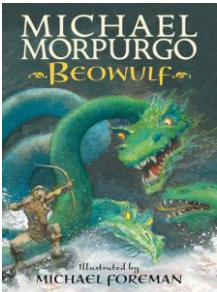


Reading list linked to Beowulf

North Star Languages Reading Gold Challenge

Here is a list of recommended reading of texts that link to this topic that you might want to try! Show your teacher to earn between 5—10 merits for achieving the North Star Reading Gold Challenge!



AR Level: 7.0

In fifth-century Denmark, a murderous monster stalks the night, and only the great prince of the Geats has the strength and courage to defeat him. Beowulf's terrifying quest to destroy Grendel, the foul fiend, a hideous sea-hag and a monstrous fire-dragon is the oldest surviving epic in British literature.



AR Level: 4.5

Troubled kid Percy Jackson discovers that he is the only half-blood alive who can stop a war of the gods. Will he succeed or will there be Hades to pay?



AR Level: 4.7

When a mysterious death shakes her island community, thirteen-year-old Isabella, daughter to the island's only mapmaker, joins a party of explorers who go into the forest in search of answers.



AR Level: 5.6

Whisked aboard the explorer sleigh Frostheart, Ash sets out on an adventure across the monster-infested Snow Sea to try and find his family, all the while struggling to master his new-found magical powers.



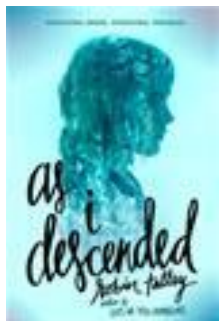
AR Level: 2.6

Two boys set out to try and photograph the beast making the mysterious howling in their local woods. What they find makes them famous, though not for the reason they hoped.

Reading list linked to Romeo and Juliet

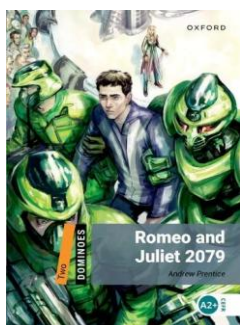
North Star Languages Reading Gold Challenge

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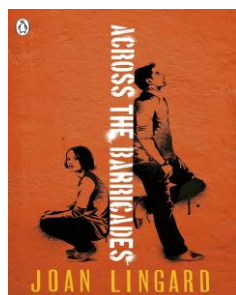
AR Level 4.5

Our iconic Scottish rulers from *Macbeth* are reimagined as Acheron Academy's power couple, Maria and Lily. They run the school and have a bright future ahead of them, with one exception: Delilah Dufrey. She is a legend, and a shoe-in for the coveted Cawdor Kingsley Prize scholarship. Maria and Lily can't have that, and they will do anything to de-throne Delilah so that the pair of them can attend Stanford together. Maria and Lily harness some sinister powers to make their darkest dreams come true, but the consequences (and fatalities) are more than they can handle.



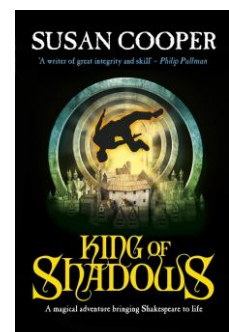
AR Level: 3.0

"Romeo and Juliet 2079" reimagines the timeless tale of forbidden love in a dark, futuristic setting. In this version, people are born as either Normals or Perfects, creating a rigid social hierarchy. Juliet is a Perfect, and when she meets Romeo, their love faces not only family opposition but also societal constraints.



AR Level: 6.0

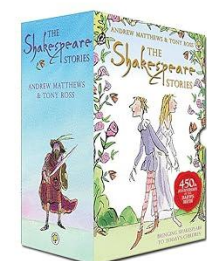
Kevin and Sadie just want to be together, but it's not that simple. Things are bad in Belfast. Soldiers walk the streets and the city is divided. No Catholic boy and Protestant girl can go out together - not without dangerous consequences . . .



AR Level: 6.2

Nathan Field, a talented young actor, arrives at the newly rebuilt Globe Theatre in London to play Puck in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. As rehearsals begin, eerie echoes of the past begin to haunt Nat, and he falls sick with a mysterious sickness.

When he wakes, Nat finds himself in 1599, an actor at the original Globe - and his co-star is none other than the King of Shadows himself: William Shakespeare.

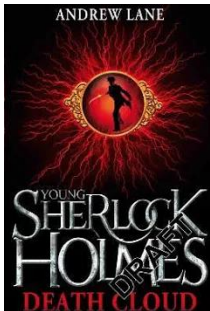


Discover the world of Shakespeare with these brilliantly-told retellings of 16 of the Bard's best loved plays. A perfect introduction for younger readers.

Reading list linked to Sherlock Holmes

North Star Languages Reading Gold Challenge

Here is a list of recommended reading of texts that link to this topic that you might want to try! Show your teacher to earn between 5—10 merits for achieving the North Star Reading Gold Challenge!



AR Level: 6.3

Young Sherlock

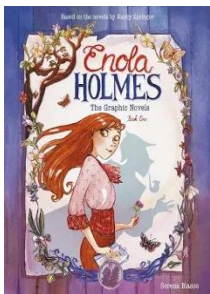
The year is 1868, and Sherlock Holmes is 14. With his father suddenly posted to India, and his mother mysteriously unwell, Sherlock is sent to stay with his eccentric uncle and aunt in their vast house in Hampshire. So begins a summer that leads Sherlock to uncover his first murder, a kidnap, corruption and a brilliantly sinister villain of exquisitely malign intent . . .



AR Level: 4.3

The Secret Detectives

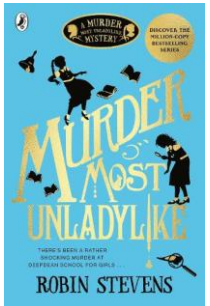
When Isobel Petty is orphaned, she finds herself being taken away from her home in India and sent to live with a distant uncle in England. On board the S.S. Marianna, she witnesses a shocking act - somebody being thrown overboard in the middle of the night. But when the ship's captain insists that nobody is missing, Isobel and her two new reluctant friends must solve two mysteries - the identities of both the murderer and the victim - before they reach England and the culprit has the chance to escape.



AR Level: 3.2

Enola Holmes Graphic novel

Enola Holmes is the much younger sister of the famous detective Sherlock and the ornery Mycroft Holmes. She has been cloistered away with her mother, being raised without the input of others or society. Her mother disappears on her fourteenth birthday and Enola is left to either be sent to boarding school or set out on her own, away from her brother's grasp. She runs away to London and begins her life as a detective.



AR Level: 5.8

Murder Most Unladylike

At Deepdean School for Girls, Daisy Wells and Hazel Wong have set up their own detective agency. But they are struggling to find any *real* crimes to investigate. (Unless you count the case of Lavinia's missing tie. Which they don't.) Then Hazel discovers the Science Mistress, Miss Bell, lying dead in the Gym. To add to the mystery, when she and Daisy return five minutes later, the body has disappeared. Now Hazel and Daisy not only have a murder to solve: they have to prove one happened in the first place.



AR Level: 4.1

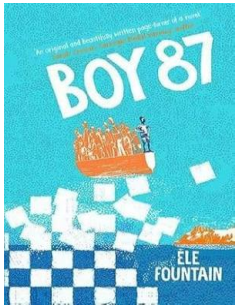
The London Eye Mystery

In The London Eye Mystery, Salim, visiting from Manchester, disappears from a sealed capsule on the London Eye. His cousins, Ted and Kat, take it upon themselves to investigate his disappearance.

Reading list linked to Refugee Boy

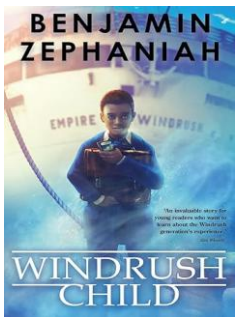
North Star Languages Reading Gold Challenge

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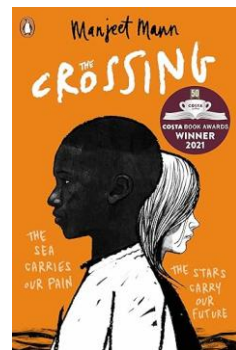
AR Level: 4.8

Shif is forced to leave his mother and little sister, and embark on a dangerous journey; a journey through imprisonment and escape, new lands and strange voices, and a perilous crossing by land and sea. He will encounter cruelty and kindness; he will become separated from the people he loves.



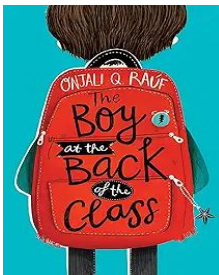
AR Level: 4.8

Leonard is shocked when he arrives with his mother in the port of Southampton. His father is a stranger to him, it's cold and even the Jamaican food doesn't taste the same as it did back home in Maroon Town. But his parents have brought him here to **try to make a better life**, so Leonard does his best not to complain, to make new friends, to do well at school – even when people **hurt him with their words** and with their fists.



AR Level: 3.6

Natalie's world is falling apart. She's just lost her mum and her brother marches the streets of Dover full of hate and anger. Swimming is her only refuge. Sammy has fled his home and family in Eritrea for the chance of a new life in Europe. Every step he takes on his journey is a step into an unknown and unwelcoming future. A twist of fate brings them together and gives them both hope. But is hope enough to mend a broken world?



AR Level: 5.4

On a perfectly ordinary school day, something extraordinary happens: a boy with pale skin, lion eyes and a tattered red rucksack walks in. Unable to speak English and seated at the back of the class, Ahmet 'the refugee kid' becomes the perfect target for bullies and rumours alike.



AR Level: 4.7

Feeling lost and alone in a strange new city, Leelu wishes she could fly away back home – her real home where her dad is, thousands of miles away. London is cold and grey and the neighbours are noisy and there's concrete everywhere. But Leelu is not alone; someone is leaving her gifts outside her house – wonders which give her curious magical powers.

Reading list linked to poetry

North Star Languages Reading Gold Challenge

Here is a list of recommended reading of texts that link to this topic that you might want to try! Show your teacher to earn between 5—10 merits for achieving the North Star Reading Gold Challenge!



AR Level: 5.3

Clap When You Land

This book tells the story of two teenage sisters, Yahaira and Camino, who are unaware of each other's existence until their father dies in a plane crash. The novel, written in verse, explores themes of grief, family secrets, and the unexpected bonds forged through loss, set against the backdrop of New York City and the Dominican Republic.



AR Level: 3.6

The Crossing

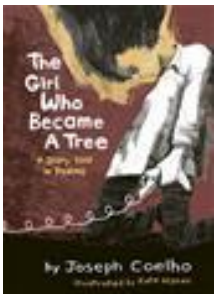
The Crossing is a contemporary novel told from the dual perspectives of Eritrean refugee Sammy and recently bereaved Natalie from Dover, two teenagers whose worlds have been irrevocably changed by circumstances beyond their control, resulting in gruelling personal journeys that bring them to different sides of the ocean.



AR Level: 5.4

The Final Year

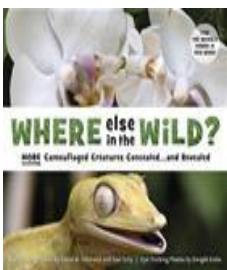
Life can be tough in your last year of primary school. Tests to take, preparing for the change to high school. Nate is ready for it all, knowing his best friend PS is at his side – they've been inseparable since Nursery. But when they are put in two different classes and PS finds a new friend in Turner, the school bully, Nate's world turns upside-down.



AR Level: 4.8

The Girl Who Became a Tree

Daphne is unbearably sad at the loss of her dad. As she tries to make sense of what has happened, she recalls memories and finally finds a way back from her tangle of fear to feel connected once more with her friends and family. A story in poetic verse.



AR Level: 5.3

Where Else in the Wild?

Poems with clues prompt readers to guess the identities of ten camouflaged animals, revealed in gatefolds, and fact pages present information on each species, discussing their camouflage and life cycles

Student recommendations:

North Star Languages Reading Gold Challenge

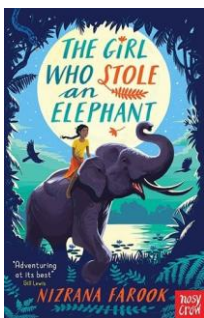
Here is a list of recommended reading of texts that link to this topic that you might want to try! Show your teacher to earn between 5—10 merits for achieving the North Star Reading Gold Challenge!



AR Level:5.0

Twelve-year-old Matthew is trapped in his bedroom by **crippling OCD**, spending most of his time staring out of his window as the inhabitants of Chestnut Close go about their business.

Until the day he is the last person to see his next door neighbour's toddler, Teddy, before he goes missing.



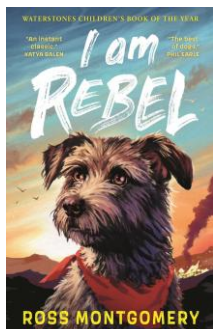
AR Level: 4.6

Chaya, a no-nonsense, outspoken hero, leads her friends and a gorgeous elephant on a noisy, fraught, joyous adventure through the Sri Lankan jungle where revolution is stirring and leeches lurk. Will stealing the queen's jewels be the beginning or the end of everything for the intrepid gang? Can Chaya leave village a thief but return a hero?



AR level: 2.8

For generations, four Clans of wild cats have shared the forest. But the cats of ThunderClan are in grave danger, and sinister ShadowClan grows stronger every day. In the midst of this turmoil appears a house cat named Rusty—who may turn out to be the bravest warrior of them all.



AR Level: 4.1

"I'm Tom's dog, and he's my human. We belong to each other." Rebel is a good dog, and he loves his simple, perfect life on the farm with his owner Tom – until one day the war comes too close... Now Tom is determined to join the rebellion to defeat the king's men. But Rebel knows war is dangerous, and he will stop at nothing to save the human he loves.



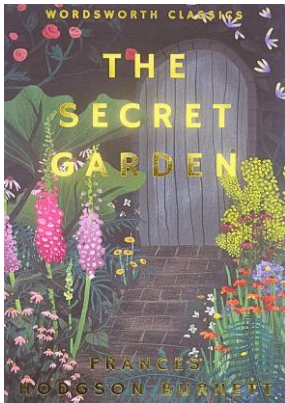
AR Level: 4.6

When Joe tells a local news reporter exactly what he would do if he were leader of the country, the video goes viral and Joe's speech becomes famous all over the world!

Before long, people are calling for the current leader to resign and give someone else a go . . . and that's how an ordinary boy like Joe ended up with the most extraordinary job. Now the fun can really start . . .

Hats for cats! Pet pigs for all! Banana shaped buses! Swimming pools⁶ on trains!

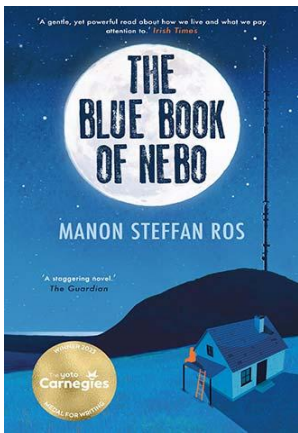
Need some more inspiration?



A Childhood Classic:

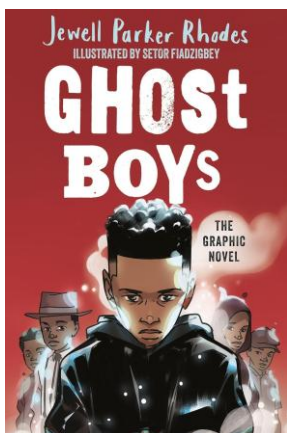
Mary Lennox was horrid. Selfish and spoilt, she was sent to stay with her hunchback uncle in Yorkshire. She hated it.

But when she finds the way into a secret garden and begins to tend to it, a change comes over her and her life. She meets and befriends a local boy, the talented Dickon, and comes across her sickly cousin Colin who had been kept hidden from her. Between them, the three children work astonishing magic in themselves and those around them.



Prize winning: Carnegie winner 2023

Dylan was six when The End came, back in 2018: when the electricity went off for good, and the *normal* 21st-century world he knew disappeared. Now 14, he and his mam have survived in their isolated hilltop house above the village of Nebo in north-west Wales by learning new skills and returning to old ways of living. However, despite their close understanding, the relationship between mother and son changes subtly as Dylan has to take on adult responsibilities. And they each have their own secrets - which emerge as they take it in turns to jot down their thoughts and memories in a found notebook – the Blue Book of Nebo.



Graphic Novel

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.



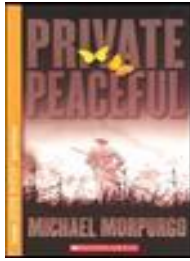
Non-fiction

Forced to leave school at 14 years old, with no hope of raising the funds to go again, William resorted to borrowing books from the small local library to continue his education. One day, browsing the titles, he picked up a book about energy, with a picture of a wind turbine on the front cover. Fascinated by science and electricity, but knowing little more about the technology, William decided to build his own. Ridiculed by those around him, and exhausted from his work in the fields every day, and using nothing more than bits of scrap metal, old bicycle parts and wood from the blue gum tree, he slowly built his very own windmill.

The challenge after Wimpy Kid

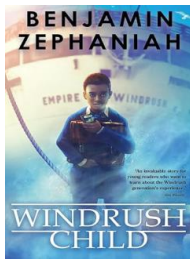
North Star Languages Reading Gold Challenge

You have loved reading *Diary of a Wimpy Kid* but now need something a little more challenging – here are some suggestions which are in the library.



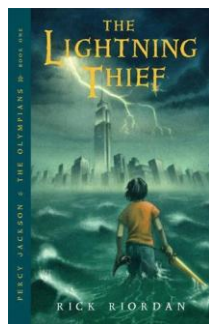
AR Level: 5.2

Private Thomas Peaceful is only eighteen but he has seen the horrors of war and experienced the full weight of its unfairness.



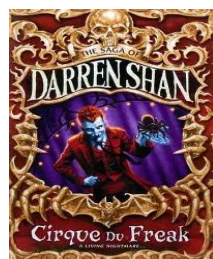
AR Level: 4.8

Leonard is shocked when he arrives with his mother in the port of Southampton. His father is a stranger to him, it's cold and even the Jamaican food doesn't taste the same as it did back home in Maroon Town. But his parents have brought him here to **try to make a better life**, so Leonard does his best not to complain, to make new friends, to do well at school – even when people **hurt him with their words** and with their fists.



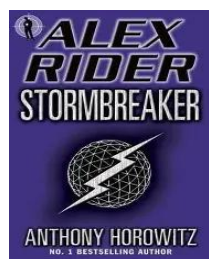
AR Level: 4.5

Percy Jackson is a good kid, but he can't seem to focus on his schoolwork or control his temper. And lately, being away at boarding school is only getting worse - Percy could have sworn his pre-algebra teacher turned into a monster and tried to kill him. When Percy's mom finds out, she knows it's time that he knew the truth about where he came from, and that he go to the one place he'll be safe.



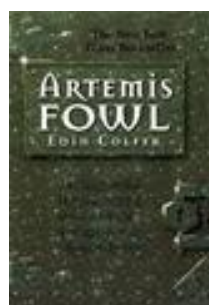
AR Level: 4.8

Darren and his friend Steve are caught in a deadly trap. Darren must make a bargain with the one person who can save Steve. But that person is not human and only deals in blood...



AR Level: 5.1

14 year-old Alex Rider finds his life turned upside down on discovering that his late uncle wasn't a mild-mannered banker, but instead a field agent for MI6. Alex is then dragged into the world of espionage and intrigue himself.



AR Level: 5.0

Twelve-year-old Artemis Fowl is a brilliant criminal mastermind. But even he doesn't know what he's taken on when he kidnaps a fairy - Captain Holly Short of the LEPrecon Unit. These fairies are armed and they are dangerous.