



# Transition Reading List

Please find below our current Transition Reading List. Here, at The Chantry School, we believe reading is the key to success. We have included books which come highly recommended and that we believe will benefit our pupils. We have included on the list books which will be engaging and which cover a broad range of reading ages. On the following pages you will find a short synopsis or extract from the book in order to give you a flavour.

In preparation for joining us in September, we would like you to select and read one of the novels from the list below. We're hoping the libraries might be open, but please don't feel you have to buy a book, if they aren't.

Once you have read the book, we would like you to use your imagination and creative skills and create a 'product'\* that gives the following information:

- A brief summary of what happens in the novel
- Information about the main characters: family, age, appearance, personality etc
- Themes/key ideas in the book.
- A small extract of the book that you found interesting– with an explanation what you found interesting.

\*Poster, short movie, book review, Powerpoint– anything that enables you to include all of the above.

**There should be no copying and pasting from the internet. It should all be your own work.**

The Girl of Ink and stars – Kiran Millward  
Once – Morris Gleitzman  
Beyond the Bright sea – Lauren Wolk  
Where the World Ends – Geraldine McCaughrean  
Wonder – Rj Palacio  
A Boy Called Hope – Lara Williamson  
The Machine Gunners - Robert Westall  
Born To Run – Michael Morpurgo  
Diary of a Young Girl – Anne Frank  
The Secret Lake – Karen Inglis  
The Explorer – Katherine Rundell  
Rook – Anthony McGowan  
Skellig –David Almond  
Out of My Mind  
Nevermoor: The Trials of Morrington Crow – Jessica Townsend

*"After nourishment, shelter and companionship, stories are the thing we need most in the world."* — Philip Pullman

# An Introduction to the Books

## **The Girl of Ink and stars – Kiran Millward**

Forbidden to leave her island, Isabella Riosse dreams of the faraway lands her father once mapped. When her closest friend disappears into the island's Forgotten Territories, she volunteers to guide the search. Following her map, her heart and an ancient myth, Isabella discovers the true end of her journey: to save the island itself. For beneath the dry rivers and smoky mountains, a fiery legend is stirring from its sleep...

## **Once – Morris Gleitzman**

The story of a young Jewish boy who is determined to escape the orphanage he lives in to save his Jewish parents from the Nazis in the occupied Poland of the Second World War. Everybody deserves to have something good in their life.

## **Beyond the Bright sea – Lauren Wolk**

Crow lives on Cuttyhunk, a tiny island off the coast of Massachusetts, having been rescued as a baby from a small boat set adrift from the opposite island of Penikese. But Penikese was once a leper colony, and Crow can't help but wonder if she will develop the disease one day too.

Kind and quiet Osh and practical, twinkly Miss Maggie reassure her that her worries are groundless.

One night, after seeing a fire on the opposite island, curious Crow sets off on a quest to find out who is on Penikese and why – and in doing so, begins a series of discoveries that will reveal her unknown family.

## **Where the World Ends – Geraldine McCaughrean**

Every time a lad came fowling on the St Kilda stacs, he went home less of a boy and more of a man. If he went home at all, that is...

In the summer of 1727, a group of men and boys are put ashore on a remote sea stac to harvest birds for food. No one returns to collect them. Why? Surely nothing but the end of the world can explain why they have been abandoned to endure storms, starvation and terror. And how can they survive, housed in stone and imprisoned on every side by the ocean?

## **Wonder – RJ Palacio**

Starting 5th grade at Beecher Prep, Auggie wants nothing more than to be treated as an ordinary kid—but his new classmates can't get past his extraordinary face. Wonder begins from Auggie's point of view, but soon switches to include the perspectives of his classmates, his sister, her boyfriend, and others.

## **A Boy Called Hope – Lara Williamson**

Dan Hope is 11 years old. His dad left his family when he was little. One day, after arguing with Dan's mother, his dad walked out the door and never came back. Dan is starting to feel his dad's absence more and more. His best friend Jo, who is crazy about saints, and his new-found friend Christopher, expert at Taekwondo, help him get through his sorrow over his dad, and find a way to accept his mum's new boyfriend into his life. And through all this he has his annoying older sister to worry about as well.

## **The Machine Gunners - Robert Westall**

The **Machine Gunners** by **Robert Westall** is set during the blitz of WWII in a northern British city. It follows the adventures of 14-year-old Chas McGill and his friends as they discover a downed German **machine** gun and secretly build their own bunker to house it, the better to defend Britain's shores from the upcoming German invasion. *'Some bright kid's got a gun and 2000 rounds of live ammo. And that gun's no pea-shooter. It'll go through a brick wall at a quarter of a mile.'*

Chas McGill has the second-best collection of war souvenirs in Garmouth, and he desperately wants it to be the best. When he stumbles across the remains of a German bomber crashed in the woods - its shiny, black machine-gun still intact - he grabs his chance. Soon he's masterminding his own war effort with dangerous and unexpected results . . .

## **Born To Run – Michael Morpurgo**

Joy and heartbreak combine in this bittersweet tale of a champion greyhound's journey through life -- and from owner to owner! "The sack wasn't just drifting gently along like everything else, it was turning of its own accord. There was definitely something inside it, struggling against the side of the plastic bag, kicking at it, squeaking and squealing in terror. He had no idea what it might be, only that it was alive and in danger of drowning." When Patrick saves a litter of greyhound puppies from the canal, he can't bear to hand them all over to the RSPCA. He pleads with his parents: couldn't he just keep one of them? But nothing will convince them and Patrick cries himself to sleep -- only to be woken by a greyhound puppy licking his face! Patrick christens his puppy Best Mate, and that's what he becomes. Patrick's favourite thing is to watch Best Mate running at full stretch on the heath, a speeding bullet, a cheetah-dog. Until one day Best Mate is kidnapped by a greyhound trainer, and begins a new life as a champion race dog. Suzie, the greyhound trainer's step-daughter, loves Best Mate on first sight and gives him a new name, Bright Eyes. But what will happen when he can't run anymore?

## **Diary of a Young Girl – Anne Frank**

All Jewish people are frightened for their lives, so the Frank family hide. Life is dangerous but they hope for the best - until they are finally discovered. Anne Frank was a real person, and this is her diary.

## **The Secret Lake – Karen Inglis**

A lost dog, a hidden time tunnel and a secret lake... When Stella and her younger brother, Tom, move to their new London home, they become mystified by the disappearances of Harry, their elderly neighbour's dog. Where does he go? And why does he keep reappearing wet-through? Their quest to solve the riddle over the summer holidays leads to a boat buried under a grassy mound - and a tunnel that takes them to a secret lake. Who is the boy rowing towards them? Why is he so terrified? And whose are those children's voices carried on the wind from beyond the woods? Stella and Tom soon discover that they have travelled back in time to their home and its gardens almost 100 years earlier. Here they make both friends and enemies and uncover startling connections between the past and present.

## **The Explorer – Katherine Rundell**

Fred, Con, Lila, and Max are on their way back to England from Manaus when the plane they're on crashes and the pilot dies upon landing. For days they survive alone, until Fred finds a map that leads them to a ruined city, and to a secret.

## **Rook – Anthony McGowan**

Nicky is in love, navigating a new world of girlfriends and romance. Meanwhile, Kenny is convinced that the new kid in school is the latest incarnation of Dr Who. But both are recalled to more important matters when Tina their Jack Russell is blamed for attacks on local racing pigeons, and Nicky and Kenny must find the real culprit.

## **Skellig –David Almond**

This book revolves around a 10-year old boy, Michael. When Michael moves into a crumbling, old house with an ancient garage that he cannot resist going into, he encounters a mysterious creature named Skellig. Slowly they come to trust and care for each other and help each other through the most difficult phase of their lives.

## **Out of My Mind**

Sharon M Draper Melody is not like most people. She cannot walk or talk, but she has a photographic memory; she can remember every detail of everything she has ever experienced. She is smarter than most of the adults who try to diagnose her and smarter than her classmates in her integrated classroom - the very same classmates who dismiss her as mentally challenged because she cannot tell them otherwise. But Melody refuses to be defined by cerebral palsy. And she's determined to let everyone know it - somehow.

## **Nevermoor: The Trials of Morrington Crow – Jessica Townsend**

A cursed girl escapes death and finds herself in a magical world - but is then tested beyond her wildest imagination. Morrigan Crow is cursed. Having been born on Eventide, the unluckiest day for any child to be born, she's blamed for all local misfortunes, from hailstorms to heart attacks--and, worst of all, the curse means that Morrigan is doomed to die at midnight on her eleventh birthday. But as Morrigan awaits her fate, a strange and remarkable man named Jupiter North appears. Chased by black-smoke hounds and shadowy hunters on horseback, he whisks her away into the safety of a secret, magical city called Nevermoor.