

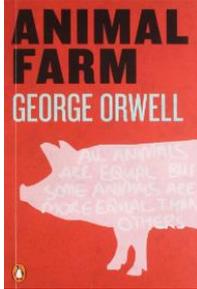
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Novels



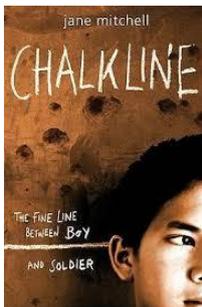
Animal Farm (1945) by George Orwell

The animals at Manor Farm have overthrown their master and are looking forward to a life of freedom and equality. But their celebrations are short-lived as the pigs, led by Napoleon and Snowball, gradually rise as their new rulers. Orwell's satire of idealism destroyed by corruption is as relevant now as it was over seventy years ago.



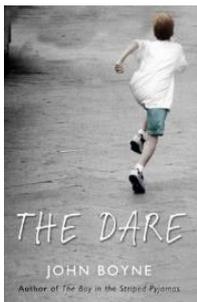
The Book of Lost Things (2007) by John Connolly

As World War II rages, twelve-year-old David is living in London, struggling with the loss of his mother and his father's remarriage. David seeks comfort from the books on his bedroom shelf, until one day they begin to whisper to him, guiding him to the magical land he calls Elsewhere. This chilling but moving fantasy novel is an imaginative take on fairytales and mythical stories, as David learns how to cope with loss and face the realities of life.



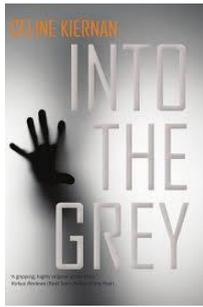
Chalkline (2009) by Jane Mitchell

Searching for new recruits, soldiers of the Kashmir Freedom Fighters raid a rural village and draw a chalk line on the classroom wall, taking any boy tall enough to reach it. Nine-year-old Rafiq is the first boy to cross the chalk line and overnight his family existence is swapped for a life of brutality and violence as he is transformed into a boy soldier. His sister Jameela cannot forget her brother, but when their paths finally cross again will Jameela recognise this soldier for who he truly is? A powerful and moving story from a prize-winning Irish author.



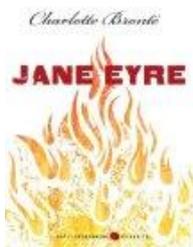
The Dare (2009) by John Boyne

Danny Delaney is excited for the summer holidays and freedom from school, but on one single moment Danny's life is turned upside down. His mother accidentally knocks over a small boy in her car, and the whole Delaney family is shattered. The boy is in a coma and Mrs. Delaney, full of guilt, closes herself off from those around her, while Danny and his father try to pick up the pieces. A short, compelling story from an award-winning Irish author.



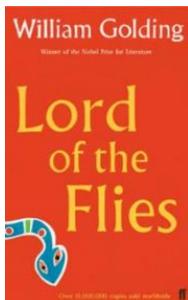
Into the Grey (2011) by Celine Kiernan

When they move to a seaside cottage with their family, Pat begins to see changes in his twin-brother Dom, changes that Pat thinks are linked to the ghost of a boy that has been spotted in the area. With their parents oblivious to what's going on, Pat must do all he can to solve the mystery that lies 'within the Grey' and save his brother. Children's Books Ireland Book of the Year 2012 and Children's Books Ireland Children's Choice Award 2012, this is a heart-pounding, psychological thriller from an Irish author.



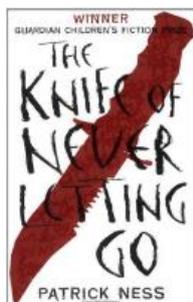
Jane Eyre (1847) by Charlotte Brontë

Jane Eyre ranks as one of the greatest works of English fiction. Although the poor but plucky heroine is of plain appearance, she possesses an indomitable spirit, a sharp wit and great courage. A troubled childhood strengthens Jane Eyre's natural independence and spirit, which prove necessary when she becomes governess at Thornfield Hall. When she finds love with Rochester, the discovery of his terrible secret forces her to make a choice.



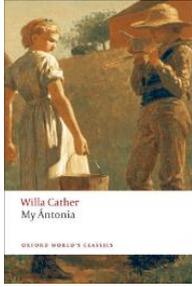
Lord of the Flies (1954) by William Golding

A plane crashes on an uninhabited island and the only survivors, a group of schoolboys, assemble on the beach waiting to be rescued. As time passes and fear mounts, the group becomes a tribe and once-innocent games begin to take on a more sinister undertone. Free from the constraints of society, the boys begin to reject the civilised behaviour they have been taught at school, and start to live a more impulsive life with devastating consequences.



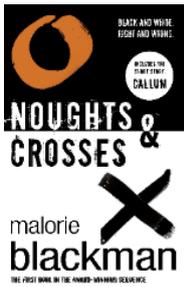
The Knife of Never Letting Go (2008) by Patrick Ness

Todd Hewitt is the only boy living in Prentisstown, a settlement on the recently populated planet of New World. There are no women on the planet, having been wiped out by the native Spackle, but the remaining men can hear one another's thoughts, creating a constant stream of 'Noise'. In one month Todd will turn thirteen and officially become a man, but when he explores what this will mean for him, he uncovers a disturbing truth about his home. A gripping take on how society can cope with information overload.



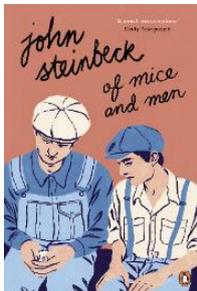
My Antonia (1918) by Willa Cather

The first in a trilogy, *My Antonia* follows two children who meet when relocating to the harsh Nebraska land at the end of the 19th century. Antonia Shimerda, daughter of Bohemian immigrants, and orphan boy Jim Burden, are neighbours who become close childhood friends. As they grow older their lives take very different paths, but Jim will never forget their time together and the lasting impression that Antonia had on his life.



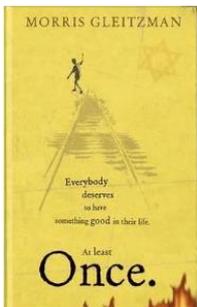
Noughts and Crosses (2001) by Malorie Blackman

The first instalment in a series set in an alternate reality where Africa holds technological advantage over Europe. African people once kept Europeans as slaves, and although slavery has been abolished, segregation still exists to separate the noughts (white people) from the crosses (black people). Against this backdrop, Sephy and Callum, friends from the two opposing communities, tell their story.



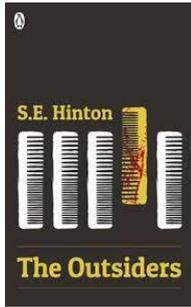
Of Mice and Men (1937) by John Steinbeck

George and Lennie are drifters with big plans to one day buy some land of their own and finally settle down. Lennie relies on George to help him control his emotions and keep him out of trouble, but when the two men get work on a ranch in California, things take a terrible turn and this time even George's quick thinking won't be enough to help poor Lennie. A moving story of friendship, loneliness and the dispossessed.



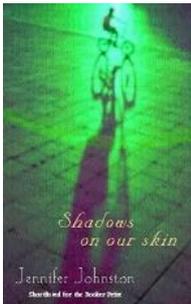
Once (2006) by Morris Gleitzman

In Nazi occupied Poland, Felix has spent the last 3 years living in an orphanage, convinced that his parents are still alive. When the chance arises, he runs away from the convent and makes his way across the country in search of his family, befriendng a young girl and a kindly dentist along the way. A gripping tale set against the back-drop of the Holocaust, this is the first in a series of novels about Felix.



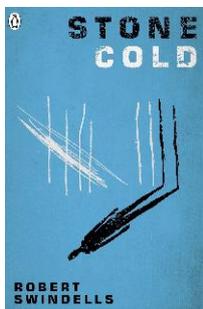
The Outsiders (1967) by S.E. Hinton

In a small Oklahoma town, teenagers are split between two gangs, the Socs and the Greasers. Divided by money, taste and attitude, their frequent fighting finally comes to a head when one night things go too far. Written by Hinton when she was just seventeen years old, this novel addresses some of the pressures of teen life including unrequited love, pregnancy and political awakening.



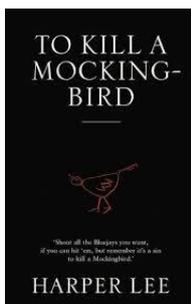
Shadows on Our Skin (2002) by Jennifer Johnston

In 1970's Derry, twelve-year-old Joe Logan is caught between the conflict at home with his alcoholic father, and the Troubles raging outside his door. A sensitive boy, he seeks comfort in his writing and the tentative friendship that is growing between him and young teacher Kathleen Doherty. When Joe's brother Brendan returns from London, he brings money, a gun, and a rage that turns Joe's life upside down.



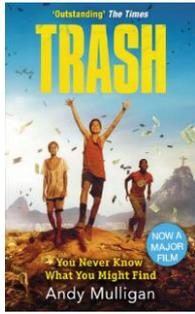
Stone Cold (1993) by Robert Swindells

A young adult thriller telling the story of Link, a 17 year old boy who finds himself living on the streets of London at the same time as a serial killer who is determined to rid the city of the homeless. Link doesn't trust many people, but he finds a friend in young Deb, not realising that she is an undercover journalist trying to track down the killer. Carnegie Medal-winner with a gripping plot.



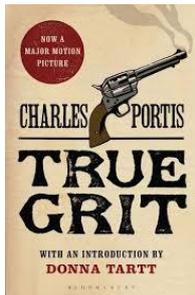
To Kill a Mockingbird (1960) by Harper Lee

"Shoot all the blue jays you want, if you can hit 'em, but remember it's a sin to kill a mockingbird" is the advice lawyer Atticus Finch gives to his children as he defends the real mockingbird of Harper Lee's classic novel - a black man charged with the rape of a white girl. Told through the memories of Finch's young daughter, Scout, the book tackles the issues of race, justice and human morality in 1930's Alabama.



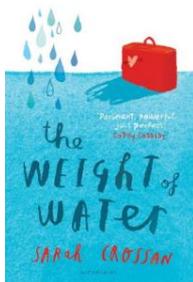
Trash (2010) by Andy Mulligan

The story of fourteen-year-old Raphael, a dumpsite boy, and his friends Gardo and Rat, who make ends meet by sifting through rubbish on a landfill. They're always searching for something valuable, but get more than they bargain for when they discover a leather bag containing a wallet, a key and a map. The boys have their biggest adventure yet when they become caught up in a web of political corruption.



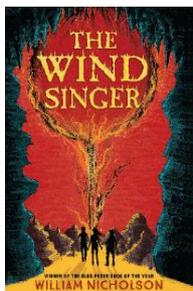
True Grit (1968) by Charles Portis

On a trip to buy ponies, Frank Ross is killed by one of his own workers. Tom Chaney shoots him down in the street for a horse, \$150 cash, and two Californian gold pieces. Ross's unusually mature and single-minded fourteen-year-old daughter Mattie travels to claim his body, discovers that the authorities are doing nothing to find Chaney, and sets out to avenge her father's death.



The Weight of Water (2013) by Sarah Crossan

A novel written in verse, this is the story of Kasienska and her mother who have travelled from Poland to begin a new life in England, bringing just a suitcase and a laundry bag full of clothes. Kasienska struggles to adjust to her new life and school while her broken-hearted mother tries to track down her father, but things start to look brighter when Kasienska meets a boy. A moving tale of immigration, alienation and first love.



The Wind Singer (2001) by William Nicholson

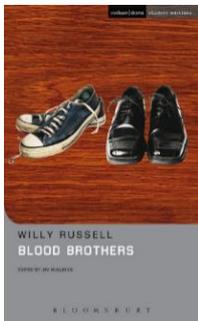
In the walled city of Aramant rules are everything and people live within the confines of a strict caste system. When Kestrel Hath rebels against this harsh society, her whole family is punished. In a bid to save them, Kestrel and her twin brother Bowman find themselves on a quest to defeat the evil Morah who controls Aramant, and return the voice to the Wind Singer. An award-winning novel, this is the first instalment in the Wind on Fire Trilogy.

Drama



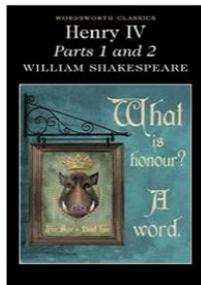
Alone it Stands (Samuel French) (2004) by John Breen

A comedy about Munster's 12-nil victory over the All Black's at Thomond Park in 1978. With sixty-two characters, people from all walks of life are represented, including Munster fans, Limerick locals and the rugby players themselves. A fast-paced play that captures the excitement of this unprecedented event. Themes include social class, daily-life, and courage.



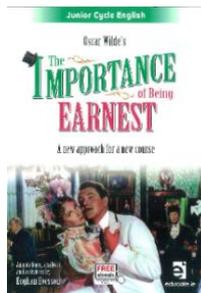
Blood Brothers (1995) by Willy Russell

Set in Liverpool, this is the tale of twins Mickey and Edward, separated at birth when their mother cannot afford to keep them both. Mickey stays at home and Edward is sent to be raised by the wealthy Mrs. Lyons, both boys oblivious of their fraternity. In the vein of West Side Story, Mickey and Edward become good friends, but tragedy strikes when they fall for the same girl and the truth eventually comes out.



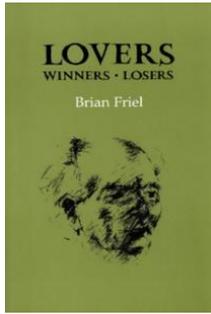
Henry IV (Part 1) by William Shakespeare (Wordsworth Classics) (2013)

King Richard II is dead and Henry IV is the new king of England, but he is troubled by the circumstances under which he earned the title and would like to pay penance. Meanwhile, Wales and Scotland are threatening rebellion and Henry is losing support from the same nobles who helped his rise to power, with very little help from his wayward son Prince Hal. An historical drama studying the themes of power, warfare, family, rules and order.



The Importance of Being Earnest (Educate.ie) (2015) by Oscar Wilde

John 'Jack' Worthing lives in the countryside with his ward, Cecily, but takes frequent visits to London to meet his fictitious brother 'Ernest'. Meanwhile, in London John is known as 'Ernest' by everyone, including the lady he loves. When John's country life comes face-to-face with his city life, things get complicated and some surprising revelations come to light. A witty farce addressing themes of social class, relationships, hypocrisy, and the role of men and women in society.



Lovers (Winners and Losers) (1985) by Brian Friel

Winners and Losers are two short plays about two different sets of lovers in 1960's Ireland. In Winners a teenage couple are expecting a baby while struggling with the pressure of preparations for their final school exams and their upcoming wedding. In Losers, a couple in their forties are no less passionate, but have to deal with the ups and downs of marriage as they live with the woman's invalid mother. Both plays look at love and marriage, religion, the role of men and women in society.



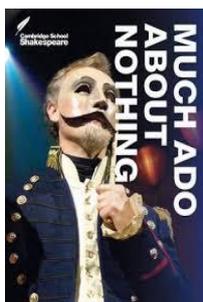
The Merchant of Venice (Forum Publications) (2013) by William Shakespeare

Wealthy merchant Antonio agrees to loan his friend Bassanio some money so that he can woo his beloved. However, Antonio is cash-poor and borrows the money from Jewish moneylender Shylock, under the condition that he will owe Shylock a pound of his flesh if the loan is not repaid on time. Bassanio wins his lady, but disaster strikes when Antonio's ships are lost at sea leaving him unable to repay his debt. A Shakespearean comedy addressing the themes of revenge, justice, mercy, love and self-interest.



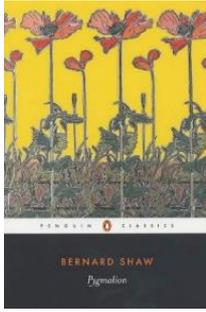
A Midsummer Night's Dream (New Cambridge Shakespeare) (2016) by William Shakespeare

One of Shakespeare's most popular comedies, this play tells the story of two lovers and their rejected suitors, who all flee to the woods and find themselves at the mercy of the fairies when they are caught up in their quarrels and mischief. The themes of magic, dreams and love are all dealt with in this amusing tale.



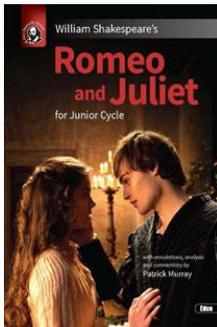
Much Ado About Nothing (Cambridge University Press) (2014) by William Shakespeare

A young couple, Hero and Claudio, fall in love and decide to get married. Benedick and Beatrice are singletons and sparring partners who spend their time swapping insults and ignoring their true feelings for one another. A week before the wedding, Hero and Claudio develop a plot to unite the bickering pair. A light-hearted comedy and love story exploring themes of deception, romance and honour.



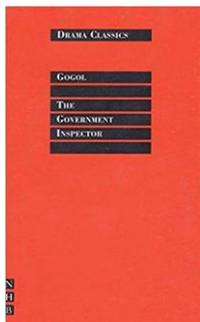
Pygmalion by George Bernard Shaw (Penguin) (2003) by George Bernard Shaw

On meeting cockney flower girl, Eliza Dolittle, professor of phonetics Henry Higgins accepts a bet that he can teach the young lady to speak like a duchess. As the play progresses, Henry is pleased to see Eliza become more refined, but not so sure when she begins to assert her individuality as well. An amusing play that addresses themes of class, poverty, relationships and the role of women.



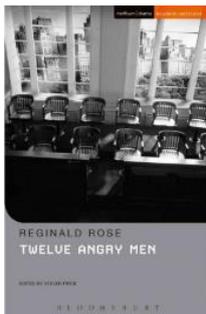
Romeo and Juliet (Educational Company of Ireland) (2014) by William Shakespeare

Set in 16th century Verona, this Shakespearean tragedy tells the story of the Montagues and Capulets, whose long-time feuding has destroyed the peace of their city. When young Romeo Montague and Juliet Capulet fall in love, they know they will not be allowed to marry, and so they conspire to run away together. But their careful plan falls apart, and their families pay the ultimate price. A story of forbidden love, fate and the destructive power of hatred.



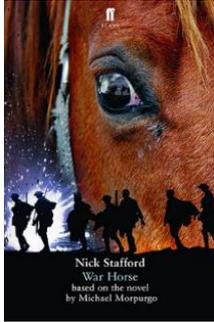
The Shadow of a Gunman by Seán O'Casey (Samuel French) (2013)

Set in the Dublin tenements of the 1920's, poet Donal Davoren is mistaken for a member of the IRA who is on the run. Donal takes advantage of the notoriety, eager to impress would-be freedom fighters and get the attention of the attractive Minnie Powell. But gradually the truth comes out and this 'shadow' of a gunman is exposed as a coward. A play about those who were victims of their times, with themes of deception, war, religion, nationalism, poverty and love.



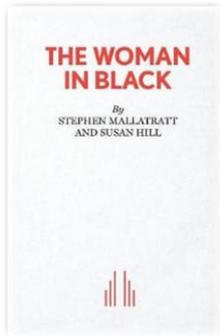
Twelve Angry Men (2016 student edition, originally written in 1955) by Ross Reginald

A twelve-man jury must reach a unanimous decision on whether or not to sentence a young man to death. At the outset, eleven of the jurors agree the man is guilty, but the remaining member of the jury is not so sure. His 'reasonable doubt' causes him to question the evidence at hand and forces the other jurors to reassess their own verdict. A gripping play that addresses themes of justice, truth, prejudice and the power of conviction.



War Horse (2014) by Nick Stafford, based on the novel by Michael Morpurgo

An incredibly moving story about a boy called Albert and his horse Joey. At the outbreak of the First World War, Joey is sold to the army and thrust into the midst of the war on the Western Front. Albert is devastated and sets off in search of his beloved horse, determined to bring him back home. This successful adaptation of the novel deals with the themes of war, friendship, loyalty and courage.



The Woman in Black (1987) by Stephen Mallatratt, based on the novel by Susan Hill

A retelling of Susan Hill's ghost-story, this play sees the elderly solicitor Arthur Kipps recounting events of his visit to the remote town of Crythin Gifford. Following the death of a client, Alice Drablow, Arthur agrees to travel to Eel Marsh House and sort through her papers. Once there, he begins to see a woman in black and discovers too late why the local townsfolk avoid the estate at all costs. A spooky tale dealing with the themes of fear, revenge, conspiracy and the supernatural.