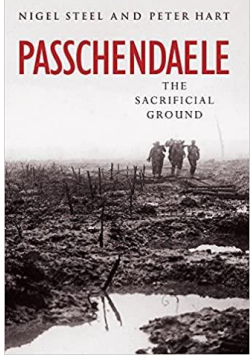
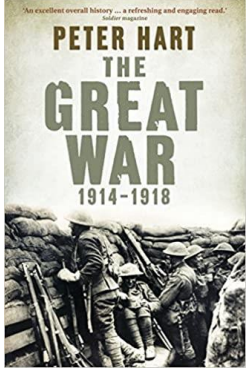
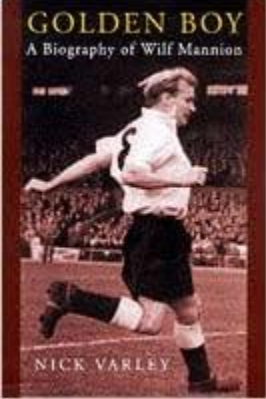



Book Cover	Book Title and Author	Blurb	Reason for choice
	<p><i>The Bewitching of Anne Gunter: A Horrible and True Story of Deception, Witchcraft, Murder, and the King of England</i> by James Sharpe</p>	<p>In 1604, 20-year-old Anne Gunter was 'bewitched': she foamed at the mouth, contorted wildly in her bedchamber, went into trances. Her signature symptom was to vomit pins. Popular history at its best, "The Bewitching of Anne Gunter" opens a fascinating window onto the past. It's a tale of controlling fathers, wilful daughters, nosey neighbours, power relations between peasants and gentry, and village life in early-modern Europe. Above all it's an original and revealing story of one young woman's experience with the greatly misunderstood phenomenon of witchcraft.</p>	<p>A true and little known story which is fascinating due to all of the points on the front cover. Murder at a 'football match', a family feud between two neighbours; one accusing the other of bewitching their daughter. When no one listened, the father approached King James I himself, certain to get justice. The resulting court case was overseen by the King himself but the secrets it uncovered were far worse than the accusations of witchcraft.</p>
	<p><i>The Mystery of Olga Chekhova</i> by Antony Beevor</p>	<p>Antony Beevor's <i>The Mystery of Olga Chekhova</i> is the true story of a family torn apart by revolution and war. Olga Chekhova was a stunning Russian beauty and a famous Nazi-era film actress who Hitler counted among his friends; she was also the niece of Anton Chekhov. After fleeing Bolshevik Moscow for Berlin in 1920, she was recruited by her composer brother Lev, to work for Soviet intelligence. In return, her family were allowed to join her. The extraordinary story of how the whole family survived the Russian Revolution, the civil war, the rise of Hitler, the Stalinist Terror, and the Nazi invasion of the Soviet Union becomes, in Antony Beevor's hands, a breathtaking tale of compromise and survival in a merciless age.</p>	<p>The mystery is how Olga survived and thrived despite living through two of the most horrific dictatorships which the world has ever known. What makes this all the more astonishing is that in both regimes Olga and her family were potentially at the top of 'hitlists' for being arrested and sentenced to death. Despite this, she is even said to have moved between the two warring countries and met with both murderous leaders. Was she a spy? A double agent? A mystery which needs to be investigated!</p>

	<p>Passchendaele- The Sacrificial Ground by Nigel Steel and Peter Hart</p>	<p>In the autumn of 1917, after years of stalemate at Ypres, the British and French armies launched a massive offensive to take Passchendaele Ridge. Following an intensive bombardment the Allies began their attack, but the low ground between the lines had been churned into a quagmire, and the attack was literally bogged down.</p> <p>All surprise had been lost, and the German defence in depth was well organised. For the first time the Germans used mustard gas, while German planes flew low to strafe the British infantry with machine guns. After two and a half months the British finally took the ridge they had been aiming for, but at the cost of over 300,000 Allied lives. German losses in the offensive were estimated at 260,000.</p> <p>Based on the archival holdings at the Imperial War Museum, this book gathers together a wealth of material about this horrific offensive. A history to appeal to the scholar and the general reader alike.</p>	<p>A compelling account of the battle for Passchendaele from grand strategy at the highest levels right down to the experience of the ordinary infantrymen. I have frequently visited the sites where these recollections/ descriptions were played out in real life. It also involves places which form part of the Year 10 History trips to Belgium. Fascinating and haunting to read.</p>
	<p>The Great War 1914-1918 by Peter Hart</p>	<p>In this magnum opus, critically-acclaimed historian Peter Hart examines the conflict in every arena around the world, in a history that combines cutting edge scholarship with vivid and unfamiliar eyewitness accounts, from kings and generals, and ordinary soldiers. He</p>	<p>This was published on the hundred year anniversary of the 'war to end all wars'. It provides an excellent overview of all the key events, on all fronts, using many long since forgotten eyewitness accounts. It feels like a</p>

		<p>focuses in particular on explaining how technology and tactics developed during the conflict - and determines which battles were crucial to its outcome. Combatants from every corner of Earth joined the fray, but their voices are rarely heard together. This is a major history of the conflict whose centenary is fast approaching.</p>	<p>real window into a truly terrible time.</p>
	<p>A People's Tragedy – The Russian Revolution 1891-1924 by Orlando Figes</p>	<p>Vast in scope, based on exhaustive original research, and written with passion, narrative skill and human sympathy, <i>A People's Tragedy</i> is the definitive account of the Russian Revolution for a new generation. It has won the Wolfson History Prize, the W. H. Smith Literary Award, and the Longman/<i>History Today</i> Book of the Year Award.</p>	<p>It starts by a rather dry description of life on Tsarist Russia at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century but soon spirals through year after year of simply disaster and revolution for the Russian people.</p>
	<p>Stalin: The Court of the Red Tsar by Simon Sebag Montefiore</p>	<p>This thrilling biography of Stalin and his entourage during the terrifying decades of his supreme power transforms our understanding of Stalin as Soviet dictator, Marxist leader and Russian tsar. Based on ground-breaking research, Simon Sebag Montefiore reveals in captivating detail the fear and betrayal, privilege and debauchery, family life and murderous cruelty of this secret world. Written with extraordinary narrative verve, this magnificent feat of scholarly research has become a classic of modern history writing. Showing how Stalin's triumphs and crimes</p>	<p>I found this such a mind-boggling read. Although it can be seen as a biography, it is more a look at the inner-workings of a dysfunctional state with a psychologically flawed and violent leader.</p>

		<p>were the product of his fanatical Marxism and his gifted but flawed character, this is an intimate portrait of a man as complicated and human as he was brutal and chilling.</p>	
	<p>Golden Boy- A Biography of Wilf Mannion by Nick Varley</p>	<p>A biography of Wilf Mannion, which follows his life from birth in Middlesbrough in 1918, through his post-war football games, including those for England, his later discreditation after retirement and his rediscovery in recent years.</p>	<p>I like football and I like history! In the mid-nineties I asked an elderly gentleman who sat next to me at the Riverside stadium “<i>who was the greatest, Mannion or Juninho?</i>”, he was quick to tell me why Wilf was the greatest! Most people who knew his family said that his brother was better still but refused to play professional football due to the way footballers were treated by football clubs at the time.</p>
	<p>Are You Dave Gorman? By Danny Wallace and Dave Gorman</p>	<p>Comedians and flat-mates Dave and Danny set off on what turns out to be a 24,000-mile journey to meet all the other Dave Gormans in the world. They visit Scotland, Israel, America, France and Ireland. They even hold a party in London where 50 Dave Gormans attend, including two women who have kindly changed their name via deed-poll. Silly, but engrossing, fascinating and addictive - and a touching, funny story of two friends who grow to share a mutual obsession.</p>	<p>I don't really know why but it just made me laugh!</p>



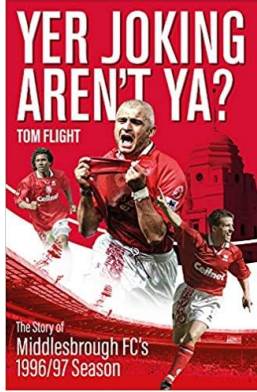
How to be a footballer by Peter Crouch

You become a footballer because you love football. And then you are a footballer, and you're suddenly in the strangest, most baffling world of all. A world where one team-mate comes to training in a bright red suit with matching top-hat, cane and glasses, without any actual glass in them, and another has so many sports cars they forget they have left a Porsche at the train station. Even when their surname is incorporated in the registration plate.

So walk with me into the dressing-room, to find out which players refuse to touch a football before a game, to discover why a load of millionaires never have any shower-gel, and to hear what Cristiano Ronaldo says when he looks at himself in the mirror.

We will go into post-match interviews, make fools of ourselves on social media and try to ensure that we never again pay £250 for a haircut that should have cost a tenner. We'll be coached and cajoled by Harry Redknapp, upset Rafa Benitez and be soothed by the sound of an accordion played by Sven-Goran Eriksson's assistant Tord Grip. There will be some very bad music and some very bad decisions.

This is an intelligent and witty book which mocks modern football and football lifestyles. I found it refreshing!



Yer Joking  
Aren't Ya? By  
Tom Flight

*Yer Jokin' Aren't Ya?* is the bizarre and gripping story behind Middlesbrough's epic 1996/97 season. When the Premier League ushered in a bright new era of English Football, a Middlesbrough businessman named Steve Gibson asked a daring question. Why couldn't an untrendy team from a bleak North-East town join the elite of world football? With Bryan Robson at the helm, Gibson set out to prove it could be done. Gibson built a state-of-the-art stadium on the banks of the River Tees, and spent millions so the pitch would be graced by superstars. Robson helped attract Fabrizio Ravanelli, Emerson and the Brazilian maestro Juninho. For an ephemeral moment Boro's breathtaking football captured the nation's imagination. But chaos followed as Boro's season spiralled out of control. The book begins in the summer of 1996 and traces month by month how Boro's season unravelled due to the egos and excesses of this crazy team. It ended in tragedy, but for those who took part - and for the fans who witnessed it - it was a truly unforgettable time.

I intend to read this over summer! I am sure it will send tingles down my spine!