

South Dublin Libraries Children's Services

Classroom Novels: Annotated List

September 2018



25 - 30 copies of each title available for a 2 month loan to schools located in the South Dublin County Council area.

Please contact South Dublin Libraries Headquarters on 01-4597834 or by email (<mailto:Sdonnelly@sdublincoco.ie>) for more information.

A Synopsis of the Classroom Readers Service:

A Primary School level reading service set up to allow a set of 25-30 books to be borrowed by a Primary School/Class located within the South Dublin County Council region for a period of 60 days (roughly 2months). The service provides a selection of over 90 titles to choose from, with a diverse range of novels that cater for pupils from 1st class right through 6th.

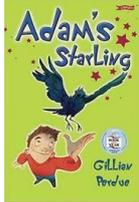
How the Classroom Readers Service Operates:

All books/sets are issued onto a Classroom Readers Library card under the school's name so that no one teacher is responsible for the set on their own personal library card. This in turn also allows multiple sets to be borrowed by the same school at the same time (the max is 4 sets at any one time). Once issued the books are delivered out to the school by one of South Dublin County Council's Mobile Library drivers. The Mobile Library drivers will also be available to collect the sets from the school after the 60 day loan period is up.

Items to Note When Using the Classroom Readers Service:

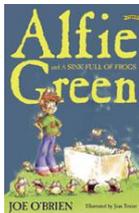
- School's must be located within the South Dublin County Council catchment area.
- The loan period for all sets is 60 days. Unlike normal library items Classroom Reader sets are not renewable or reservable.
- The service operates on a first come first served basis. We advise you choose 6 titles in order of preference when making your choices.
- When sets are delivered please sign and return tracking sheet provided to the Mobile Library driver.
- Class and/or age suitability of books are given only as a guide.
- For further information please contact South Dublin Library Headquarters on 01-4597834 or by email (<mailto:Sdonnelly@sdublincoco.ie>)

Class and/or age suitability are given as a guide only to teachers.



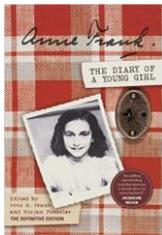
Adam's Starling, Gillian Perdue

Adam is shy and a dreamer, a boy who is bullied at school, but who has a special friend, a starling, who follows him to school each day. Then his starling needs help and Adam finds his courage and learns to stand up for himself. This is an exceptional and captivating story very suitable for 5th and 6th class.



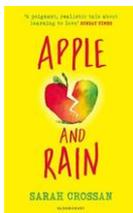
Alfie Green and the Bee-Bottle Gang, Joe O'Brien

This is the third book in the ever popular Alfie Green Series that is suitable for the emerging reader. In this story Alfie must use his Grandad's magical book and orchid to gain access to the land of Arcania. There he is hoping to meet the Queen Bee in Honeycomb Mountain. Children in late 1st and early 2nd class will enjoy this.



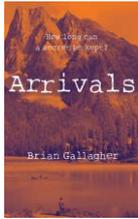
Anne Frank: The Diary of a Young Girl, Anne Frank

In July 1942, thirteen-year-old Anne Frank and her family, fleeing the occupation, went into hiding in an Amsterdam warehouse. Over the next two years Anne vividly describes in her diary the frustrations of living in such close quarters, and her thoughts, feelings and longings as she grows up. Her diary ends abruptly when, in August 1944, they were all betrayed. For 5th and 6th class pupils.



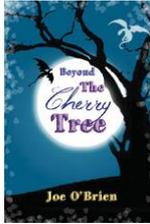
Apple and Rain, Sarah Crossan

When Apple's mother returns after eleven years of absence, Apple feels whole again. She will have an answer to her burning question - why did you go? And she will have someone who understands what it means to be a teenager - unlike Nana. But just like the stormy Christmas Eve when she left, her mother's homecoming is bitter sweet, and Apple wonders who is really looking after whom. It's only when Apple meets someone more lost than she is, that she begins to see things as they really are. Suitable for 5th and 6th class.



Arrivals, Brian Gallagher

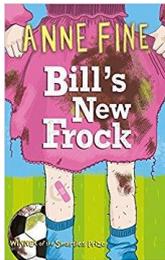
In 1920s Canada, a summer of fun for three friends is destroyed by a frightening crime. Almost a century later, teenager Ciara Farrelly visits her dead grandfather's Ontario home and tries to solve the mystery surrounding it. Suitable for 4th to 6th class.



Beyond the Cherry Tree, Joe O'Brien

When Josh Bloom and his friends visit Cherry Tree Manor on a school trip what really interests the class is the mystery about the manor's owner, General Edgar Pennington, who disappeared exactly twelve years before. Everyone hopes to find a clue to where the general has gone. Then Josh discovers something in the manor library that sends him on an adventure of a lifetime – to the land beyond the cherry tree.

Josh's quest is one of magic, danger and excitement, true friends and terrifying enemies; a quest to fulfil his own destiny. But will he ever return from beyond the cherry tree? Suitable for 4th to 6th classes.



Bill's New Frock, Anne Fine

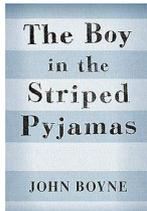
Bill Simpson wakes up to find he's a girl, and worse, his mother makes him wear a frilly pink dress to school. How on earth is he going to survive a whole day like this? Everything just seems to be different for girls . . .

Suitable from 1st class onwards.



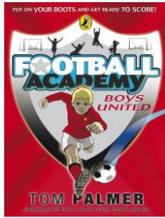
Blood upon the Rose: Easter 1916, Gerry Hunt,

The rebellion that set Ireland free, told as a graphic novel. The 1916 Easter Rising was an attempt by a small group of militant Irish republicans to win independence from Britain. It was the most significant rebellion in Ireland. Though a military failure, it set Ireland on the road to freedom from Britain. The book covers the story from the early planning to the final executions and includes the tragic romance between Joseph Plunkett and Grace Gifford. Following on from the success of political graphic novels such as Maus and Persepolis, this is accessible, informative and insightful history at its best. Very suitable for 5th and 6th classes.



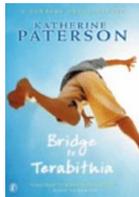
Boy in the Striped Pyjamas, John Boyne

This is Irish author John Boyne's first children's book. It is a haunting tale of the Holocaust as seen through the eyes of nine year old Bruno, the son of the German commander of a concentration camp. In the summer of 1943 this nine-year-old boy moves from his comfortable life in Berlin to Poland, where his father has an important new job. Bored and resentful, Bruno wonders why there are no windows on one side of his house. Why too is he forbidden from visiting something outside only referred to as "the fence"? A movie of the same title was released in 2009. This is a 6th class read.



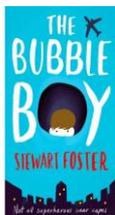
Boys United, Tom Palmer

The first book in the Football Academy series follows Jake who dreams of becoming a professional footballer but worries that he may be too small. When Jake is successful at the trials for United's under-twelves, he can't wait to pull on his shirt and join the team. But someone at the club wants to make his life difficult. Can Jake face up to the bullies and become man of the match again? A great read for boys in 2nd to 4th classes.



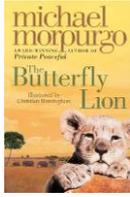
Bridge to Terabithia, Katherine Paterson

It was the new girl, Leslie, who invented Terabithia, a magical kingdom in the woods beyond the dry creek bed. Here, Jess is king; he is strong, unafraid and unbeatable. Then one morning a terrible tragedy occurs. Only when Jess is able to come to grips with this tragedy does he finally understand the strength and courage Leslie has. Suitable for 4th to 6th class.



The Bubble Boy, Stewart Foster

Eleven-year-old Joe can't remember a life outside of his hospital room, with its beeping machines and view of London's rooftops. His condition means he's not allowed outside, not even for a moment, and his few visitors risk bringing life-threatening germs inside his 'bubble'. But then someone new enters his world and changes it forever. The Bubble Boy is the story of how Joe spends his days, copes with his loneliness and frustrations, and looks - with superhero-style bravery, curiosity and hope - to a future without limits. Expect superheroes, super nurses and a few tears from this truly unique story. Suitable for 5th and 6th class.



The Butterfly Lion, Michael Morpurgo

The Butterfly Lion tells the story of a boy running away from school who meets an old lady. She tells him a wonderful story about a boy called Bertie, who finds a white lion cub in Africa. Bertie is sent away to boarding school in England and the lion cub is sold to a French circus man. Bertie vows never to forget his friend. The book follows Bertie's journey through the First World War and his search for and eventual reunion with the lion. Heartened by the woman's tale, the student returns to school. This adventure story demonstrates the values of courage and friendship and of keeping promises. It is suitable for 3rd class onwards.



A Cage of Roots, Matt Griffin

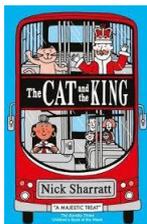
Magic exists beneath our feet, if we only know where to look. Growing up in a New York orphanage, Ayla has no idea she has Irish roots. It is not until she comes to Ireland that she finds out just how deep her roots really are...

Suitable for 5th and 6th class.



Candle in the dark, Adele Geras

Set at the brink of the Second World War, this is the story of two Jewish children who have to travel from Germany to England by the 'Kindertransport'. It tells of their experiences of life in a strange country with a new family and of their fear of never seeing their parents again. Suitable for 4th and 5th class.



The Cat and the King, Nick Sharratt

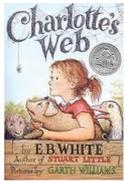
The Cat and the King, tells the story of a gentle, unworldly King and his very clever cat, and is illustrated throughout in two colours with Nick's irresistible wit and humour. The cat and the King must find a new home after their castle burns down in an unfortunate incident with a dragon. They choose Number 37 Castle Close, and the cat introduces the King to all sorts of new experiences, from washing-up to shopping. Then danger looms when the pesky, fire-breathing dragon makes its return. Suitable for 2nd class onwards.



Cave of Secrets, Morgan Llywellyn

When Tom feels rejected by his father, he finds a secret second family among the group of smugglers who trade in and around Roaringwater Bay. Though Tom doesn't know it, his family in the Big House is under huge pressure. His father has had savage losses in business; his mother is always sad and worried, and his sisters have no hopes for a good future. This is seventeenth-century Ireland when cut-throat interests control everybody and everything, and land-grabbing is the order of the day. Friend turns into foe, and loyalty counts for nothing. From his new family, Tom learns all about boats and smuggling – and secret treasure. And then Tom discovers the best-kept secret of all...

Suitable for 5th and 6th class.



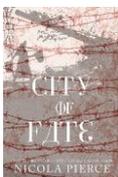
Charlotte's Web, E.B White

A magical story of how a little girl named Fern saves her pig Wilbur from the usual fate of nice fat little pigs. She is helped by a friendly spider, Charlotte. One of the best selling books in publishing history, this book covers themes such as friendship, sadness, the passing of time and how the simple things in life are often the most pleasing. This classic will appeal in the main to girls but all children should be encouraged to read it. It also works well as a read aloud book. 3rd and 4th class.



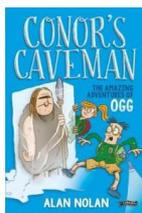
Chop-Chop, Mad Cap!, Juliette Saumande

Madgie Cappock a.k.a. Mad Cap is a rambunctious tomboy who is addicted to chocolate and origami. Together with her best friend Norbert Soup they attempt to set up a rent-a-hero agency. Mad Cap has her hands full solving mysteries involving a missing butcher, morse codes, and secret passages and along the way learns some useful ways to deal with the unexpected. 2nd to 4th class.



City of Fate, Nicola Pierce

Sunday 23 August 1942 is an important day for Yuri Grossman. It is his fourteenth birthday and also the day that the Nazis began their carpet-bombing campaign of Stalingrad, which continued every day for the next two weeks. Facing overwhelming odds, it will take all his determination and wits to survive. Emotionally taut, this novel will transport the reader into the very heart of the Second World War and the lives of children caught in the middle of history. For 5th and 6th classes.



Conor's Caveman, Alan Nolan

Life could be better for Conor Corcoran. Class bully Damian Deegan is always teasing him about being small and having no friends – when in fact Conor has the only friend he needs in Charlotte 'Charlie' Finch, the toughest girl in school. But when Conor and Charlie accidentally uncover a prehistoric man who was flash-frozen in a block of ice, life suddenly gets a bit *too* interesting! How long can Conor keep his huge, hairy (and rather smelly) new 'uncle' a secret from his mum, his teachers and a gang of ruthless scientists? For 10+



Coraline, Neil Gaiman

When Coraline steps through a door to find another house strangely similar to her own (only better), things seem marvelous. But there's another mother there, and another father, and they want her to stay and be their little girl. They want to change her and never let her go. Coraline will have to fight with all her wit and courage if she is to save herself and return to her ordinary life. Suitable from 4th class onwards.



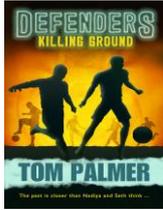
Danger is Everywhere, David O'Doherty

This fully illustrated, totally wacky handbook is about an everyman who is afraid of everything! Dr. Noel Zone, the greatest (and only) dangerologist in the world, is ready to teach readers how to avoid danger at all costs--from sneaky snakes posing as toothbrushes, to sharks hiding in toilets, to robots disguised as kindly grandmas. After all, DANGER IS EVERYWHERE, and we need to be prepared! With art on every page, this hilarious and truly creative handbook will have readers laughing out loud (very safely) from start to finish. Suitable for 5th and 6th classes.



Dave Pigeon, Swapna Haddow

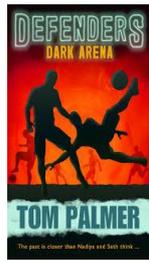
Dave Pigeon is writing a book on how he defeated Mean Cat in order to help fellow pigeons everywhere. Cats beware! A hilarious debut for 6+ readers with black and white illustrations.



Defenders: Killing ground, Tom Palmer (Book 1 in series)

Everyone is freaked out when circles of scorched earth start appearing in Halifax – on the moors, the parks and even the football pitches. Seth is most disturbed of all – he sees the shadows of the past. But when he looks into a Viking’s murderous eyes and smells the stink of burning flesh, Seth knows he must stop this cycle of supernatural suffering.

With his friend Nadiya, can he discover the dark history behind the forces attacking their town? Suitable for 2nd class onwards.

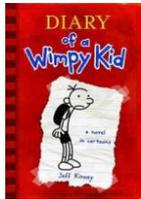


Defenders: Dark Arena, Tom Palmer (Book 2 in series)

It's meant to be a stress-free holiday in London, but suddenly Seth and Nadiya will need all their skills as Defenders. Ghostly activity is threatening a Premier League club as they build a new stadium on Roman ruins. One worker has already met a grisly death - and many other lives are in danger. The horror of modern injustice seems to have woken the spirits of the past.....

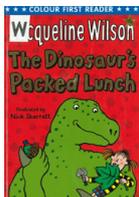
What can the Defenders do to change things?

The action-packed follow-up to Killing Ground in the Defenders series. Suitable for 2nd class onwards.



Diary of a wimpy kid, Jeff Kinney

It's a new school year, and Greg Heffley finds himself thrust into middle school, where undersized weaklings share the hallways with kids who are taller, meaner, and already shaving. The hazards of growing up before you're ready are uniquely revealed through words and drawings as Greg records them in his diary. This is a funny book in diary format that children of all ages and abilities can enjoy. For 8+



Dinosaur's Packed Lunch, Jacqueline Wilson

Dina is sad, her class have gone on a school trip to the dinosaur museum and everyone has a tasty lunch – except Dina. But Dina soon meets a new friend and has her very own special packed lunch.

Coloured illustrations and clear well spaced print make this a perfect book for early readers.



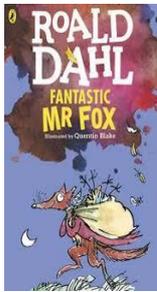
Doom Rider, David Gatward

Seth Crow has lived a thousand lives, and in each one he's been murdered before he turns thirteen. And now he's being hunted again. But this time it's different. Enter Lily, who tells him of his fate: Seth is CONQUEST. The first of the four riders of the Apocalypse. And people want him dead, before he can fulfil his destiny. For 4th class onwards.



The Easter Rising 1916: Molly's Diary, Patricia Murphy

Easter 1916. The Great War rages in Europe with two hundred thousand Irishmen fighting in the British Army. But a small group of Irish nationalists refuse to fight for Britain and strike a blow for Irish freedom. Caught up in the action in Dublin, is twelve-year-old Molly O'Donovan. Her own family is plunged into danger on both sides of the conflict. Her father, a technical officer with the Post Office dodges the crossfire as he tries to restore the telegraph lines while her wayward brother runs messages for the rebels. Molly a trained First Aider, risks her own safety to help the wounded on both sides. As violence and looting erupts in the streets of Dublin alongside heroism and high ideals, Molly records it all. The Proclamation at the GPO, the battle of Mount Street, the arrival of the British Troops. But will Molly's own family survive and will she be able to save her brother? This is her diary. For 10+



Fantastic Mr. Fox, Roald Dahl

Fantastic Mr Fox is a children's classic that never fails to get all young readers laughing out loud! Boggis is an enormously fat chicken farmer who only eats boiled chickens smothered in fat. Bunce is a duck-and-geese farmer whose dinner gives him a beastly temper. Bean is a turkey-and-apple farmer who only drinks gallons of strong cider. Mr Fox is so clever that every evening he creeps down into the valley and helps himself to food from the farms. Now the farmers have hatched a plan to BANG-BANG-BANG shoot Mr Fox dead. But, just when they think Mr Fox can't possibly escape, he makes a fantastic plan of his

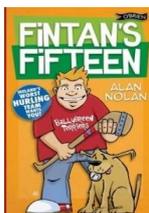
own...

Perfect for 2nd and 3rd class.



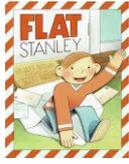
Fields of Home, Marita Conlon-McKenna

The final book in the famine trilogy
For Eily, Michael and Peggy the memory of the famine is still strong. But Mary-Brigid, Eily's first child, has the future to look forward to. What kind of future is it? Ireland is in turmoil, with evictions, burnings, secret meetings, fights over land. Eily and her family may be thrown off their farm. Michael may lose his job in the big house. And Peggy, in America, feels trapped in her role as a maid. Will they ever have land and a home they can call their own? Eily, Michael and Peggy have once shown great courage. Now this courage is called on again. Suitable for 4th class onwards.



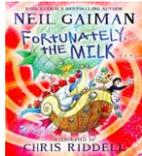
Fintan's Fifteen, Alan Nolan

Ray is tired of losing every match he plays with his team, the Ballybreen Terriers. Before they become the laughing stock of the leadership, Ray persuades Fintan Heffernan, ex-star player of U10's to leave his early retirement and computer games to help bring his rival 'Dirty Den' down and lead the Ballybreen Terriers to the victory they deserve. For 10+



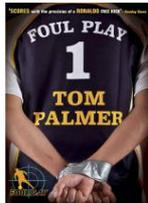
Flat Stanley, Jeff Brown

Stanley Lambchop's life changes when he is flattened by a large notice board. His parents worry but Stanley soon discovers the perks of being flat. He can fly like a kite, travel through the post and even help to catch thieves. This is a great book, for 1st and 2nd class, about overcoming obstacles and dealing with the unexpected.



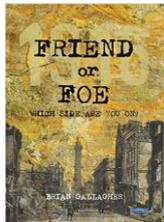
Fortunately, the milk... , Neil Gaiman (Illustrated by Chris Riddell)

Mam's away. Dad's in charge. There's no milk. So before breakfast, Dad has to go to the corner shop, and this is the story of why it takes him a very, very long time to get back. Find out just how odd things get in this hilarious and quirky story of time travel and breakfast cereal. 3rd and 4th classes will enjoy this.



Foul Play, Tom Palmer

Danny Harte is obsessed with two things- watching football and tackling crime. So when his hero, the legendary footballer Sam Roberts, is kidnapped, Danny gets on the case, and fast. Danny was being chased through the streets on the dark night Roberts disappeared, and was the last person to see Roberts before he went missing. Now Danny wants an answer to the question on everybody's lips - who would hold England's star striker to ransom - and why? Suitable for 3rd class onwards.



Friend or Foe, Brian Gallagher

When Emer Daly saves Jack Madigan from drowning it seems that the two children will be friends for life. Eight months later, however, they are on opposite sides in a life and death struggle, when Dublin city is torn apart in the Easter Rising. With their young lives in turmoil, what will come first – friendship, family or loyalty to a cause? For 5th and 6th class.



George's marvellous medicine, Roald Dahl

George's grandmother is not like everyone else's. She is mean and nasty so George decides to concoct his own medicine to try to change her. But things don't go to plan. George's greedy father wants George to make more medicine so that he can become famous. However, the results are unexpected and wickedly hilarious. 2nd and 3rd class.



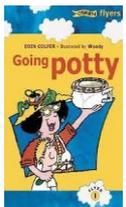
Giggler Treatment, Roddy Doyle

Mr. Mack is about to step foot-first into a fate he doesn't deserve. This hilarious tale begins with a simple man, Mr. Mack, heading for his job as a cookie taster...but also heading for a terrible (and awful smelly) fate. Is it an accident? Or are the mischievous Gigglers (elfin creatures who punish wayward adults) responsible? Find out in this thoroughly silly tale that reveals the truth of what happens to grownups that are mean to children! 3rd and 4th classes will love this.



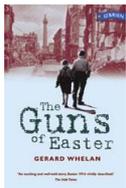
Girl called Blue, Marita Conlon-McKenna

Larch Hill orphanage is the only home Blue knows; though she dreams of a family of her own. She is wild and outspoken and finds it hard to stick to the strict rules and routine of the home. She suspects that the truth about her birth lies in the files in Sister Regina's office and is determined to discover the secret of her true identity. Very suitable for 5th and 6th class.



Going Potty, Eoin Colfer

Ed Cooper's a senior infant now and that means using the big boys' toilet. Ed needs 'to go' but he just can't. The big white toilet is very different to the junior infants' loo -- with no lock on the door and goodness knows what hiding 'down there'! What can Ed do? He can't hold on forever. Maybe, just maybe, there's a way out -- Gran's potty. Gran's potty is no ordinary potty but can it help save the day? Perfect for early readers!



Guns of Easter, Gerard Whelan

Set during the 1916 Rising this book features Jimmy Conway, a twelve year old boy living in the slums of Dublin. Jimmy's father is fighting in WW1 with the British army and his uncle is a member of the rebels fighting for Irish independence. Jimmy struggles with this conflict of loyalties and with the immediate danger of living in a war-torn city. This book will appeal to 6th class readers.



Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone, J.K. Rowling

Harry Potter has never even heard of Hogwarts when the letters start dropping on the doormat at number four, Privet Drive. Addressed in green ink on yellowish parchment with a purple seal, they are swiftly confiscated by his grisly aunt and uncle. Then, on Harry's eleventh birthday, a great beetle-eyed giant of a man called Rubeus Hagrid bursts in with some astonishing news: Harry Potter is a wizard, and he has a place at Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry. An incredible adventure is about to begin! Suitable for 9+



Hodgehog, Dick King-Smith

Max the hedgehog and his family dream of reaching the Park but no one has ever found a safe way of crossing the busy road. Whilst trying to solve the problem, Max receives a nasty bump to the head, becomes a Hodgehog and starts getting all his words confused. However, he is determined not to let this stop him fulfilling his mission. Funny, adventurous and inspiring, this book will appeal to the younger readers age 7 - 9.



Holes, Louis Sachar

Holes tells the story of Stanley, a meek, overweight, and very unfortunate boy. His bad luck dates back to a curse laid on his great-great grandfather. Stanley is sent to a juvenile detention centre for a crime he didn't commit. There he must dig holes every day which the Warden says is character building but Stanley senses there is something more going on. Stories of the past and present are threaded neatly together through flashback. There are lots of characters including a famous bank robber Kissin' Kate Barlow. The book is exciting, action packed and full of twists and will appeal to 5th and 6th class readers.



Horrid Henry and the Secret Club, Francesca Simon

Another adventure from Horrid Henry. Everyone's favourite awful child. Suitable for 1st class onwards.



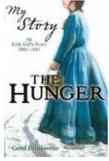
How to Look for a Lost Dog, Ann M. Martin

11-year-old Rose is autistic and struggles to understand her classmates. But when her father gives her a stray dog, which she names Rain, the dog becomes her best friend, her anchor in a confusing world. So when Rain goes missing during a storm, Rose refuses to stop looking for her...A touching story from the beloved author of The Babysitters Club. For 3rd class onwards.



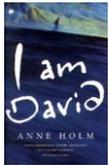
The Hundred-Mile-An-Hour Dog, Jeremy Strong

Trevor's mum has offered him £30 to walk the dog every day of the holidays. But Streaker is no ordinary dog, she's a rocket on four legs, part Ferrari, part whirlwind! Trevor enlists the help of best friend Tina to keep Streaker under control. This hilarious read is suitable for 2nd to 4th classes.



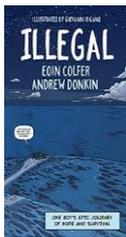
The Hunger: An Irish Girls Diary 1845 – 1847

This title is part of Scholastics *My Story* series which offers imagined accounts of life in the past. Set in Ireland during the famine the book tells the story, in diary entry format, of Phyllis, a young girl who works hard to support her struggling family. The story begins in the months preceding the outbreak of potato blight that destroyed the crops and left her family starving and continues throughout the years of the famine. 5th and 6th classes will enjoy this entertaining yet informative book.



I am David, Anne Holm

This is a story about a young boy's epic journey across Europe, and his budding emotions and sense of the wonder of life. David escapes from a concentration camp and flees across Europe. He is all alone, who can he trust and what awaits him when he finally gets back home? David's extraordinary journey is dramatically chronicled in this classic about the meaning of freedom and the power of hope. Suitable for 5th and 6th class.



Illegal, Eoin Colfer

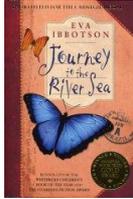
This is a powerful and timely story about one boy's epic journey across Africa to Europe, a graphic novel for all children with glorious colour artwork throughout. From Eoin Colfer, previously Irish Children's Laureate, and the team behind his bestselling *Artemis Fowl* graphic novels.

Ebo is alone. His sister left months ago. Now his brother has disappeared too, and Ebo knows it can only be to make the hazardous journey to Europe. Ebo's epic journey takes him across the Sahara Desert to the dangerous streets of Tripoli, and finally out to the merciless sea. But with every step he holds on to his hope for a new life, and a reunion with his sister. For 10+



Jake Cake. The Robot Dinner Lady, Michael Broad

Jake Cake is an ordinary kid who likes writing and illustrating stories about his adventures. He swears they're all true, but no one ever believes him. Children will enjoy his zany adventures as he discovers the school dinner lady is a robot, he has goblins in his garden and he's tricked by a really tricky witch. Three short easy to read and funny books in one. Suitable for 2nd and 3rd class.



Journey to the River Sea, Eva Ibbotson

Maia Fielding is an orphaned English girl. In 1910, when she gets an opportunity to live with distant relatives in Manaus, on the Amazon, her friends warn her about alligators, piranhas and hostile Indian tribes. But Maia dreams of living amidst colourful birds and curtains of orchids, surrounded by a loving family. Eva Ibbotson has written many enjoyable books for children on strange, magical creatures. This book is very different. Its world is very real, and exotic. The characters are well-drawn, though out of the ordinary. Young readers are sure to cheer for Miss Minton and her support for Maia, Finn and Clovis. Suitable for 4th class onwards.



Kensuke's Kingdom, Michael Morpurgo

Michael is a twelve year old boy who is stranded on a desert island with his dog. There is no food and water to drink and eat. Michael curls up ready to die but when he opens his eyes there is food and fresh water - he is not alone on the island. This book shows how, given time, complete strangers can grow to be the closest of friends. Kensuke's Kingdom was short listed for the Whitbread Children's Book Award and it is easy to see why! Suitable for 4th class onwards.



Kings of the Boyne, Nicola Pierce

Two kings, three young soldiers. One battle to end all battles. Eager to prove his courage and defend his family honour, young Irish noble Gerald O'Connor rides his warhorse Troy north in King James's cavalry. Brothers Robert and Daniel Sherrard march south from the once-besieged city of Derry with King William's army. The chosen field of battle – the Boyne – lies waiting, where victory will decide who rules the lands of England, and of Ireland. And the fighting will decide who survives the deadly game of war. Suitable for 5th and 6th classes.



The Little Black Sheep, Elizabeth Shaw

This charming book tells the adventures of an outcast little black sheep: how he saved the whole flock in a snowstorm, put Polo the bossy sheepdog in his place - and gave the shepherd a great idea! Fine line drawings illustrate this simple and memorable story. A story about being different, and being a hero. Perfect for beginner readers!



Love, Lucie, Marita Conlon-McKenna

Love, Lucie has all of the same ingredients as Marita Conlon-McKenna's other successful stories: a family setting, siblings coping with emotional upheaval, and exceptionally warm writing about harrowing events. This title is set in a modern era in contemporary middle-class Dublin. The novel follows a year in the life of 10-year-old Lucie and is told in the form of letters to her mum who has just died.

Young readers, especially girls, will respond to Lucie's situation and sadness with sympathy. They will also love this window into another family and its everyday mechanics: cooking meals, door slamming, music lessons, visiting the dentist -- albeit without Mum being around. Ages 10-12.



The Magnificent Toby Plum, Deirdre Ryan and Deirdre Cowman

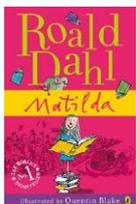
Toby Plum wishes he could be just like everybody else but everything changes when a funny little creature appears at his window. When Toby goes on his magical adventure he learns that the world around us is full of magnificent differences. He learns to appreciate the things that make him unique and special and stops comparing himself to other people.

After all, life would be pretty boring if we were all the same! This book promote positive body image to primary school children and teachers and parents will find resources to accompany it at www.magnificentlyu.com. The subject matter could be covered in any class from 2nd to 6th.



Making Millions, Erika McGann

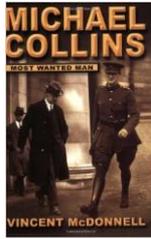
Cass and her best friends, Lex and Nicholas, are the Bubble Street Gang! They investigate crimes, solve mysteries and have brilliant adventures. They've even got their own secret clubhouse. The gang need money and quick, and they have some super-genius ideas on how to make it! Like Operation Start a Company, Make Loads of Money for Nicholas's Project and Probably Also Become Millionaires! But Cass also has a mystery to solve. Who is the invisible boy? And why can't anyone else see him? Join Cass and the Bubble Street Gang as they start Making Millions. Suitable for 2nd class onwards.



Matilda, Roald Dahl

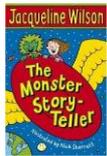
Matilda Wormwood is misunderstood by her parents since the day of her birth. Matilda is an exceptional, gifted, and almost supernatural child born to very average, unintelligent, and unimaginative parents. Matilda's parents have called her some terrible things. The truth is, she's a genius and they're the stupid ones. Find out how she gets the better of them and her spiteful headmistress, as well as discovering that she has a very special power.

For 9+



Michael Collins: Most Wanted Man, Vincent McDonnell

Michael Collins is one of the most famous figures in Irish history. A farmer's son from West Cork, he became the most wanted man in the British Empire, a minister in the first Irish government and Commander-in-Chief of the Irish army. Action-packed and full of information, this new biography for young readers follows Michael as he takes part in the 1916 Easter Rising, plans a guerrilla war against the British and helps to negotiate the treaty that led to the Irish Civil War. The story ends with the ambush at Béal na mBláth in County Cork during which Michael was killed by his former comrades. For 10+



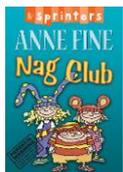
Monster Story-Teller, Jacqueline Wilson.

One morning at school, Natalie is feeling bored – until a tiny monster waves at her from a plant on the classroom window sill. The monster whizzes her off in his mini flying saucer for some MONSTER FUN. Now Natalie really has some monster stories to tell. An exciting funny story which is part of the Colour First Reader series and is ideal for emergent readers. 1st and 2nd class.



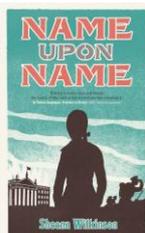
Mr Majeika, Humphrey Carpenter

This is one of a series of books that feature Mr Majeika. A good book for children who have just started to read as it has simple text and good illustrations. Class Three get a new teacher who arrives on a magic carpet! Fun and adventure follows. 2nd and 3rd class.



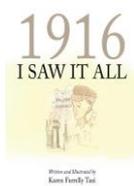
Nag Club, Anne Fine

Boggle hats are the latest thing. Everybody at school wants one - but only Lola, expert parent-nagger, actually has one. So she decides to form a club to show the other children how best to nag their parents into buying them one. However, when the children try some of these nags out, they get mixed results - and discover that the best way of all is either just to be pleasant and polite and say please, or even earn a bit of money and buy one for themselves! This is an enjoyable read with a worthwhile message suitable for 7 to 9 year olds.



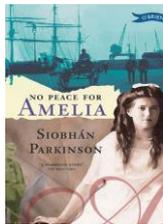
Name Upon Name, Sheena Wilkinson

Belfast in 1916. Fourteen-year-old Helen is shaped by her mixed background – rural, Catholic Irish values from her mother; urban, Protestant Ulster values from her father. Helen's older cousins are her idols: Sandy, who joined the army straight from school and has already seen action in France, and Michael, who runs away from home to enlist. But before he leaves for France, Michael is deployed to Dublin to help quell the Rising, where he's expected to open fire on his fellow Irishmen, and Sandy writes home about terrible things on the front. What exactly are they fighting for? For 5th and 6th Classes.



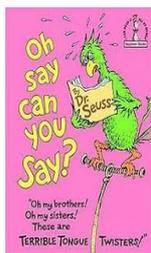
1916 I Saw It All, Karen Farrelly Tazi

Set in Boland's Bakery, in Dublin's Grand Canal Dock, *1916 I Saw It All*, tells the story of Mathew Farrelly, who is caught in the crossfire of the Easter Rebellion, with only his beloved bay mare to comfort him. Mathew is concerned about his mother's safety, being uncertain whether she is attending the wounded in Hanlon's Fishmongers in Moore Street or fighting alongside the rebel soldiers in the GPO. This young boy's account of the Rising of 1916 is set against a backdrop of key figures of the rebellion: Countess Markievicz, Commandant de Valera, Nurse Elizabeth O'Farrell, and Michael Walker, Ireland's Olympic cyclist.



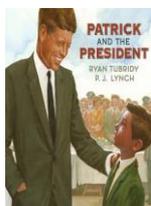
No Peace For Amelia, Siobhan Parkinson

It's 1916 but Amelia Pim's thoughts are on Frederick Goodbody and not on the war in Europe. Then Frederick enlists. The pacifist Quaker community is shocked but Amelia is secretly proud of her hero and goes to the quayside to wave him farewell. For her friend MaryAnn, there are problems too, with her brother's involvement in the Easter Rising. What will become of the two young men and what effect will it have on the lives of Amelia and MaryAnn? For 5th and 6th classes.



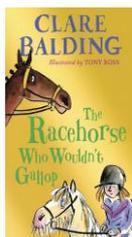
Oh Say, Can you Say?, Dr. Seuss

Tongue twisters abound in this classic Dr. Seuss Beginner Book! Originally created by Dr. Seuss, Beginner Books encourage children to read all by themselves, with simple words and illustrations that give clues to their meaning. Perfect for beginner readers!



Patrick and the President, Ryan Tubridy

When the beloved president visited Ireland in 1963, he described it as the best four days of his life. And for a generation of Irish people, it was a trip they never forgot. This warmly told, bighearted picture book captures the fevered excitement in the buildup to the president's visit, all seen through the eyes of a young boy named Patrick who wants to know more than anything what it would feel like to shake the president's hand. Rooted in historical fact and marking the centennial of John F. Kennedy's birth, this feast of a book offers readers a pure and personal take on JFK's visit to County Wexford, Ireland.



The Racehorse Who Wouldn't Gallop, Clare Balding

Charlie Bass is a horse-mad ten-year-old who dreams of owning her own pony. So when she accidentally manages to buy a racehorse, Charlie is thrilled. The horse she buys, Noble Warrior, looks the part: strong, fit and healthy. There's just one problem - he won't gallop. In fact, he won't even leave his stable without his best friend, a naughty palomino pony called Percy. Charlie is convinced that Noble Warrior has what it takes to be a champion. But can she prove it? Derby Day is fast approaching and only a win can save the family farm from being repossessed. The stakes couldn't be higher for the Basses. Can Charlie turn her chaotic family into a top training team? Can Noble Warrior overcome his nerves? Will Percy the pony ever stop farting? Find out in this classic, funny animal story. For 2nd class onwards.



Rover and the Big Fat Baby, Roddy Doyle

The BFB (Big Fat Baby) is missing! Can Rover the wonder dog and his little nephew Messi (who is actually very tidy) track her down? While Rover and co. are hot on the trail of the BFB, via Granny Mack's backpack, the post lady's basket and a plane bound for Africa, it looks like the Gigglers are about to run out of poo ...And without an urgent delivery from Rover, how will they be able to give the Giggler Treatment to grumpy adults and help kids all over the country? For 3rd and 4th class.



Ruby the Red Fairy, Daisy Meadows

When Rachel and Kirsty meet on the ferry to Rainspell Island one summer holiday, they have no idea that such incredible adventures with the fairies await them!

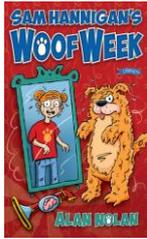
In this first book in the series, Rachel and Kirsty meet Ruby the Red Fairy at the end of the rainbow...

Suitable for 1st class onwards.



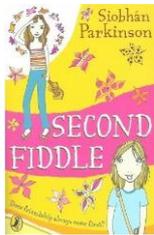
Rugby Spirit, Gerard Siggins

Eoin has just started a new school ... and a new sport. Everyone at school is mad about rugby, but Eoin hasn't even held a rugby ball before! With new rules to learn, new friends to make and new teachers to get a handle on, he really doesn't need to have Richie Duffy, the resident bully, picking him out as his latest target! And just who is this guy, Brian, who looks so out-of-date, but gives great rugby advice? A great read particularly for boys that even reluctant readers will enjoy. Suitable for 4th class onwards.



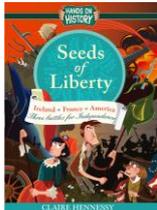
Sam Hannigan's Woof Week, Alan Nolan

Animal lover and champion Irish dancer Samantha Hannigan is having a truly woof week. She and her best friend Ajay were messing around with the Brain Swap 3000, one of her grandad's crackpot inventions, and now Sam is stuck inside the body of her neighbours' dog – and it'll be days before they can change her back! How long can they pretend Sam is just dressing up in a dog costume for charity? Are her chances of winning the big dance competition scuppered? What's going on behind closed doors at Roger Fitzmaurice's dog-biscuit factory? And, um, why has Sam suddenly started to chew on slippers and bark at the moon? For 3rd class onwards.



Second Fiddle, Siobhan Parkinson

Aspiring writer, Mags Clarke has just moved with her mother to a new area after the death of her father. One day she stumbles across a girl who appears to be floating above the trees while playing her violin in the woods. Mags, clever, funny and opinionated, usually has her feet firmly on the ground so she's not sure that she and this girl are going to get on, but an unlikely friendship develops. For 10+



Seeds of Liberty, Claire Hennessy

It is the eighteenth century, and revolutionary ideas are spreading – The Boston Tea Party in 1773, the French storming the Bastille in 1789 and the Irish Rebellion of 1798. *Seeds of Liberty* is divided into three parts, each told from the point of view of a young character caught up in revolutionary events in Boston, Paris and Wexford respectively. Each story is told in a diary format, allowing the reader see through the protagonists eyes as they witness, and take part in, historic events and grapple with ideas of revolution, liberty and nationhood. For 10+



Silver Sword, Ian Serraillier

This classic novel was first published in the UK in 1956. It has also been published in the U.S. under the title *Escape From Warsaw*. The story is based upon fact, although imaginary names are given to a few of the places mentioned. Alone and fending for themselves in a Poland devastated by World War Two, Jan and his three homeless friends cling to the silver sword as a symbol of hope. As they travel through Europe towards Switzerland, where they believe they will be reunited with their parents, they encounter many hardships and dangers. This extraordinarily moving account of an epic journey gives a remarkable insight into the reality of life in war-torn Europe. Particularly suitable for 5th and 6th class.



SOS Lusitania, Kevin Kiely

Fact is often stranger than fiction. In May 1915, during the First World War, the huge liner, the *Lusitania*, sank off the coast of Cork. But unlike the *Titanic*, this was no accident. This story is told by thirteen year old Finbar who runs away from home to follow his sea-captain father onto the *Lusitania*. On the return journey from New York, Finbar realises that all is not well. Strange things are happening on the liner. But what can he do and who can he trust? Suitable for 5th and 6th classes.



Spirit of the Titanic, Nicola Pierce

Fifteen-year-old Sam plunges to his death whilst building his beloved Titanic. Now as the greatest ship the world has ever seen crosses the Atlantic, Sam finds himself on board - as a ghost. For 10+



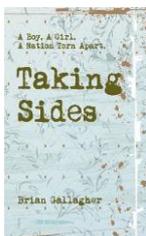
Spy Dog, Andrew Cope

Lara, or GM451 as she is known by the government, is a highly trained special agent, bred by the British Secret Service for use on dangerous missions around the world. Lara must go undercover as a normal dog, 'choose' a family to look after her and await her retrieval by the Secret Service. But can she keep her true identity a secret? Can she thwart the plans of Mr Big? And can she bear to return to government service, after weeks of cosy domestic bliss? After an exciting struggle, Mr. Big is captured and Lara finds a way to stay with her family. Cope has written 3 other titles featuring the spy dog and children in 3rd and 4th class will enjoy them all.



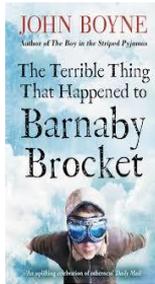
Swallows and Amazons, Arthur Ransome

The Walker children - also known as Captain John, Mate Susan, Able-Seaman Titty, and Ship's Boy Roger - set sail on the *Swallow* and head for Wild Cat Island. There they camp under open skies, swim in clear water and go fishing for their dinner. But their days are disturbed by the Blackett sisters, the fierce Amazon pirates. The Swallows and Amazons decide to battle it out, and so begins a summer of unforgettable discoveries and incredible adventures. For 4th class onwards.



Taking Sides, Brian Gallagher

Dublin, 1922. Working class Annie Reilly is thrilled to win a scholarship to Eccles Street School. Through a classmate she meets Peter Scanlon, a student in Belvedere College. Peter sides with the rebels in the Civil War and carries messages for them. When Annie's life is threatened, he has to decide where his loyalties lie. For 10+



The Terrible Thing That Happened to Barnaby Brocket, John Boyne

There's nothing unusual or different about the Brocket family - and they're keen to keep it that way. But when Barnaby Brocket comes into the world, it's clear he's anything but ordinary. To his parents' horror, Barnaby defies the laws of gravity - and floats.

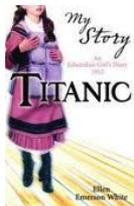
Soon, the Brockets decide enough is enough. The neighbours are starting to talk. They never asked for a weird, abnormal, floating child. Barnaby has to go.....

Betrayed and frightened, Barnaby floats into the path of a very special hot air balloon – and so begins a magical journey around the world, with a cast of extraordinary new friends. Suitable for 3rd and 4th class.



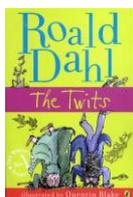
Through Mud and Blood, Tom and Tony Bradman

It is 1918. A British soldier, Bill Sparkes, is carrying an important message for American troops on the frontline. Sparkes is soon caught up in the fighting when the Americans are attacked. With bullets flying all around, Sparkes must find a way to support the Americans and stop the Germans breaking through...



Titanic: an Edwardian Girl's Diary 1912

Margaret Anne dreams of leaving the orphanage behind and can hardly believe her luck when she is chosen to accompany wealthy Mrs. Carstairs aboard the great Titanic. This book is part of the Scholastic My Story series which offers vividly imagined first hand accounts of life in the past. The book includes some photographs and an excellent time-line of events. Very suitable for 5th and 6th class.



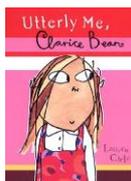
The Twits, Roald Dahl

Mr. and Mrs. Twit are two of the most disgusting, nasty, and horrid characters in children's literature. They look repulsive and play mean and horrible tricks on each other. This book will appeal to children of all ages because it is well written and even though there is some complex language this does not detract from the story. The book is made up of a whole series of 'nasty' jokes which boys of a particular age will enjoy but hopefully not get too many ideas. Suitable for 2nd class onwards.



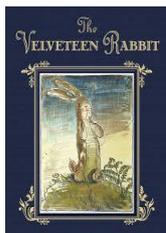
Under the Hawthorn Tree, Marita Conlon-McKenna

This is the first book in the award winning Children of the Famine trilogy and needs little or no introduction. It brilliantly recreates the Great Irish famine through the story of three survivors. It is a story of courage, danger, adventure and survival and of a brother and sister who never gave up. Very suitable for 5th and 6th class.



Utterly me, Clarice Bean, Lauren Child

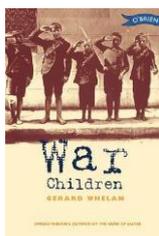
The character of Clarice Bean moves from picture book to novel in this highly entertaining story. Clarice is obsessed with her fictional heroine, Ruby Redfort, girl detective. But can the lessons of Ruby help Clarice and her best friend Betty Moody to solve the mystery in their own school? Funny, with quirky drawings and unusual type layout, this is a great read for recently competent readers; 3rd and 4th classes.



The Velveteen Rabbit, Margery Williams

Margery Williams' The Velveteen Rabbit is a best-loved children's book that will strike a chord with readers of all ages. The importance of friendship and the affection that young children feel towards their favourite cuddly toys are subjects that are poignantly and heart-warmingly expressed in Margery Williams' classic tale.

The Velveteen Rabbit hopes to become real as he has been told that if an owner truly loves their toy, the toy will become real forever! Suitable for 1st class onwards.



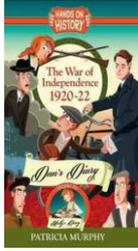
War Children, Gerard Whelan

Six stories -- one set in Dublin, the others in the countryside -- about children who get caught up in the War of Independence and suffer dire consequences. Suitable for 5th and 6th class.

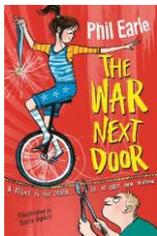


War Horse, Michael Morpurgo

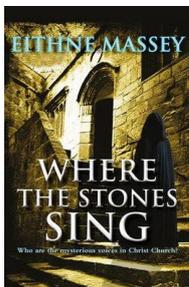
In the deadly chaos of the First World War, one horse witnesses the reality of battle from both sides of the trenches. Bombarded by artillery, with bullets knocking riders from his back, Joey tells a powerful story of the truest friendships surviving in terrible times. One horse has the seen the best and the worst of humanity. The power of war and the beauty of peace. This is his story. For 5th and 6th class.



The War of Independence 1920-22: Dan's Diary, Patricia Murphy
Football mad, twelve-year-old Dan is a trusted messenger for Ireland's rebel leader, Michael Collins. He promises his cousin Molly to never fire a gun, but after the dramatic events of 'Bloody Sunday' in Croke Park, he is pulled deeper into the struggle. Hunted by a vengeful Intelligence Officer, Molly and Dan are forced to flee Dublin. On the run, they meet Flying Columns and narrowly escape death as Cork burns. When a plot is discovered to de-rail the Treaty negotiations, Dan is sent with a vital message to London. Talent spotted by a famous English coach, he is offered a lucrative football contract that would take his family out of poverty. But as the rebel Irish leaders try to reach a deal with the British government, Dan is forced into dangerous play with his deadly enemy. Will he save the day and can the leaders bring peace to Ireland? For 10+



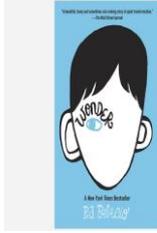
The War Next Door, Phil Earle
Masher is the bully of Storey Street. No one ever dares stand up to him and that's the way he likes it. But then Jemima and her family move into the plot of land next door. Jemima isn't afraid of him at all, and she's making him look like a bit of a wimp. To Masher, that just means one thing: war. (At least until teatime...) Suitable for 3rd class onwards.



Where the Stones Sing, Eithne Massey
As the spectre of the Black Death hovers over medieval Dublin in the fourteenth century, Kai is plucked from the filthy streets to sing in the great Christ Church choir. But Kai has a secret that must be kept hidden - even from new friends Tom and Jack. Kai will need great strength, talent and help from unexpected quarters just to survive. Suitable for 5th and 6th class.

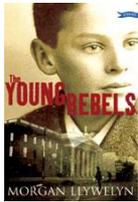


Wildflower Girl, Marita Conlon-McKenna
This is the second book in the Famine Trilogy, which began with Under the Hawthorne Tree. At seven, Peggy made a terrifying journey through famine-stricken Ireland. Now thirteen, and determined to make a new life for herself, she sets off alone to America. Will she ever see her family again? An extraordinary story of courage, independence and adventure suitable for 5th and 6th classes.



Wonder, R.J. Palacio

August Pullman was born with a facial difference that, up until now, has prevented him from going to a mainstream school. Starting 5th grade at Beecher Prep, he wants nothing more than to be treated as an ordinary kid--but his new classmates can't get past Auggie's extraordinary face. *Wonder*, a #1 *New York Times* bestseller, begins from Auggie's point of view, but soon switches to include his classmates, his sister, her boyfriend, and others. These perspectives converge in a portrait of one community's struggle with empathy, compassion, and acceptance. In a world where bullying among young people is an epidemic, this is a refreshing new narrative full of heart and hope. R.J. Palacio has called her debut novel "a meditation on kindness" --indeed, every reader will come away with a greater appreciation for the simple courage of friendship. Auggie is a hero to root for, who proves that you can't blend in when you were born to stand out. Suitable for 5th and 6th class.



Young Rebels, Morgan Llywelyn

This novel tells the story of two boys who take part in the 1916 rising. They are both students at St. Enda's School in Rathfarnham and deemed too young to take part in the rebellion. However they disobey orders and become caught up in the events of Easter 1916. This is a story of friendship and hardship, of education and courage that will appeal to 10 to 12 year olds. A follow up visit to the Pearse Museum in Rathfarnham is a must.