Welcome to The Chantry School transition reading list for students who will be joining us in September 2026. We strongly believe that reading is the key to success and we aim to nurture a love of reading in all our pupils. We have included a range of books which have been recommended by both students and teachers here in school. In this list you will find books to suit a range of interests and reading ages. There is something for everyone here, so please read the short synopsis which will give you a flavour and help you to decide which book(s) you will find most engaging.

***"Come and play in the garden of imagination***
***Let the seeds of your dreams***
***Grow and blossom***
***In distant lands and times forgotten."***

As part of your reading list, we have made some suggestions for activities you may like to try. We look forward to welcoming you to our school in September, when you will have lots of opportunity to discuss your reading, share your work and embark on more inspiring reading adventures with your form tutor!

| Cover | Title and Author | Summary |
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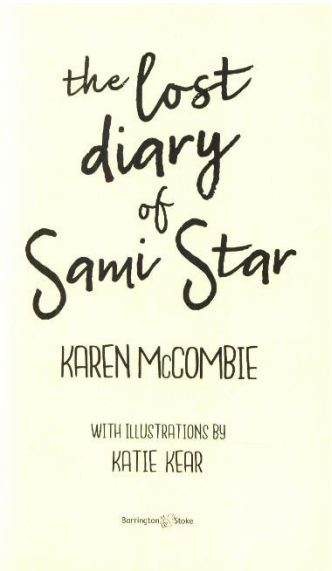
|  | The Lost Diary of Sami Star by<br>Karen McCombie | This story is about a girl called Sami Star who finds an old, lost diary. As she reads it, she discovers secrets about another girl's life, including her friendships, worries, and dreams. The diary helps Sami understand how people can feel lonely or misunderstood, even if they don't show it.<br>As Sami learns more, she starts to think about her own life and how she treats others. The story shows the importance of kindness, honesty, and friendship. In the end, Sami grows as a person and learns how small actions can make a big difference in someone's life. |

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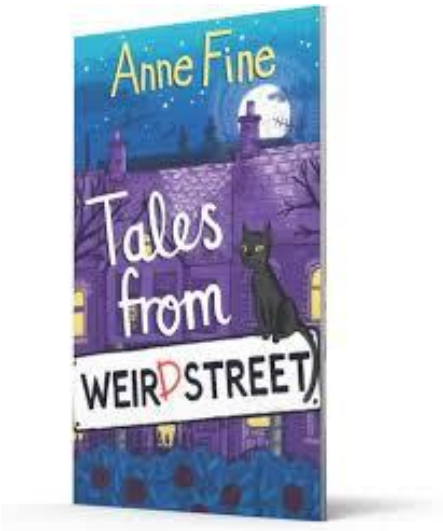
|  | Tales From Weird Street by<br>Anne Fine | This book is a collection of funny and slightly spooky short stories set on a strange street where unusual things happen. Each story focuses on different characters who experience weird, magical, or unexpected events.<br>Some stories include people turning invisible, mysterious neighbours, odd transformations, or everyday situations that suddenly become bizarre. The characters often have to deal with these strange events and learn something about themselves along the way. |
| | Poetry:<br>Everything all at Once by<br>Steven Camden | This poem is about how life can feel very busy and overwhelming, like lots of thoughts and feelings are happening at the same time. The poet describes moments where everything seems to rush in “all at once,” making it hard to slow down or focus.<br>It talks about everyday experiences, emotions, and thoughts piling up, but also shows how exciting and full of energy life can be. Even though it can feel confusing or chaotic, there is something powerful about feeling so much at once. |

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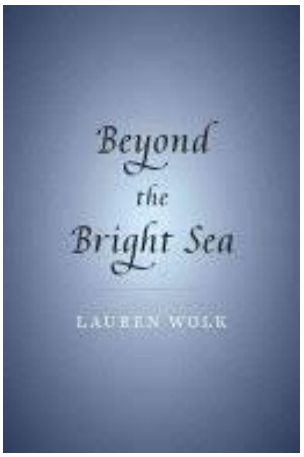
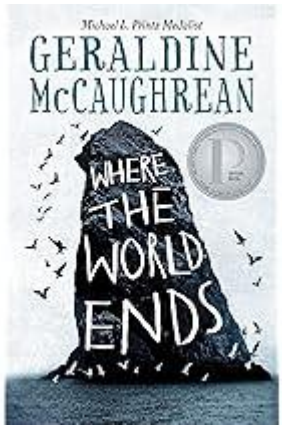
|  | Beyond the Bright sea by Lauren Wolk | This story is about a girl named Crow who lives on a small island with a kind man called Osh. She was found as a baby in a boat, and no one knows where she came from.<br>As Crow grows older, she becomes curious about her past and wants to find out who her real family is. She sets off on a journey with Osh and their friend Miss Maggie to discover the truth. Along the way, she learns about a nearby island with a dark history and uncovers secrets about her origins. |
|  | Where the World Ends by Geraldine McCaughrean | This story is about a group of boys and men who travel to a remote island to hunt seabirds, as people have done for generations. They expect to stay only a short time, but when their boat doesn't return, they realise they have been left behind.<br>Trapped on the island with very little food, they must work together to survive. As time passes, they grow hungry, tired, and worried, and some begin to lose hope. |

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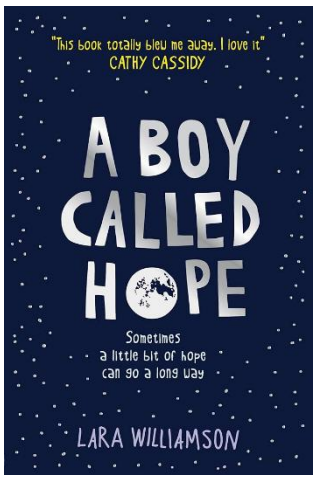
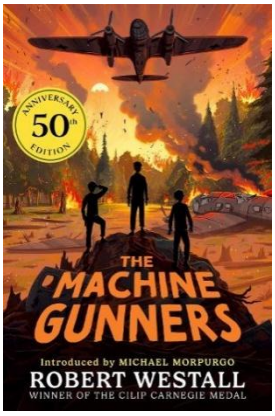
|  | A Boy Called Hope by Lara Williamson | This story is about a boy named Dan who feels like his life is falling apart. His parents have separated, his dad has left, and Dan is struggling at school. He feels angry, confused, and a bit lost.<br>Dan decides to try and fix everything by bringing his family back together. He makes a plan to find his dad and hopes it will make things better. Along the way, he gets into some tricky and funny situations, and things don't always go as planned. |
|  | The Machine Gunners by Robert Wes tall | This story is set during World War II in England. It follows a boy called Chas McGill, who is very interested in the war and collects pieces of bombed planes.<br>One day, Chas and his friends find a real working machine gun from a crashed German plane. They decide to hide it and build their own secret fortress to protect it. They even capture a German pilot and keep him hidden.<br>As the story continues, the children realise that war is not a game. They begin to understand the danger, fear, and seriousness of what is happening around them. |

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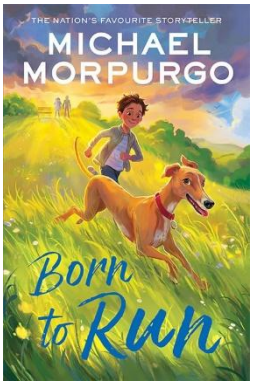
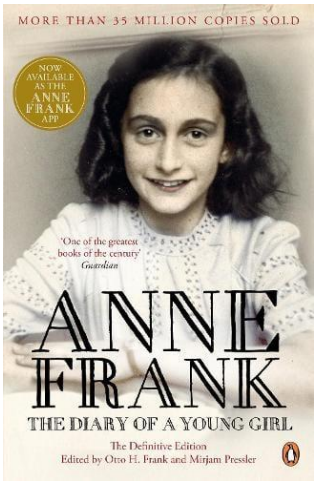
|  | Born To Run by Michael Morpurgo | This story is about a greyhound dog named Best Mate. It follows his life from being a puppy to becoming a racing dog. Best Mate is separated from his mother and trained to race, even though racing can be dangerous and unfair for some dogs. The story also follows a boy named Patrick, who forms a strong bond with him and wants to protect him.<br>As the story goes on, Best Mate faces challenges, including the risks of racing and being treated as just a tool for winning. It shows both the excitement and the cruelty of the racing world. |
|  | Diary of a Young Girl by Anne Frank | This book is the real diary of a girl named Anne Frank, who lived during World War II. When the Nazis began to persecute Jewish people, Anne and her family went into hiding in a secret annex in Amsterdam.<br>While hiding, Anne wrote about her daily life, her thoughts, and her feelings. She describes the fear of being discovered, the difficulties of living in a small space, and her relationships with the other people in hiding. She also writes about her hopes, dreams, and what she wants for the future. |

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| | The Secret Lake by Karen Inglis | This story is about a girl called Stella who moves to London and notices something strange—her neighbour's dog keeps disappearing. Curious, Stella and her new friend Tom decide to investigate.<br>They discover a hidden tunnel that leads them to a secret lake—and, amazingly, back in time to the early 1900s. There, they meet children from the past and realise that the missing dog mystery is connected to them. They must solve the mystery and help set things right before returning to their own time. |
| | The Explorer by Katherine Rundell | This story is about four children who survive a plane crash in the Amazon rainforest. They are left stranded in the middle of a huge, dangerous jungle with no adults to help them.<br>The children—Fred, Con, Lila, and Max—must learn how to survive by finding food, building shelter, and staying safe from wild animals. While exploring, they discover a mysterious man who has been living in the rainforest and is connected to the crash. As they try to find a way home, they also uncover secrets about the jungle and learn to trust each other and work as a team. |

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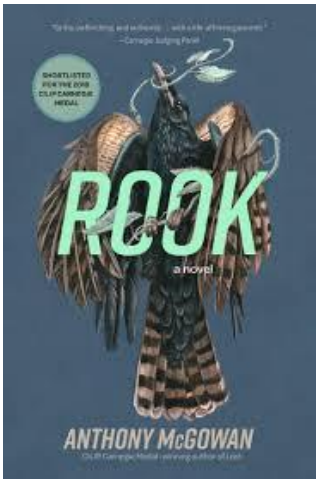
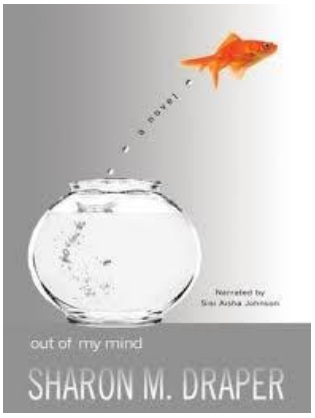
|  | Rook by Anthony McGowan | This story is about two brothers, Nicky and Kenny, who go on a difficult journery through a freezing winter landscape in England. Kenny has learning difficulties, and Nicky often feels responsible for looking after him.<br>One day, Kenny finds a badly injured rook (a type of bird), and he becomes very attached to it. The boys decide to try and help the bird survive, even though they are struggling with their own problems at home.<br>As they travel, they face cold weather, hunger, and danger. Through the journey, Nicky begins to understand his brother better, and the bond between them grows stronger. |
|  | Out of My Mind by Sharon M Draper | This story is about a girl called Melody who has cerebral palsy, a condition that means she cannot walk or speak. Even though she cannot communicate in the usual way, she has a very clever mind and understands everything going on around her.<br>At school, people often underestimate Melody because of her disability. But she is determined to show that she is intelligent and has a lot to say. With the help of a special communication device, she finally gets a way to express her thoughts. |

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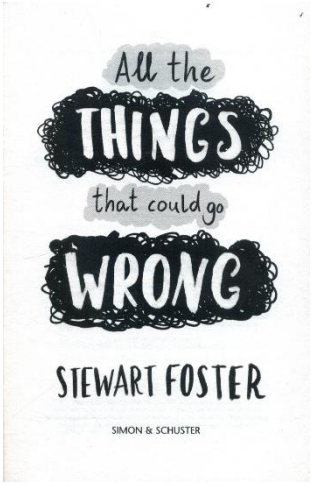
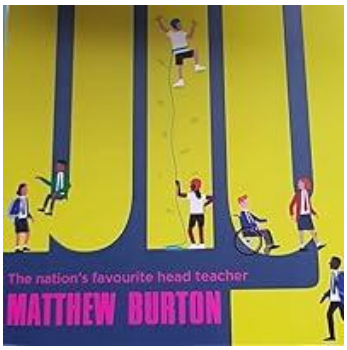
|  | All the Things that could go Wrong by Stewart Foster | This story is about a boy called Charlie who worries a lot about everything that could go wrong in life. He has anxiety, which makes him imagine the worst possible outcomes in everyday situations. Charlie tries to cope by making plans and thinking through every possible problem, but this often makes him feel even more stressed. When his mum becomes ill, his worries grow stronger and he struggles to stay calm.<br>As the story continues, Charlie learns to face his fears with the help of his family, friends, and a new sense of bravery. He slowly realises that not everything can be controlled, and that it's okay to ask for help. |
|  | Non- Fiction:<br>Go Big by Matthew Burton | This non-fiction book shares ideas about how young people can "go big" by working hard, being kind, and not giving up when things are difficult. The book includes advice, real-life experiences from school, and encouragement to help children build confidence and resilience.<br>It also talks about overcoming worries, dealing with challenges, and making positive choices so you can reach your goals. |

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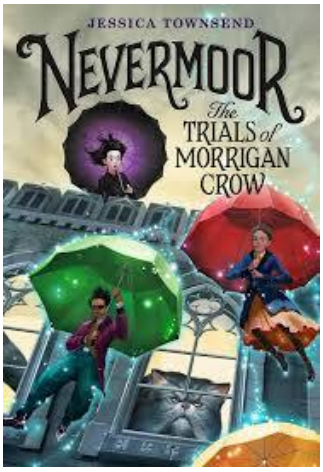
|  | Nevermoor: The Trials of Morrington Crow by Jessica Townsend | This story is about a girl called Morrigan Crow who is believed to be cursed—people blame her for bad luck and expect her to die on her eleventh birthday.<br>But just before that happens, she is rescued by a mysterious man called Jupiter North and taken to a magical city called Nevermoor. There, she gets a chance to stay, but only if she passes a series of difficult challenges called the Wundrous Society trials. Morrigan must compete against other children with special talents, even though she doesn't think she has any. As she goes through the trials, she begins to discover hidden abilities and learns more about who she really is. |

Activities:

**These activities can be applied to any of the books you read**.
Once you have read the book, we would like you to use your imagination and creative skills to make a product which includes the following information:

- A brief summary of what happens in the text
- Information about the main characters: family, age, appearance, personality, for example.
- Themes and key ideas
- A small extract that you found interesting, which moved you or made you reflect. Include an explanation of how and why.

Your product **could** be one of the following:

- Poster
- Storyboard with detailed annotation
- Short movie
- Book review
- Power point presentation

- A talk for your new form class
- A song/ piece of music
- diorama

…or any other suitable idea of your choice.

This must be your own work. It should be original (there should be no copying and pasting from the internet)