

Year 8 Suggested Reading

Other Worlds/Fantasy/Dystopia

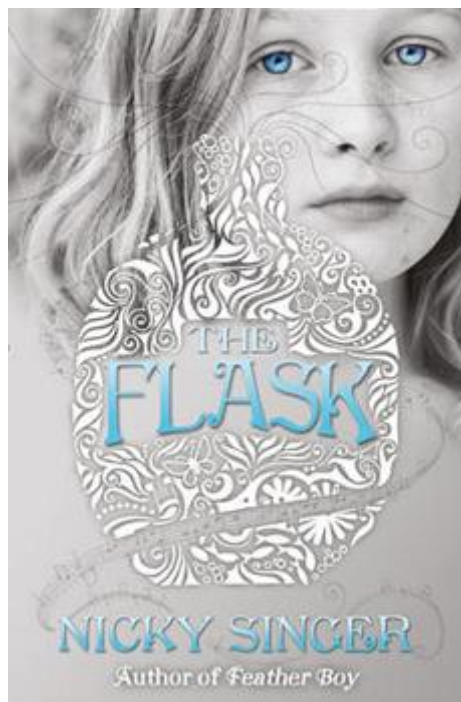
Scroll through the list to view a few of the titles suggested by our Librarians here in school for your year group.

The Flask by Nicky Singer

Twelve-year-old Jess is grieving for her beloved Aunt Edie, and anxiously awaiting the birth of her twin brothers, when she finds a mysterious glass flask hidden in a desk. The flask is beautiful to Jess, and soon she starts to believe that it contains a magical life-force. When her half-brothers are born critically ill, Jess becomes convinced that their survival depends on what's happening to the flask...

Through Jess's stunning narration, Nicky Singer explores the meaning of life, and the interconnected nature of all things – in a way which is entirely accessible to young readers.

<http://www.nickysinger.com/2012/02/10/the-flask/>

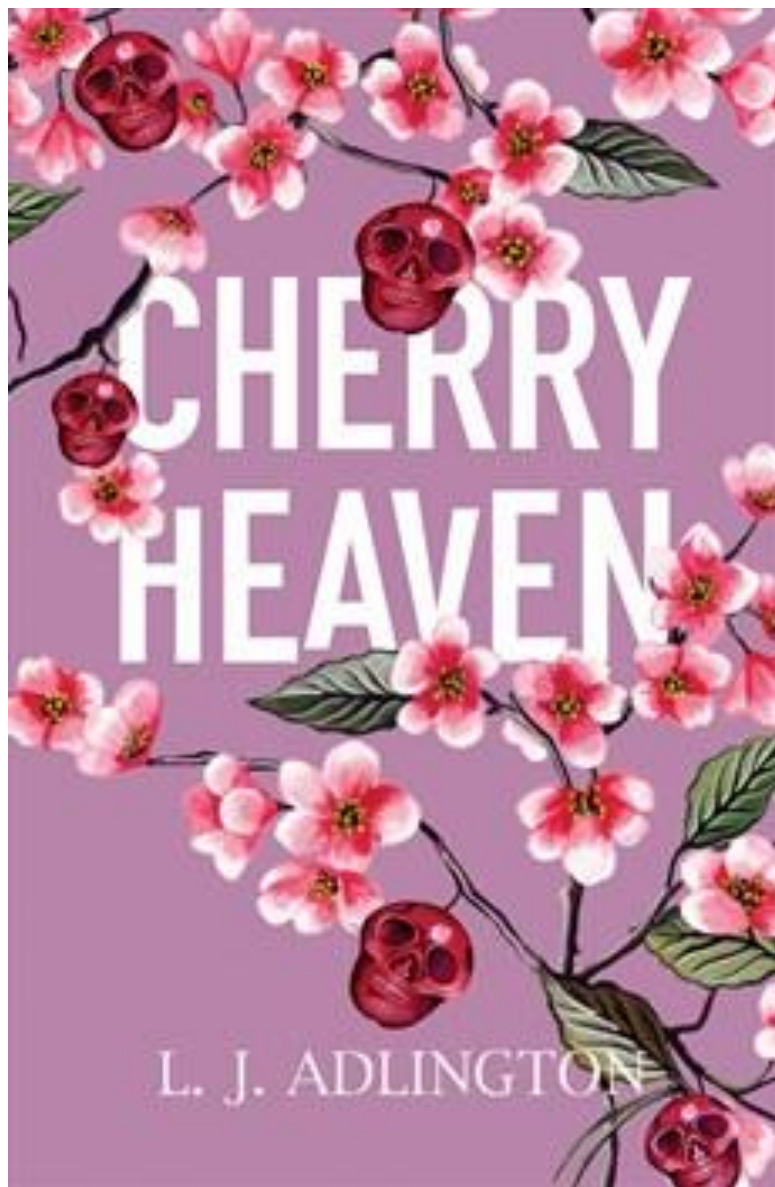


Cherry Heaven by L J Adlington

It's ten years since the terrible war in the cities that took Kat and Tanka's parents. A new life in the New Frontier beckons them, far from bullet holes and bomb craters. New Frontier people are building a fresh, liberal society, without the genetic classification and discrimination that led to the war. Kat and Tanka have a beautiful new home, Cherry Heaven, and everything promises them peace and happiness. But Cherry Heaven carries haunting marks of the past, bubbling to the surface in mysterious and frightening ways.

Woven from two voices: Kat, teenage, light, modern and knowing, the other a disturbed, fragmented story from another, peeling away the surface of the New Frontier to expose a different truth.

A tense, engrossing mystery, exploring post-war guilt and punishment, redemption and reconciliation.

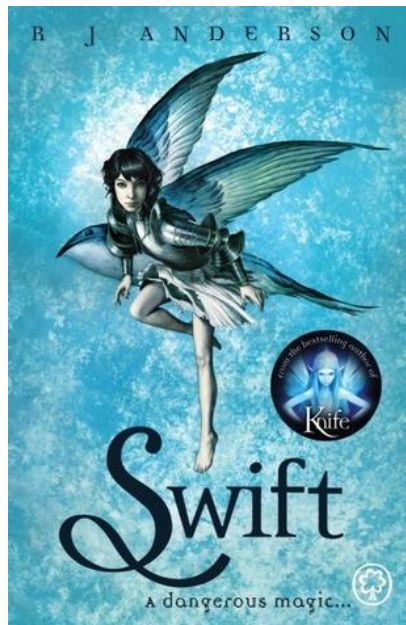


Knife/Swift by RJ Anderson

Knife Once upon a time, a fairy is born. She lives in an old oak tree at the bottom of a garden with the rest of the fairy folk. Never has she known a time when life hasn't been hard, with many dangers and much adversity. But when she becomes the Hunter of the group and learns to do battle in the outside world, her adventures really take off.

Swift ... Ivy is a determined young faery, living in an abandoned tin mine with her clan. In a cruel twist of fate she was born without wings, and she longs to fly like the others. When she meets an enigmatic stranger, he seems to offer an answer. But there is more to him than meets the eye - and more secrets in Ivy's world than she ever realised.

<http://www.rj-anderson.com/>



Abandon by Meg Cabot

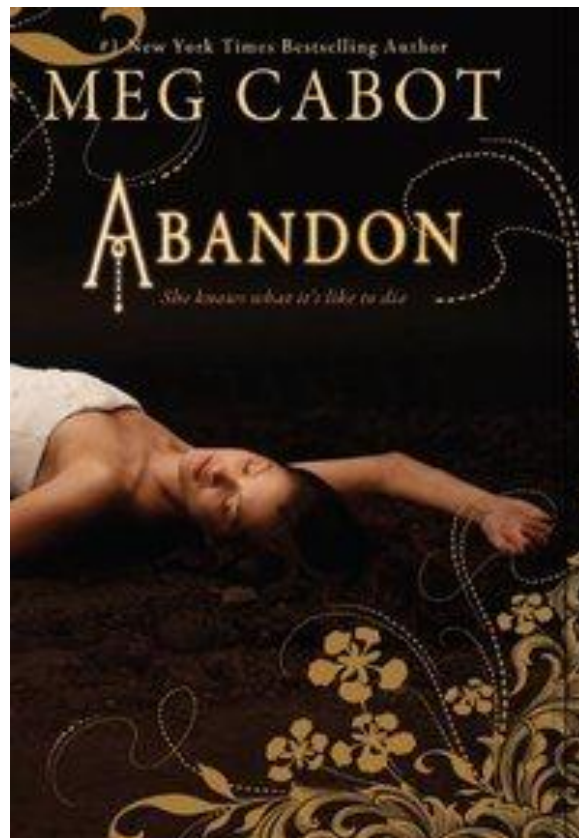
Though she tries returning to the life she knew before the accident, Pierce can't help but feel at once a part of this world, and apart from it. Yet she's never alone . . . because someone is always watching her. Escape from the realm of the dead is impossible when someone there wants you back.

But now she's moved to a new town. Maybe at her new school, she can start fresh. Maybe she can stop feeling so afraid.

Only she can't. Because even here, he finds her. That's how desperately he wants her back. She knows he's no guardian angel, and his dark world isn't exactly heaven, yet she can't stay away . . . especially since he always appears when she least expects it, but exactly when she needs him most.

But if she lets herself fall any further, she may just find herself back in the one place she most fears: the Underworld.

<http://megcabot.com/abandon/>

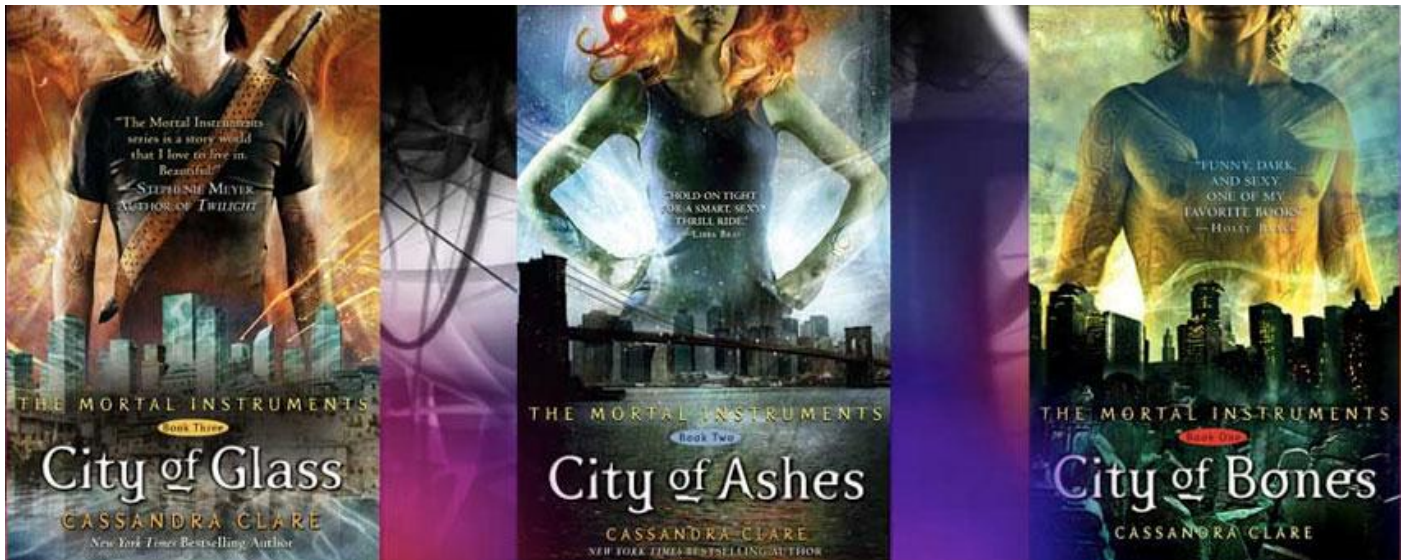


The Mortal Instruments series

by Cassandra Clare

Sixteen-year-old Clary Fray is an ordinary teenager, who likes hanging out in Brooklyn with her friends. But everything changes the night she witnesses a murder, committed by a group of teens armed with medieval weaponry. The murderous group are Shadowhunters, secret warriors dedicated to driving demons out of this dimension and back into their own. Drawn inexorably into a terrifying world, Clary slowly begins to learn the truth about her family - and the battle for the fate of the world.

<http://www.cassandraclare.com/my-writing/novels/the-mortal-instruments/>



The Hunger Games (Trilogy)

by Suzanne Collins

Sixteen-year-old Katniss Everdeen regards it as a death sentence when she is forced to represent her district in the annual Hunger Games, a fight to the death on live TV. But Katniss has been close to death before-and survival, for her, is second nature.

The Hunger Games is a searing novel set in a future with unsettling parallels to our present.

<http://www.suzannecollinsbooks.com/>

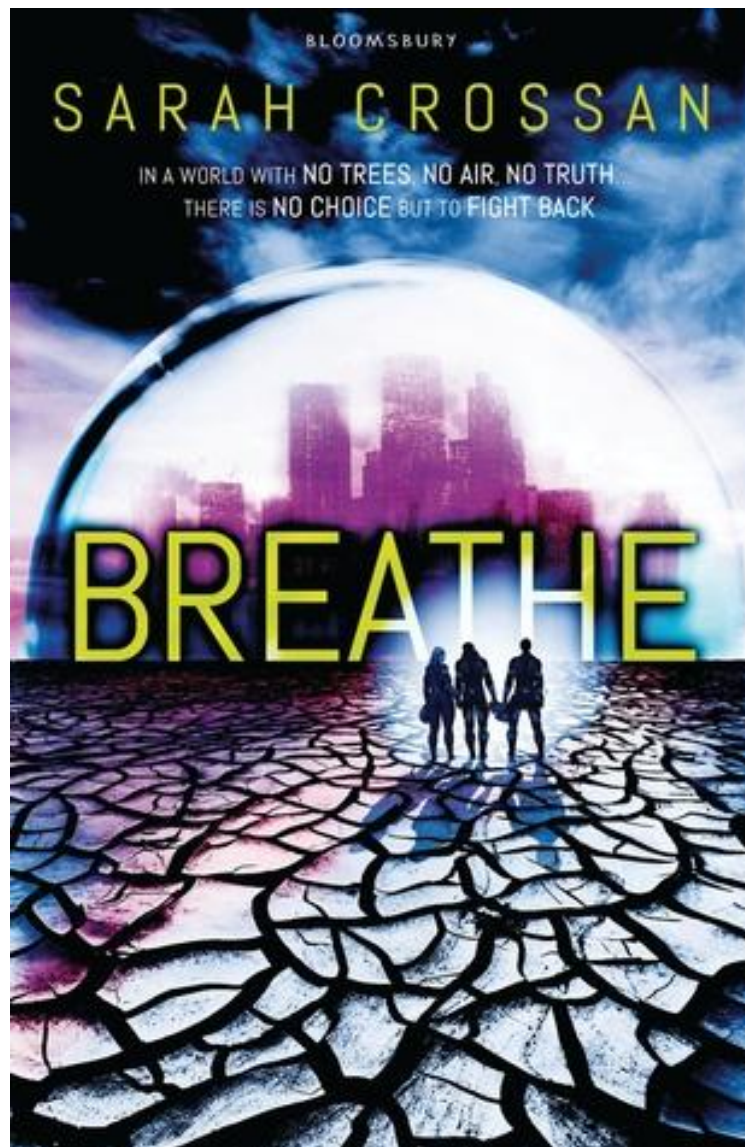


Breathe by Sarah Crossan

The world has no air. If you want to survive, you pay to breathe. But what if you can't? And what if you think everything could be different? Three teens will leave everything they know behind in Sarah Crossan's gripping and original dystopian teen novel of danger, longing, and glimmering hope that will appeal to fans of Patrick Ness and Veronica Roth.

Ever since the Switch, when the oxygen levels plummeted and most of humanity died, the survivors have been protected in glass domes full of manufactured air. Protected . . . or trapped? Or controlled? Alina's a revolutionary who believes we can save the environment. Quinn's a Premium who's never had to worry about having enough air. His best friend, Bea, is an Auxiliary who's never worried about anything but having enough air. When the three cross paths, they will change everything. Sarah Crossan's thrilling and provocative novel is about passion, about yearning for something better, and about breaking free for the very first time.

<http://www.sarahcrossan.com/>



Ingo Chronicles by Helen Dunmore

An atmospheric and beautifully written adventure, from the award-winning author of the Ingo series.

Morveren lives with her parents and twin sister Jenna on an island off the coast of Cornwall.

As Morveren and Jenna's relationship shifts and changes, like driftwood on the tide, Morveren finds a beautiful teenage boy in a rock pool after a storm. Going to his rescue, she is shocked to see that he is not human but a Mer boy.

With Jenna refusing to face the truth, Morveren finds herself alone at the worst possible time. Because when the worlds of Air and Mer meet, the consequences can be terrible.

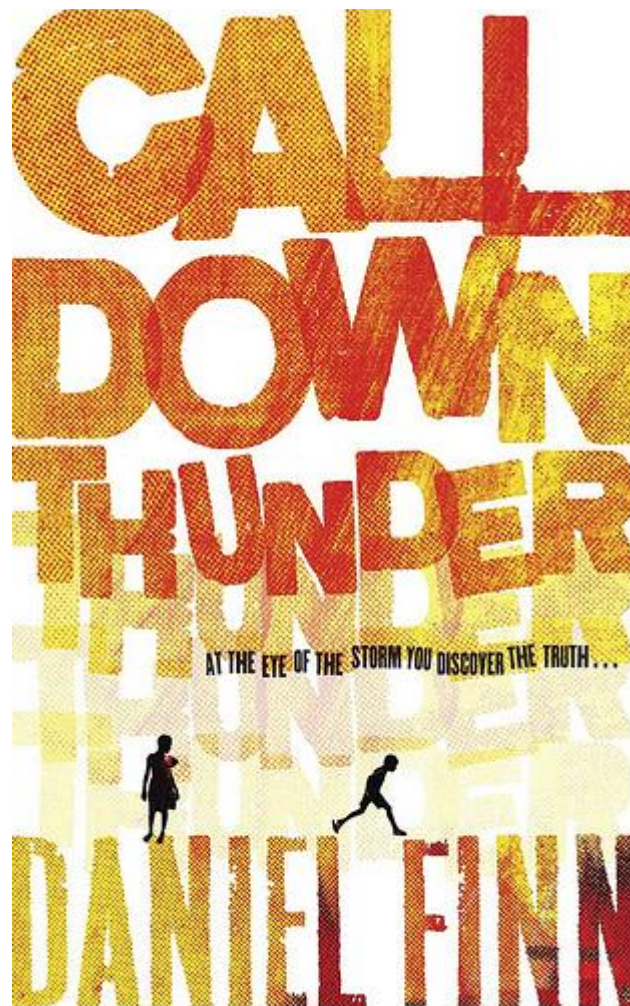
All the books are beautifully written and are an exciting adventure.



Call Down Thunder by Daniel Finn

Reve and his sister Mi are alone in the world – their father is dead and their mother has abandoned them. Reve has to learn to be a man – to fight, to fish, to live. He must protect Mi from the rest of the world; she is special, hears voices, can see things. She can call down thunder.

Travelling to the big city to search for their mother, Reve and Mi get sucked into the squalid underworld of the sprawling favela, where danger lurks around every corner, and every day is a fight for survival.



The Beautiful Creatures (series)

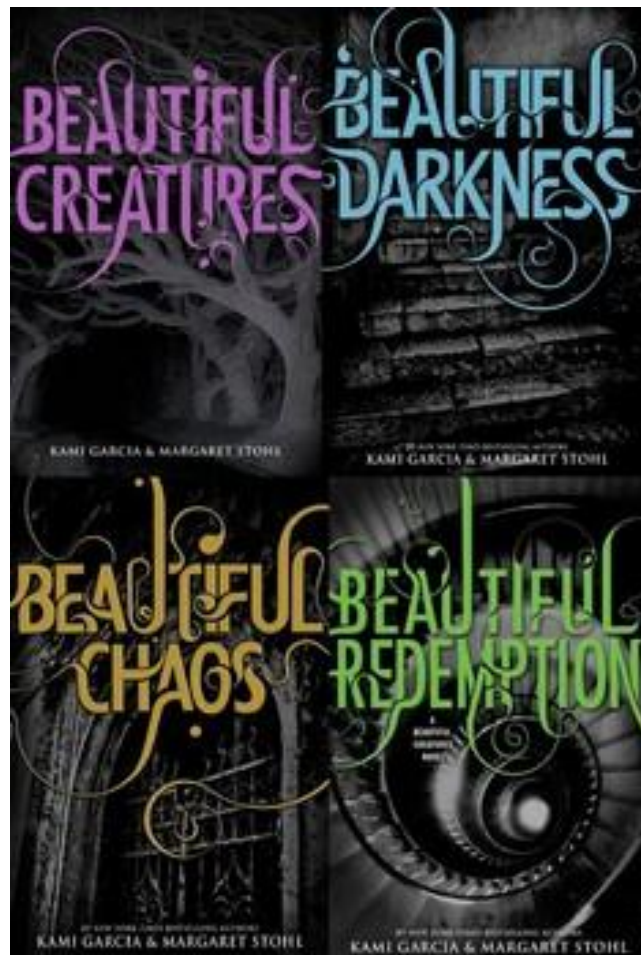
by Kami Garcia

"There were no surprises in Gatlin County. At least, that's what I thought. Turns out, I couldn't have been more wrong.

"Ethan Wate used to think of Gatlin, the small Southern town he had always called home, as a place where nothing ever changed. Then he met mysterious newcomer Lena Duchannes, who revealed a secret world where a curse has marked Lena's family of powerful Supernaturals for generations.

Mysterious, suspenseful, and romantic, "Beautiful Creatures, Beautiful Darkness," "Beautiful Chaos," and "Beautiful Redemption" introduce a secret world hidden in plain sight. A world where impossible, magical, life-altering events happen.

<http://www.kamigarcia.com/>

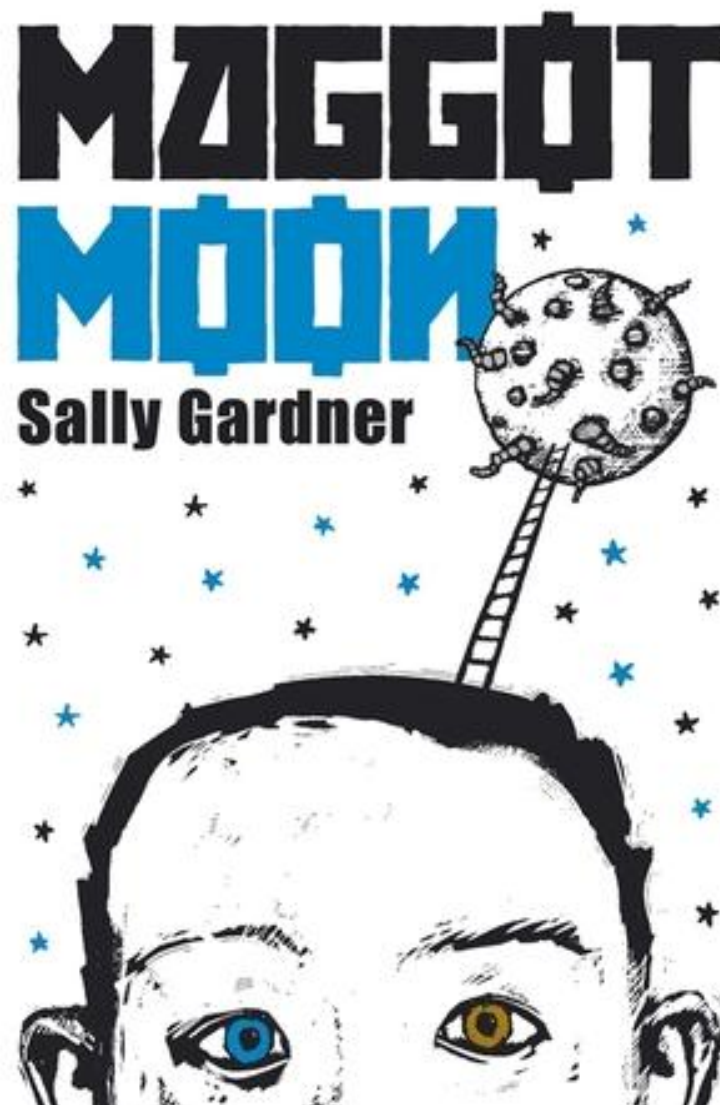


Maggot Moon by Sally Gardner

Set in an alternative 1950s Britain, where Standish Treadwell and Gramps live with the rest of the undesirables in Zone 7, and all stand terrified under the brutal regime of the Motherland. But severely dyslexic Standish sees the world through different eyes to most, and through his vision and courage he has to track down his best friend Hector, who has disappeared completely, and ultimately find a way to bring down the oppressive forces of the Motherland. How can one boy stand against an all-powerful army?

MAGGOT MOON is an unforgettable story of courage, friendship and rebellion, written in a wholly original style that will have readers on the edge of their seats from beginning to end.

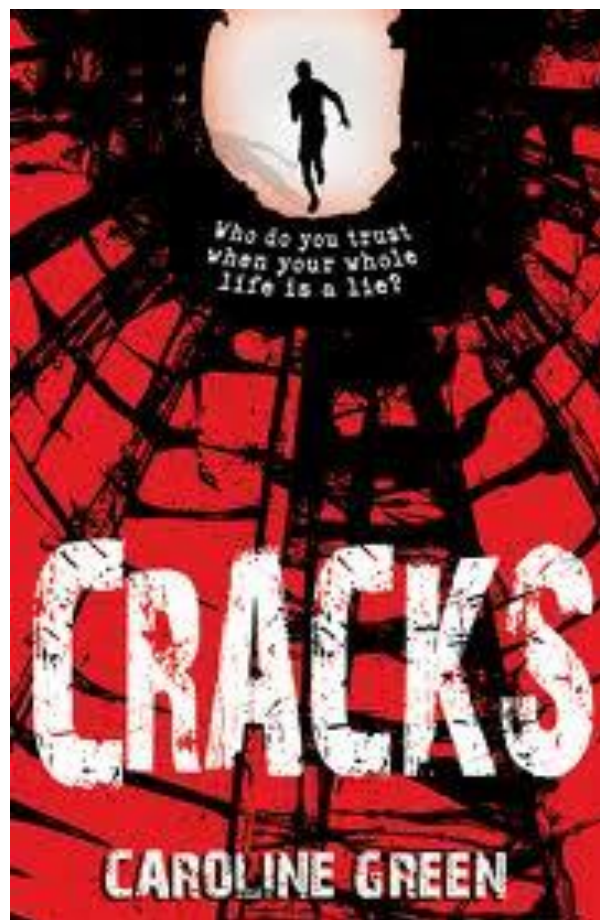
<http://maggotmoon.com/>



Cracks by Caroline Green

"I'm shaking all over. My brain feels like a computer whose hard drive is full. I can't take any more weirdness - I haven't got room in my head. I look around the kitchen and I know something is different but I can't put my finger on it." Cat's discovering that his life is not as ordinary as he thought. That's scary. Particularly when it seems he's the very last to know. He needs to find out the truth - but, with lies, danger and deceit on all sides, is there anyone he can trust?

<http://www.carolinegreen.net/>



Gone (series) by Michael Grant

Gone is a young-adult dystopian science fiction book series written by Michael Grant. The series is centered around the fictional American town of Perdido Beach, in which every human 15 and older vanishes. The town and surrounding areas become encased within an impenetrable energy barrier, with many of its inhabitants developing supernatural powers. The books follow the exploits of the protagonist, Sam Temple, as he battles antagonists Caine Soren and Drake Merwin, as well as a mysterious, malevolent creature.

<http://www.michaelgrantbooks.co.uk/>

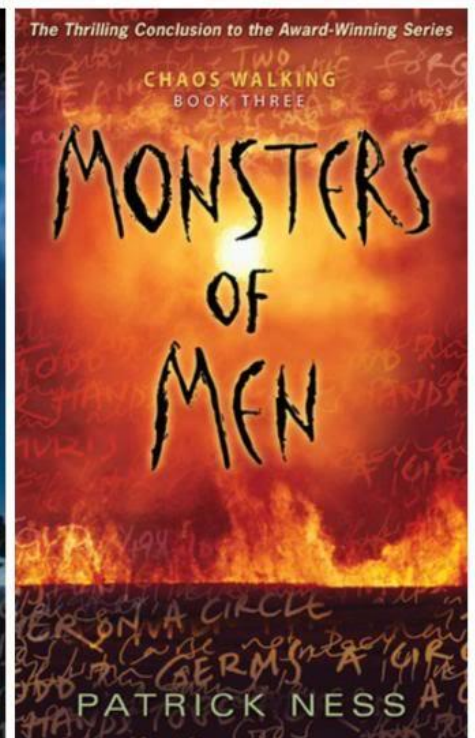
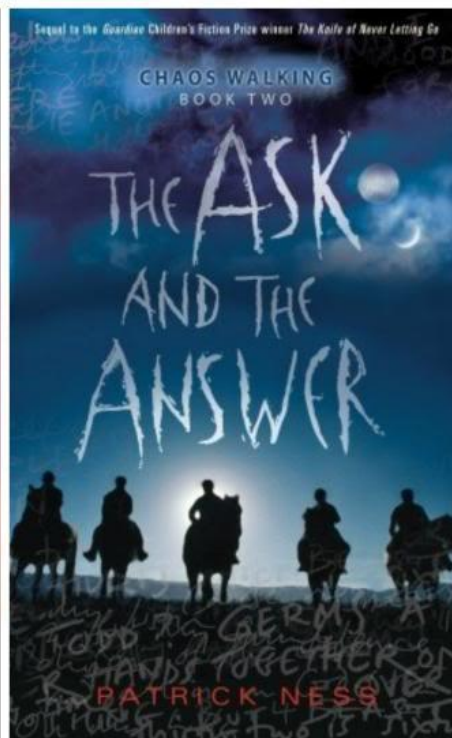


The Chaos Walking (Trilogy)

by Patrick Ness

Chaos Walking is a young adult science fiction series by the U.S.-born British novelist Patrick Ness. It is set in a dystopian world where all living creatures can hear each other's thoughts in a stream of images, words, and sounds called Noise. The series is named after a line in the first book: "The Noise is a man unfiltered, and without a filter, a man is just chaos walking." The series consists of a trilogy of novels and three short stories.

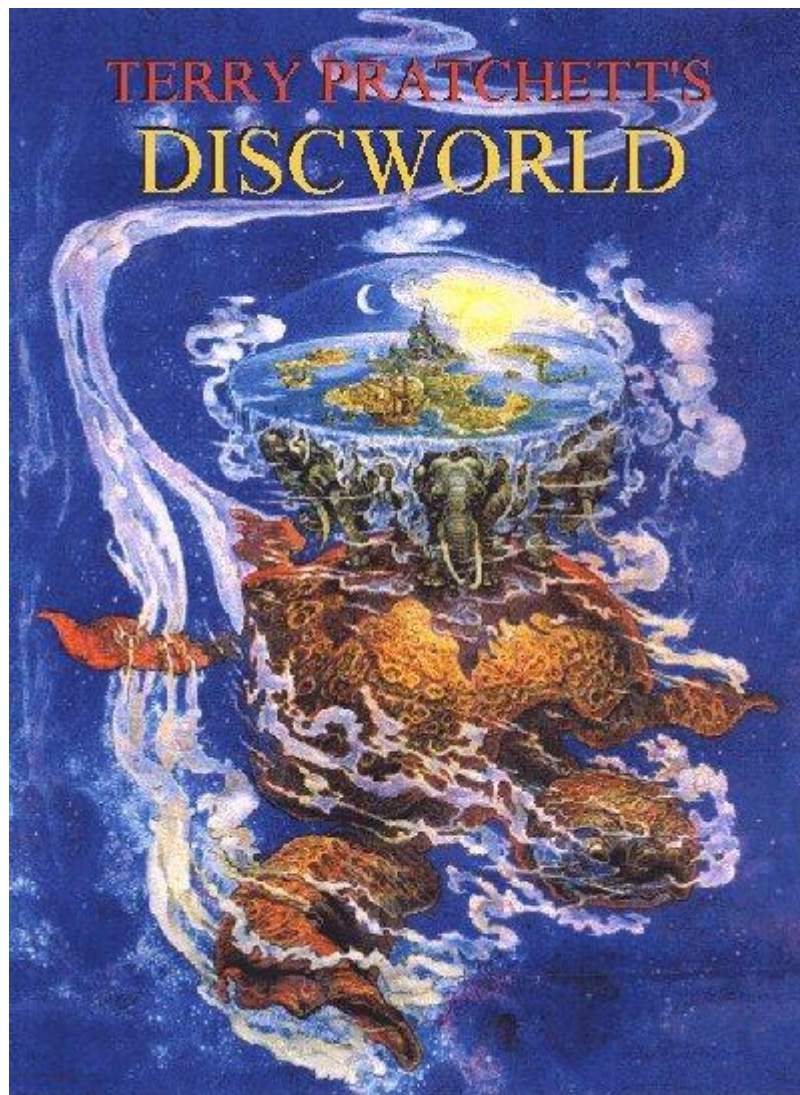
<http://www.patrickness.com/>



Discworld by Terry Pratchett

The Discworld is an immense series of comedy fantasy novels by British author Sir Terry Pratchett set on a flat world held up by four elephants and pulled along by a great space turtle. They are hugely popular and include recurring characters such as vengeful gods, a failed wizard, the first ever tourist, his ever present luggage, Death and his Granddaughter Susan. They range in their settings, some set in war torn and uncivilized continents whilst others in the more magical kingdoms overseen by gods and monsters.

<http://www.terrypratchettbooks.com/>



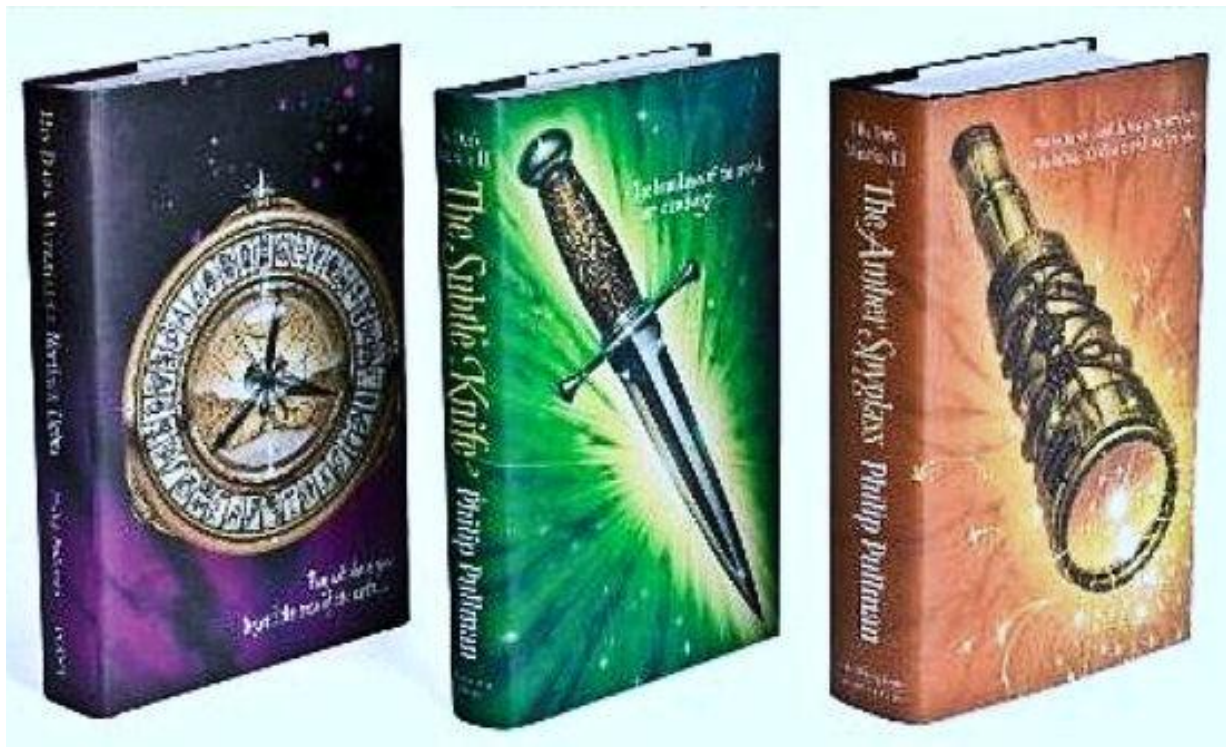
His Dark Materials (trilogy)

by Philip Pullman

The His Dark Materials trilogy is a group of fantasy books about parallel worlds, religion and spirituality.

Aimed at young adults the books were released between 1995 and 2000. It is a coming of age story about a girl named Lyra who finds herself embroiled in the dangerous world of child trafficking and the mysterious Dust.

<http://www.philip-pullman.com/>



Heroes of Olympus Rick Riordan

A new Great Prophecy, a new generation of demigods – the adventures have just begun! In this new five-book series, expect to see your old friends from the Percy Jackson books along with a great new cast of main characters, as the heroes of Camp Half-Blood embark on their most dangerous challenge yet.

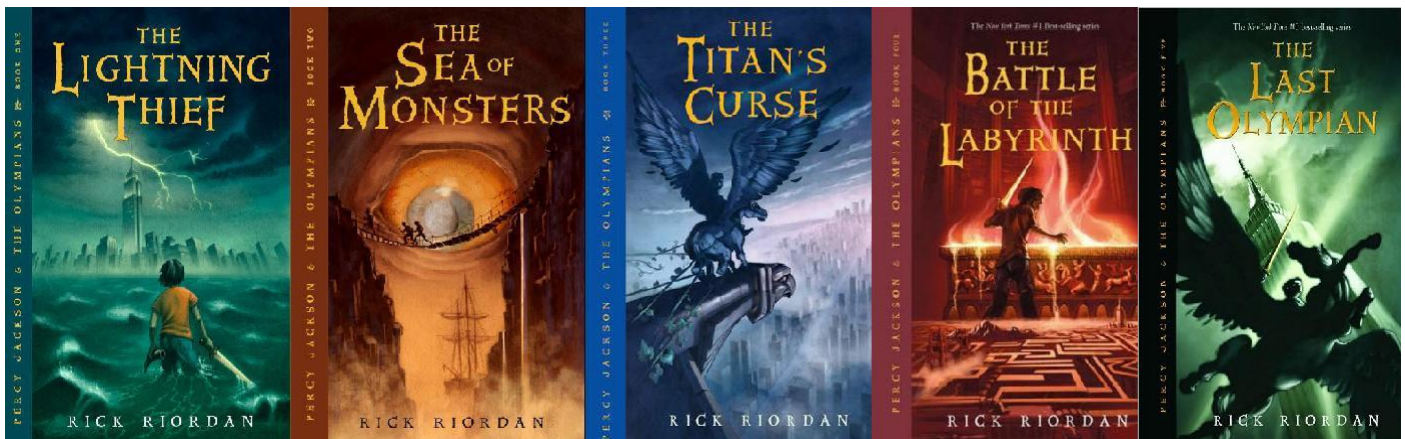
<http://www.rickriordan.com/my-books/percy-jackson.aspx>



Percy Jackson by Rick Riordan

In the mood for monsters and mythological heroes? Look no further than Rick Riordan's fun, fast-paced Percy Jackson series, which follows the adventures of young demigod (half mortal, half Greek god) Percy and his friends Annabeth and Grover. And the story continues in the Heroes of Olympus spin-off series.

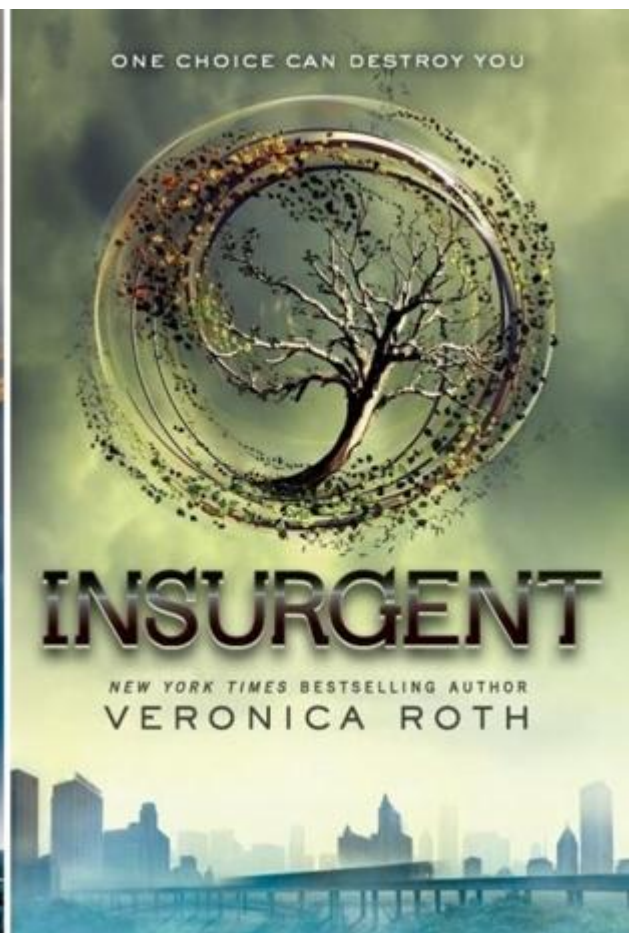
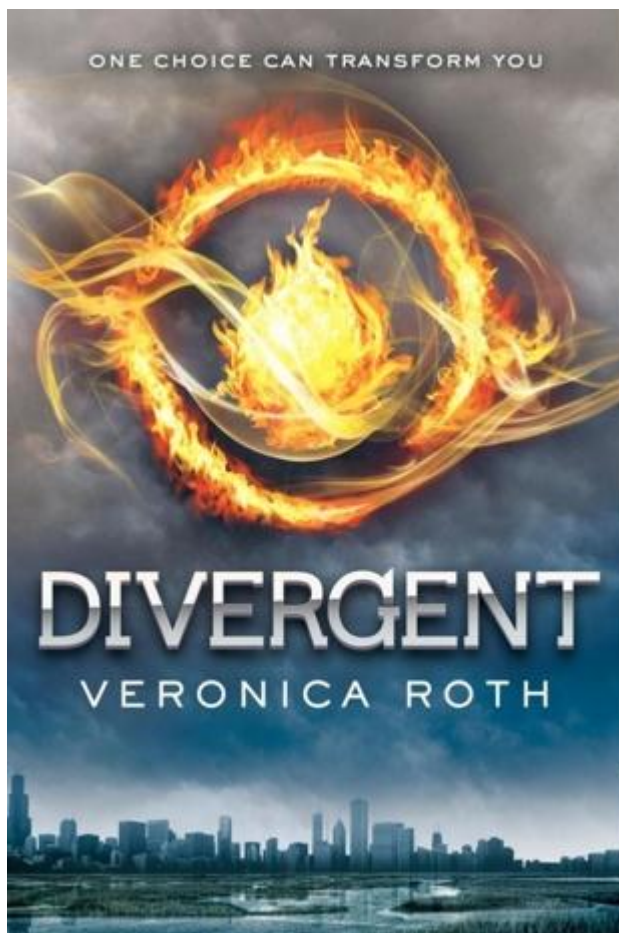
http://www.percyjackson.co.uk/site/pj_books.php



Divergent/Insurgent by Veronica Roth

One choice can transform you—or it can destroy you. But every choice has consequences, and as unrest surges in the factions all around her, Tris Prior must continue trying to save those she loves—and herself—while grappling with haunting questions of grief and forgiveness, identity and loyalty, politics and love.

Tris's initiation day should have been marked by celebration and victory with her chosen faction; instead, the day ended with unspeakable horrors. War now looms as conflict between the factions and their ideologies grows. And in times of war, sides must be chosen, secrets will emerge, and choices will become even more irrevocable—and even more powerful. Transformed by her own decisions but also by haunting grief and guilt, radical new discoveries, and shifting relationships, Tris must fully embrace her Divergence, even if she does not know what she may lose by doing so.



The Lord of the Rings (trilogy)

by J R R Tolkien

Continuing the story begun in *The Hobbit*, all three parts of the epic masterpiece, *The Lord of the Rings*, in one paperback. Features the definitive edition of the text, fold-out flaps with the original two-colour maps, and a revised and expanded index. Sauron, the Dark Lord, has gathered to him all the Rings of Power - the means by which he intends to rule Middle-earth. All he lacks in his plans for dominion is the One Ring - the ring that rules them all - which has fallen into the hands of the hobbit, Bilbo Baggins. In a sleepy village in the Shire, young Frodo Baggins finds himself faced with an immense task, as the Ring is entrusted to his care. He must leave his home and make a perilous journey across the realms of Middle-earth to the Crack of Doom, deep inside the territories of the Dark Lord. There he must destroy the Ring forever and foil the Dark Lord in his evil purpose. Since it was first published in 1954, *The Lord of the Rings* has been a book people have treasured. Steeped in unrivalled magic and otherworldliness, its sweeping fantasy has touched the hearts of young and old alike.

