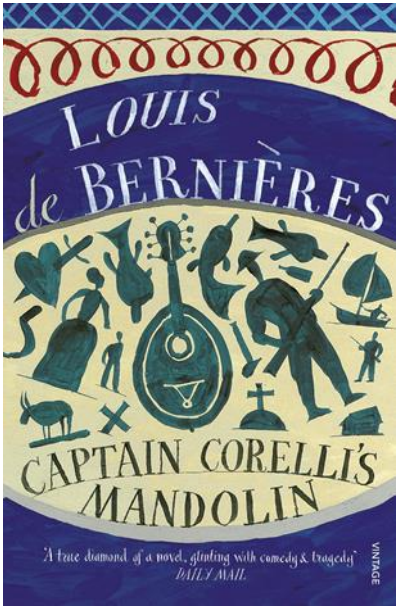
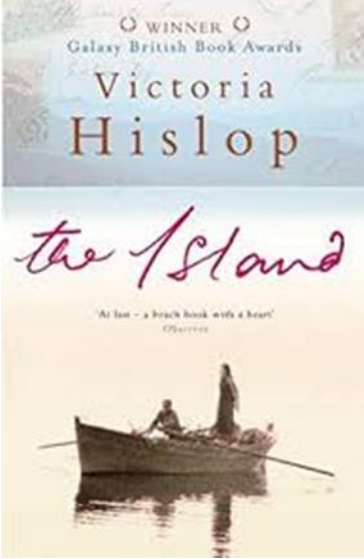
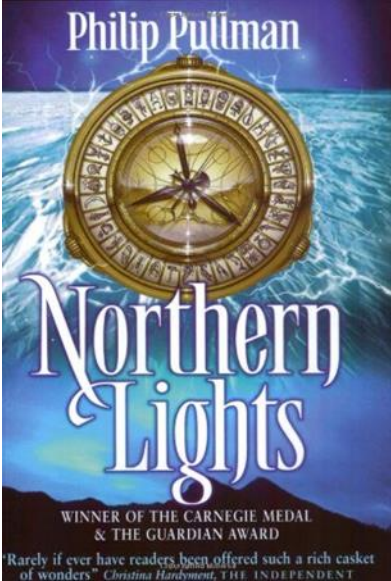
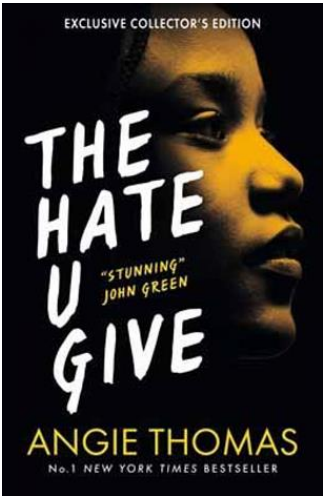


	Book Title and Author	Blurb	Reason for choice
	<p>Malory Towers- Enid Blyton (All 6!!)</p>	<p>Follow Darrell Roberts over her six years at Malory Towers, a boarding school in Cornwall.</p>	<p>Firstly, who didn't love Enid Blyton stories as a child? I vividly remember being so absorbed in these books, I would sneakily read them under the covers, with a torch, until I'd finished them all. It was the first book that I just couldn't put down. It also made me want to go boarding school, but I wasn't allowed! (Sob! Sob!)</p>
	<p>Are you there, God? It's me Margret? – Judy Blume</p>	<p>Meet 11-year-old Margaret Simon as she struggles with her early teenage years and finding where she fits into her world.</p>	<p>This is such a nostalgic book for me. I remember walking to our local library and borrowing it time and time again. It was the first time I felt I resonated with the main character, rather than just enjoying the story; I love how Blume captures the early teen emotions, making them so relatable for her readers.</p>

	<p>Captain Corelli's Mandolin- Louis de Bernieres</p>	<p>It is 1941 and Captain Antonio Corelli, a young Italian officer, is posted to the Greek island of Cephallonia as part of the occupying forces. At first he is ostracised by the locals but over time he proves himself to be civilised, humorous – and a consummate musician.</p> <p>When Pelagia, the local doctor's daughter, finds her letters to her fiancé go unanswered, Antonio and Pelagia draw close and the working of the eternal triangle seems inevitable. But can this fragile love survive as a war of bestial savagery gets closer and the lines are drawn between invader and defender?</p>	<p>I studied this for A-Level Literature and immediately fell in love with the structure of the novel as the narrative unfolds from different perspectives. De Bernieres captures this love story so beautifully, so much so an extract will be a reading at my wedding. This was the first novel I'd read where historical events blended into a piece of fiction- leading to a lifelong love of this genre. He also captures the character's emotions so well, it's hard to believe they're not real.</p>
	<p>The Island- Victoria Heslop</p>	<p>Alexis Fielding longs to find out about her mother's past. This journey takes her to island of Spinalonga, the former leper colony in Crete, and a love story with a twist unravels.</p>	<p>I just love this book. I love the characters, the plot, the setting. It's beautiful and tragic and a must read!!</p>

	<p>The Northern Lights Trilogy- Philip Pullman</p>	<p>Set in an alternate universe of species-shifting daemons, magical artefacts and forbidden knowledge, The Northern Lights Trilogy is the story of Lyra and Pan and their incredible endurance.</p>	<p>These books inspired my dissertation on death in children's fiction (cheery!). Pullman is a genius. I'm not a fan of fantasy/sci-fi novels but I love to read these time and time again.</p>
	<p>The Secret Keeper- Kate Morton</p>	<p>A spellbinding story of mysteries and secrets, murder and enduring love, moving between the 1930s, the 1960s and the present.</p>	<p>I love stories about people, how the past shapes their future. Morton is the master of this but it's the ending of this novel that gets me. I just didn't see it coming!!</p>
	<p>The Hate U Give- Angie Thomas</p>	<p>Sixteen-year-old Starr lives in two worlds: the poor neighbourhood where she was born and raised and her posh high school in the suburbs. The uneasy balance between them is shattered when Starr is the only witness to the fatal shooting of her unarmed best friend, Khalil, by a police officer. Now what Starr says could destroy her community. It could also get her killed.</p>	<p>This book opened my eyes to a topic I didn't know much about. Thomas' writing is so raw and so powerful, I challenge it not to move you. It made me really think and reeducate myself. Isn't it great when words have the power to do that?</p>

	<p>My Sister's Keeper- Jodi Picoult</p>	<p>It tells the story of thirteen-year-old Anna Fitzgerald, who sues her parents for medical emancipation when she discovers she was supposed to donate a kidney to her elder sister Kate, who is gradually dying from acute leukemia.</p>	<p>It's so hard to pick a Picoult book I don't love but this is the first book that made me cry. I mean really cry. It's also the perfect of example of why the book is better than the film!!</p>
	<p>The Savage Garden- Mark Mills</p>	<p>A story of love, revenge and murder separated by 400 years.</p>	<p>I went through a phase of being obsessed with Richard and Judy's book club. This was one that made the list and it does not disappoint. Set in Italy and England, I just got lost in the two worlds, the love story, and the mystery unravelling.</p>
	<p>The Seven Sisters Series- Lucinda Riley</p>	<p>Seven Sisters, all named after the Seven Sisters of Pleiades, embark on a journey of self-discovery to find out where they came from and where they are going after their adoptive father, Pa Salt dies. Riley beautifully blends the past and the present as their heritage unfolds.</p>	<p>Hands down my favourite series ever written; I know that's a bold statement but trust me, read them. These books include all my must have ingredients for a good read: great protagonist; historical background; past influencing the present; the complexity of humans; a little bit</p>

Name Miss Cook

Desert Island Books

			of mystery and a good love story. What more do you want?
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