



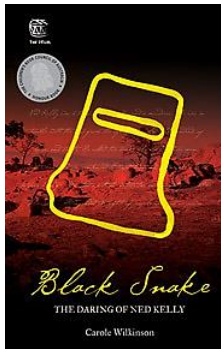
Junior Secondary English Reading List - Years 7 - 10

In our Junior English course of study, we engage with novels both as part of our units for study and also within our READING CULTURE experiences. If you would like to read a novel that is not part of your class reading program, you can still request to borrow it out from the library and enjoy it in your own time.

Likewise, if you would like to recommend a novel for our collection, you are welcome to contact us in the English Department.

Black Snake

Carole Wilkinson



Black Snake tells the story of the short but amazing life of Ned Kelly, Australia's most famous bushranger. Although this book is non-fiction, each chapter begins with a short piece of fiction. These fictional pieces look at Ned from the point of view of different people: some who loved him, some who hated him, some who admired him and some who thought he was a monster. Was he a villain or a hero? You decide.

Once

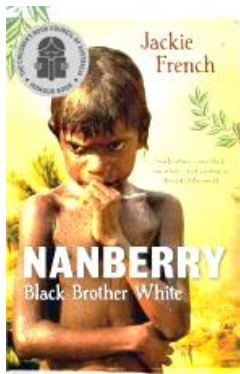
Morris Gleitzman

Once is about a Jewish boy named Felix, who lived in Poland, and is on a quest to find his book-keeper parents after he sees Nazis burning the books from a Catholic orphanage library in which he stays. He finds a girl called Zelda in a house with her dead parents - he takes her with him and protects her from confronting her parents' death by telling her stories.



Nanberry

Jackie French

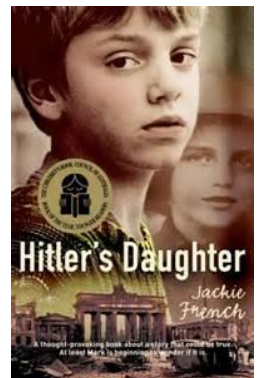


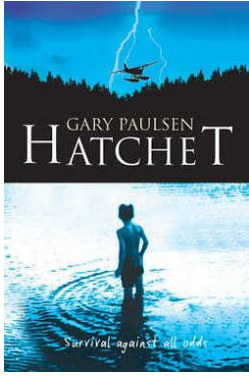
The year is 1788, and the newly created colony at Sydney Cove is struggling for survival. This novel is seen through the eyes of the colony's only surgeon and Nanberry, the Aboriginal boy adopted by Surgeon White who finds himself uncomfortably between two worlds. *Nanberry* provides a new perspective on Australia's earliest days of white settlement.

Hitler's Daughter

Jackie French

Mark and his friends often make up stories while waiting for the bus before school. While waiting together for the bus one rainy morning, Mark's friend Anna begins telling her friends a story about a young girl named Heidi who lived during World War II. Heidi was Hitler's daughter, hidden away from almost everyone so that her identity would be kept a secret. Mark and his friends become quickly fascinated by Anna's story, which seems too detailed and realistic to be imagined.





Hatchet

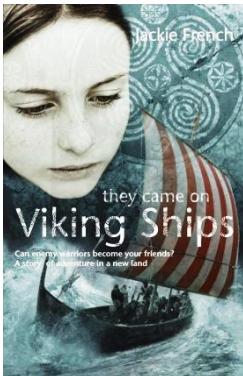
Gary Paulsen

Thirteen-year-old Brian Robeson is on his way to visit his father when the single-engine plane in which he is flying crashes. Suddenly, Brian finds himself alone in the Canadian wilderness with nothing but a tattered Windbreaker and the hatchet his mother gave him as a present—and the dreadful secret that has been tearing him apart since his parent’s divorce. It will take all of Brian’s determination, and more courage than he knew he possessed, to survive.

Dragon Keeper

Carole Wilkinson

A slave girl saves the life of an aging dragon and escapes her brutal master. Pursued by a ruthless dragon hunter, the girl and the dragon make an epic journey across China carrying a mysterious stone that must be protected. This is a story of a young slave girl who believes she is not worthy of a name but finds within herself the strength and courage to make this perilous journey, and do what must be done.



They Came On Viking Ships

Jackie French

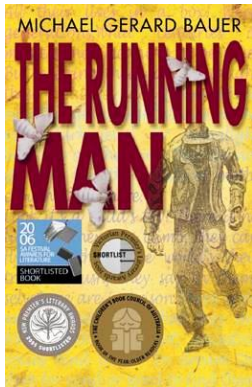
When Vikings raid and destroy a small coastal village, Hekja and her dog Snarf are captured and taken to Greenland. In this harsh and cold land, Hekja becomes a thrall - a slave - to Freydis Eriksdottir, daughter of the infamous Erik the Red. Hekja's fiery determination earns her the respect of her mistress. But Hekja's journey was just the beginning, as she and Snarf and other colonists join their leader, Freydis, on a voyage to Vinland to establish a new settlement where more perilous adventures await them.

The Outsiders

S.E. Hinton

The Outsiders is about two weeks in the life of a 14-year-old boy. The novel tells the story of Ponyboy Curtis and his struggles with right and wrong in a society in which he believes he is an outsider





The Running Man

Michael Gerard Bauer

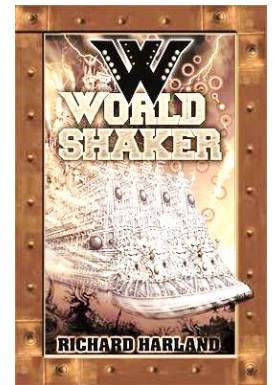
There had always been the Running Man—always that phantom form somewhere in the distance, always shuffling relentlessly closer . . .

For a long time, fourteen-year-old Joseph has wondered about old Tom Leyton, his reclusive next-door neighbour. Then Joseph is asked to draw Tom for a school art project, and that means he has the opportunity to uncover the truth about this man who passes his days tending silkworms and keeping dark secrets. As Joseph learns more and more about Tom's world, he is forced to confront his own fears.

World Shaker

Richard Harland

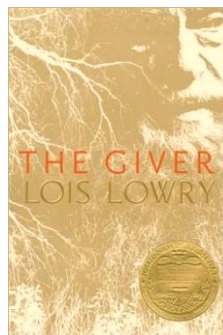
Col is a wealthy child of privilege. Raised to succeed his grandfather as the Supreme Commander of the juggernaut World Shaker, he has lived a pampered life on the Upper Decks. But when a Filthy girl stows away in his cabin, suddenly nothing is clear anymore. As Col begins to secretly spend more time with Riff, he begins to question everything he was raised to believe was true, and realizes that if Riff is right, then everything he was raised to believe is a lie.



The Giver

Lois Lowry

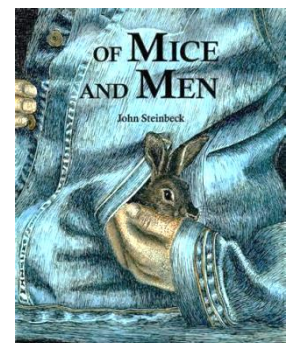
This haunting story centres on twelve-year-old Jonas, who lives in a seemingly ideal, if colourless, world of conformity and contentment. Not until he is given his life assignment as the Receiver of Memory does he begin to understand the dark, complex secrets behind his fragile community.

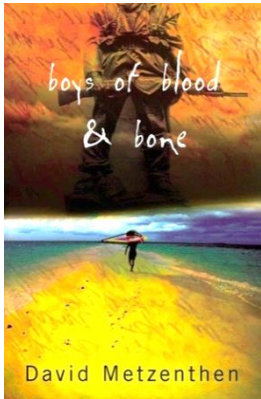


Of Mice and Men

John Steinbeck

Drifters in search of work, George and his simple-minded friend Lennie, have nothing in the world except each other and a dream – a dream that one day they will have some land of their own. Eventually they find work on a ranch in California's Salinas Valley, but their hopes are doomed as Lennie, struggling against extreme cruelty, misunderstanding and feelings of jealousy, becomes a victim of his own strength.





Boys of Blood & Bone

David Metzenthen

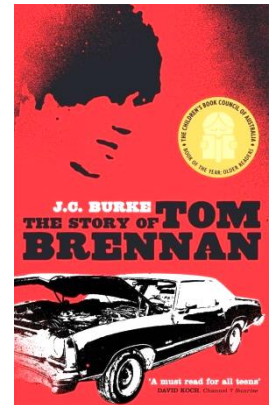
Andy Lansell, killed in the First World War in 1918, lies in a small cemetery in the north of France. Henry Lyon, in a borrowed Volvo station wagon, is driving up to the south coast of New South Wales. The paths of their lives are about to cross.

From this award-winning and best-selling author comes a story of two young men. As Andy and his mates head inexorably towards the bloody, torturous Western Front, Henry and his mates face challenges, dangerous situations and tragedies of their own.

The Story of Tom Brennan

J.C. Burke

A powerful story of love and loss, secrets and revelations - and making sense of a past that once seemed perfect. For Tom Brennan, life is about rugby, mates and family - until a night of celebration changes his life forever. Tom's world explodes as his brother Daniel is sent to jail and the Brennans are forced to leave the small town Tom's lived in his whole life. Tom is a survivor, but he needs a ticket out of the past just as much as Daniel. He will find it in many forms...

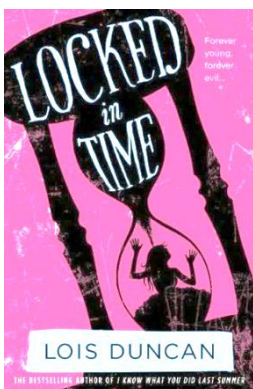
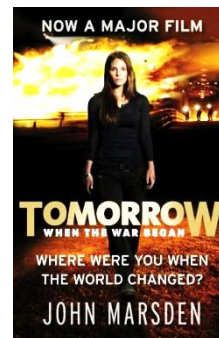


Tomorrow When The War Began

John Marsden

Somewhere out there Ellie and her friends are hiding. They're shocked, they're frightened and they're alone. Their world has changed, with the speed of a slamming door. They've got no weapons - except courage. They've got no help - except themselves. They've got nothing - except friendship.

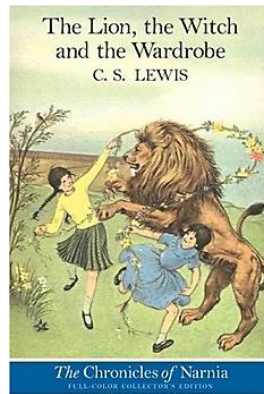
How strong can you be, when the world is full of people trying to kill you?



Locked In Time

Lois Duncan

Nore Roberts didn't ask for a new life, but now that her Mum is gone and her Dad is newly married, she has to settle in at Shadow Grove, the old Civil War mansion her stepfamily calls home. When she meets her stepmother, Lisette, Nore is shocked by her youth and beauty that gives her chills- and a hint of something sinister. There's hope of becoming friends with her stepbrother and sister, until Nore realizes they're hiding something. When she begins to feel like the target of a deadly plan, Nore starts digging into her stepfamily's past. Can Nore expose her stepmother's dark secret before an old and evil magic swallows her up?



The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe

C.S. Lewis

Narnia... the land beyond the wardrobe, the secret country known only to Peter, Susan, Edmund, and Lucy...the place where the adventure begins. Lucy is the first to find the secret of the wardrobe in the professor's mysterious old house. Soon Edmund and then Peter and Susan discover the Magic and meet Aslan, the Great Lion, for themselves. In the blink of an eye, their lives are changed forever...

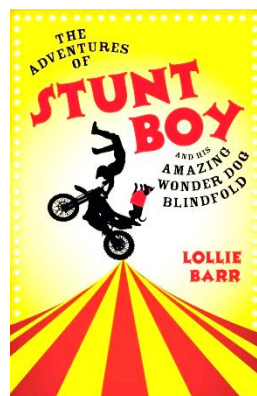
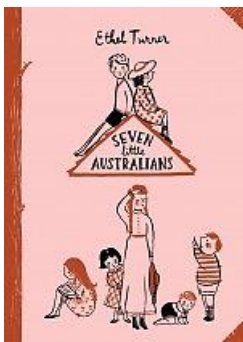
Seven Little Australians

Ethel Turner

'Without doubt Judy was the worst of the seven, probably because she was the cleverest.'

Her father, Captain Woolcot, found his vivacious, cheeky daughter impossible – but seven children were really too much for him and most of the time they ran wild at their rambling riverside home, Misrule.

Step inside and meet them all – dreamy Meg, and Pip, daring Judy, naughty Bunty, Nell, Baby and the youngest, 'the General'. Come and share in their lives, their laughter and their tears.



Stunt Boy

Lollie Barr

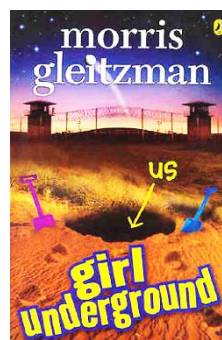
Someone was out to get my dad. Everyone said it was an accident but I didn't believe them, not even for a second...and Stunt Boy is going to prove it. With his amazing wonder dog Blindfold and his best friend Benny, Stunt Boy has to find out who is trying to sabotage their Stoked Stunt Circus and close it down forever! He's got some very BIG suspicions already...

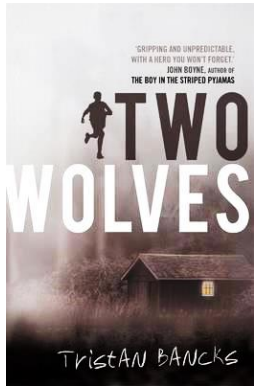
Girl Underground

Morris Gleitzman

Bridget wants a quiet life including, if possible, keeping her parents out of prison. Then a boy called Menzies makes her an offer she can't refuse, and they set off on a job of their own.

It's a desperate, daring plan - to rescue two kids, Jamal and Bibi, from a desert detention centre. Can Bridget and Menzies pull off their very first jail break, or will they end up behind bars too?





Two Wolves

Tristan Bancks

An old man tells his grandson that there is a battle raging inside him, inside all of us. A terrible battle between two wolves. One wolf is bad pride, jealousy and greed. The other wolf is good kindness, hope and truth. The child asks, 'Who will win?' The grandfather answers simply, 'The one you feed.' One afternoon, police officers show up at Ben Silver's front door. Minutes after they leave, his parents arrive home. Ben and his little sister are bundled into the car and told they're going on a holiday. It doesn't take long for Ben to realise that his parents are in trouble. Now Ben gathers evidence and tries to uncover what his parents have done. A high stakes adventure that will keep you guessing and breathless until the very end.

Wonder

R. J. Palacio

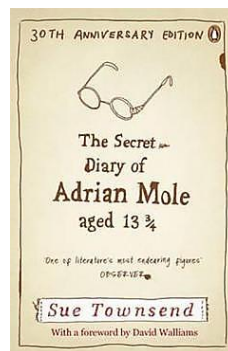
Born with a terrible facial abnormality, Auggie has been home-schooled by his parents his whole life. Now, for the first time, he's being sent to a real school - and he's dreading it. All he wants is to be accepted - but can he convince his new classmates that he's just like them, underneath it all? Wonder is a funny, frank, astonishingly moving debut to read in one sitting, pass on to others, and remember long after the final page.



The Secret Diary of Adrian Mole

Sue Townsend

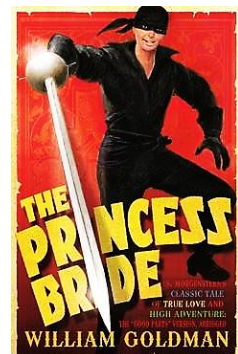
Meet Adrian Mole, a hapless teenager providing an unabashed, pimples-and-all glimpse into adolescent life. Writing candidly about his parents' marital troubles, the dog, his life as a tortured poet and 'misunderstood intellectual', Adrian's painfully honest diary is still hilarious and compelling reading thirty years after it first appeared.



The Princess Bride

William Goldman

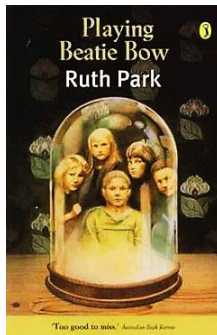
Beautiful, flaxen-haired Buttercup has fallen for Westley, the farm boy, and when he departs to make his fortune, she vows never to love another. So, when she hears that his ship has been captured by the Dread Pirate Roberts (no survivors) her heart is broken. But her charms draw the attention of the relentless Prince Humperdinck who wants a wife and will go to any lengths to have Buttercup. So starts a fairy tale like no other, of fencing, poison, true love, hate, revenge, giants, bad men, good men, snakes, spiders, chases, escapes, lies, truths, passion and miracles, and a damn fine story.



Playing Beatie Bow

Ruth Park

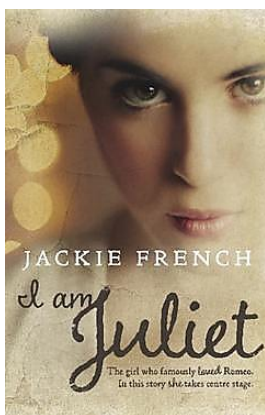
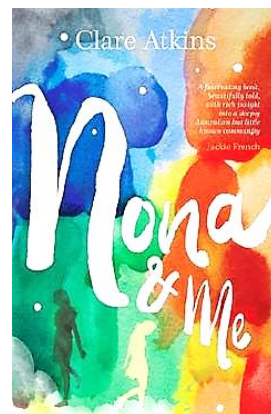
A thrilling adventure story for children and young adults, *Playing Beatie Bow* follows Abigail as she suddenly finds herself in the Sydney of a hundred years ago as the result of a scary game.



Nona & Me

Clare Atkins

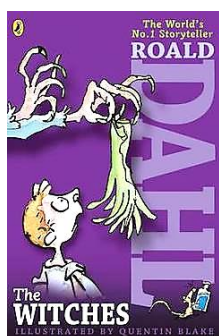
Rosie and Nona are sisters. They are also best friends. It doesn't matter that Rosie is white and Nona is Aboriginal: their family connections tie them together for life. The girls are inseparable, until Nona moves away at the age of nine. By the time she returns, they're in Year 10 and things have changed. Rosie has lost interest in the community, preferring to hang out in the nearby mining town, where she goes to school with the glamorous Selena, and Selena's gorgeous older brother Nick. When a political announcement highlights divisions between the Aboriginal community and the mining town, Rosie is put in a difficult position: will she be forced to choose between her first love and her oldest friend?



I Am Juliet

Jackie French

I am Juliet closely follows the well-known and loved plot of the play, but we also see the point of view of Rob, the thirteen-year-old boy who is the first to play the role of Juliet on the Elizabethan stage. Like many young people today, he too is overwhelmed by 'all those words' that Shakespeare wrote. But Rob realises that the story of love and tragedy is a somewhat simple one and the words are there for their extraordinary beauty and meaning. He will be Juliet and let the power of the words sing - as they still do today.



The Witches

Roald Dahl

Witches really are a detestable breed. They disguise themselves as lovely ladies, when secretly they want to squish and squelch all the wretched children they despise. Luckily one boy and his grandmother know how to recognize these vile creatures, but can they get rid of them for good?