

"A word after a word after a word is power"- Margaret Atwood
The BBIH Reading Recommendation List 2025-26



Horror and Ghost Stories

- Leaving Poppy by Kate Cann
- The Book of Lost Things by John Connelly
- The Ghost Box by Catherine Fisher
- A Skinful of Shadows by Frances Hardinge
- Red Velvet by Carol Hedges
- The Haunting of Aveline Jones by Phil Hickes
- The Enemy (series) by Charlie Higson
- The Monsters of Rookhaven by Pdraig Kenny
- Crater Lake by Jennifer Killick
- The Haunting by Margaret Mahy

Challenge:

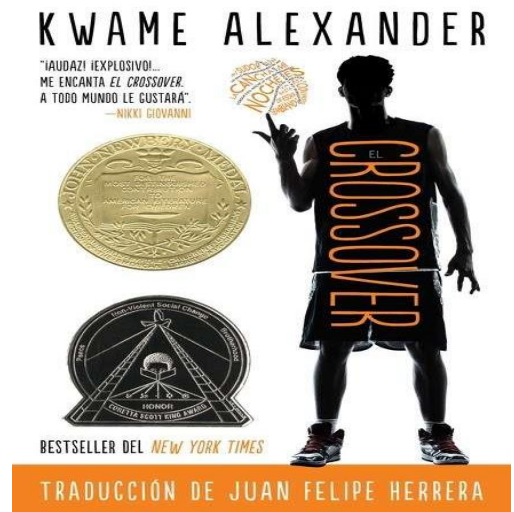
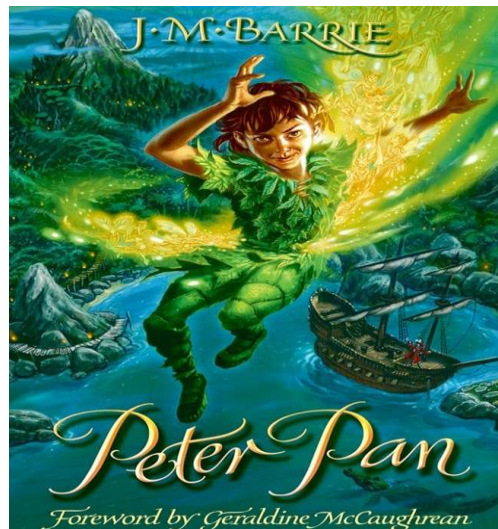
- Dracula by Bram Stoker
- Frankenstein by Mary Shelley

Magic and Fantasy stories

- The House with Chicken Legs by Sophie Anderson
- The Indian in the Cupboard
- (trilogy) by Lynne Reid Banks
- Peter Pan by JM Barrie
- Shadow and Bone (series) by Leigh Bardugo
- The Looking Glass Wars by Frank Beddor
- What Magic is This? by Holly Bourne
- Eren by Simon P. Clark
- The Dark is Rising (series) by Susan Cooper
- Dark Ground (series) by Gillian Cross
- The Letter for the King by Tonke Dragt

Challenge:

- Horowitz Here Lies Arthur by Philip Reeve



Mystery, thriller and crime:

- Cinderella is Dead by Kalynn
- Trash by Andy Mulligan
- Bayron Hacker by Malorie Blackman
- Storm Catchers by Tim Bowler
- Millions by Frank Cottrell Boyce
- Bog Child by Siobhan Dowd
- The London Eye Mystery by Siobhan Dowd
- Thirteen by Tom Hoyle
- Thunder and Lightnings by Jan Mark
- Five Little Liars by Amanda K. Morgan

Challenge:

- The Island by C.L. Taylor
- The Cheerleaders by Kara Thomas
- Numbers (series) by Rachel Ward

Real life issues:

- The Crossover by Kwame Alexander
- Boy Under Water by Adam Baron
- Joby by Stan Barstow
- Anything But Typical by Nora Raleigh
- Baskin Soundtrack by Julie Bertagna
- Tell Me No Lies by Malorie Blackman
- Artichoke Hearts by Sita Brahmachari
- Walking Naked by Alyssa Brugman
- See You in the Cosmos by Jack Cheng
- The Chocolate War by Robert Cormier
- The Disconnect by Keren Davi

Challenge:

- The Poet X by Elizabeth Alvecado

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Romance:

- All American Girl by Meg Cabot
- Carwash by Lesley
- Howarth
- Bookish Boyfriends (series) by Tiffany Schmidt
- Midwinterblood by Marcus
- Stargirl (series) by Jerry Spinelli
- Drama by Raina Telgemeier
- The Fault in Our Stars by John Green

Challenge:

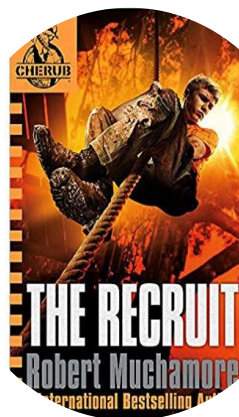
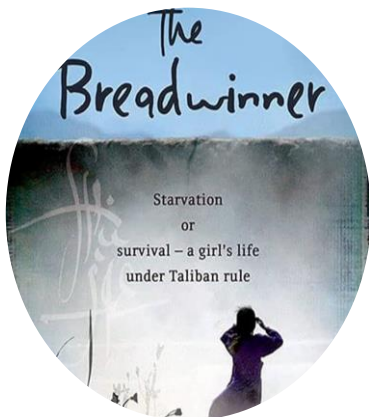
- Life: An Exploded Diagram by Mal Peet
- I Capture the Castle by Dodie Smith

Science fiction and superheroes:

- The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy (series) by Douglas Adams
- Troofriend by Kirsty Appelbaum
- The Wild Robot by Peter Brown
- Ender's Game by Orson Scott Card
- Orion Lost by Alistair Chisholm
- A Rag, a Bone and a Hank of Hair by Nicholas Fisk
- Gone (series) by Michael Grant
- Monster (series) by Michael Grant
- The Dream Merchant by Isabel Hoving

Challenge:

- Thief by Malorie Blackman
- Ready Player One by Ernest Cline



Spies and secret agents:

- Crime Travelers (series) by
- Paul Aertker
- Operation Sabre: A Paul Fox Spy Adventure by Glenn Carter
- Look Into My Eyes (Ruby Redfort series) by Lauren Child
- The Greatest Spy Who Never Was (Hugo Dare) by David Codd
- Young James Bond (series) by Charlie Higson
- AWOL (series) by Andrew Lane
- The Recruit (CHERUB series) by Robert Muchamore

Challenge:

- Boy Soldier (series) by Andy
- McNab and Robert Rigby (SAS Thriller)

Stories from the wider world:

- Walking a Tightrope: New
- Writing from Asian Britain by Rehana Ahmed
- Little Soldier by Bernard Ashley (an African boy soldier moves to London)
- Surprising Joy by Valerie Bloom (a girl moves from Jamaica to London)
- The Alchemist by Paul Coelho (an Andalucian boy follows his dreams)
- The Village by the Sea by Anita Desai (growing up in poverty in Bombay)
- The Breadwinner by Deborah Ellis (a girl's life in Afghanistan under the Taliban)