and others may be new to you as we have a range of both classical and contemporary literature here covering many different genres. It is not definitive or prescriptive, and will be added to and updated. Some books marked with + are suitable for older readers because of content/theme, but equally, there are books here suitable for readers in Key Stage 2 particularly in the section towards the end. If you feel inspired to make a recommendation for inclusion in this list, please email LHolloway@acornacademycornwall.org.uk

This summer you may just find time to dip in to one of these books and take yourself on a reading adventure into a new world of discovery and imagination. The world awaits…



Amanda Jack, online Science teacher and Raising Standards Leader for Science says…

**Goodnight Mr Tom** is one of my favourite books from my childhood that i now love to read to my children.

It is a great mix of characters with ups and downs for them all. I enjoyed seeing how with determination and common sense support they rose above all that was thrown at them. The content is thought provoking, sad and uplifting at different times. – It’s a bit of a roller-coaster .

I now enjoy reading books by the fiction author Sante Montefiore. I prefer the ones that have a historical setting or are set abroad and it transports me to another time or place   and i learn things while being entertained. They are not too heavy to read and so i can just enjoy reading without having to work hard at it - perfect for relaxing in a busy day. I now often also listen to books for free using the Cornwall library oneclick digital app.

Dee Rainbow, Individual Teacher at CHES, says

Daphne Du Maurier: **Jamaica Inn/  House on the Strand /Frenchman's creek / Castle Dor /Rebecca etc**

Any of these as, as they are set in Cornwall, one can read it and then go and investigate the area- this is especially true of 'House on the Strand' and 'Castle Dor' - the places mentioned in the books are real places, around today. I've spent many a sunny afternoon exploring the areas of these two books. House on the Strand has a time-travel historical plot, based around Polkerris area. 'Castle Dor' uses a historical legend of love and is placed around the  Castle Dore and Castle Dinas area (both of which are ancient hill forts.)

If you like history, getting out for a walk and a gripping read- these are for you.

Lizzie Hicks, online/individual teacher for English Literature, recommends several great books…

**His Dark Materials trilogy** - Philip Pullman

Alternate reality - our world with different and interesting twists, neither more or less advanced, just different. On one level, it is an adventure of two young explorers, trying to rescue their friend, on another, it explores philosophical and religious questions.

Thought provoking, exciting and beautiful. They are also nice and chunky, and plenty of them, considering he's writing more as we speak and they are being adapted by the BBC, so good to read them before you watch them!

**A Room With a View** - E.M. Forster

Edwardian middle class, over protected English girl goes to Italy and is swept of her feet by the freedom and passion she encounters.  She returns to England and finds the strength to rebel against her stuffy but loving family to follow her heart. It is a beautiful and gentle story that also shows the change in society to more modern ideas and values.

Why I recommend this book...I'm a romantic soul!  I love the delicate way the story is told, gently teasing the many lovable characters.  It gave me a love of Italy too - my first visit to Florence consisted of reciting lines from the book in the various significant settings!

**Nineteen Eighty-Four**- George Orwell

Written in 1949, a look into the, then, future - what might 1984 look like? With many familiar ideas such as Big Brother, Room 101 (not just on the TV!) and Thought Police, it gives a disturbing view of what the world might become.  In light of recent world events, many of the ideas are particularly poignant.

Why I recommend this book...It's interesting to see the comparisons between Orwell's vision of the future and our reality and is fascinating how he has pieced together such an intricate social system.

**The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy** - Douglas Adams

The planet Earth is destroyed to make way for an inter-space by-pass leaving one poor Earthling, Arthur Dent, hitchhiking his way across the universe, trying to make sense of it and his place in it, with little more than a few unusual friends and an electronic guide.

Why I recommend this book...Always funny, some inspired ideas and likable characters.

**The Poisonwood Bible** - Barbara Kingsolver

An American missionary family go to live in the Congo.  We see the adventure through the eyes of a mother and her 4 daughters as they grow, mature and experience a changing and volatile country.  It deals with difficult issues, shows how the complex politics of the area progress and the dynamics of an unusual family with humour and love.

Why I recommend this book...The voices of the characters seem very real. It is funny, beautiful and shocking.

**Sophie's World** - Jostein Gaarder

Sophie is sent a mysterious package which leads her on a strange journey of discovery about her own life, who controls it and the world of philosophy.  A story in itself but also a wonderful and accessible introduction to the history of thought.

Why I recommend this book...It sparks ideas about existence, reality and morality in an easy to follow way, putting things into perspective and showing how the great thinkers have influenced our society and thought now.  It sparked an early interest in philosophy and inspired me to study it at university.

**I am Pilgrim** - Terry Hayes

Terrorist plot/combined with murder mystery.  Think 24/Homeland type action but done really well.  Explores lots of modern issues, particularly poignant in terms of the USA now.  Some slightly gory scenes but very compulsive reading.

Why I recommend this book... Thought provoking re. world relations, compulsive and exciting.

**'Wool' trilogy** - Hugh Howey

Post apocalyptic scenario, everyone living in silos underground following a man-made environmental disaster. Explores futuristic technology, priorities for survival, morality and conspiracy theories.

Why I recommend this book...Lots of interesting ideas about how the human race might survive and how they might choose who survives.

Fiona Fletcher, teacher at the Hospital School Room, says…

I have a current theme of the Scillies with my books at the moment ... my most recent finished read was **'Listen to the Moon'** by Michael Morpurgo. I'm a big fan of his and seeing as this was set on Scilly, I was very keen to read. It was a very exciting story, I learned a lot about the Lusitania and lost myself on the islands for a while. The storyline was compelling as I wanted the characters to find out why Lucy was mute. The reader's empathy is evoked at the injustice suffered by the characters. Would definitely recommend.

Frances Valentine, Family Support Manager at CHES, says…

There’s so many good and inspirational books that it’s hard to choose. And I’ve been an avid reader since forever (!) so narrowing it down has been hard, but nice. I’d like to recommend **The Color Purple** by Alice Walker.

The story is based in the American Deep South in the 1930’s and tells the story of Celie, a poor black 14 year old girl who is treated appallingly by the people around her, particularly the men. It is a study of how harsh life was for Black people generally in America at that time. Black men were treated appallingly by the White population and subsequently treated the Black women as the lowest of the low. Celie is forced into a marriage and is isolated and alone. The book is written in the form of letters to God as she has no one else to talk to. Then she meets an inspirational woman called Shug who helps her understand who she is and helps her grow in confidence through Shug’s love and support.

The book is written as a series of letters which makes it very easy to read. It is written in the dialect of the Deep South but this adds to the authenticity of the story rather than detracting from it. It is an incredibly uplifting story of resilience and inner emotional strength and about overcoming adversity against all the odds. It is about the reuniting of a family and is beautifully moving.

The book won a Pulitzer Prize back in 1983 and was made into a film by Steven Spielberg which went on to receive Oscar nominations for its performances.

Dominic Black, Head Teacher at CHES, recommends…

David Almond - **Skellig**

Brief summary of genre/plot:  Do you believe in angels?

Why I recommend this book...  Very brief chapters, seemingly insignificant, but like settling snow, ultimately change your landscape

Lucy Holloway, English online teacher at CHES says…

**Journey to the River Sea** by Eva Ibbotson

Set in the early 1900s, orphan Maia is thrilled to learn she will leave her school to live with relatives in South America, including her cousins. When she arrives, however, all is not as it seems as her adopted family seek to blot out all evidence of the rainforest from their home. She seeks company in her governess Miss Minton, and develops some unusual and rewarding friendships

This is a heart-warming tale of friendship, adventure, our responsibility to those around us, and the natural world. Maia is an inspirational heroine, from whom I found comfort and inspiration when I read this in my 20s. The book takes you to another world in the heart of the Amazon, and although aimed at younger children 10+, actually has important messages for adults alike.

**Outliars**  by Malcom Gladwell

Rock stars to professional athletes, software billionaires to scientific genius', the story of success is more surprising, fascinating and ordinary than we might imagine.

This book really turns on its head the notion of pre determined talent, and makes you think about what makes us all unique. Practise, practise, practise can make a difference, and did in the case of the Beatles. Geniuses such as Mozart and Einstein didn't get there in isolation. This book is utterly fascinating and inspiring in terms of how you shape your own life. If you are not into fiction, this might suit you. Tipping Point by the same author, is also well worth a read if you are interested in how ideas spread, global business and fashions take hold, and how, unfortunately in the same way, wars start. I dipped in and out of this book for a summer as the chapters stand-alone-it always made me laugh, think, reconsider and watch this journalist's craft in awe.

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| *Here is a general list of some recommended reads. The ideas are taken from personal experience of what readers have said they have enjoyed, as well as reviews from various organisations and professionals involved with supporting a love of reading. Books marked with + may be suitable for older readers, but there are plenty of ideas here for younger readers too. It is not prescriptive-simply a selection of some classic and contemporary fiction that we will continue to add to and update on a termly basis so please do email in-students and staff-with any recommendations you would like to add…*  *LHolloway@acornacademycornwall.org.uk* |
| **Modern Fiction/Drama/ *Bildungsroman (Coming of Age)*** |
| CORMIER Robert **After the First Death**+  This tense story, told from different viewpoints, is set aboard a bus full of schoolchildren that has been hijacked by terrorists. The dual narrative gives a fascinating insight into the thought processes of those caught up in the incident, including one of the terrorists and raises interesting questions about loyalty and innate morality. |
| Haddon Mark **The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time**  *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* is a murder mystery novel like no other. The detective, and narrator, is Christopher Boone. Christopher is fifteen and has Asperger's Syndrome. He knows a very great deal about maths and very little about human beings. He loves lists, patterns and the truth. He hates the colours yellow and brown and being touched. He has never gone further than the end of the road on his own, but when he finds a neighbour's dog murdered he sets out on a terrifying journey which will turn his whole world upside down. |
| McEWAN Ian **Atonement** +  During the summer of 1935, thirteen-year old Briony misunderstands what she sees and hears and changes the lives of those around her forever. |
| SYAL Meena-**Anita and Me** +  Anita and Me paints a comic, poignant, compassionate and colourful portrait of village life in the era of flares, power cuts, glam rock, decimalisation and Ted Heath. It is a unique vision of a British childhood in the Seventies, a childhood caught between two cultures, each on the brink of change. |
| KELMAN Stephen **Pigeon English** +  Eleven-year-old Harrison Opoku, the second best runner in Year 7, races through his new life in England with his personalised trainers - the Adidas stripes drawn on with marker pen - blissfully unaware of the very real threat around him. Newly-arrived from Ghana with his mother and older sister Lydia, Harri absorbs the many strange elements of city life, from the bewildering array of Haribo sweets, to the frightening, fascinating gang of older boys from his school. But his life is changed forever when one of his friends is murdered. As the victim's nearly new football boots hang in tribute on railings behind fluorescent tape and a police appeal draws only silence, Harri decides to act, unwittingly endangering the fragile web his mother has spun around her family to keep them safe. |
| BENNET Alan **The History Boys** +  This play from Alan Bennet proves both funny and thought-proking The characters are all beautifully created and lovable, from Posner who is infactuated with his class mate to the stressed, icy Headmaster, obsessed with league tables and results. The witty one liners and amusing comments, especially from Mrs Lintott, contribute to an extremely funny backdrop to a deeply serious play, where the issues of the purpose of education and the inevitable competition of youth are addressed and debated. |
| **Autobiography/Non fiction** |
| SIMPSON Joe **Touching the Void**  Left for dead in a climbing accident, the story of one man’s fight for survival and journey of personal discovery. The tenacity and power of the human spirit is inspiring. A gripping read. |
| LEE Laurie **Cider with Rosie**  A beautiful description of growing up in a small Gloucestershire village just after the First World War. |
| McCOURT Frank **Angela’s Ashes +**  Growing up in poverty in Ireland and America, Frank McCourt’s childhood was very different to the one portrayed in Cider with Rosie. |
| DAHL Roald **Boy/ Going Solo**  Two volumes of Roald Dahl’s autobiography from Boy to Man demonstrate the value of adventure and risk taking in making us who we are. A fascinating social history of the C20th at the same time. |
| **Classics-so many to list! We will add a selection each term** |
| GOLDING William **Lord of the Flies** +  A group of boys survive a plane crash but can they survive living together on a deserted island? A brutal reflection and warning of the rise of dictatorships in 1930s Europe by Golding. |
| GREENE Graham **Brighton Rock +**  A story of gangsters and murder set in the seedy underworld of 1930s Brighton. |
| BRONTE Charlotte **Jane Eyre**-  From its haunting first line to its famous closer, "Reader, I married him", Bronte takes her audience by the throat with a fierce narrative of great immediacy. Jane Eyre's voice on the page is almost hypnotic and ground breaking as a style of writing. |
| ORWELL George **Animal Farm**  When animals take over their farm from the tyrannical farmer they believe life will be better, but are all animals as equal as they have been led to believe? If you are interested in Russian history post revolution, this book is well worth reading as an allegorical comment about ideology and realism. |
| LEE Harper **To Kill a Mockingbird** +  Eight-year old Scout’s father is a lawyer in a court case that splits a small community in the American Deep South. |
| **Crime** |
| HIGHSMITH Patricia **The Talented Mr Ripley**+  Tom Ripley has been described as ‘charming, literate and a monster’ – find out why. |
| DOYLE Arthur Conan **Sherlock Holmes** stories  Encounter the famous intellect and crime-solving abilities of Sherlock Holmes. |
| COLLINS Wilkie **The Moonstone**  This tale of a stolen diamond, the Moonstone of the title, is generally considered to be the first detective novel in the English language |
| HANNAH Sophie **Lasting Damage+**  When Connie Bowskill takes a virtual tour of a house for sale on a property website she sees the dead body of a woman, but when her husband logs on, it has vanished. |
| **Fantasy** |
| CONNOLLY John **The Book of Lost Things**  Twelve-year old David enters a sinister fantasy world that rivals anything created by the Brothers Grimm. |
| PULLMAN Philip **His Dark Materials trilogy (Northern Lights; The Subtle Knife; The Amber Spyglass**) Exciting plots dealing with big ideas: these books are modern classics. |
| NESS Patrick **Chaos Walking trilogy (The Knife of Never Letting Go, The Ask and the Answer, Monsters of Men)**  Todd Hewitt lives in a world inhabited only by men who can hear one another’s thoughts. One day he discovers a patch of silence and so begins a heart-stopping adventure. |
| MARTEL Yann **The Life of Pi**  Fantasy adventure which describes how Pi survives aboard a raft with a tiger. |
| **Horror +** |
| JAMES Henry **The Turn of the Screw**  A governess is hired to look after two children in a lonely country house. Are the unexplained events that happen there the result of the supernatural or of an overac - tive imagination? |
| NEWBERY Linda **The Shell House**  Graveney Hall links the present-day story of Greg to that of Edmund, the heir to the Hall who disappeared during the First World War. |
| REEVE Philip **Here Lies Arthur**  Ingenious re-working of the myth of King Arthur. |
| Hill Susan **Woman in Black**  Front CoverArthur Kipps, a junior solicitor, is summoned to attend the funeral of Mrs Alice Drablow, the sole inhabitant of Eel Marsh House. The house stands at the end of a causeway, wreathed in fog and mystery, but it is not until he glimpses a wasted young woman, dressed all in black, at the funeral, that a creeping sense of unease begins to take hold, a feeling deepened by the reluctance of the locals to talk of the woman in black – and her terrible purpose. |
| **Historical** |
| HARRIS Robert **Fatherland +**  A thriller set in an alternative world where the Nazis won World War II. |
| TREMAIN Rose **Restoration** +  The Plague, the Great Fire of London and the reign of King Charles II seen through the eyes of Robert Merivel, a veterinarian in the King’s household. |
| BALLARD J.G. **The Empire of the Sun**  The experiences of a young boy at the hands of his Japanese captors during World War II. |
| FAULKS Sebastian **Birdsong +**  Stephen Wraysford’s life in France, described before and during World War I, is gruelling but unforgettable. Charlotte Gray |
| FAULKS Sebastian **Charlotte Gray +**  The adventures of a young woman who was part of the French resistance during the Second World War. |
| **Science Fiction** |
| HUXLEY Aldous **Brave New World +**  The ‘brave new world’ of the title is a place where there is no war or sadness, but where human beings are grown in laboratories and have their lives controlled. |
| BLACKMAN Malorie **Noughts and Crosses+**  A Romeo-and-Juliet style love story set in a racist dystopia.  BRADBURY Ray **Farenheit 451 +**  In a futuristic America books are illegal and firemen start fires rather than put them out |
| ASIMOV Isaac **I, Robot**  A classic collection of stories upon which the film was based. |
| ISHIGURO Kazuo **Never Let Me Go** +  Three friends appear to have a happy life at boarding school until they discover a horrifying truth about their existence.  WYNDHAM John **The Day of the Triffids +**  Bill Masen was one of the few people not to be blinded by a meteor shower, but now he discovers that giant flesh-eating plants called ‘triffids’ are wreaking havoc on Earth. |
| **Books for readers young and old-Historical/Sci-Fi/Comedy/Fantasy/Contemporary fiction** |
| MORPURGO Michael **Private Peaceful**  The poignant story of two brothers before and during the First World War.  Image result |
| Kerr Judith **When Hitler Stole Pink Rabbit**  Suppose your country began to change. Suppose that without your noticing, it became dangerous for some people to live in Germany any longer. Suppose you found, to your complete surprise, that your own father was one of those people.  That is what happened to Anna in 1933. She was nine years old when it began, too busy to take much notice of political posters, but out of them glared the face of Adolf Hitler, the man who would soon change the whole of Europe – starting with her own small life. |
| Nina Bawden **Carrie’s War**  It is the Second World War and Carrie and Nick are evacuated from London to a small town in Wales, where they are placed with strict Mr Evans and his timid sister.  Their friend Albert is luckier, living in Druid's Bottom with Hepzibah Green who tells wonderful stories, and the strange Mister Johnny, who speaks a language all of his own. Carrie and Nick are happy to visit Albert there, until one day when Carrie does a terrible thing - the worst thing she ever did in her life... |
| Townsend Sue **The Secret Life of Adrian Mole Age 13 ¾**  *Friday January 2nd* *I felt rotten today. It's my mother's fault for singing 'My Way' at two o'clock in the morning at the top of the stairs. Just my luck to have a mother like her. There is a chance my parents could be alcoholics. Next year I could be in a children's home.*  Meet Adrian Mole, a hapless teenager providing an unabashed, pimples-and-all glimpse into adolescent life. Writing candidly about his parents' marital troubles, the dog, his life as a tortured poet and 'misunderstood intellectual', Adrian's painfully honest diary is still hilarious and compelling reading thirty years after it first appeared. |
| HOROWITZ Anthony **Stormbreaker**  In the first book in the number one bestselling Alex Rider series by Anthony Horowitz, fourteen-year-old Alex is forcibly recruited into MI6. Armed with secret gadgets, he is sent to investigate Herod Sayle, a man who is offering state-of-the-art Stormbreaker computers to every school in the country. But the teenage spy soon finds himself in mortal danger. |
| HOBB Robin **Dragon Keeper**  The first book in a four part series from one of the greatest writers in the fantasy genre. DRAGON KEEPER returns fans to Hobb’s best-loved world, full of dragons, magical ships and unforgettable characters.  Dragons have returned to the world . . .  Guided by the dragon Tintaglia, the serpents came from the sea to fight their way up the Rain Wild River to their ancestral hatching grounds.  But the fledglings that emerge from the cocoons are a travesty of the dragons of old. Flightless and fractious, they soon become a danger to all and must be moved. Thymara, a Rain Wilder born with scales and claws, answers the call to become one of the dragon keepers to accompany the creatures upriver.  Their target is the legendary Elderling city of Kelsingra. But no one knows if it even exists; and no one expects the dragon keepers to return, or even survive… |
| GLEITZMAN Morris **Boy Overboard**  Jamal loves playing football, which isn't easy if your goalie only has one leg and you keep having to dodge landmines to get your ball back. Jamal's stubborn little sister Bibi is even better at football than Jamal. But girls playing football is against the law in Afganistan. When it is discovered that Jamal's mother has been secretly running a school, the family must leave their home immediately and begin a long and dangerous journey to Australia. The children survive separation from their parents, hunger, and violent smugglers only to find that Australia isn't as welcoming as they had thought but, even though they face an uncertain future, Jamal, Bibi and their parents know that as long as they are together, that is all that matters. |
| NIX **Garaeth Sabriel**  Sabriel is sent as a child across the Wall to the safety of a school in Ancelstierre. Away from magic; away from the Dead. After receiving a cryptic message from her father, 18-year-old Sabriel leaves her ordinary school and returns across the Wall into the Old Kingdom. Fraught with peril and deadly trickery, her journey takes her to a world filled with parasitical spirits, Mordicants, and Shadow Hands – for her father is none other than The Abhorson. His task is to lay the disturbed dead back to rest. This obliges him – and now Sabriel, who has taken on her father's title and duties – to slip over the border into the icy river of Death, sometimes battling the evil forces that lurk there, waiting for an opportunity to escape into the realm of the living. Desperate to find her father, and grimly determined to help save the Old Kingdom from destruction by the horrible forces of the evil undead, Sabriel endures almost impossible challenges whilst discovering her own supernatural abilities – and her destiny. |
| Garner Alan **Elidor**  Roland, Helen, Nicholas and David, four Manchester children, are led into Elidor, a twilight world almost destroyed by fear and darkness.  On a gloomy day in Manchester, Roland, Helen, Nicholas and David are lured into a ruined church, where the fabric of time and place is weak enough to allow them into the twilight world of Elidor. It is a place almost destroyed by fear and darkness, and the children are charged with guarding its Treasures while a way is sought to save the dying land.  Then the evil forces find a path through to this world… |
| IBBOTSEN Eva **The Star of Kazan**  In 1896, in a pilgrim church in the Alps, an abandoned baby girl is found by a cook and a housemaid. They take her home, and Annika grows up in the servants' quarters of a house belonging to three eccentric Viennese professors. She is happy there, but dreams of the day when her real mother will come to find her. And sure enough, one day a glamorous stranger arrives at the door. After years of guilt and searching, Annika's mother has come to claim her daughter, who is in fact a Prussian aristocrat whose true home is a great castle. But at crumbling, spooky Spittal Annika discovers that all is not as it seems in the lives of her new-found family . . .  Eva Ibbotson's hugely entertaining *The Star of Kazan* is a timeless classic for readers young and old. |
| IBBOTSEN Eva **The Dragonfly Pool**  Tally Hamilton is furious to hear she is being sent from London to a horrid, stuffy boarding school in the countryside. And all because of the stupid war. But Delderton Hall is a far more interesting place than Tally ever imagined, and an exciting school trip to the beautiful and luscious kingdom of Bergania whisks Tally into an unexpected adventure . . . will she be able to save her new friend, Prince Karil, before it's too late? |
| ST JOHN Lauren **The White Giraffe series**  When she is eleven years old, Martine is orphaned and sent to live with her grandmother on a game reserve in South Africa. Her grandmother seems strangely unwelcoming and Martine has a difficult time settling in at her new school, where she is conspicuously an outsider. But she has an ally in Tendai - one of the keepers on the reserve, from whom she learns the lore and survival techniques of the bush, and in Grace - who instantly senses there is something special about Martine. |
| FRANK Anne **Diary of a Young Girl**  In July 1942, thirteen-year-old Anne Frank and her family, fleeing the occupation, went into hiding in an Amsterdam warehouse. Over the next two years Anne vividly describes in her diary the frustrations of living in such close quarters, and her thoughts, feelings and longings as she grows up. Her diary ends abruptly when, in August 1944, they were all betrayed. |
| TWAIN Mark- **The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn**  Refusing to be civilized by Southern society or cowed by his drunken father’s lashings, young Huckleberry Finn decides he has only one option left: fake his own death and hop a raft down the Mississippi River. Instead of carrying him far from trouble, though, Huck’s raft delivers him to a place of moral uncertainty.  Mark Twain unwinds Huck’s harrowing journey to manhood with satirical wit, revealing the troubled history of the American South, where slavery held sway long after the Civil War ended. Huck’s relationship with runaway slave Jim forces him to confront his beliefs about friendship and freedom. |
| COTTRELL BOYCE Frank **Framed**  Dylan is the only boy living in the tiny Welsh town of Manod. His parents run the Snowdonia Oasis Auto Marvel garage - and when he's not trying to persuade his sisters to play football, Dylan is in charge of the petrol log. And that means he gets to keep track of everyone coming in and out of Manod - what car they drive, what they're called, even their favourite flavour of crisps. But when a mysterious convoy of lorries trundles up the misty mountainside towards an old, disused mine, even Dylan is confounded. Who are these people - and what have they got to hide?  A story inspired by a press cutting describing how, during World War II, the treasured contents of London's National Gallery were stored in Welsh slate mines. Once a month, a morale-boosting masterpiece would be unveiled in the village and then returned to London for viewing. This is a funny and touching exploration of how art - its beauty and its value - touches the life of one little boy and his big family in a very small town. |

What will you recommend??Any feedback on any of the inclusions here-whether positive or negative-are all welcome. You may feel-“Why on earth is that terrible book included here?!” or “Yes, I really enjoyed that too” or “You haven’t included this ….”. We will keep this updated each term.

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