

MAGNUS  
CHURCH OF ENGLAND  
ACADEMY

# The Magnus Canon



## Year 8 Guide



## Welcome to the Magnus Canon

This is a list of books we have created for you to read throughout your time at Magnus, helping to develop a broad perspective of the world around you, increase and improve your vocabulary and give you the chance to unwind with a great story.

The wide range of books on the list will count towards your Magnus Graduation target. Genres include Science Fiction, Mystery, Historical, Dystopian, and Fantasy. The list has some amazing BAME authors, a great selection of Non Fiction titles as well as some wonderful play scripts – there really is something for everyone.

Some of these books will be read during Prep sessions or studied in your English lessons, these are highlighted in this guide.

We want to challenge you to read as many books off this list as possible before Graduation in the Summer.

There will be short quizzes for you to complete with Mrs Jackson in the Library, so make sure you take your time, really enjoy each story and get the most out of each book.

### **Here is the full Year 8 list...**

The Hobbit – J.R.R.Tolkien

The Woman in Black – Susan Hill (Studied in English)

Ghost Boys – Jewell Parker Rhodes (Prep text)

Northern Lights – Phillip Pullman

Little Women – Louisa May Alcott

Noughts and Crosses – Malorie Blackman

The Outsiders – S.E. Hinton

The Foreshadowing – Marcus Sedgwick

You are Awesome – Matthew Syed (Prep text)

The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy – Douglas Adams

Mister Creecher – Chris Priestley

The Alchemist – Paulo Coelho

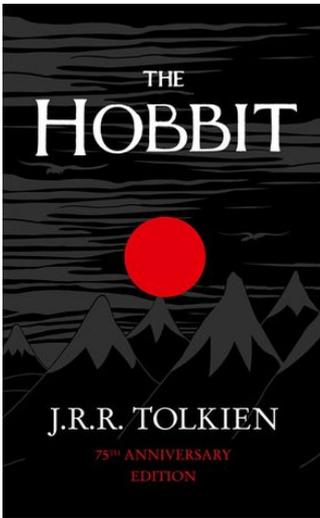
Coram Boy – Jamila Gavin

The Secret Diary of Adrian Mole – Sue Townsend

Millions – Frank Cottrell Boyce (Prep text)



*Have a look at the following pages for more information on each book. For more details on how to complete The Magnus Canon for graduation, see your English teacher or Mrs Jackson.*



Bilbo Baggins is a hobbit who enjoys a comfortable, unambitious life, rarely traveling any farther than his pantry or cellar. But his contentment is disturbed when the wizard Gandalf and a company of dwarves arrive on his doorstep one day to whisk him away on an adventure. They have launched a plot to raid the treasure hoard guarded by Smaug the Magnificent, a large and very dangerous dragon.

Bilbo reluctantly joins their quest, unaware that on his journey to the Lonely Mountain he will encounter both a magic ring and a frightening creature known as Gollum.

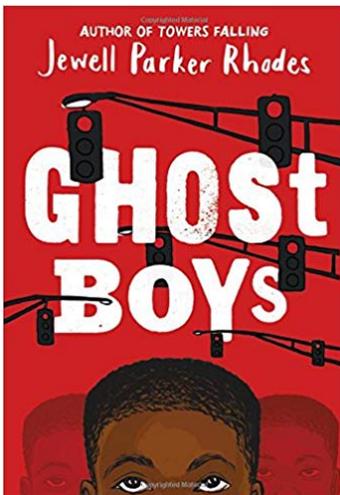
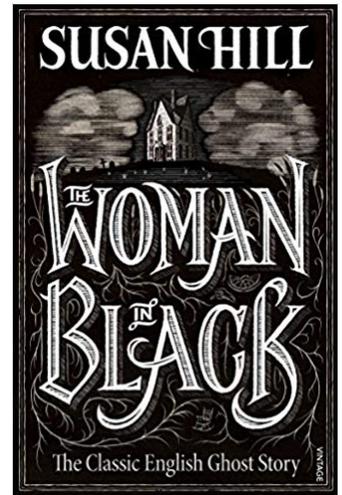
**Adventure / Fantasy**



Arthur Kipps, a junior solicitor, is summoned to attend the funeral of Mrs Alice Drablow, the sole inhabitant of Eel Marsh House.

The house stands at the end of a causeway, wreathed in fog and mystery, but it is not until he glimpses a wasted young woman, dressed all in black, at the funeral, that a creeping sense of unease begins to take hold, a feeling deepened by the reluctance of the locals to talk of the woman in black and her terrible purpose.

**Mystery**



**Alive:** Twelve-year-old Jerome doesn't get into trouble. He goes to school. He does his homework. He takes care of his little sister. Then Jerome is shot by a police officer who mistakes his toy gun for a real threat.

**Dead:** As a ghost, watching his family trying to cope with his death, Jerome begins to notice other ghost boys.

Each boy has a story and they all have something in common...

Bit by bit Jerome begins to understand what really happened – not just to him, but to all of the ghost boys.

**BAME author / Topical issues / Prep text**

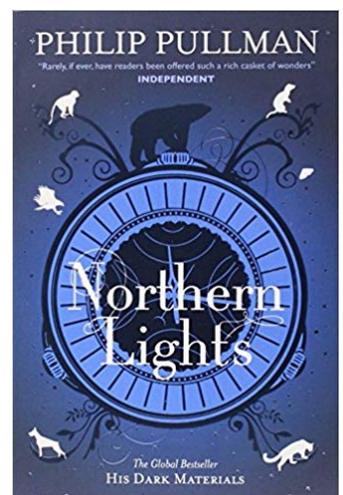
*"Without this child, we shall all die."*

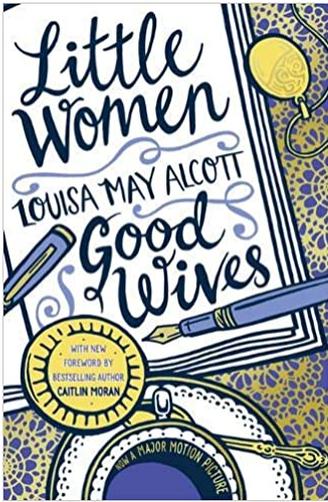
Lyra Belacqua and her animal daemon live half-wild and carefree among scholars of Jordan College, Oxford.

The destiny that awaits her will take her to the frozen lands of the Arctic, where witch-clans reign and ice-bears fight.

Her extraordinary journey will have immeasurable consequences far beyond her own world...

**Fantasy / Adventure**





*'I want to do something splendid... something heroic or wonderful that won't be forgotten after I'm dead. I don't know what, but I'm on the watch for it and mean to astonish you all someday.'*

Curl up with this timeless classic, and your new best friends - Meg, Jo, Beth and Amy, the four March sisters whose lives will bring tears to your eyes and warmth to your heart, and whose stories will stay with you forever.

**Family / 19<sup>th</sup> Century text**

Sephy is a Cross: she lives a life of privilege and power. But she's lonely, and burns with injustice at the world she sees around her.

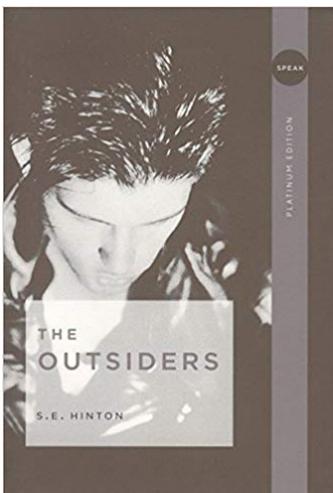
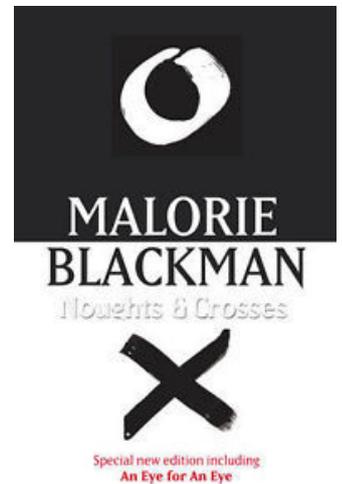
Callum is a Nought: he's considered to be less than nothing - a blanker, there to serve Crosses - but he dreams of a better life.

They've been friends since they were children, and they both know that's as far as it can ever go. Noughts and Crosses are fated to be bitter enemies - love is out of the question.

Then - in spite of a world that is fiercely against them - these star-crossed lovers choose each other.

But this is love story that will lead both of them into terrible danger . . . and which will have shocking repercussions for generations to come.

**BAME author**



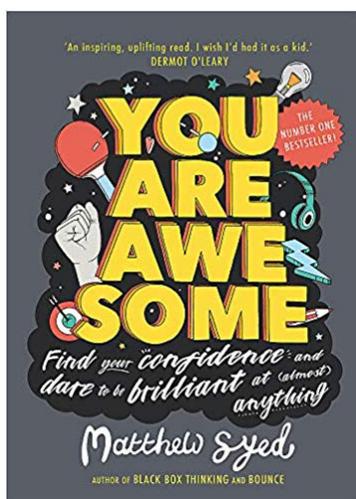
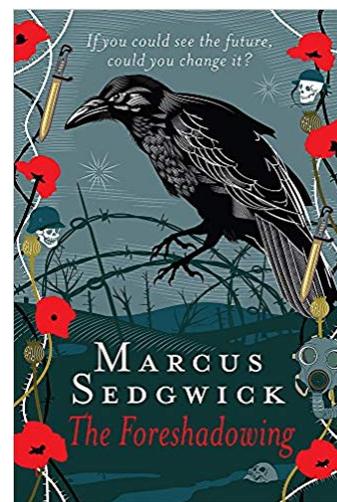
No one ever said life was easy. But Ponyboy is pretty sure that he's got things figured out. He knows that he can count on his brothers, Darry and Sodapop. And he knows that he can count on his friends--true friends who would do anything for him, like Johnny and Two-Bit. But not on much else besides trouble with the Socs, a vicious gang of rich kids whose idea of a good time is beating up on "greasers" like Ponyboy. At least he knows what to expect--until the night someone takes things too far.

**Bildungsroman**



It is 1915 and 17-year-old Sasha Fox is trapped by her own terrible and tragic power. She can see into the future, can see what will happen to her much loved brothers Edgar and Tom who have gone to war and, worse still who would want to see the end of their own story?

**Historical fiction**



*'I'm no good at sport ... I can't do maths ... I really struggle with exams ... Sound familiar?'*

If you believe you can't do something, the chances are you won't try. But what if you really could get better at maths, or sport or exams? In fact, what if you could excel at anything you put your mind to? You Are Awesome can help you do just that.

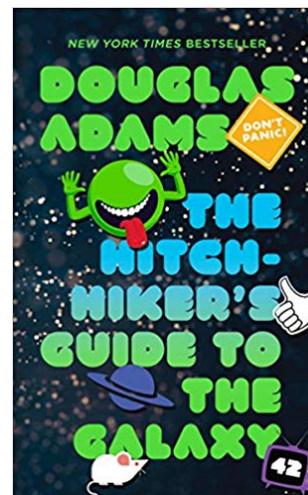
**Non-fiction / Prep text**



Seconds before the Earth is demolished to make way for a galactic freeway, Arthur Dent is plucked off the planet by his friend Ford Prefect, a researcher for the revised edition of The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy who, for the last fifteen years, has been posing as an out-of-work actor.

Together this dynamic pair begin a journey through space aided by quotes from The Hitchhiker's Guide ("A towel is about the most massively useful thing an interstellar hitchhiker can have") and a galaxy-full of fellow travellers.

**Science-fiction**

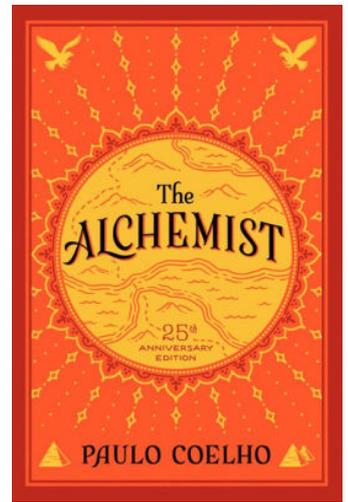


Billy is a street urchin, pickpocket and petty thief. Mister Creecher is a monstrous giant of a man who terrifies all he meets. Their relationship begins as pure convenience. But a bond swiftly develops between these two misfits as their bloody journey takes them ever northwards on the trail of their target . . . Victor Frankenstein.

**Meta-fiction**

This is the story of Santiago, an Andalusian shepherd boy who dreams of travelling the world in search of a treasure as extravagant as any ever found. From his home in Spain he journeys to the exotic markets of Tangiers and then into the Egyptian desert, where a fateful encounter with the alchemist awaits him.

**Adventure**



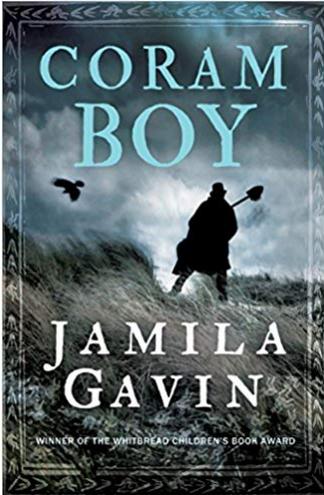
A tale of two cities. Gloucester and London.

A tale of two boys. Toby, saved from an African slave ship; Aaron, the illegitimate son of the heir to a great estate.

A tale of fathers and sons. Otis dealing in the vilest trade of all, and his son Meshak, not quite of this world; Sir William Ashbrook, landowners, and Alexander, the son he disinherits.

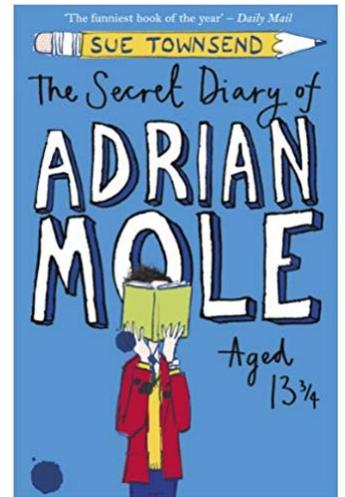
An epic journey fraught with every danger and excitement, until love triumphs over hatred and corruption.

**Dystopian**



Adrian Mole is approaching fourteen, and like all radical intellectuals he must amass his grievances: His acne vulgaris is grotesque; his crush, Pandora, received seventeen Valentine's Day cards; his PE teacher is a sadist; he fears his parents' marriage is over since they no longer smoke together; his dog has gone AWOL; no one appreciates his poetry; and Animal Farm has set him off pork for good. If everyone were as appalled as Adrian Mole, it would be a better world.

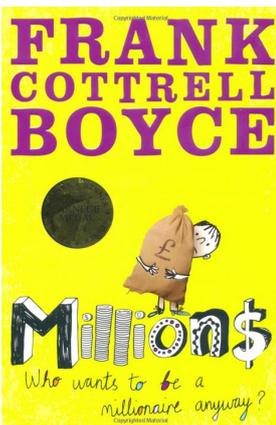
**Family / Comedy**



Two boys. One miracle. A million choices

When a bag stuffed full of money drops out of the sky, Damian and Anthony find themselves rich. Very rich indeed. Suddenly the brothers can buy anything they want – except the one thing they really need.

**Adventure / Prep text**



### **The Alchemist**

Harper Collins edition published 2006

### **Coram Boy**

Mammoth edition published 2000

### **The Foreshadowing**

Orion Children's books edition published 2014

### **Ghost Boys**

Amazon.co.uk - [https://www.amazon.co.uk/Ghost-Boys-Jewell-Parker-Rhodes/dp/1510104399/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?dchild=1&keywords=ghost+boys&qid=1597738165&s=books&sr=1-1](https://www.amazon.co.uk/Ghost-Boys-Jewell-Parker-Rhodes/dp/1510104399/ref=sr_1_1?dchild=1&keywords=ghost+boys&qid=1597738165&s=books&sr=1-1)

### **The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy**

Penguin Random House edition published 2007

### **The Hobbit**

Amazon.co.uk - [https://www.amazon.co.uk/Hobbit-J-R-Tolkien/dp/0007458428/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?dchild=1&keywords=the+hobbit&qid=1597737986&s=books&sr=1-1](https://www.amazon.co.uk/Hobbit-J-R-Tolkien/dp/0007458428/ref=sr_1_1?dchild=1&keywords=the+hobbit&qid=1597737986&s=books&sr=1-1)

### **Little Women**

Scholastic edition published 2019

### **Mister Creecher**

Bloomsbury edition published 2012

### **Northern Lights**

Amazon.co.uk - [https://www.amazon.co.uk/Northern-Lights-His-Dark-Materials/dp/1407130226/ref=sr\\_1\\_2?dchild=1&keywords=northern+lights&qid=1597738366&s=books&sr=1-2](https://www.amazon.co.uk/Northern-Lights-His-Dark-Materials/dp/1407130226/ref=sr_1_2?dchild=1&keywords=northern+lights&qid=1597738366&s=books&sr=1-2)

### **Noughts and Crosses**

Amazon.co.uk - [https://www.amazon.co.uk/Noughts-Crosses-Malorie-Blackman/dp/0141378646/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?dchild=1&keywords=noughts+and+crosses&qid=1597739021&sr=8-1](https://www.amazon.co.uk/Noughts-Crosses-Malorie-Blackman/dp/0141378646/ref=sr_1_1?dchild=1&keywords=noughts+and+crosses&qid=1597739021&sr=8-1)

### **The Outsiders**

Amazon.co.uk - <https://www.amazon.co.uk/Outsiders-S-Hinton/dp/014240733X>

### **The Secret Diary of Adrian Mole**

Scribd.com - <https://www.scribd.com/book/364470747/The-Secret-Diary-of-Adrian-Mole-Aged-13-3-4>

### **The Woman in Black**

Amazon.co.uk - [https://www.amazon.co.uk/Woman-Black-Susan-Hill/dp/0099288478/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?dchild=1&keywords=the+woman+in+black&qid=1597738074&s=books&sr=1-1](https://www.amazon.co.uk/Woman-Black-Susan-Hill/dp/0099288478/ref=sr_1_1?dchild=1&keywords=the+woman+in+black&qid=1597738074&s=books&sr=1-1)

### **You Are Awesome**

<https://www.youareawesomebook.co.uk/>