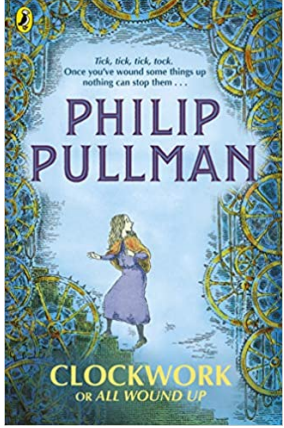



Book Cover	Book Title and Author	Blurb	Reason for choice
	<p>The Magic Faraway Tree by Enid Blyton</p>	<p>When Joe, Beth and Frannie move to the countryside, they discover that their new house lies next to the Enchanted Wood! And in that wood stands the Magic Faraway Tree. This is no ordinary tree - it is home to more magical lands full of elves, pixies, talking creatures and wonderful adventures than the children ever imagined possible!</p>	<p>This was one of the first books I read myself as a child and it still holds a special place in my heart. Every time the children climb to the top of the tree they enter a different magical land. My favourite was when the children got stuck in a school where all the questions the teacher asked were impossible to answer. And then there is the slippery slip!</p>
	<p>Nail soup by various authors</p>	<p>This is a story based on an old folk tale and is one of many versions of the same story. There are so many versions its origin is difficult to identify. It is told in slightly different ways but the message of the story is the same</p>	<p>This is a story of how people working together manage to achieve more than when they work alone. The version I know starts with a weary traveller seeking rest at a cottage in the woods. He is told he can sleep there but there is no food to share. That's when the traveller produces an old iron nail from his pocket.</p>
	<p>The Shadow of the Wind by Carlos Ruiz Zafon</p>	<p>Hidden in the heart of the old city of Barcelona is the 'Cemetery of Lost Books', a labyrinthine library of obscure and forgotten titles that have long gone out of print. To this library, a man brings his 10-year-old son Daniel one cold morning in 1945. Daniel is allowed to choose one book from the shelves and pulls out 'The Shadow of the Wind' by Julian Carax. But as he grows up, several people seem inordinately interested in his find.</p>	<p>This book is a book about a boy who love books. As a person who loves books that appealed to me. It is also set in Barcelona and has beautiful, atmospheric descriptions of the city.</p>

	<p>The 13 ½ lives of Captain Bluebear by Walter Moers</p>	<p>Some Minipirates find a baby bear with blue fur inside a walnut shell floating on the ocean towards a giant whirlpool. They rescue him and teach him about knots and waves, and that a good white lie is often considerably more exciting than the truth. Then, when he outgrows their ship to such an extent that he is in danger of sinking it, they abandon him on an island with a bottle of seaweed juice and a loaf of seaweed bread. Thus Bluebear comes to the end of his first life and embarks on his second.</p>	<p>They say you shouldn't judge a book by its cover but this is exactly why I found this one in the bookshop. It is completely different to anything else I have ever read. It involves different worlds and a variety of crazy creatures. All of Walter Moers' books have been translated from the original German and they are all weird and wonderful in their own ways. They also have beautiful hand drawn maps and pictures of the characters throughout.</p>
	<p>Rebecca by Daphne du Maurier</p>	<p>On a trip to the South of France, the shy heroine of <i>Rebecca</i> falls in love with Maxim de Winter, a handsome widower. Although his proposal comes as a surprise, she happily agrees to marry him. But as they arrive at her husband's home, Manderley, a change comes over Maxim, and the young bride is filled with dread. Friendless in the isolated mansion, she realises that she barely knows him. In every corner of every room is the phantom of his beautiful first wife, Rebecca, and the new Mrs de Winter walks in her shadow.</p>	<p>Set mainly in Cornwall this is a great book for those who like suspense. After a whirlwind idyllic romance, the main character has to navigate her way in a house where she is constantly reminded of her husband's late wife. From being a lady's maid, she has to adapt to running a large house and estate and managing the servants. The book was adapted into a black and white film directed by Alfred Hitchcock and recently modernized into a Netflix film starring Lily James.</p>
	<p>Killing floor by Lee Child</p>	<p>Jack Reacher jumps off a bus and walks fourteen miles down a country road into Margrave, Georgia. An arbitrary decision he's about to regret. Reacher is the only stranger in town on the day they have had their first</p>	<p>It is impossible to pick one of the, currently 25, Jack Reacher book above all the others so I picked the first one. Killing Floor is where it all started. These thriller books are all based around a retired military cop who roams around</p>

		<p>homicide in thirty years. The cops arrest Reacher and the police chief turns eyewitness to place him at the scene. As nasty secrets leak out, and the body count mounts, one thing is for sure. They picked the wrong guy to take the fall.</p>	<p>America and ends up getting himself into all sorts of situations -trouble seems to find him. These books will grip you from the first page to the last.</p>
	<p>Clockwork by Phillip Pullman.</p>	<p>It is a cold winter's night when Karl enters the White Horse Tavern looking like he's swallowed a thundercloud. His final task as a clockmaker apprentice is to make a new figure for the great clock of Glockenheim. He has not made the figure - or got any idea of what it could be, and the unveiling is tomorrow.</p> <p>Fritz is also in the tavern; there to read aloud his new spooky story. Like Karl, he hasn't finished. Well, he knows how the story starts and he knows it's called <i>Clockwork</i> - so, with the snow swirling down outside, he sets his story going and just has to hope that the ending will come to him as he tells it.</p> <p>Suddenly, Fritz's story and real life merge in a completely sinister way - and just like clockwork it can't be stopped . . .</p>	<p>There are many Phillip Pullman books that could appear on this list from the Northern Lights trilogy to <i>Daemon Voices</i>. I was lucky enough to hear Phillip Pullman speak about being an author when he visited Stockton on Tees and was part of an event aboard the Teesside Princess. He was fascinating to listen to and, during the talk, revealed that, out of all the books he has written, <i>Clockwork</i> is his favourite. I would quite happily take my personalized, signed copy to a desert island!</p>
	<p>There's no such thing as a dragon by Jack Kent</p>	<p>When Billy Bixbee finds a tiny dragon in his bedroom, his mom tells him, "There's no such thing as a dragon!" This only makes the dragon get bigger. He grows, and grows, and grows, until he's bigger than Billy's house--</p>	<p>I have very fond childhood memories of this being one of the first books I read by myself as a child. I always liked the idea that dragons might exist and that you could just find one in your bedroom one day. It is also a book about</p>

		and that's just the beginning!	how best to deal with any problems you may be having.
	The Owl who was Afraid of the Dark (also known as Plop the Owl) by Jill Tomlinson	Plop, the Baby Barn Owl, is like every Barn Owl there ever was, except for one thing – he is afraid of the dark. So much so that he wants to be a day-bird and won't leave the nest at night. Mrs Barn Owl sends Plop down into the world to find out more about the dark.	My original copy of this book is falling apart so I had to buy a new copy in order to continue to reread it. I loved being read to as a child and this was a particular favourite along with others from the same series including "The Hen who wouldn't give up". Plop has lots of adventures and learns why the dark might not really be that terrible after all.
		<p>TODAY He catches a glimpse of his father's killer.</p> <p>TOMORROW He is drawn into the web of a vast international conspiracy.</p> <p>THE DAY AFTER TOMORROW He confronts a terrifying future which threatens us all ...</p>	One of the most un-put-downable books I have ever read with a twist you will never see coming. This is probably one of the longest books I read as a teenager and I loved it. Several reviews state people read it in one go as it was such a page-turner. I am amazed it has never been made into a film.