Redbridge Tuition

Book Recommendations

For 11 Plus

Think beyond
Act beyond
Be beyond.

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About

Parents frequently enquire about my recommendations for 11 Plus practice books.

The 11 Plus and other independent school exams can pose significant challenges. Despite being bright, many students face difficulty in engaging with literature, which can impact their exam scores adversely.

The following booklist comprises 30 books categorised into beginner, intermediate, and advanced levels.

This list is not exhaustive, as there are numerous outstanding books available. However, all the books included here are either ones I have personally read or have been highly recommended by students I have taught.

Reading widely can have a profound impact on a child's worldview. Although some books on this list may present challenging themes, they can contribute to the personal growth and early understanding of complex issues in students.

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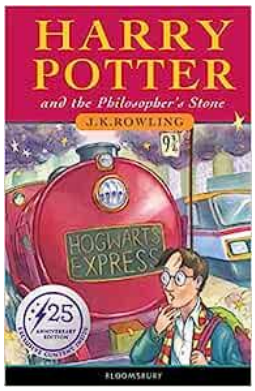
Beginner

Join the hilarious escapades of Dogman, a crime-fighting superhero with the head of a dog and the body of a policeman, as he battles villains and saves the day in this entertaining graphic novel.

Buy



Enter the enchanting world of Harry Potter, a young orphan who discovers he's a wizard and embarks on a magical journey at Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry, where he uncovers secrets, faces challenges, and learns the power of friendship.

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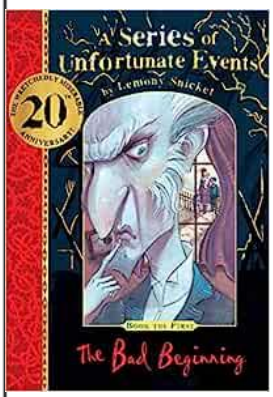
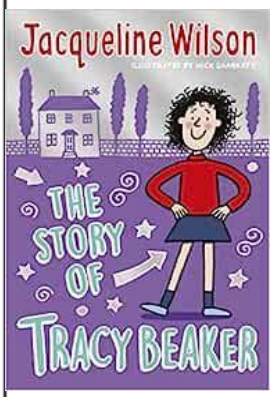


Follow the unfortunate lives of the Baudelaire orphans—Violet, Klaus, and Sunny—as they encounter a sinister guardian, Count Olaf, who stops at nothing to steal their inheritance, leading to a series of darkly humorous and mysterious events.

Buy

Set against the backdrop of World War I, this tale follows the extraordinary journey of Joey, a courageous horse, as he experiences the horrors of war, endures separation from his beloved owner, and shows the unbreakable bond between humans and animals.

Buy



Enter the world of Tracy Beaker, a spirited and creative girl living in a foster care home, as she navigates through the ups and downs of life, sharing her hopes, dreams, and experiences in this heartwarming and relatable tale.

Buy

Embark on a whimsical journey with the Little Prince as he travels through various planets, encountering eccentric characters and imparting profound insights about life, love, and the importance of cherishing one's inner child.

Buy

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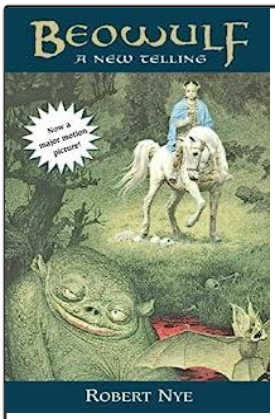
Beginner



Delve into the epic poem that tells the legendary story of Beowulf, a fearless hero who confronts monstrous creatures and battles to protect his people, embodying the virtues of bravery, loyalty, and honor.

[Buy]

Join Matilda, a young prodigy with telekinetic powers, as she navigates a less-than-ideal home life and an oppressive school, using her extraordinary gifts to stand up against injustice and discover the true power of knowledge and resilience.

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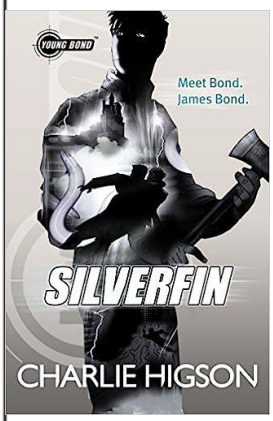

Dive into the thrilling adventures of young James Bond as he unravels a mystery at a remote boarding school, encountering treacherous villains, dangerous situations, and showcasing the beginnings of the iconic spy character.

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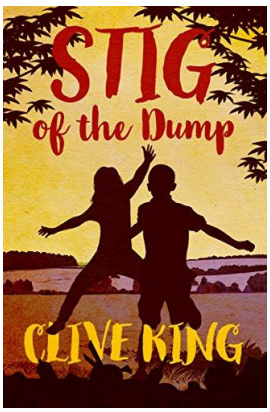

Follow the charming story of Barney, a young boy who befriends Stig, a caveman living in a dump, and together they embark on imaginative adventures, bridging the gap between the past and present, and celebrating the power of friendship and imagination.

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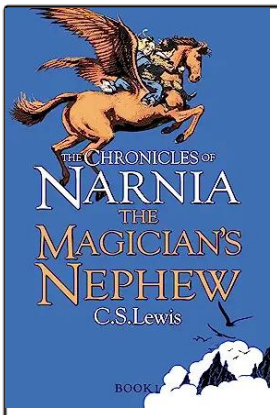
Intermediate



Enter the enchanting world of Narnia through the eyes of Digory and Polly, two children who embark on a magical adventure, witnessing the creation of Narnia and uncovering the origin of its enduring mysteries

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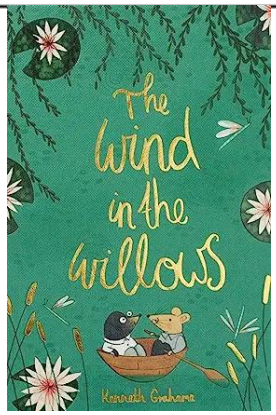

Join the delightful adventures of Mole, Rat, Badger, and Toad, as they navigate the idyllic English countryside, encountering whimsical characters and experiencing the timeless themes of friendship, loyalty, and the wonders of nature.

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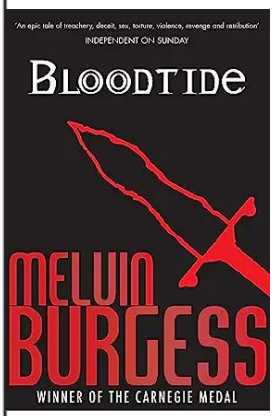

Immerse yourself in a dystopian world where Viking clans wage war amidst a flooded London, following the intense journey of two siblings who become embroiled in a battle for power, survival, and the hope of a better future.

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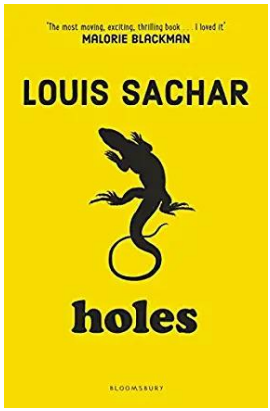

Discover the gripping story of Stanley Yelnats as he is sent to Camp Green Lake, a juvenile detention camp, where digging holes under the scorching sun leads to unexpected discoveries, personal growth, and a quest for redemption.

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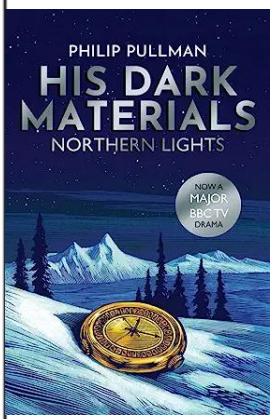

Explore a parallel universe with Lyra, a brave young girl, as she embarks on a thrilling journey to rescue her kidnapped friend, unravel dark secrets, and confront the forces of evil, in this captivating and thought-provoking fantasy novel.

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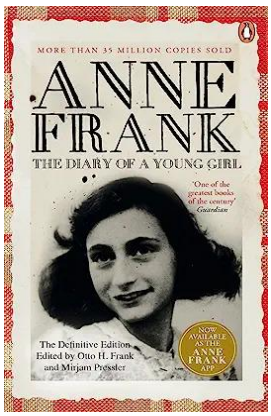

Step into the poignant and powerful diary of Anne Frank, a Jewish girl hiding from the Nazis during the Holocaust, as she shares her thoughts, dreams, fears, and the indomitable spirit that shines through even in the darkest of times.

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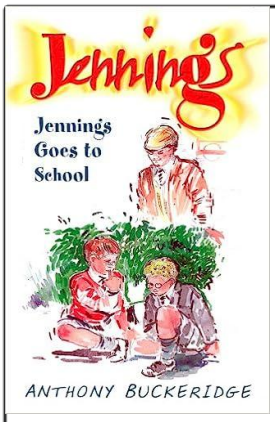
Intermediate



Join the comical mishaps of Jennings, an endearing schoolboy with a knack for finding trouble, as he starts his new term at Linbury Court School, bringing laughter, chaos, and unforgettable moments to the classroom.

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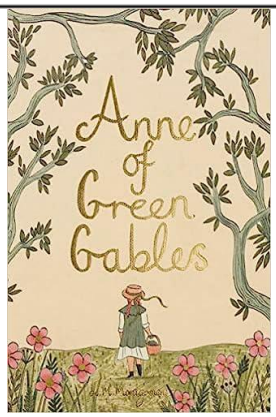

Journey to the picturesque Prince Edward Island and meet Anne Shirley, an imaginative and spirited young girl who finds a home and family at Green Gables, as she navigates adolescence, friendship, and the pursuit of her dreams.

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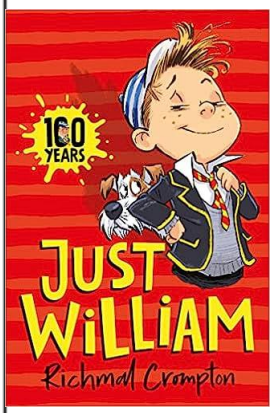

Follow the hilarious misadventures of William Brown, a mischievous and imaginative young boy, as he navigates a world of mischief, misunderstandings, and unforgettable escapades in this timeless series of short stories.

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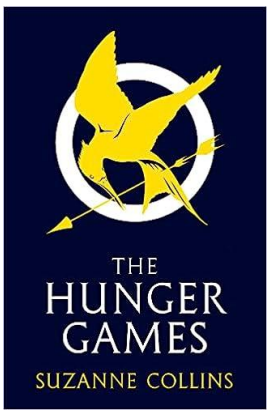

In a dystopian society, Katniss Everdeen becomes a symbol of hope and rebellion as she fights for survival in the Hunger Games—a televised battle where teenagers from each district are pitted against each other in a fight to the death.

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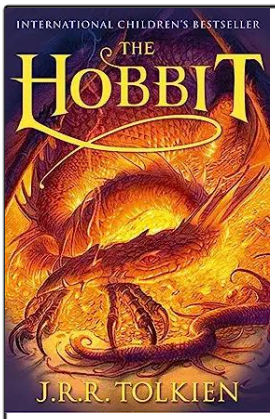
Advanced



Join Bilbo Baggins, a reluctant hobbit, as he embarks on an epic quest to reclaim a lost treasure guarded by the fearsome dragon Smaug, encountering dwarves, elves, and other mythical creatures in the magical world of Middle-earth.

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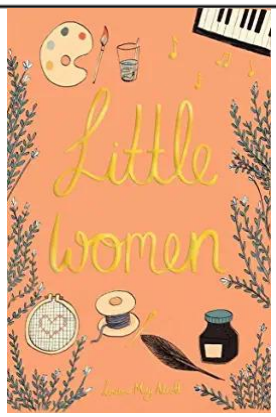

Follow the lives of the four March sisters—Meg, Jo, Beth, and Amy—as they navigate the challenges of adolescence, love, and family bonds in Civil War-era America, showcasing the strength, resilience, and dreams of women.

Buy

Enter a hidden sanctuary with Mary Lennox, a young girl who discovers a neglected garden and, with the help of new friends, brings it back to life, healing not only the garden but also the hearts of those around her.

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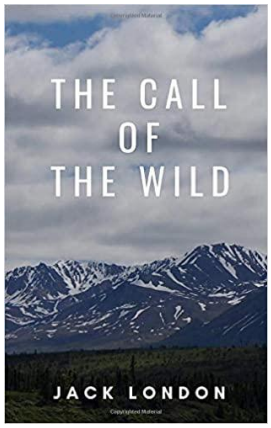

Follow Buck, a domesticated dog, as he is thrust into the harsh world of the Klondike Gold Rush, where he must tap into his primal instincts to survive and ultimately find his true place in the wilderness.

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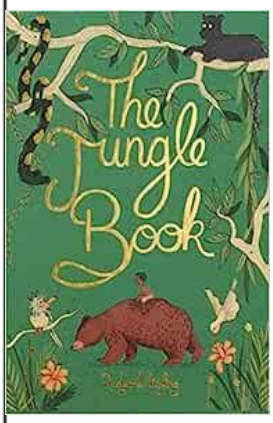

Join Mowgli, a young boy raised by wolves, on his extraordinary adventures in the Indian jungle, where he encounters talking animals, faces danger, and learns valuable lessons about life, loyalty, and the importance of family.

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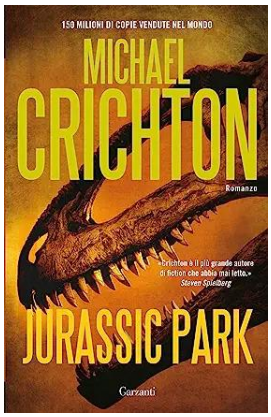

Experience the thrilling and cautionary tale of an ambitious theme park filled with genetically resurrected dinosaurs, as chaos erupts and humans struggle to survive in the face of ancient and deadly predators.

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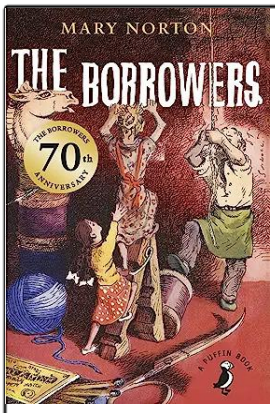

Enter the fascinating world of the Clock family, a community of tiny people who live beneath the floorboards and secretly "borrow" from the human "beans," as they face danger, friendship, and the challenges of survival in the human world.

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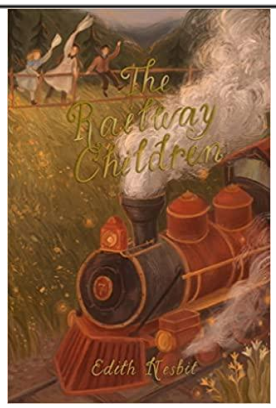

Experience the heartwarming tale of three siblings who move to a countryside cottage and befriend the locals, as they embark on adventures, solve mysteries, and work together to bring joy and justice to their family.

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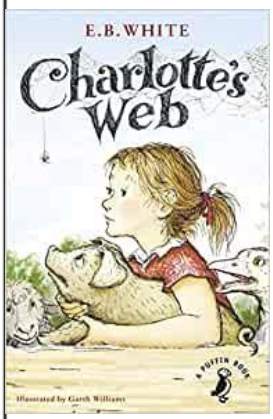

Journey into the world of Wilbur, a lovable pig, and his extraordinary friendship with Charlotte, a wise and kind-hearted spider, as they teach each other about the true meaning of friendship, selflessness, and the circle of life.

Buy

Fall down the rabbit hole with Alice and encounter a whimsical world of talking animals, eccentric characters, and nonsensical adventures, as she discovers the power of imagination and embraces the beauty of the absurd.

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