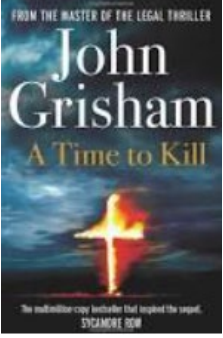
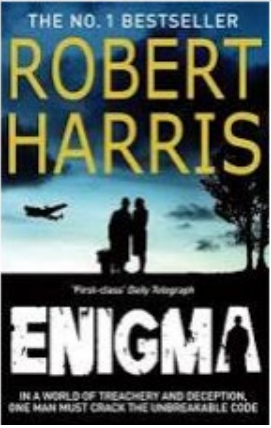
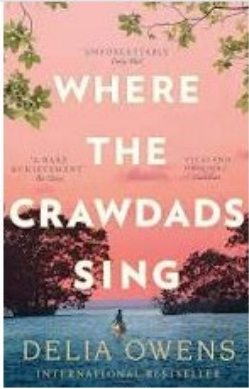
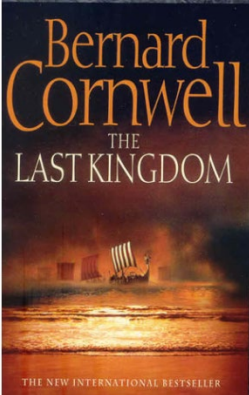
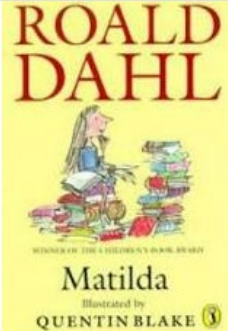


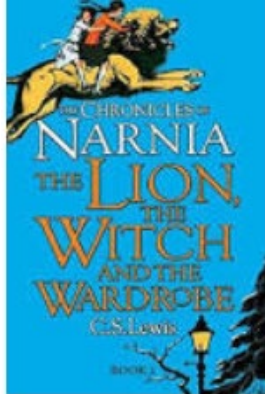
Book Cover	Book Title and Author	Blurb	Reason for choice
	<p>To Kill a Mockingbird</p> <p>Harper Lee</p>	<p><i>“Shoot all the bluejays you want, if you can hit ‘em, but remember it’s a sin to kill a Mockingbird”</i> <i>A lawyer’s advice to his children as he defends the real mockingbird of this enchanting classic - a black man charged with the rape of a white girl. Told through the eyes of young Scout Finch, the conscience of a town steeped in prejudice, violence and hypocrisy is pricked by the stamina of one man’s struggle for justice.</i> <i>But the weight of history will only tolerate so much....</i></p>	<p>This was our set text for GCSE English Literature. Despite ‘having’ to read it, I was drawn in from the start. A book written by a woman about the deeply engrained racism of the American south in the 1930’s. The story is told through the eyes of Scout, a six year old white girl, and how she views the world. At 15, the ideas and topics discussed in the book made me think about how the society we are brought up in, can often help shape the opinions we have of others and our ideas about what is ‘right’ and ‘wrong’</p>
	<p>The Lincoln Lawyer</p> <p>Michael Connelly</p>	<p><i>“Mickey Haller has spent all his professional life afraid that he wouldn’t recognize innocence if it stood right in front of him. But what he should have been on the watch for was evil.</i> <i>A Beverly Hills playboy arrested for attacking a woman he picked up in a bar chooses Haller to defend him, and Mickey has his first high-paying client in years. It is a defence attorney’s dream, what they call a franchise case.”</i></p>	<p>This book started my obsession with the books written by Michael Connelly! The case itself at first appears straightforward, but there are unexpected twists that keep the reader guessing. Mickey also appears in several other books by Connelly, all of which are well worth a read.</p>
	<p>A Time to Kill</p> <p>John Grisham</p>	<p><i>“This book probes the savage depths of racial violence in a compelling tale of uncertain justice in the small southern town of Clanton, Mississippi.</i></p>	<p>I actually watched the film adaption of this before I realized it was a book. John Grisham is another author I regularly look for on the upcoming new books list.</p>

		<p><i>The life of a ten-year-old girl is shattered by two drunken and remorseless young men. The mostly white town reacts with shock and horror at the inhuman crime. Until her black father acquires an assault rifle--and takes justice into his own outraged hands.</i></p> <p><i>For ten days, as burning crosses and the crack of sniper fire spread through the streets of Clanton, the nation sits spellbound as young defence attorney Jake Brigance struggles to save his client's life...and then his own...'</i></p>	<p>This story gripped me from the first page, set in the 1980's it highlighted that even in the latter years of the 20th century, racial prejudice was still a significant part of community life. Jake Brigance is an ordinary man, given what seems to be an impossible task – this alone made me root for him from the start. This is a fantastic read, and a book I have gone back to more than once!</p>
	<p>Enigma</p> <p>Robert Harris</p>	<p><i>'March 1943, the Second World War hangs in the balance, and at Bletchley Park a brilliant young codebreaker is facing a double nightmare. The Germans have unaccountably changed their U-boat Enigma code, threatening a massive Allied defeat. And as suspicion grows that there may be a spy inside Bletchley, Jericho's girlfriend, the beautiful and mysterious Claire Romilly suddenly disappears.'</i></p>	<p>This is a book I first read as a teenager, after 'borrowing' it from my Dad's bookshelf. I have always been fascinated by WWII and particularly the enigma machines. The codebreakers of Bletchley Park were ordinary men and women who weren't allowed to tell anyone what they did during the war. Without them, the outcome could have been very different. I would highly recommend this book, even to those who don't particularly enjoy historical novels. It is definitely a page turner!! A perfect combination of fact and fiction.</p>

	<p>Where the Crawdads Sing</p> <p>Delia Owens</p>	<p><i>'About an unforgettable young woman, abandoned at age 10 to survive alone in the wild coastal marsh of North Carolina. For years, rumors of the "Marsh Girl" haunted Barkley Cove, a quiet fishing village. Kya Clark is barefoot and wild; unfit for polite society. So in late 1969, when the popular Chase Andrews is found dead, locals immediately suspect her.'</i></p>	<p>I had read some great reviews of this book and received it as a Christmas gift. I read it in two days, I found it hard to put down! A heartbreaking story of a girl growing up alone, with only the birds and the nature surrounding her for comfort. This story was beautifully written and I look forward to future books by this author.</p>
	<p>The Last Kingdom</p> <p>Bernard Cornwell</p>	<p><i>'I had been given a perfect childhood, perfect, at least, to the ideas of a boy. I was raised among men, I was free, I ran wild, was encumbered by no laws, was troubled by no priests and was encouraged to violence.'</i> Uhtred is an English boy, born into the aristocracy of 9th Century Northumbria, but orphaned at ten, adopted by a Dane and taught the Viking ways. Yet Uhtred's fate is indissolubly bound up with Alfred, King of Wessex, who rules over the last English kingdom when the Danes have overrun Northumbria, Mercia and East Anglia</p>	<p>This book was released in 2004 and is the start of a series of 13. Another book I borrowed from my Dad at his recommendation. The story is set in and around Bamburgh castle in Northumbria, this was another reason to read it, because I like the history of the north east, especially the stories of the Viking invaders and how they shaped the world we now live in. The story drew me in and made me want to learn more about the historical facts that were woven through this wonderfully written fictional story.</p>

	<p>Wuthering Heights</p> <p>Emily Bronte</p>	<p><i>“He’s more myself than I am. Whatever our souls are made of, his and mine are the same.”</i></p> <p><i>“Wuthering Heights” is a wild, passionate story of the intense and almost demonic love between Catherine Earnshaw and Heathcliff, a founding adopted by Catherine’s father. After Mr Earnshaw’s death, Heathcliff is bullied and humiliated by Catherine’s brother Hindley and wrongly believing that his love for Catherine is not reciprocated, leaves Wuthering Heights, only to return years later as a wealthy and polished man. He proceeds to exact a terrible revenge for his former miseries.”</i></p>	<p>I remember reading this for the first time when I was 17. A story about love and loss which takes place in the wild unforgiving landscape of the Yorkshire moors. There were many times while reading the book that I found myself mentally shouting at the characters! ‘Why are you being so stupid?!’ ‘just tell him how you feel!’ As an outsider looking in you can see what is about to happen, and begin to understand how hearing only part of a conversation can have tragic implications.</p> <p>A classic that is definitely worth reading!</p>
	<p>Flowers in the Attic</p> <p>Virginia Andrews</p>	<p><i>“It wasn’t that she didn’t love her children. She did. But there was a fortune at stake—a fortune that would assure their later happiness if she could keep the children a secret from her dying father.</i></p> <p><i>So she and her mother hid her darlings away in an unused attic.</i></p> <p><i>Just for a little while.</i></p> <p><i>But the brutal days swelled into agonizing years. Now Cathy, Chris, and the twins wait in their cramped and helpless world, stirred by adult dreams, adult desires, served a meager</i></p>	<p>This book is haunting. A heartbreaking story of 4 children locked away in an attic. I read this book for the first time as a teenager and I know I cried several times at the situation that Cathy and her siblings found themselves in. This is a devastating beginning to an unconventional love story.</p>

		<p><i>sustenance by an angry, superstitious grandmother who knows that the Devil works in dark and devious ways. Sometimes he sends children to do his work—children who—one by one—must be destroyed....”</i></p>	
	<p>Matilda</p> <p>Roald Dahl</p>	<p><i>“It’s a funny thing about mothers and fathers. Even when their own child is the most disgusting little blister you could ever imagine, they still think that he or she is wonderful</i></p> <p><i>That might be true of most parents, but for Matilda Wormwood, it couldn’t be further from the truth. Matilda’s parents hardly notice her at all; they’re much more interested with fiddling customers at Mr Wormwood’s second-hand car business, playing bingo or eating their dinner in front of the TV. Even at school it’s not much better, the headmistress, Miss Trunchbull is a fearsome gorgon of a woman who likes nothing better than throwing small children out of the window at the smallest provocation.”</i></p>	<p>This is my favourite Roald Dahl book! It is one of the first books I remember reading all on my own, and I have re-read it a lot. I liked that Matilda took herself off to the library to read books and that she was fascinated by learning new things. The author also made an excellent job of combining all our childhood fears about being sent to see the headmistress, in his description of Miss Trunchbull. The pages where she appeared were the ones I used to read as quickly as I could at first, because she was quite a scary character!! I can’t wait for my children to be slightly older, so that I can share the magic of this book with them!</p>



The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe.

C.S. Lewis

“Four adventurous siblings-Peter, Susan, Edmund, and Lucy Pevensie- step through a wardrobe door and into the land of Narnia, a land frozen in eternal winter and enslaved by the power of the White Witch. But when almost all hope is lost, the return of the Great Lion, Aslan, signals a great change . . . and a great sacrifice.”

My dad read this to me when I was very young and I was hooked. The first thing that drew me in was that there was a character who shared my name, I didn't know anyone else called Lucy, and as a young child I thought it was amazing that there was a book with my name in it!

The magical world of Narnia hiding just beyond something as ordinary as a wardrobe door, had me searching my own wardrobe on more than one occasion. At the age of 5 I remember being disappointed that I hadn't found a snow- covered branch in the back!

Aslan has always been my favourite character, and I remember being terrified of the White Witch! I think this book is a timeless classic, something that everyone should read at least once!