



Year 8 Academic Book List 2023/2024



Humanities	
Subject	
English	Refugee Boy- Benjamin Zephaniah
	Refugee Boy is also an affirming story of one boy's amazing courage and several other individual's goodness and integrity. Caught up in the war between Ethiopia and Eritrea, Alem's life is in danger at home. To make sure he survives, Alem's father brings him to Britain and abandons him to seek asylum and find a new and better life. The story of how Alem retains his dignity and independence in the most challenging of circumstances while also adapting to the demands of a new life is strongly told. You will /will have looked at what it means to be a refugee and asylum seeker in term one.
Spanish	Cemetery Boys- Aiden Thomas
	When his traditional latinx family has problems accepting his gender, Yadriel becomes determined to prove himself a real brujo, with the help of his cousin and best friend Maritza. This ghost story about magic, acceptance and what it means to be your true self. This novel is written in English but unapologetically uses Spanish too.
Geography	Nowhere better Than here-Sarah Guillory
	For thirteen-year-old Jillian Robichaux, three things are sacred: bayou sunsets, her grandmother Nonnie's stories, and the coastal Louisiana town of Boutin that she calls home. When the worst flood in a century hits, Jillian and the rest of her community band together as they always do - but this time the damage may simply be too great. After the local school is padlocked and the bridge into town condemned, Jillian has no choice but to face the reality that she may be losing the only home she's ever had. With the help of friends new and old, a loveable golden retriever, and Nonnie's storytelling wisdom, Jillian's determined to find a way to keep Boutin and its indomitable spirit alive a timely and heartfelt story of family, survival, and hope. You look at the causes and consequences of flooding this year.
History	Private Peaceful- Michael Morpurgo
	Set during World War I, Private Peaceful charts eight hours in the life of Tommo, a young soldier at the Front, as he looks back over the formative events of his life: his father's early death, his relationship with his loving mother and brothers, Big Joe and Charlie, and their beloved schoolfriend Molly – all set among an evocative and beautifully realised rural landscape. Passionate, beguiling and moving, this award-winning story is also an unflinching examination of the horrors of war and the injustice surrounding the execution of soldiers by firing squad, on the – often false – grounds of desertion or cowardice. Michael Morpurgo uses all his superb storytelling skills to weave this powerful, poignant tale of the horrors of World War I. This ties in with your topic How the First World War affected civilians and soldiers.
STEM	
Maths	Counting by 7's- Holly Goldberg Sloan
	Willow Chance is a twelve year old genius, obsessed with nature and diagnosing medical conditions, who finds it comforting to count in 7's. This is a great cross curricular read as Willow's perceptions of people, her interaction and her routine are driven by her extreme intelligence and enthusiasm for particular things, like Maths, food, hygiene and the environment. It sets her apart and she like it that way. Great for fans of Wonder.
Science	How To: Absurd Scientific Advice for Common Real-World Problems from Randall Munroe
	By exploring the most complicated ways to do simple tasks, The Author doesn't just make things difficult for himself and his readers. he invites us to explore the most absurd reaches of the possible. Full of clever infographics and amusing illustrations, How To is a delightfully mind-bending way to better understand the science and technology underlying the things we do every day.
Computer Science	I, Ada – Julia Gray
	This is the story of Ada Lovelace -the world's first computer programmer, as she grows up with a strict mother and absent but famous father. This story is steeped in history and has great links to feminism. We especially love Ada's characteristics and voice- it's a wonderful, witty and poignant portrayal of her young life.
Food and Nutrition	The Baking life of Amelie Day
	Amelie Day is a keen baker with hopes of taking her talent further. Unfortunately, her dreams are hampered by cystic fibrosis, as disease which affects her lungs and digestive system. This delicious book is not just recipes which you would try at home- it's a great head start for biology.
Art and Sports	
Drama	Noughts and Crosses
	Callum is a Nought - a second-class citizen; Sephy is a Cross. In their world, Noughts and Crosses don't mix. Can Callum and Sephy find a way to be together? In what has already become a modern classic, award-winning author Malorie Blackman tackles the issues of prejudice and racism in a way that will thoroughly engage and inspire you.
Art	Warhol by Klaus Honnef
	Drawing on contemporary advertisements, comic strips, consumer products and Hollywood's most famous faces, Warhol proposed a radical re-evaluation of what is considered artistic.
Music	The Kingdom of Back by Marie Lu
	The historical fantast novel tells the tale of lesser known story of Maia Anna (Nannerl) Mozart, the older sister of Wolfgang Amadues Mozart. In this thrilling read, you will discover to what dangerous lengths Nannerl will go to make history remember her-a girl who cannot even compose. This fictional story highlighted the life of female aspiring musician during the 18th Century
P.E	Kicking Off-Eve Ainsworth
	It is 1917 and Britain is at War. Hettie wants to help the war effort and signs up to work in the local Dick, Kerr & Co munition factory. For inside this factory are young women who are about to make sporting history.