

NEW CLASS READERS - Y9



TITLE

AUTHOR COMMENTS

Dr Franklin's Island	<i>Ann Halam</i>	* Main character is of African-Caribbean heritage. Exciting about science and genetic engineering. Some nasty points that are motivating to read. <i>Frankenstein</i> meets <i>Jacqueline Wilson</i> meets <i>Man from U.N.C.L.E.</i>
Edge, The	<i>Alan Gibbons</i>	* Excellent for looking at split narrative, with different characters' 'voices' in different chapters and fonts. Domestic violence, prejudice, but ultimately life-affirming.
Exodus	<i>Julie Bertagna</i>	* Fantastic futuristic yet familiar novel. Would be excellent to compare with Philip Reeves' <i>Mortal Engines</i> - this world is covered in water and there is much social tension between the classes.
Fat Boy Swim	<i>Catherine Forde</i>	* Brilliant class reader.
From Out of the Shadows	<i>Jamila Gavin</i>	* Wide-ranging selection on themes from ecology to love and personal freedom. Often provocative.
Hooky Gear	<i>Nick Barley</i>	* Simple vocabulary but adult issues.
Inventing Elliot	<i>Graham Gardner</i>	* A superb study of intimidation, bullying and personal choice. Many parallels with George Orwell's' <i>1984</i> .
Malarkey	<i>Keith Gray</i>	* Bullying - good for citizenship/gritty.
Mortal Engines	<i>Philip Reeve</i>	* Imaginative adventure story for boys and girls. Set in future world of Traction Cities and the Engineerium. A marvellous read with plenty about values to make you think and wonderful, inventive language.
Number 1 Ladies' Detective Agency, The	<i>Alexander McCall Smith</i>	* Detective fiction set in Botswana. Very good as group or guided work on short detective stories - excellent material, contrast to Sherlock Holmes. Potential use for Y9.
Pirates!	<i>Celia Rees</i>	* Gender issues explored in a gripping good yarn.
Private Peaceful	<i>Michael Morpurgo</i>	* First World War - narrator tells story of shooting for desertion.
Proctectors, The	<i>Pete Johnson</i>	* Theme of bullying.
Rabbit-Proof Fence	<i>Doris Pilkington</i>	* Useful for Drama work.
Rani and Suki	<i>Bali Rai</i>	* Set 100 yrs ago in Punjab and contemporary Leicester.
Remembrance	<i>Theresa Breslin</i>	* Tales of First World War told from different perspectives. Could be read independently. Could be compared with Michael Morpurgo's <i>Private Peaceful</i> .
Saskia's Journey	<i>Theresa Breslin</i>	* Dark issues.
Starseeker	<i>Tim Bowler</i>	* Bullying.
Tell the Moon to Come Out	<i>Joan Lingard</i>	* Set in 1939 Spain (post civil war). The country has been torn apart and Nick travels (illegally) to Spain to track down his father who fought on the Republican side. A good class reader.
Thursday's Child	<i>Sonya Hartnett</i>	* Beautifully written and highly original tale of the Flute family's struggle during The Australian Great Depression. Winner of the Guardian Fiction Award 2002.
Rough Guide to Books for Teenagers, The	<i>Nicholas Tucker & Julia Eccleshare</i>	* Timely and useful compendium of reviews to help secondary pupils, their teachers, parents and librarians make book choices.
Ultimate Book Guide, The	<i>Daniel Hahn & Leonie Flynn</i>	* Guidance in choosing books for 8-12 year olds. Very encouraging and readable.