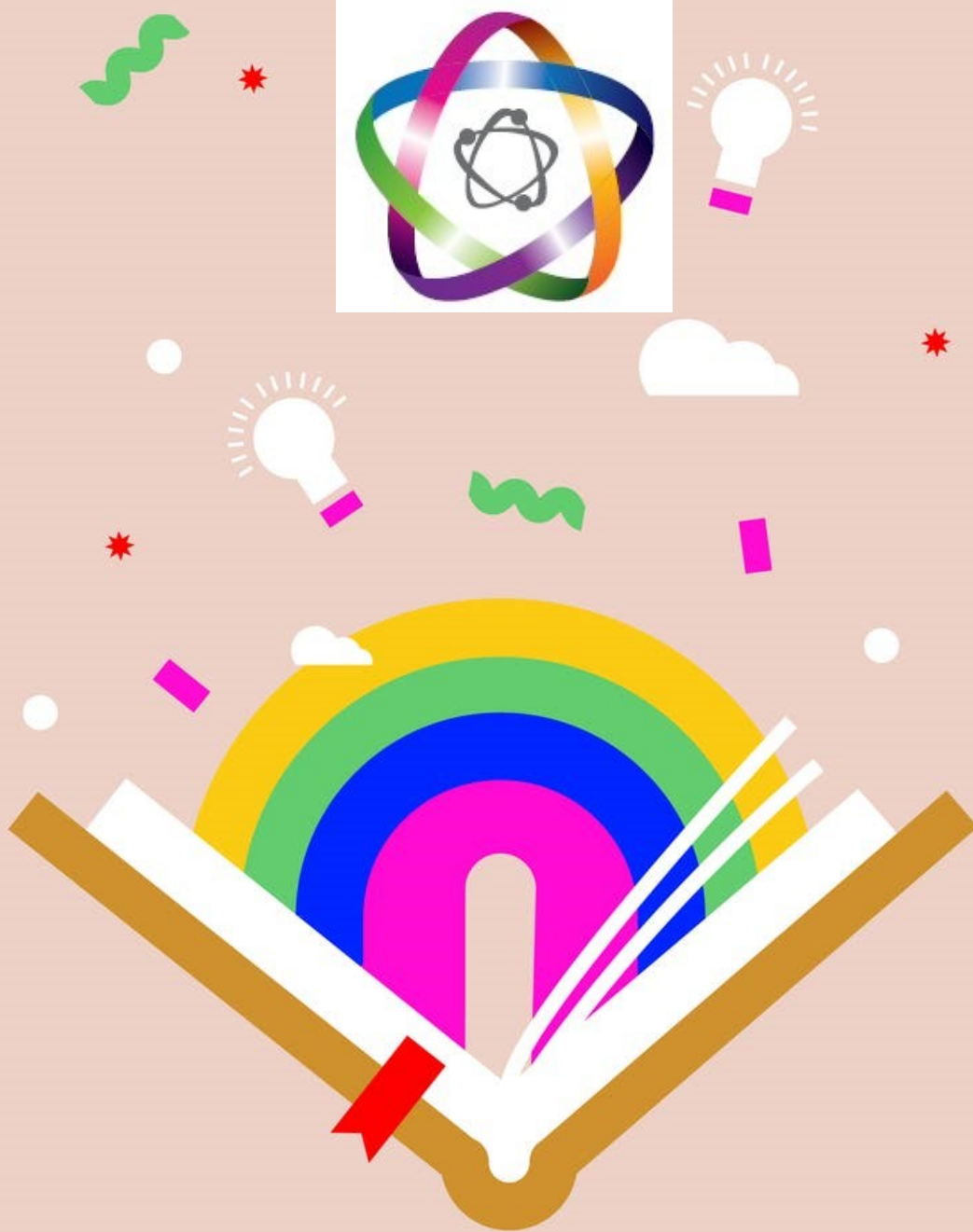


# Debenham High School



**SUMMER READING  
LIST 2022**

Welcome to the Debenham High School Summer Reading List for 2022. This year's theme is 'Books to Inspire' and in that regard features books which either directly or indirectly provide the reader with inspiration. Whether that be inspiration to improve ourselves, our communities or ultimately our world. From autobiographies such as Michelle Obama's Becoming, to Yann Martels' magical fairy tale, Life of Pi, each book aims to raise us up and push us forward to become the best version of ourselves. There is something for every student here, whether you are a sports fan, a history buff or an eco-warrior.

The majority of books are suitable for Years 7 - 11, although there are a few exceptions and these have been clearly noted on the book review. Students and parents/carers should therefore use their discretion as to whether a book is suitable based on individual reading levels, challenging themes and content. Please note all of these books will be available to borrow from the School Learning Resource Centre (Library).

In addition, this year I am very happy to announce that in partnership with the Get Suffolk Reading and the National Literacy Trust, we are offering students in Year 10 a free copy of Marcus Rashford's book, You Are A Champion: How to be the best you can be (see the book review on the next page for more information). This book can be collected by current Year 10 students from the Library at the start of the Autumn Term in September.

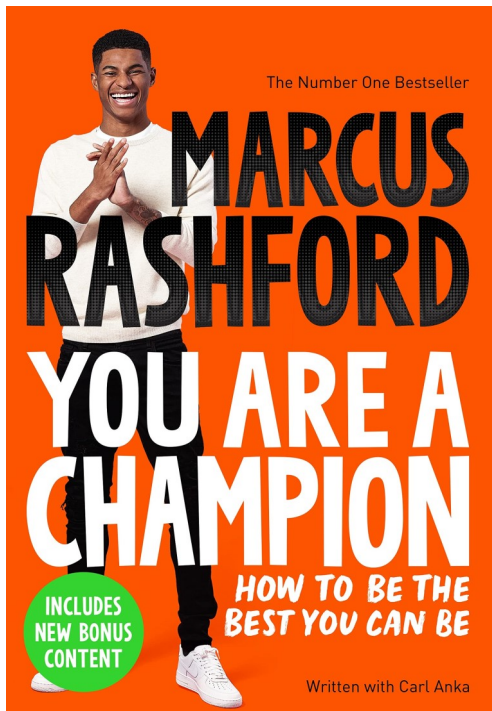
We hope that the varied selection of recommendations within this reading list will inspire students to pick up a book (or two) this summer. I would love to hear your opinion on those you have read and perhaps make some recommendations of your own.

Happy Summer Reading!  
Mrs C Foord-Johnson  
Learning Resources Coordinator

## About You Are A Champion by Marcus Rashford....

Marcus Rashford (MBE) is famous worldwide for his skills both on and off the pitch, but before he was a Manchester United and England footballer, and long before he started his inspiring campaign to end child food poverty, he was

just an ordinary kid from Wythenshawe, South Manchester. Now the nation's favourite footballer wants to show YOU how to achieve your dreams, in this positive and inspiring guide for life. Written with journalist Carl Anka, You Are a Champion is packed full of stories from Marcus's own life, brilliant advice and top-tips from performance psychologist, Katie Warriner.



It will show you how to:

- Be comfortable with who you are – you can't be a champion until you're happy being you!
- Dream big
- Practise like a champion
- Get out of your comfort zone and learn from your mistakes
- Navigate adversity in a positive way
- Find your team
- Use your voice and stand up for others
- Never stop learning

## About Becoming by Michelle Obama....

In a life filled with meaning and accomplishment, Michelle Obama has emerged as one of the most iconic and compelling women of our era. As First Lady of the United



States of America, the first African American to serve in that role, she helped create the most welcoming and inclusive White House in history while also establishing herself as a powerful advocate for women and girls in the United States and around the world. In her memoir, Michelle Obama invites listeners into her world, chronicling the experiences that have

shaped her - from her childhood on the South Side of Chicago to her years as an executive balancing the demands of motherhood and work to her time spent at the world's most famous address. With unerring honesty and lively wit, she describes her triumphs and her disappointments, both public and private, telling her full story as she has lived it, in her own words and on her own terms.

## About 127 Hours by Aron Ralston...

This remarkable true story is one of survival and human strength, both physically and mentally. On Sunday, 27 April, 2003, 27-year old Aron Ralston set off for a day's



hiking in the Utah canyons. Dressed in a t-shirt and shorts, Ralston, a seasoned climber, figured he'd hike for a few hours and then head off to work. Forty miles from the nearest paved road, he found himself on top of an 800-pound boulder. As he slid down and off of the boulder it shifted, trapping his right hand against the canyon wall. No one knew where he was; he had little

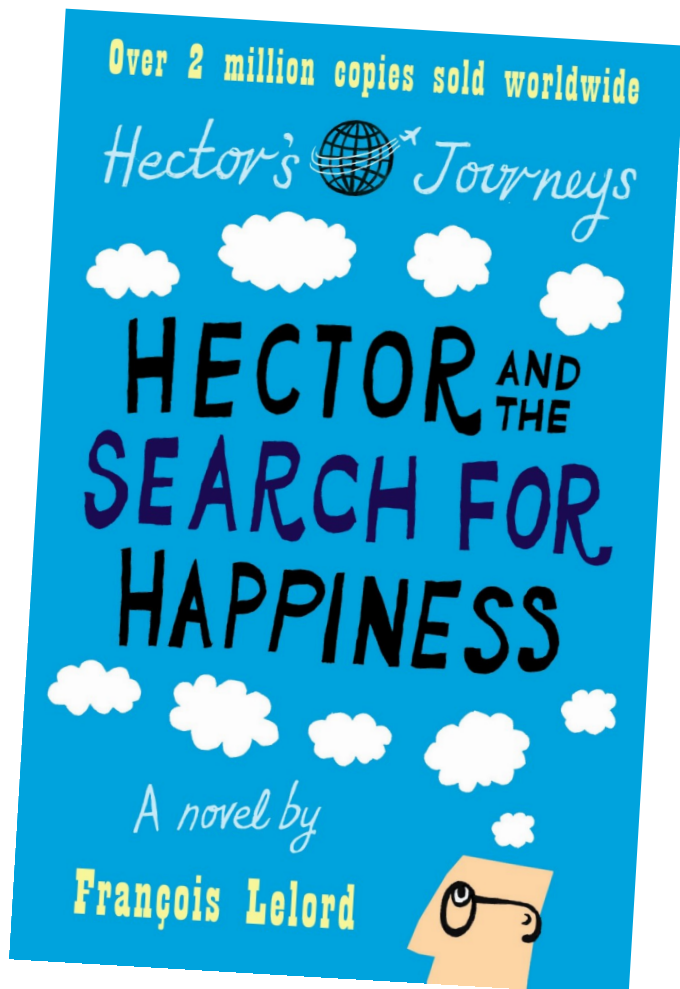
water; he wasn't dressed correctly, and the boulder wasn't going anywhere. He remained trapped for five days in the canyon: hypothermic at night, dehydrated and hallucinating by day. Finally, he faced the most terrible decision of his life: to cut off his hand or face certain death!

**Suitable for Year 9 and above**



## About Hector and the Search for Happiness by François Lelord...

Hector is a successful young psychiatrist and very good at treating patients in real need of his help. But many have no health problems, they're just deeply dissatisfied with



their lives. Hector can't do much for them, and it's beginning to depress him. So when a patient tells him he looks in need of a holiday, Hector decides to set off around the world to find out what makes people everywhere happy (and sad), and whether there is such a thing as the secret of true happiness. As he travels from Paris to China to Africa to the United States, he lists his observations about the

people he meets. The book, although dealing with adult themes (Hector consorts with prostitutes, cosying up to drug barons and is kidnapped by criminals), is written in an almost naive and innocent style, nailing the most fundamental of human quests - the search for happiness. Instead of indulging in heavy philosophical debate, Hector's story is written comically, yet the writing inspires us to consider life's great questions.

**Suitable for Upper School Only**

## About Black and British by David Olusoga..

If you are not really into history, a book about history can sometimes be a bit boring... but not this one! This highly accessible text from broadcaster and historian, David Olusoga



is a fascinating eye-opening quick read that you won't be able to put down. Adapted from his best-selling adult version, this clearly written balanced evidence-based history book concisely charts the forgotten histories of Black people who have inhabited Britain from Roman times right through to the present day. When did Africans first come to Britain? Who are the well-dressed black children in Georgian paintings? Why did the American Civil War disrupt the Industrial Revolution?

These and many other questions are answered in this essential introduction to 1800 years of the Black British history. Of particular interest is the section on the logistics of the transatlantic slave trade and Britain's absolutely pivotal role in the process - something that has been sadly airbrushed out of much of the past teaching of British history. This book aims to set the record straight and is essential reading for all.

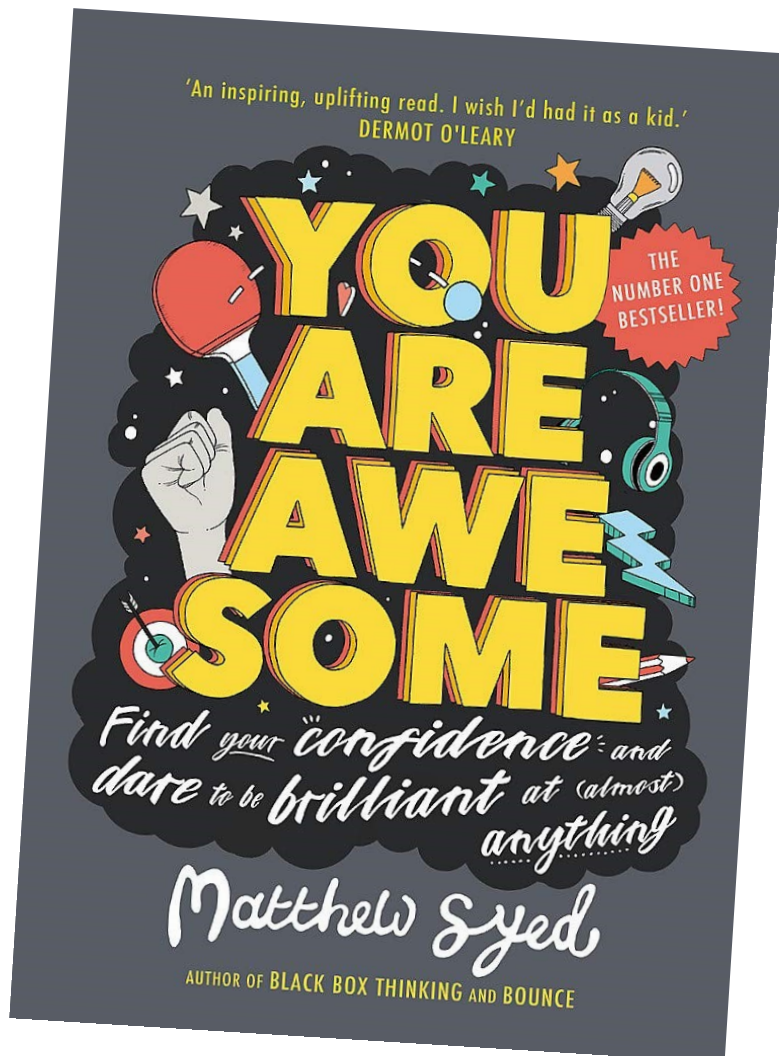
## About You are Awesome by Matthew Syed....

I'm no good at sport... I can't do maths... I really struggle with exams... Sound familiar?

If you believe you can't do something, the chances are you won't try. But what if you really could get better at maths, or sport or exams? In fact, what if you could excel at any-

thing you put your mind to?

You Are Awesome can help you do just that, inspiring and empowering young readers to find the confidence to realise their potential. The first children's book from Times journalist, two-time Olympian and best-selling mindset author, Matthew Syed, it uses examples of successful people from Mozart to Serena Williams to

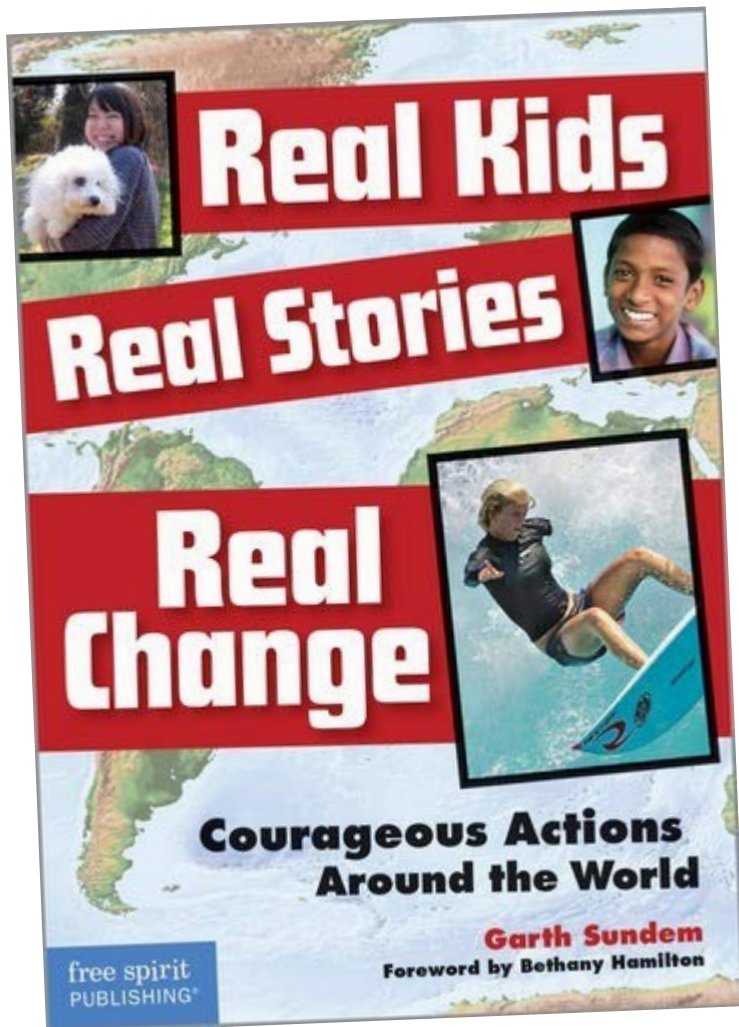


demonstrate that success really is earned rather than given, and that talent can be acquired. With hard work and determination, practice and self-belief, and, most importantly, a 'Growth Mindset', there's no reason why anyone can't achieve anything.



## About Real Kids, Real Stories, Real Change: Courageous Actions Around the World...

Be totally inspired by these thirty true stories profiling ordinary kids doing extraordinary things around the world:



Eleven-year-old Tilly saved lives in Thailand by warning people that a tsunami was coming; fifteen-year-old Malika fought against segregation in her Alabama town; ten-year-old Jean Dominic won a battle against pesticides and the cancer they caused in his body; six-year-old Ryan raised \$800,000 to drill water wells in Africa.

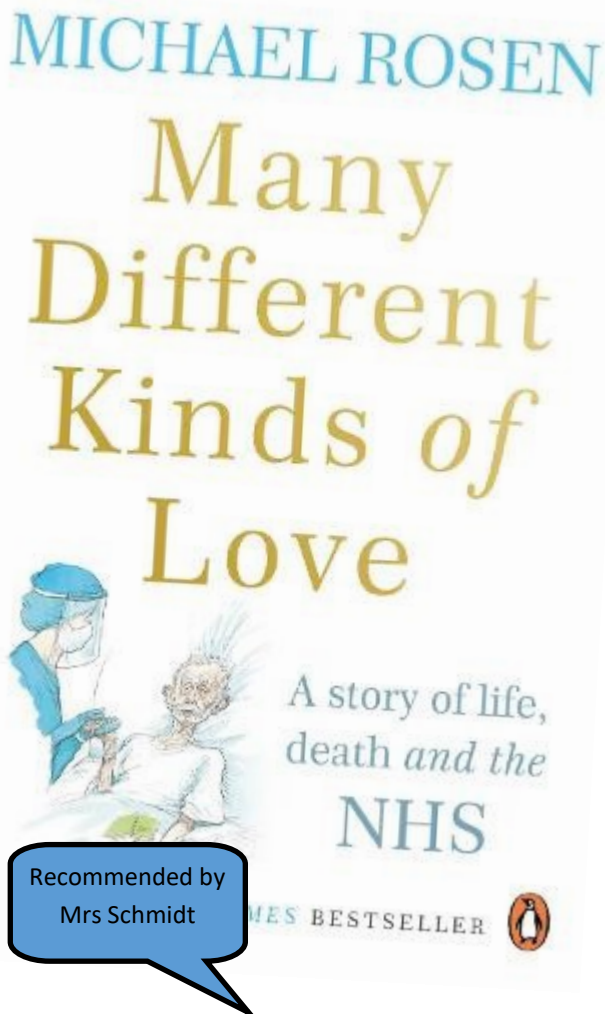
Twelve-year-old Haruka invented a new environmentally friendly way to scoop dog poop. With the right role models, any child can be a hero. Thirty children who used their heads, their hearts, their courage, and sometimes their stubbornness to help others and do extraordinary things.

## About Many Different Kinds of Love by Michael Rosen...

Michael Rosen wasn't feeling well. Soon he was struggling to breathe, and then he was admitted to hospital, suffering from coronavirus as the nation teetered on the edge of a global pandemic. What followed was months on the wards, six

weeks in an induced coma, and many more weeks of rehab and recovery as the NHS saved Michael's life, and then got him back on his feet. Throughout Michael's stay in intensive care, a notebook lay at the end of his bed, where the nurses who cared for him wrote letters of hope and support. Embarking on the long road to recovery, Michael was soon ready to start writing about his near-death experience. Combining stunning new prose poems by one of Britain's best loved poets and the moving corona-

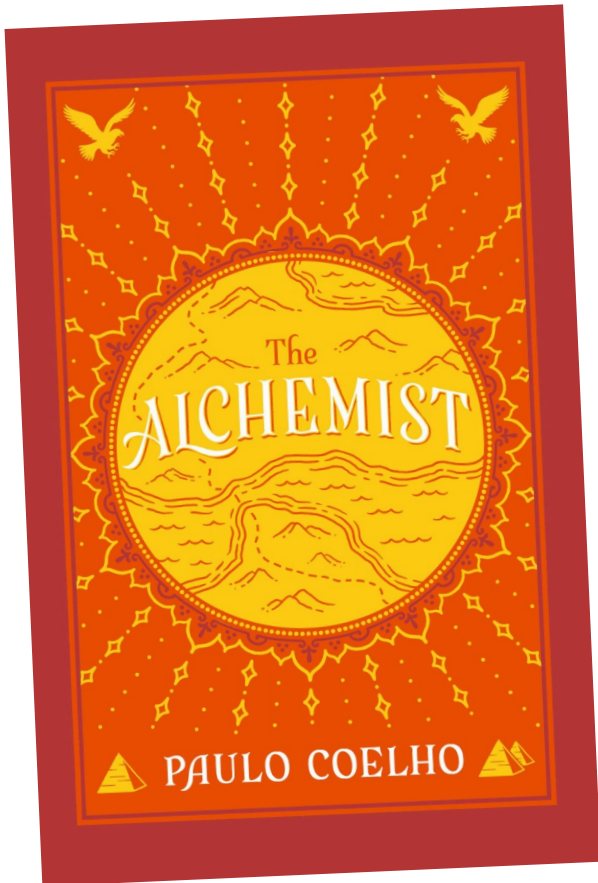
virus diaries of his nurses, doctors and wife, Emma-Louise Williams, this is a beautiful book about love, life and the NHS. Featuring original illustrations by Chris Riddell, each page celebrates the power of community, the importance of kind gestures in dark times, and the indomitable spirits of the people who keep us well.



**Suitable for Year 9 and above**

## About The Alchemist by Paulo Coelho's...

Paulo Coelho tells the mystical story of Santiago, a young shepherd living in the hills of Andalusia, who feels that there is more to life than his humble home and his flock.



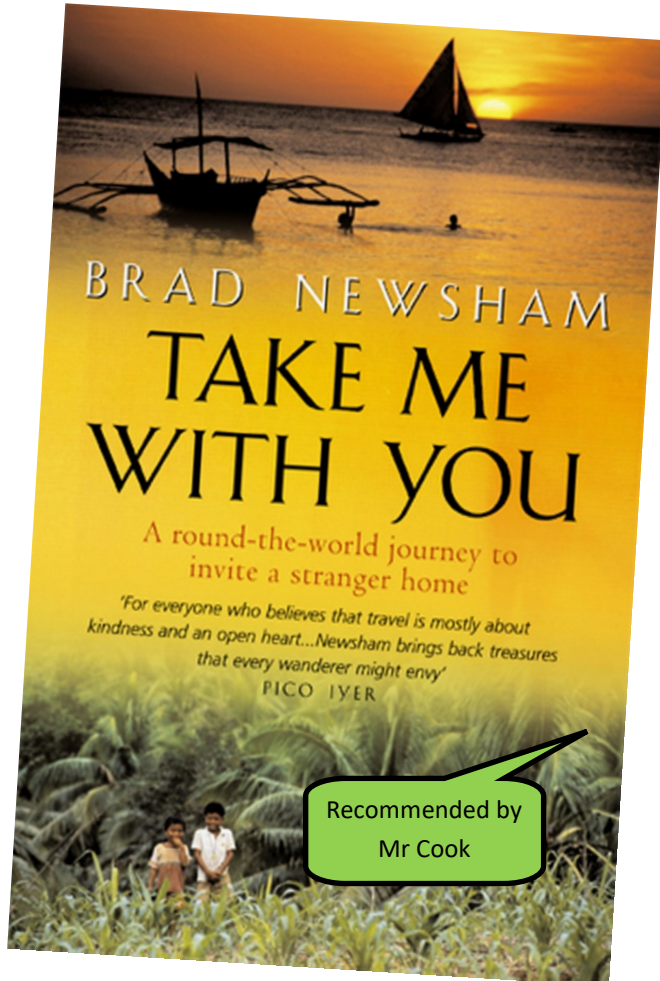
One day he finds the courage to follow his dreams into distant lands, each step galvanised by the knowledge that he is following the right path: his own. The people he meets along the way, the things he sees and the wisdom he learns are life-changing. His quest leads him to riches far different and far more satisfying, than he ever imagined. Along the way he meets many spiritual messengers, who come in

unassuming forms such as a camel driver and a well-read Englishman. It is in one of the Englishman's books, Santiago first learns about the alchemists - men who believed that if a metal were heated for many years, it would free itself of all its individual properties, and what was left would be the "Soul of the World". Santiago's journey teaches us about the essential wisdom of listening to our hearts, recognising opportunity, learning to read the signs strewn along life's path, and, most importantly, to follow our dreams.



## About Take Me With You by Brad Newsham...

Brad was a twenty-two-year-old travelling through Afghanistan when he wrote this in his journal, 'Someday, when I am rich, I am going to invite someone from my travels to visit me in America.' Fourteen years later, he's a



Yellow Taxi driver working in San Francisco. He's not rich, but he has never forgotten his vow. Take Me With You is the compelling account of his journey through Asia and Africa as he searches for the right person, someone who couldn't afford to leave their own country, let alone holiday in the West. In his search for a "guest" to invite to the United States, Newsham encountered any number of the types of people that most tourists do:

street vendors, taxi drivers, tour guides, and strangers on the street. He befriends them and takes time to get to know something about them. In itself it is a fascinating travelogue written with much warmth and honesty. But aside from that, Newsham's story will change the way you think about your life and the lives of those you meet when you travel.

**Suitable for Year 9 and above**



## About The tea Dragon Society by Katie O'Neill...

Greta is training to be a blacksmith like her mother. In their world, blacksmithing is dwindling in importance, although Greta's mum strives to preserve the art. One day, Greta happens across a small green dragon in the marketplace. She learns the dragon belongs to a dignified, llama-like creature named Hesekiel. Hesekiel, his wheelchair-using partner Erik, and the enigmatic, deer-like, Minette make up what is left of the Tea Dragon Society, a group that forms close bonds with the dragons and harvests the tea leaves the creatures grow. The relationship between dragon and owner,

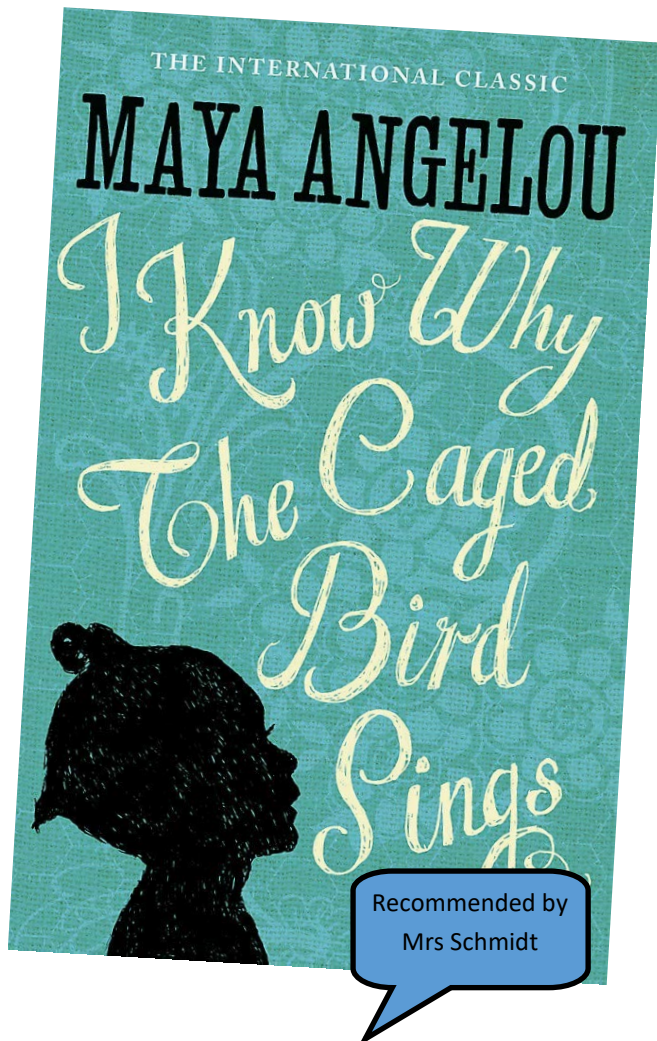
much like tea harvesting, is one that requires patience and an appreciation for craftsmanship.

In beautiful, manga-inspired illustrations, O'Neill's diverse characters display an array of different skin colours, orientations, and abilities. This beautifully illustrated book, focuses on the theme of friendships, honouring traditions and being proud of who you are and what you can do.



## About I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings by Maya Angelou....

Maya Angelou, a writer and civil rights activist (among numerous other careers) recounts her childhood experiences in this beautifully written, lyrical memoir.



Growing up first with her grandmother in a poor, isolated small town and later with her mother in the lively glamour of San Francisco, Maya relates these experiences into much wider issues. Loving the world, she also knows its cruelty. As a Black woman she has known discrimination, violence and extreme poverty, but also hope, joy, achievement and celebration. This truly remarkable book is a

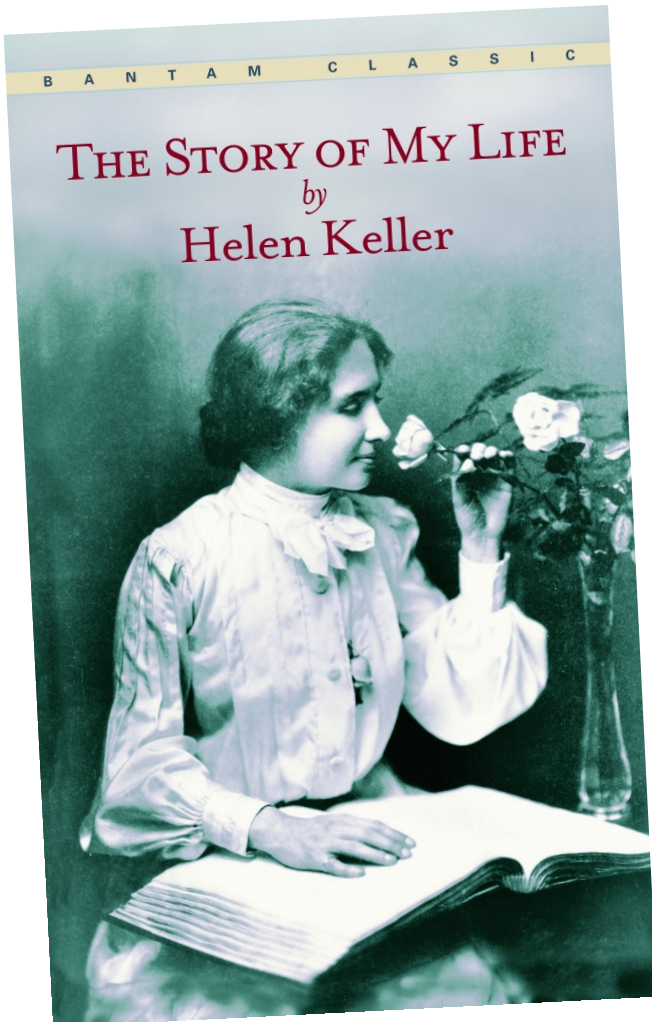
kaleidoscope of social exploration, perception, complex relationships, powerful moments and wisdom.

*"I write about being a Black American woman, however, I am always talking about what it's like to be a human-being. This is how we are, what makes us laugh, and this is how we fall and how we somehow, amazingly, stand up again"* Maya Angelou

**Suitable for Upper School Only**

## About The Story of My Life by Helen Keller...

The Story of My Life is Helen Keller's account of her triumph over deafness and blindness - a story that has



become a symbol of hope for people all over the world.

The book, first published in 1902 when Keller was only 22 years old, portrays the wild child who is locked in the dark and silent prison of her own body. With an extraordinary honesty, Keller reveals her frustrations and rage, and takes the reader on the unforgettable journey of her education and breakthroughs into the world of communication; from the moment Keller recognizes the

word 'water' when her teacher finger-spells the letters, we share her triumph, "that living word awakened my soul, gave it light, hope, joy, set it free!". An unparalleled chronicle of courage, The Story of My Life remains startlingly fresh and vital more than a century after its first publication, a timeless testament to a human's indomitable will.



## About A Prayer for Owen Meany by John Irving...

*"If you care about something you have to protect it. If you're lucky enough to find a way of life you love, you have to find the courage to live it."*



Summer 1953, in the small town of Gravesend, New Hampshire, eleven-year-old John Wheelwright and his best friend Owen Meany are playing in a Little League baseball game. When Owen hits a foul ball which kills John's mother, their lives are changed in an instant. It is dismissed as a tragic accident but Owen disagrees. He believes that he is God's

instrument, put on Earth for a higher purpose. And as the boys come into adulthood to the background of the Vietnam War, a series of remarkable events show that perhaps Owen's divine plan was not imagined after all. A thought-provoking book, whose story remains with you long after you put it down.

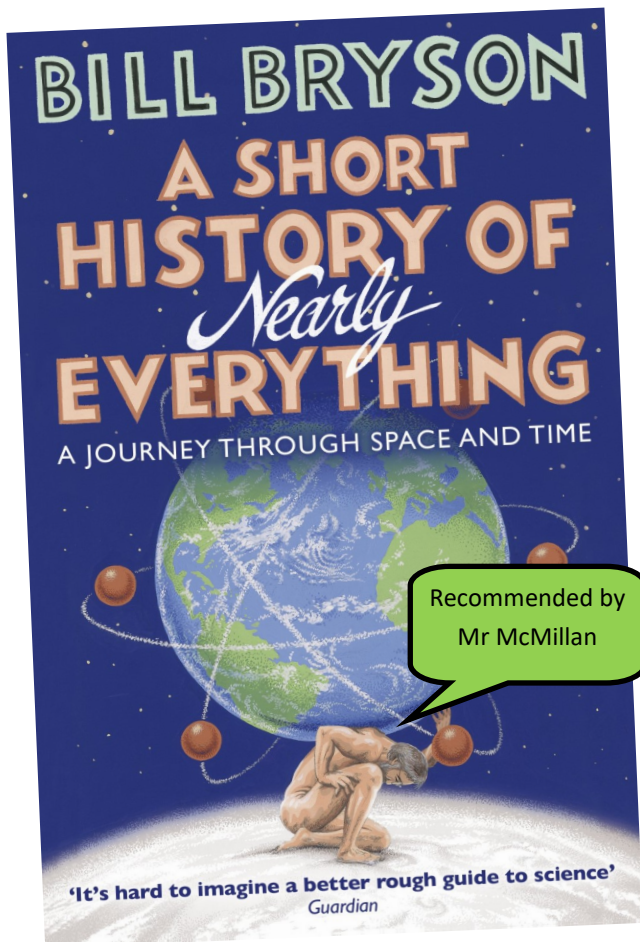
**Suitable for Upper School Only**



## About A Short History of Nearly Everything by Bill Bryson...

‘You can’t help but be inspired by science when you read Bill Bryson’s A short History of Nearly Everything!’

Bill describes himself as a reluctant traveller, but even when



he stays safely at home he can't contain his curiosity about the world around him. A Short History of Nearly Everything is his quest to understand everything that has happened from the Big Bang to the rise of civilization - how we got from there - being nothing at all - to here - being us. Bill Bryson's challenge is to take subjects that normally bore most of us, like geology, chemistry and particle physics, and see if there is some

way to render them comprehensible to people who have never thought they could be interested in science. As a result, A Short History of Nearly Everything reveals the world in a way most of us have never seen it before. Once you read it, you will really appreciate the little and big things in life which we usually take for granted. A must read for any budding scientist!

**Suitable for Year 9 and above**

## About Pay It Forward by Catherine Ryan Hyde...

It all started with the Social Studies teacher's extra-credit project: Think of an idea for world change, and put it into

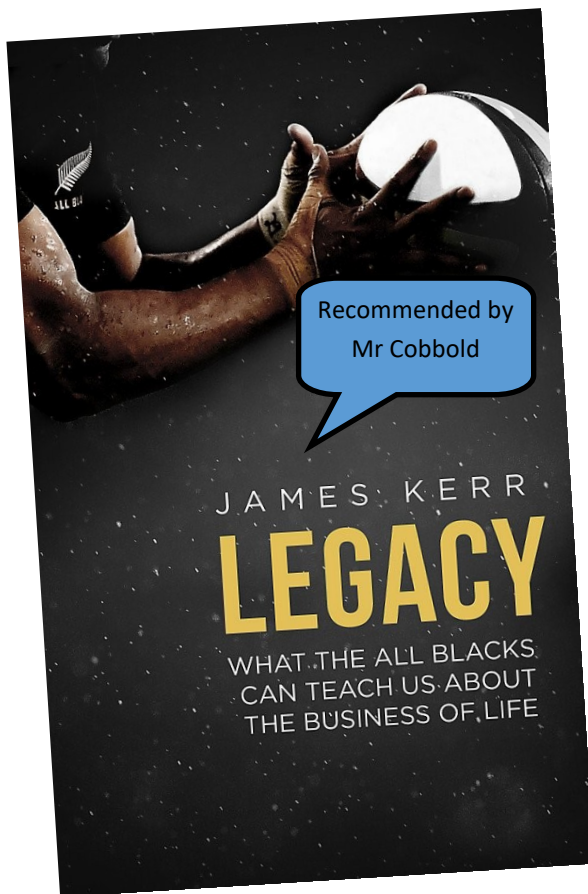


action. Whilst this proved a little ambitious for most of his classmates, twelve-year-old Trevor thought he would start by doing something good for three people. But instead of paying him back, he would ask them to "pay it forward" by doing a favour for three more people. If it all went to plan, Trevor thought, it would be the start of a long chain of human kindness.

Sound unlikely to you? Well a lot of other people had their doubts too: Trevor's teacher, his classmates, his mother and in fact everyone in his small California town. It could never really work... could it? Well find out for yourself, by reading one of the two editions - an adapted young reader's edition and the original book, with more adult content. Whichever book you choose to read, you can't fail to be inspired to 'pay it forward' and begin changing your community for the better.

## About Legacy by James Kerr....

*"They sweep the sheds. They follow the spearhead. They keep a blue head. They are good ancestors."* In *Legacy*, author James Kerr goes deep into the heart of 'the world's most successful' sporting team, the All Blacks of New Zealand, to reveal 15 powerful and practical lessons for leadership. In



their pursuit of outstanding performance, the team and coaches have come up with an approach that demands the highest of standards, that roots the team-members within history, culture, space and time, and yet values and supports each of them to succeed as people as much as players. It is a belief and values system that does not distinguish between life off or on the pitch. Players are people, and they need to be treated and challenged as

such. *Legacy* is a unique, inspiring handbook which asks: What are the secrets of sustained success? How do you achieve world-class standards, day after day, week after week, year after year? How do you handle pressure? How do you train to win at the highest level? What do you leave behind you after you are gone? What will be your legacy?



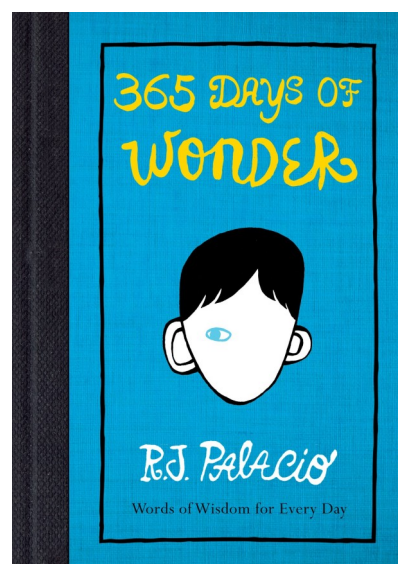
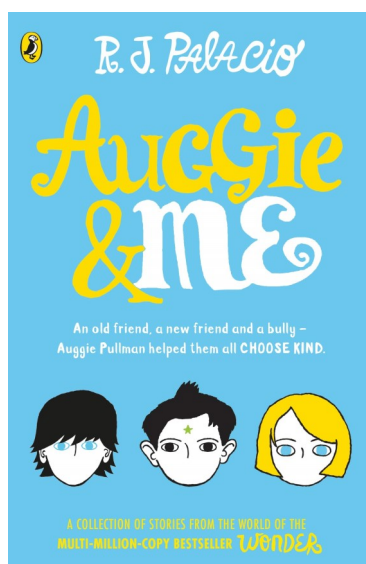
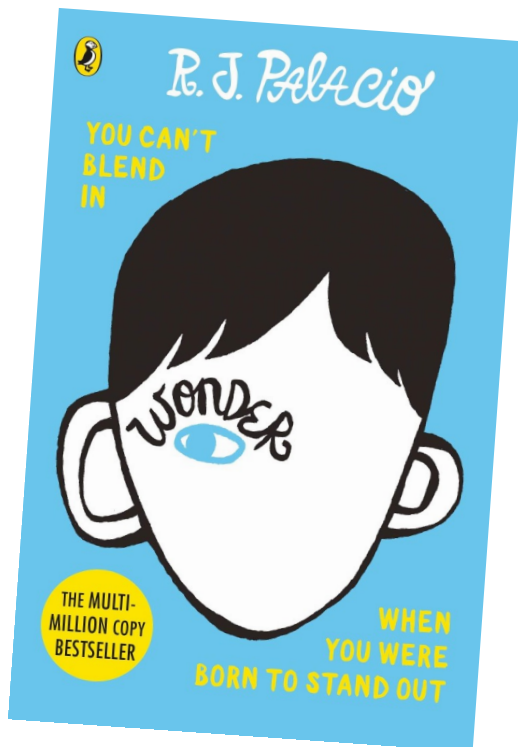
## About Wonder by R. J. Palacio...

Like most ten-year olds, August ('Auggie') Pullman just wants to be accepted at his new school, especially as he's been previously been home-schooled. However, Auggie can't help but stand out - he was born with a severe facial deformity.

Most people react with horror to his appearance and don't take the time to meet the smart, funny, Star Wars-loving boy underneath. Written partly in the first person, *Wonder* follows Auggie as he experiences more than the average ups-and-downs of friendships, family and school. The story is also told from the perspective of other characters, providing glimpses into their own behaviour and exploring the impact our actions can have on others. Thought-provoking, engaging and up-

lifting, this is a wonderful read with a powerful and simple message: we can all choose to be kind.

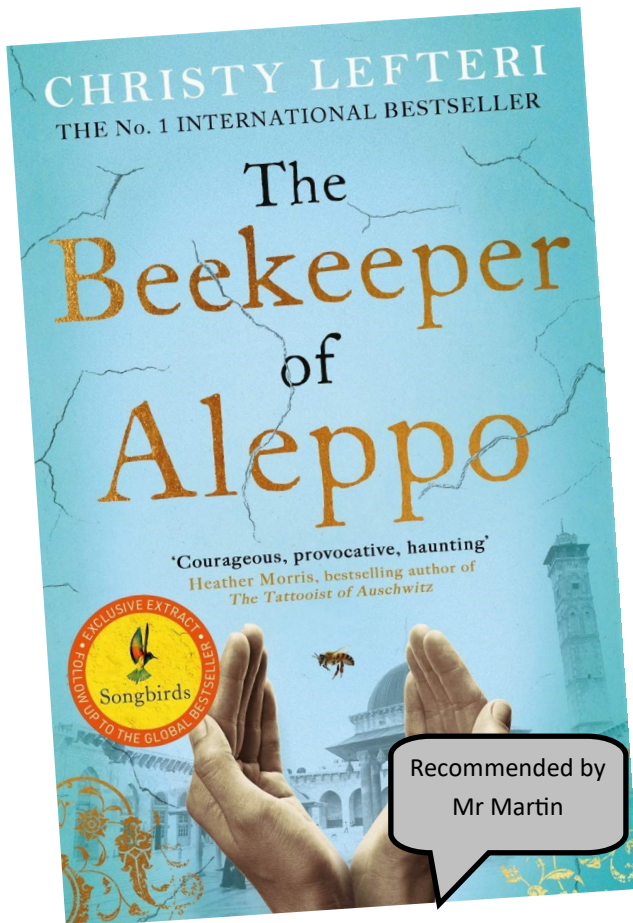
Also available in the 'Wonder' series...





## About The Beekeeper of Aleppo by Christy Lefteri....

*"In the midst of war, he found love. In the midst of darkness, he found courage. In the midst of tragedy, he found hope"*



What will you find from his story?

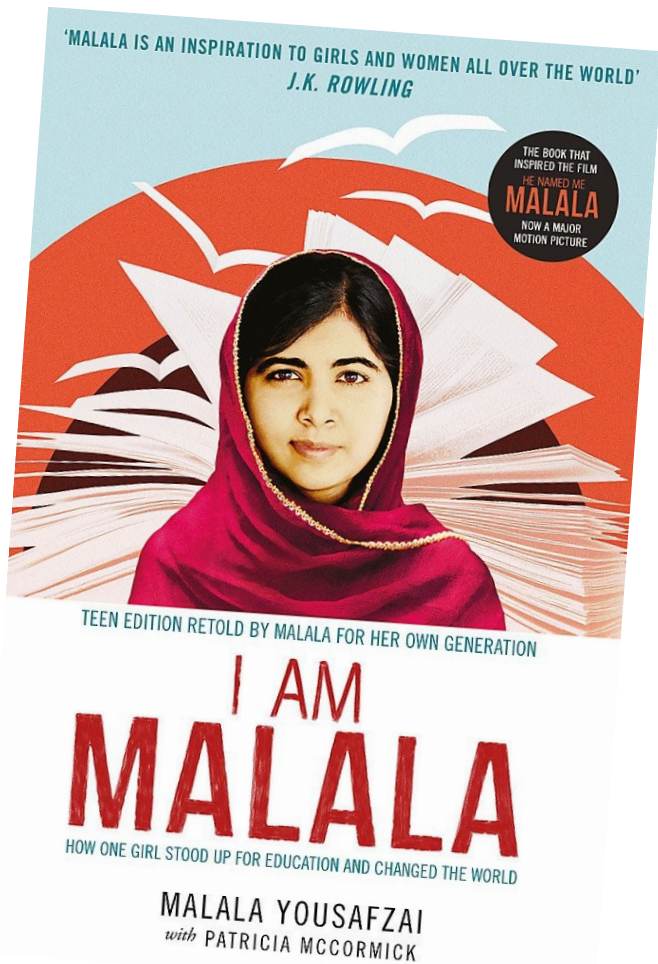
Nuri is a beekeeper; his wife, Afra, an artist. They live a simple life, rich in family and friends, in the beautiful Syrian city of Aleppo, until the unthinkable happens. When all they care for is destroyed by war, they are forced to escape. As Nuri and Afra travel through a broken world, they must confront not only the pain of

their own unspeakable loss, but dangers that would overwhelm the bravest of souls. Above all - and perhaps the hardest thing they face - they must journey to find each other again. Moving, powerful, compassionate and beautifully written, The Beekeeper of Aleppo is a testament to the triumph of the human spirit. Told with deceptive simplicity, it is the kind of book that reminds us of the power of storytelling.

**Suitable for Upper School Only**

## About I Am Malala by Alala Yousafzai...

I am Malala tells the remarkable true story of a girl who knew she wanted to change the world - and did. Raised in the Swat Valley in Pakistan, Malala was taught to stand up

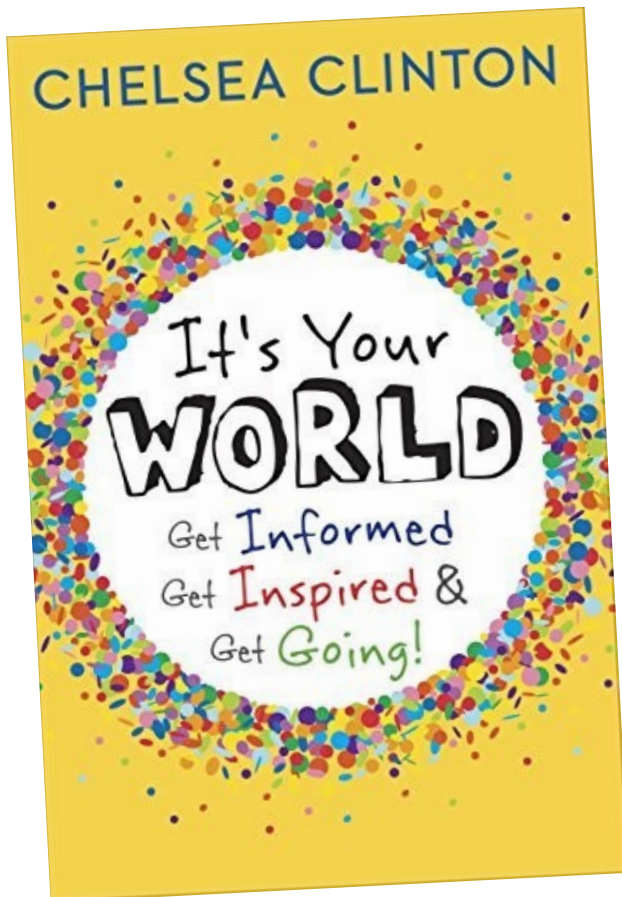


for her beliefs. When terrorists took control of her region and declared girls were forbidden from going to school, Malala fought for her right to an education. And, on 9 October 2012, she nearly paid the ultimate price for her courage when she was shot on her way home from school. No one expected her to survive. Now, she is an international symbol of peaceful protest and the

youngest person ever to win a Nobel Peace Prize. This teen edition is a first-hand account told in Malala's own words for her generation. (The paperback includes extra material, a Q&A and updated discussion notes). A must-read for anyone who believes in the power of change.

## About It's Your World by Chelsea Clinton...

Within the pages of Get Informed, Get Inspired & Get Going, Chelsea Clinton tackles some of the biggest challenges facing our world today, especially for kids. Using data, facts and stories she unpacks challenges



related to Poverty, Climate Change, Gender Equality, Health, Endangered Species and more. She also talks about what's being done to make a difference in each area, particularly by kids and teenagers. With lots of suggestions and ideas for action, Clinton shares her passion for helping others and shows readers that the world belongs to every single one of us, and every one of us counts.

Filled with visuals including charts, graphs and photographs, this book has the potential to influence an entire generation's activism and involvement in significant local and global issues.

**SO WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR - GET READING!!!**



## About Life Under Fire by Jason Fox...

Whether serving in the Special Forces, rowing across oceans or investigating some of the world's most notorious drug cartels, Jason Fox (former Special Boat Services and star of Channel 4's SAS: Who Dares Wins)



has overcome more than his fair share of emotional and mental conflicts. Now, he shares the tools he's developed at the peak of an elite military career and shows how you too can build the resilience and inner strength to overcome whatever challenges life puts in front of you. We have or will all face internal conflict, both at home, school and later at work. Some pressures threaten to crush us mentally, causing

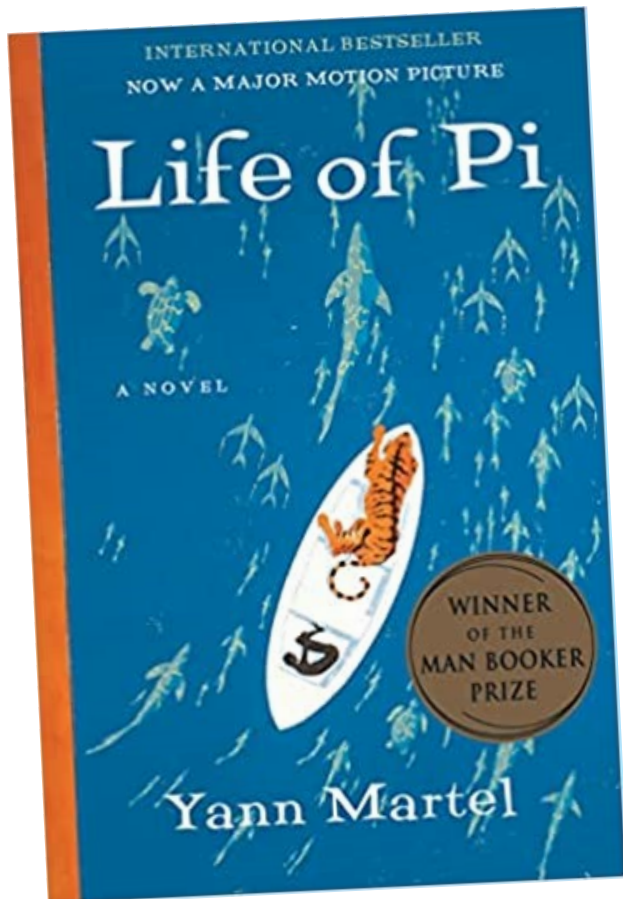
stress, anxiety and emotional turbulence. As Jason Fox recounts stories of the military operations and adventures that have tested his own resolve, Life Under Fire provides the tools required to overcome the toughest of internal battles and delivers the techniques we all need to become more resilient in life.

**Suitable for Upper School Only**



## About Life of Pi by Yann Martel...

This is the tale of a 16 year old Indian boy named Pi who, when he and his zoo-keeping family decide to transplant themselves and some animals to Canada, ends up stranded on a lifeboat with a hyena, a zebra, an orangutan and a



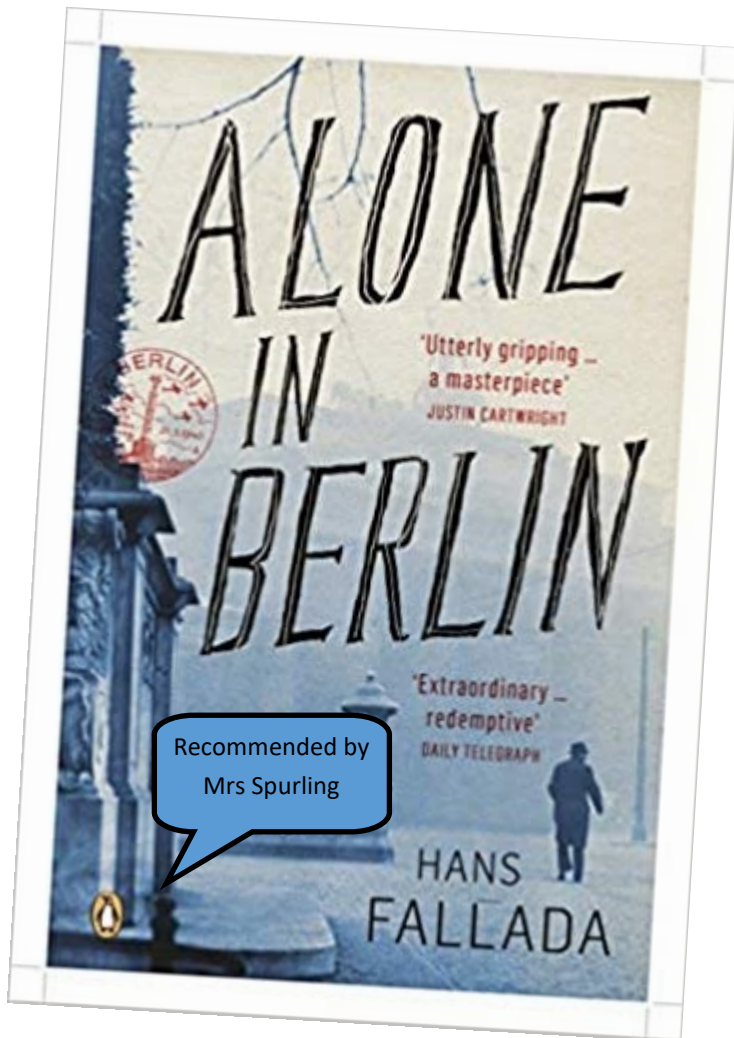
450-lb Bengal tiger named 'Richard Parker'. But, don't let the Rudyard Kipling-ness of the plot fool you! In reality, this book is an examination of faith in all its forms; young Pi loves God, and to prove it he becomes Christian and Muslim in addition to his native Hinduism. He also loves animals, and much of the book explores the relationship of animal and human psychology

in a vibrant, interesting way. The book will have you asking questions about life, beliefs, and society on just about every page. But when the reader gets to the end, you are forced to ask yourself what kind of person you really are. The Life of Pi will, at the very least, entertain through its sharp storytelling, but it can also help a reader examine how they see the world -and isn't that the point of great literature?

**Suitable for Year 8 and above**

## About Alone in Berlin by Hans Fallada...

Inspired by a true story, Hans Fallada's *Alone in Berlin* is a gripping wartime thriller following one ordinary man's determination to defy the tyranny of Nazi rule. It's Berlin,



1940, and the city is filled with fear. At the house on 55 Jablonski Strasse, its various occupants try to live under Nazi rule in their different ways: the bullying Hitler loyalists the Persickes, the retired judge Fromm and the unassuming couple Otto and Anna Quangel. Then the Quangels receive the news that their beloved son has been killed fighting in France. Shocked out of their quiet existence, they

begin a silent campaign of defiance as Otto begins to create handwritten cards denouncing the regime's abuses and lies, which he secretly deposits throughout Berlin. A deadly game of cat and mouse develops between the Quangels and the ambitious Gestapo inspector Escherich. Deception, betrayal and murder ensue, tightening the noose around the Quangels' necks.

**Suitable for Upper School Only**