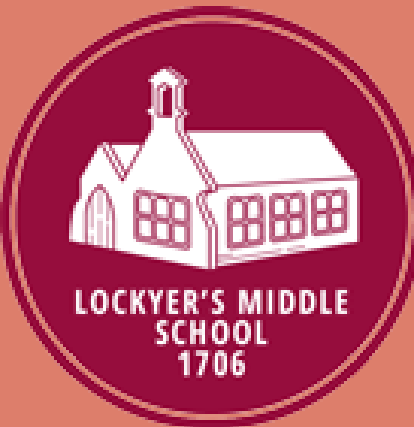


The Lockyer's Book Shelf



July 2026 Issue №6

Authors Visit Lockyer's!

Nothing brings stories and books to life in quite the same way as hearing about them from those who have written them. We have been incredibly lucky to have three authors visit us here at Lockyer's this year across different year groups.



Maz Evans - Year 5 visit

To support our curriculum teaching of 'Who Let the Gods Out', author Maz Evans visited us again to explore not only the well loved Greek mythology series but also to talk about her newest adventures and stories.

William Adams - Whole School

Local author and musician, William Adams, treated us to a lyrical introduction to his work and explained the local history aspect of his newest book 'Moonfleet: Crimson Tide'. It was wonderful to see that many pupils were already familiar with his previous picture books for younger readers.

Genevieve Carver - Year 7

Genevieve Carver and archeologist Hayley Roberts visited Year 7 to talk about Genevieve's new book 'The Ocean and the Bones' and the current dig at The Valley of Stones National Nature Reserve.



Our Wonderful Library.

Mrs Edwards and our student librarians have worked tirelessly this term to create a warm and welcoming space that helps our pupils to find the right reading experience for them.

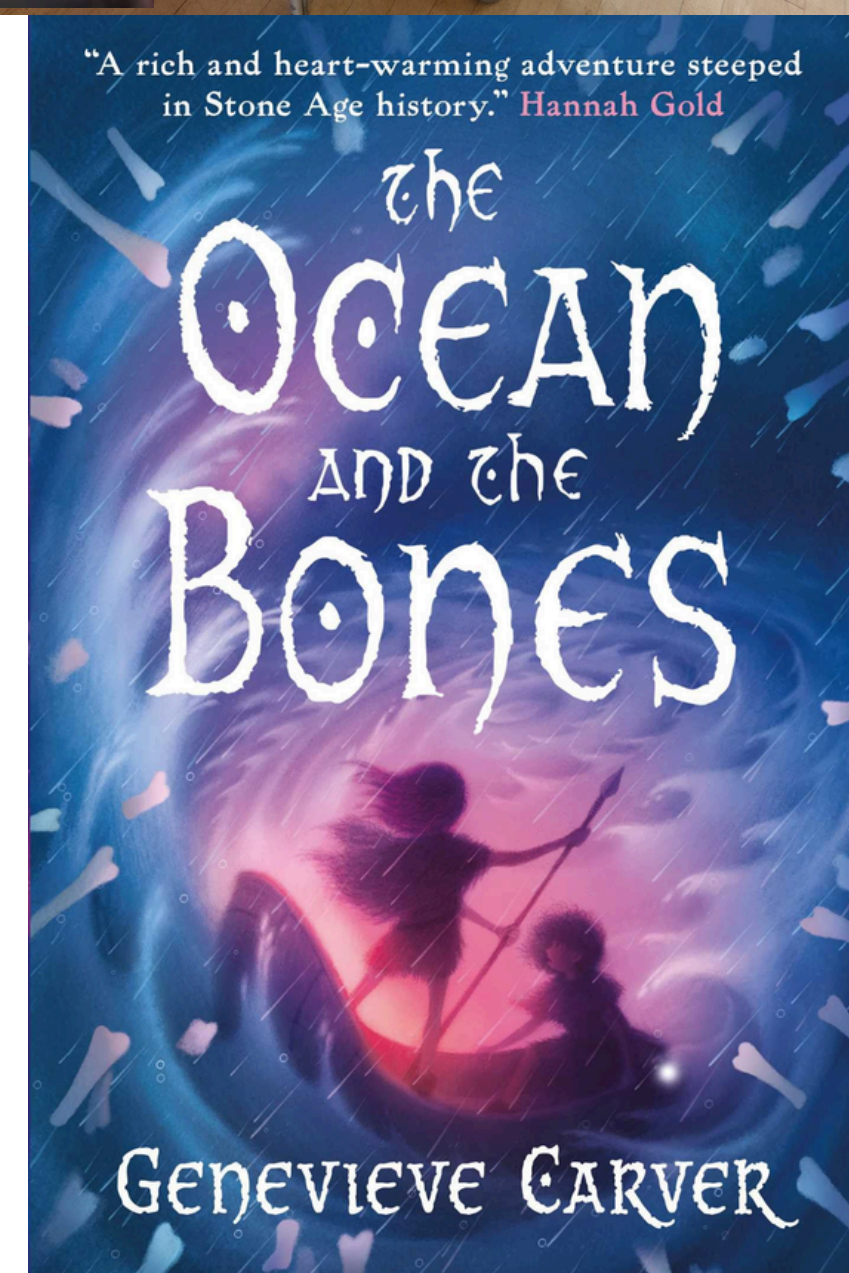
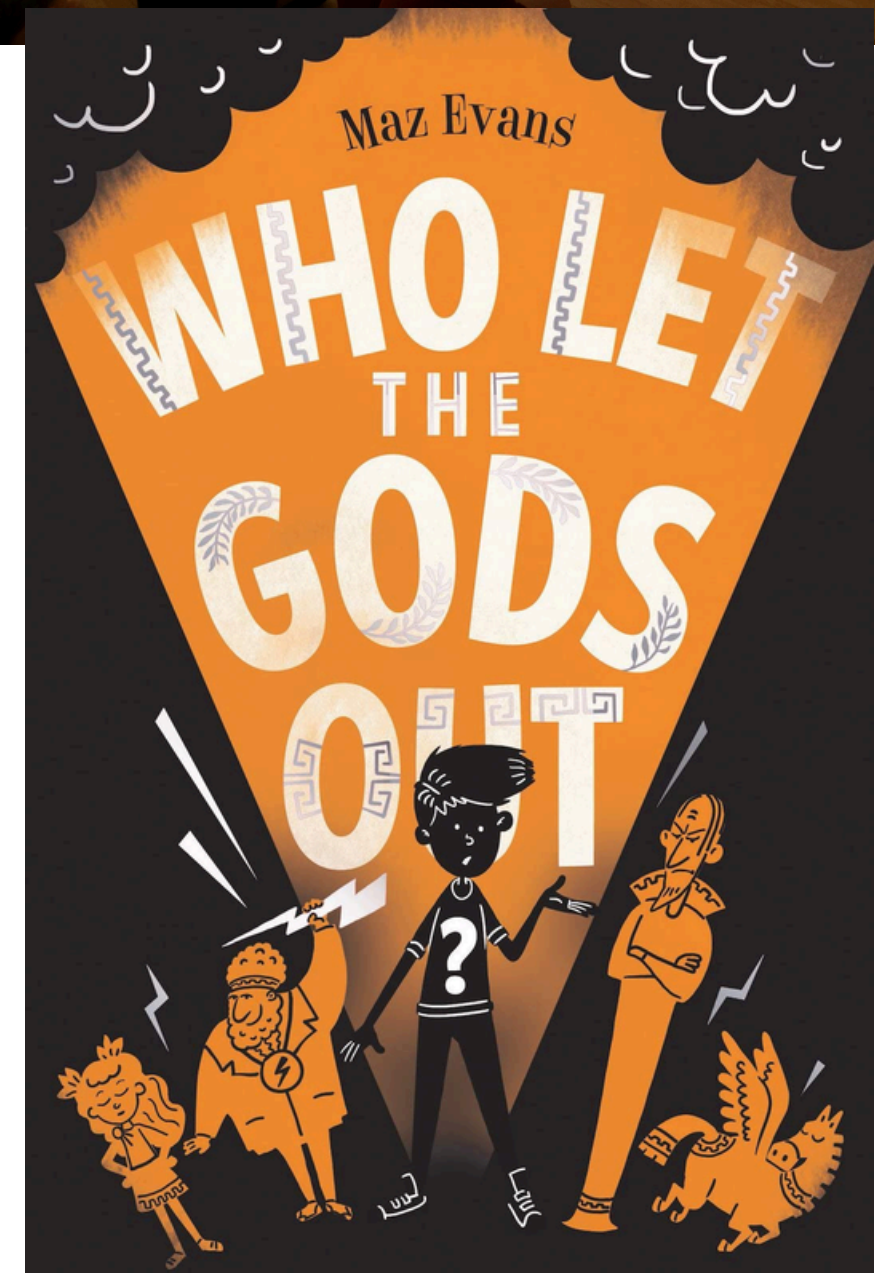
From selecting daily recommendations, sourcing new books (including those of our visiting authors!) and finding activities and stories related to what pupils are learning in lessons, Mrs Edwards and her team have made a fantastic impact on the reading opportunities available to our pupils this year.

A huge thank you to them all and we're excited to see what the next year will bring!

Read on for book recommendations, summer reading challenges and more!

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Summer Library Activities

We are so lucky to have a range of wonderful libraries in our local area. Both Dorset and BCP councils have activities running in their libraries as well as the national libraries reading challenge (more information below!).

Encouraging children to read over the summer helps with maintaining a rhythm to their reading habit that they can take with them into adult life. If you haven't already signed up then now is a perfect time to sign up for the Library Legends quests that encourage young people to explore the libraries to their fullest.



[Click here for BCP Library events over the summer!](#)



[Click here for Dorset Library events over the summer!](#)

Reading over the Summer - Read to the Beat

The Summer Reading Challenge is a FREE holiday activity for children.

It's all about reading for fun, aiming to improve children's reading skills and confidence. The Challenge runs every year throughout the summer holidays, and all children aged 4-11 are welcome to take part.

Children can read anything they like (really - anything!) and collect free rewards for their reading.

Read to the Beat!

The 2026 Summer Reading Challenge is Read to the Beat, delivered by The Reading Agency in partnership with public libraries and powered by Universal Music Group UK. The theme inspires children to explore the connection between stories and songs, discovering how reading and music both ignite imagination and creativity. This year's Challenge is brought to life with illustrations by award-winning author and illustrator, Harry Woodgate, and will launch on 20 June in Scotland and 4 July in England and Wales.



[Click here for further information about the Summer Reading Challenge!](#)

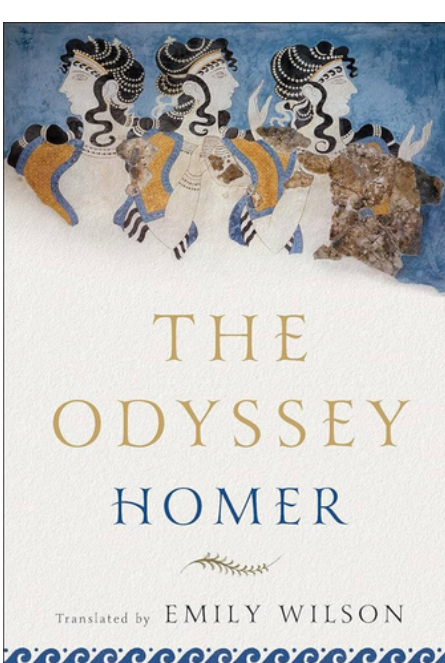
Media Tie-ins: Percy Jackson

One of the most effective ways of raising the profile of a novel is through media tie-ins. These can come in the form of films, games and television shows. Research has shown that more reluctant readers find themselves more enticed by a story that crosses multiple platforms.

A great example of an adaptation has been Disney's Percy Jackson and The Olympians which can be a great gateway to Percy Jackson and The Lightning Thief by Rick Riordan and vice versa! Whilst the television show is rated 12+, the books are certainly more accessible with copies available in the school library. We love exploring historical themes and the book series is a natural graduation from Maz Evans' 'Who Let the Gods Out' which is taught in Year 5.



For the grown-ups, perhaps watching Christopher Nolan's retelling of 'The Odyssey' is on the cards during the summer? There are modern translations of Homer's epic which could make for excellent seaside reading!



Pupil Recommendations

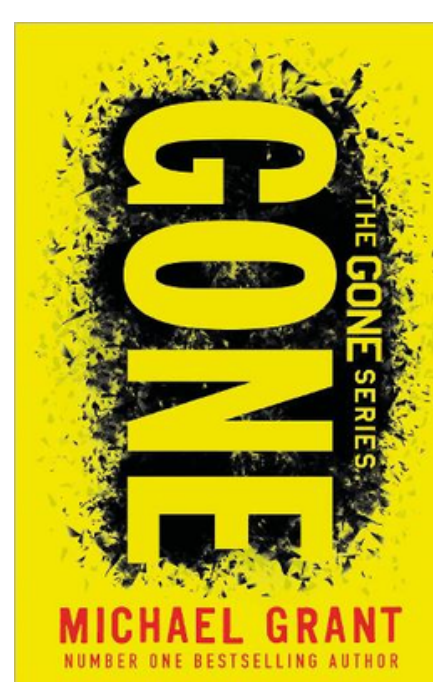
After Tomorrow by Gillian Cross

This book was amazing, exciting and gripping! I really enjoyed it and recommend it to any other book lovers.



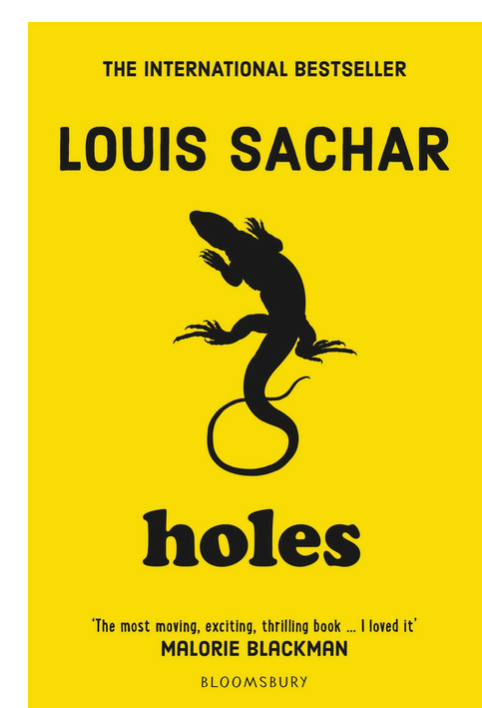
Gone by Michael Grant

An outstanding book! I can't wait to read the rest in the series. (All of which are in the school library!)



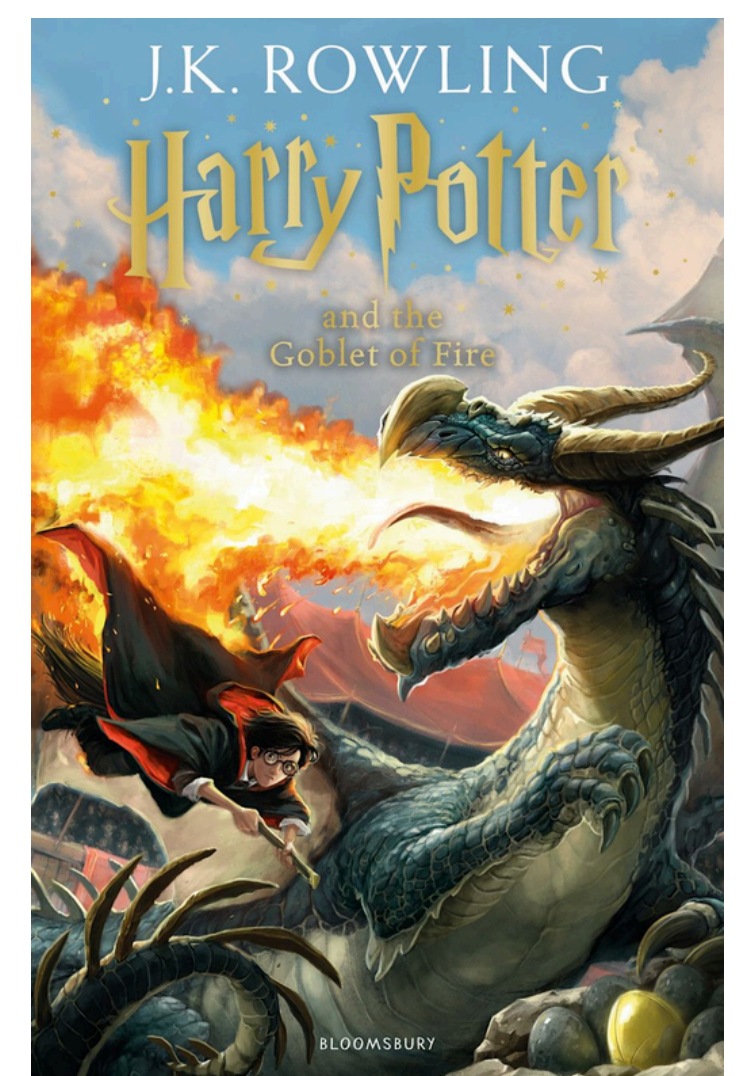
Holes by Louis Sachar

This was probably my favourite of all the books that I have read this year. Adventure, friendship and a treasure hunt all wrapped up in one.



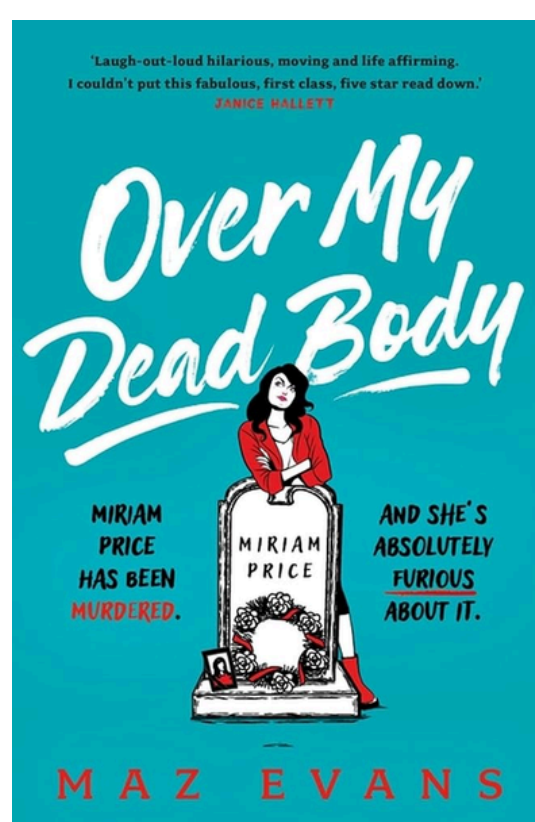
Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire by J. K. Rowling Reviewed by Callum

Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire was a great book by JK Rowling where Harry Potter's name was put into the goblet of fire by an unknown person. This was a great book because JK Rowling made it sound a bit like a mystery. I like the book because Harry has to face a lot more challenges than in the previous books. Harry has to go through countless challenges including fighting mythical creatures, saving his friends and navigating difficult places which I think is really cool!



Staff Recommendation by Mr Wilson ★

Over My Dead Body by Maz Evans



I thoroughly enjoyed this book, especially the spikey relationship between the two main characters that constantly had me laughing out loud (or snort laughing as my wife informed me), when as mortal enemies they find themselves stuck in each other's story.

Miriam Price is dead, and she lives in a limbo land where she has to prove she was murdered to get to what is effectively 'heaven'. Unfortunately the only person that can help her is an elderly neighbour who she has battled with for years. In the end the best of humanity wins through and the rift is healed. Not wanting to spoil it for any future reader, all I will say is that it has a happy 'final' ending. There is humour the whole way through the book and it had an interesting interpretation of what happens after death, almost relatable. There are many funny one-liners and hilarious situations that are so clever and well written, I totally enjoyed the ride. One of the best books I have ever read.



Annual Literacy Survey 2026 - LMS results

As mentioned in our last issue, we participated in the National Literacy Survey for the first time and we are pleased to share our results. Here is a summary of the findings from our 403 participants:

Enjoyment and Frequency: Almost half of respondents enjoy reading a lot or very much (40.67% in free time, 49.87% at school). A majority (55%) read in their free time a couple of times a week or more.

Confidence and Motivations: Most students feel "Very confident" or "Confident" when reading (76.98%). The top reasons for reading are personal choice ("I read because I want to," 45.61% agree), pleasure ("Reading is fun," 42.93% agree), and escapism ("Reading lets me escape to another world," 42.68% agree).

Perceived Benefits: The highest agreed-upon benefit is that reading helps students learn new words or things (73.62% agree). Over half (56.31%) agree it helps them find out more about things they are interested in.

Challenges and Influences: Over two-thirds (66.92%) prefer doing other things like gaming, hobbies, or spending time with friends over reading. **Key supportive factors** are teachers (73.13% agree their teacher encourages them) and family (56.97% agree their family encourages them). However, 44.50% find it hard to get reading material that matches what they like.



Change your story

Looking to share stories over the summer? Join Lucy from the National Literacy Trust as she shares tips on how to inject more fun and enjoyment into your child's reading experience. Lucy explains why 'booktalk' matters and four great ways to get started:

<https://youtu.be/BCGPHa8LL28>



Responding to the findings

We are very grateful to our pupils for their honest feedback on their reading habits. The world that they are growing up in certainly has many requests on their time that can make reading challenging for some, however, it is wonderful to see that so many of our pupils feel supported in choosing reading through the school community and from those at home.

With the help of Mrs Edwards and our excellent student librarian team, the school library is far more accessible than ever before and will be ready for our pupils to discover new reads in September with many new titles being added in. The graphic novel and non-fiction sections have had a refresh and there are many thrilling and exciting stories to explore at all reading levels.

As we begin a new academic year, we will be asking for more input from the pupils as to what they want to read and source ways to support them in this. There will be more signposting to books connected with curriculum books (those read in English lessons) and within Teacher-Led Reading. It's looking to be another exciting term for our National Year of Reading Journey!

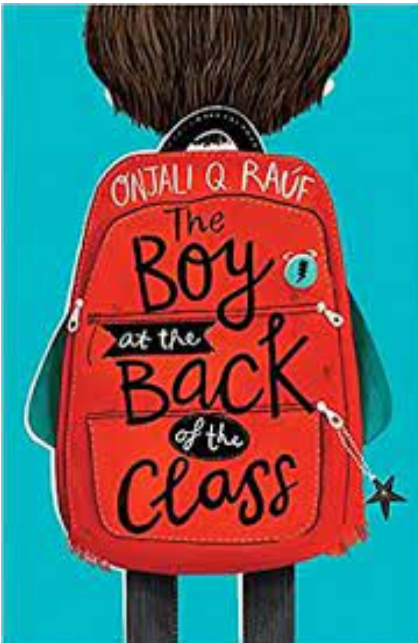
Teacher-Led Reading: Book Rationales

Year 5

The Boy at the Back of the Class by Onjali Q. Raúf

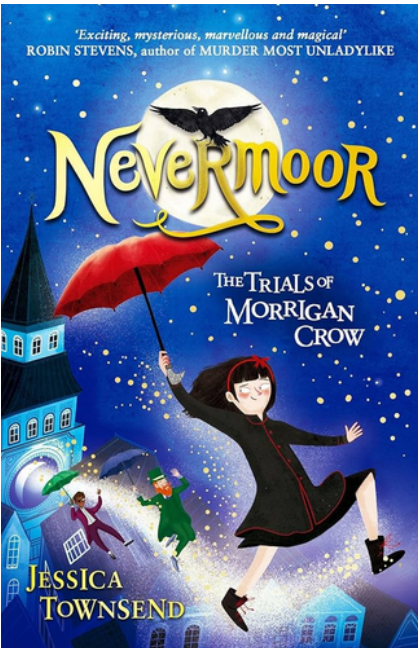
This inspiring and thoughtful novel conveys the themes of friendship, diversity, bereavement and the importance of community.

Written by Onjali Q. Raúf, founder of the organisation Making Herstory, the book takes inspiration from the stories she encountered when working in refugee camps.



Have you ever wondered why have chosen some of the books that we read in Tutor time?

Here are the rationales behind four of the books that we share in each of the year groups.



Year 6

Nevermoor: The Trials of Morrigan Crow by Jessica Townsend

With a strong female protagonist from an accomplished female author, Nevermoor is a novel that successfully draws on the tropes of the genre to create a wonderfully enchanting story. The characters are vivid and diverse and themes such as expectations and family are explored in a unique way.

This is also the first in a series so a great introduction to a new reading journey!



Year 8

The Recruit by Robert Muchamore

A modern, fast-paced action spy novel, grittier and more 'grown up' than Alex Rider, this is likely to grip Year 8s and encourage perhaps reluctant readers to pursue the rest of the series. The novel addresses issues of loss of a parent, bullying and being a young carer.

Year 7

The House with Chicken Legs by Sophie Anderson

Steeped in traditional Russian folklore with the author's own unique twist, The House with Chicken Legs is like few books students will have encountered before. Exposing students to cultures outside of their experience, whilst presenting them with moral conflicts between personal aspirations and the expectations of those around you, The House with Chicken Legs poses the question: Can we change our destiny?

