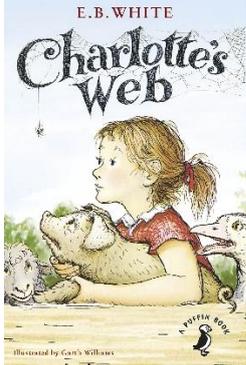
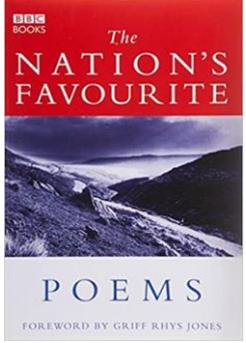
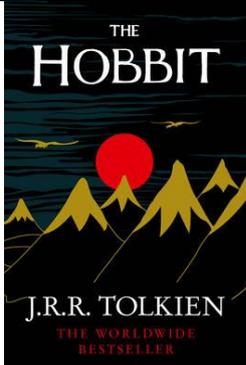
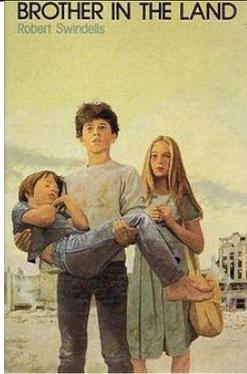
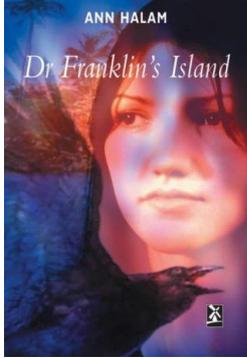
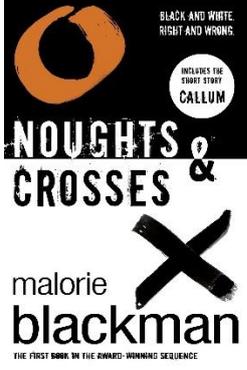
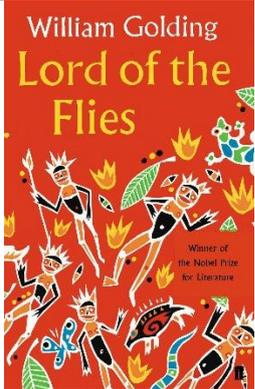
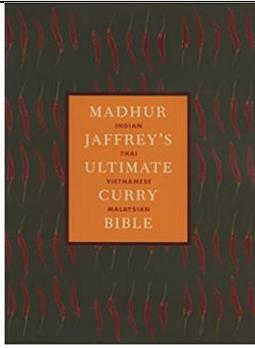
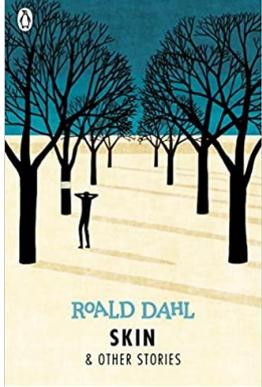


Book Cover	Book Title and Author	Blurb	Reason for choice
	Charlotte's Web – E.B. White	<p><i>Wilbur the pig's life has already been saved by Fern, but when he is sold to her uncle, he realises his life is in even more danger.</i></p> <p><i>Enter Charlotte A. Cavatica, a beautiful large grey spider. Charlotte is determined to keep Wilbur from the chopping block, and comes up with an ingenious way to do just that.</i></p>	As a child, I would read this book with my mam before I would go to sleep. Whenever I hear the story it invokes nostalgic memories of comfort and joy.
	The Nation's Favourite Poems – Various authors	<p><i>In a nationwide poll to discover Britain's favourite poem, Rudyard Kipling's 'If...' was voted number one. This unique anthology brings together the results of the poll in a collection of the nation's 100 best loved poems.</i></p>	When I was 15, I won the WordMavericks Young Writer's Award at the New Writing North Awards in 2006 for a selection of poems that I had written. My godparents bought me this poetry collection and I love to dip into it whenever I'm feeling down or looking for inspiration. My personal favourite is <i>The Highwayman</i> by Alfred Noyes. The descriptive language in the first stanza always has me gripped.
	The Hobbit – J.R.R. Tolkien	<p><i>Bilbo Baggins enjoys a quiet and contented life, with no desire to travel far from the comforts of home; then one day the wizard Gandalf and a band of dwarves arrive unexpectedly and enlist his services – as a burglar – on a dangerous expedition to raid the treasure-hoard of Smaug the dragon. Bilbo's life is never to be the same again.</i></p>	In Year 7, I read this book in English and I loved those lessons so much. The book inspired me to learn the runic alphabet and I still remember it to this day. My favourite scene in the novel takes place in Gollum's cave where he and Bilbo Baggins exchange riddles.

	<p>Brother in the Land – Robert Swindells</p>	<p><i>An 'After-the-Bomb' story told by teenage Danny, one of the survivors - one of the unlucky ones. Set in Shipley, an ordinary town in the north of England, this is a powerful portrayal of a world that has broken down. Danny not only has to cope in a world of lawlessness and gang warfare, but he has to protect and look after his little brother, Ben, and a girl called Kim. Is there any hope left for a new world?</i></p>	<p>Anything post-apocalyptic or dystopian and I'm sold. This book describes life after nuclear war devastates the country. It really makes you consider how life could change so significantly in the blink of an eye. It's an incredibly moving read, but also important to understand how war can impact the lives of so many.</p>
	<p>Dr Franklin's Island – Ann Halam</p>	<p><i>What's it like to see your friend transformed into a raven before your very eyes, and to know it's your turn next? How does it feel to morph into a manta ray or slide into the body of a snake? This is what happens to Miranda, Semi and Arnie, three friends who are the sole survivors of a plane crash. They find themselves on a tropical island of azure waters and white sands. But beyond the palm-fringed beaches lies the hospital run by the sinister Dr Franklin, and the three teenagers are about to become his next patients. Perfect candidates for his experiments in genetic engineering. . .</i></p>	<p>My best friend bought me this book for my 12th birthday and I still love to read it to this day. It's the perfect combination of harrowing science-fiction, disaster and suspense. Some of the imagery in this novel is so vivid and chilling that it is probably best not to read just before going to sleep, but it is certainly one that I'm never able to put down.</p>
	<p>Noughts & Crosses – Malorie Blackman</p>	<p><i>'Stop it! You're all behaving like animals! Worse than animals - like blankers!'</i></p> <p><i>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.</i></p> <p><i>Callum is a nought: he's considered to be less</i></p>	<p>I really love all of the books in this series. As a reader you feel immersed in the alternate reality in which the story unfolds. It makes you consider racism from a different perspective and draw parallels with our country and society. I was fortunate enough to see the stage adaptation performed by the Royal</p>

		<p><i>than nothing - a blanker, there to serve Crosses - but he dreams of a better life.</i></p> <p><i>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.</i></p>	<p>Shakespeare Company at Northern Stage and it's something that I will never forget.</p>
	<p>Lord of the Flies – William Golding</p>	<p><i>A plane crashes on an uninhabited island and the only survivors, a group of schoolboys, assemble on the beach and wait to be rescued. By day they inhabit a land of bright fantastic birds and dark blue seas, but at night their dreams are haunted by the image of a terrifying beast.</i></p>	<p>When I lived in Germany, I ran out of English reading material and stumbled upon this in a bookshop. The story is so gripping, and the characters are so believable that you feel as though you know each of them. I remember being haunted by a particular image of a pig's head on a spike which epitomises the true horror of the novel.</p>
	<p>The Original Folk and Fairy Tales of the Brothers Grimm – Jacob and Wilhelm Grimm</p>	<p><i>When Jacob and Wilhelm Grimm published their Children's and Household Tales in 1812, followed by a second volume in 1815, they had no idea that such stories as "Rapunzel," "Hansel and Gretel," and "Cinderella" would become the most celebrated in the world.</i></p>	<p>Seeing <i>Grimm Tales</i> at Northern Stage as a child awakened a love of the Brothers Grimm's <i>Märchen</i> or fairy tales. The Grimm tales are gruesome and dark, unlike their Disney counterparts, but that's what makes them so enchanting. As a German teacher, this is a must-read.</p>
	<p>Madhur Jaffrey's Ultimate Curry Bible – Madhur Jaffrey</p>	<p><i>This is the most comprehensive book ever published on curries, written by Madhur Jaffrey, the world's bestselling Indian cookery author. The influence of the Indian curry has been far-reaching: Indian immigrants and traders influenced the cooking of many other great cuisines of the world, including those of Sri Lanka, Burma, Thailand, Vietnam, Japan and</i></p>	<p>As a food lover, it wouldn't be right for me not to include a recipe book, and this is the one that I would take (narrowly pipping Delia Smith's Complete Cookery Course to the post). I received this book as a gift in December 2008, when I had first started at university in Manchester. What I love about it are the stories behind each</p>

		<p><i>China. History blends with recipes in this meticulously researched book, which will prove fascinating reading for food lovers everywhere.</i></p>	<p>dish and learning the detailed history and origins of the curries that we all know and love (and some less well-known). Everything that I have ever made from this book has been fantastic and you can tell how much I love it from the stains on each page and mild curry aroma that greets you when you open it.</p>
	<p>Skin & Other Stories – Roald Dahl</p>	<p>HOW would you dispose of a murder weapon without causing suspicion?</p> <p>WHERE would you hide a diamond where no one else would think of looking?</p> <p>WHAT if you discovered the tattoo on your back was worth a million dollars?</p> <p>ELEVEN TALES FILLED WITH INTRIGUE AND SUSPENSE TO STARTLE AND SPELLBIND YOU.</p>	<p>I love anything by Roald Dahl and don't always have the time or the patience to read a whole novel. What I love about Skin is that it is a more mature read than Dahl's more well-known stories, and each story is the perfect length to reignite a love of reading and storytelling.</p>