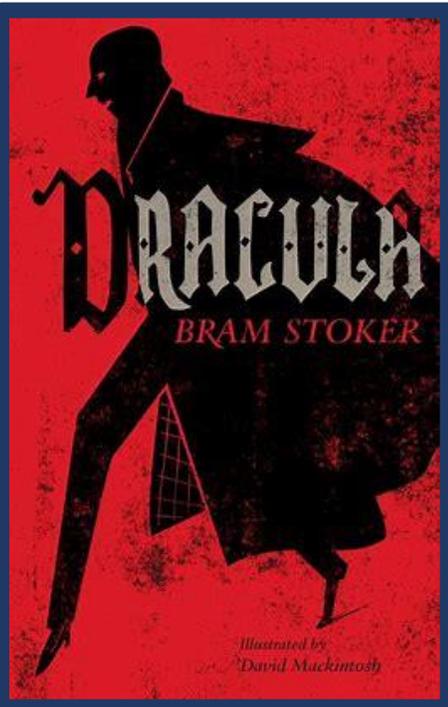


# *Dracula* by Bram Stoker (1897)

This book is a gothic masterpiece, and one of my all-time favourite novels. Dracula is one of the most famous characters in all of fiction and the inspiration for thousands of vampire books, TV and movies.

The story is told from the perspective of many characters, all who cross paths with the terrifying Count Dracula. This the novel I choose for COURAGE because of the huge bravery shown by each in the face of such uncertainty and dangers. From John Harker climbing down the walls of a castle to escape imprisonment to Quincey Morris fighting to the death to battle the Count – all of the characters show huge courage based on their faith in themselves and each other.

*Recommended by Mrs Thompson*



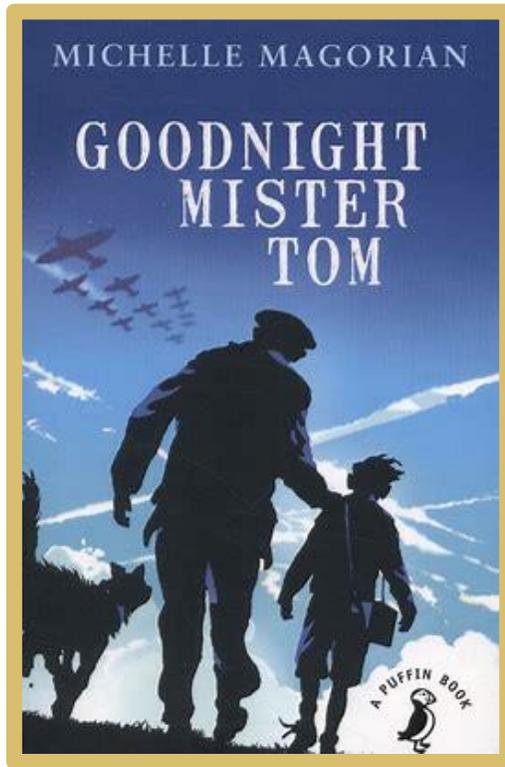
Courage



# *Goodnight Mr Tom* by Michelle Magorian



This novel is set during World War 2. It tells the story of young William Beech, an evacuee sent to the country to escape London. He is taken in, albeit reluctantly, by Tom Oakley a grumpy widower too used to have things his own way. It is a children's book, and one of my all-time favourites. \*



Both have experienced huge tragedy in their lives, and continue to during the book, and both would be forgiven for shutting out hope of a better life. But together, they learn to trust one another and heal old wounds.

For me, this is a story of hope (and what is **Opportunity** if not hope) and what is possible when people let themselves be open to the prospect of a new life or new experiences.

\*Trigger warning – this story includes references to child neglect and child abuse.

*Recommended by Mrs Thompson*

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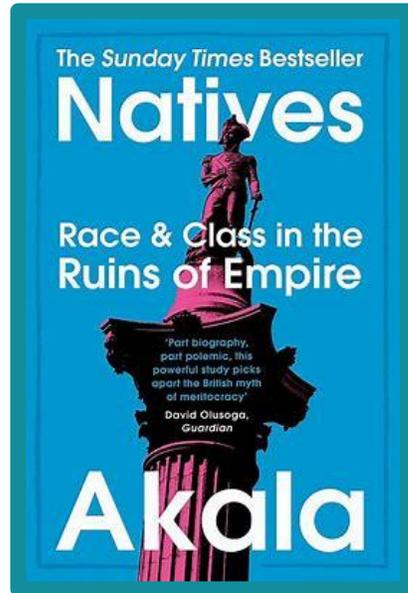
## *I heard what you said* by Jeffrey Boakye & *Natives* by Akala

I have cheated here and chosen two texts because, for me, I didn't fully appreciate either one until I had read them both.

*Natives* is a non-fiction text designed to help the reader understand how British culture has been 'whitewashed' and to appreciate the extent to which institutionalised racism does exist. It also helps to unpick and make clear some of the ways in which we can all proactively combat institutionalised racism when we encounter it.

'I heard what you said' helps to understand how racism can exist below (and above) the radar in schools unless everyone unites to combat it.

Both books help to explain the need to be proactively anti-racist in modern society



Recommended by Mrs Thompson

**E**xcellence

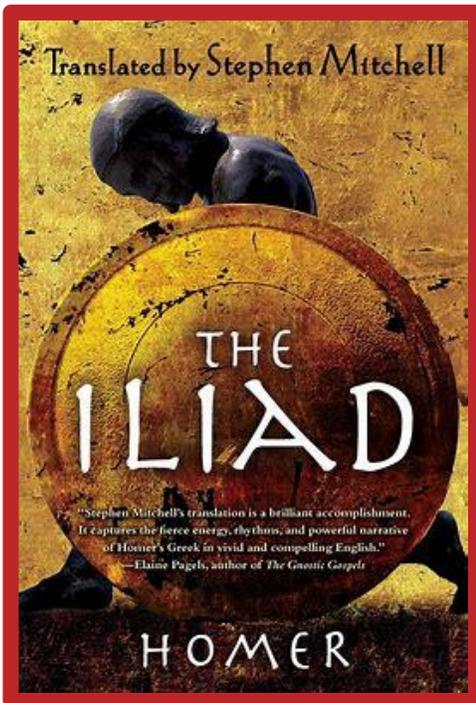


## *The Iliad* by Homer (c. 800 BCE)

This epic poem covers a brief period of the Trojan War. The Trojan War was a legendary war fought for 10 years between the combined armies of Greece and the city of Troy. It's about excellence, but also the dangers of arrogance and pride.

During the Iliad, the greatest warrior of the Greeks, Achilles (or Achilleus [Ἀχιλλεύς](#)) refuses to fight after he is disrespected by one of the Greek Kings. Achilles is the child of a goddess and is the greatest warrior in the history of mankind. He knows he will die young, and not have the opportunity to fall in love or raise children, he will not grow old. He knows he will die at Troy. But he is also arrogant and prideful, and very stubborn. He believes this means he should be held above all others, including kings, and becomes angry when he feels disrespected.

The Iliad is filled with examples of characters achieving phenomenal victories and achievements almost seeming like gods! Some are humble, some are arrogant, some are simply hunting glory - but all are striving for greatness and excellence.



*Recommended by Mrs Thompson*

Courage

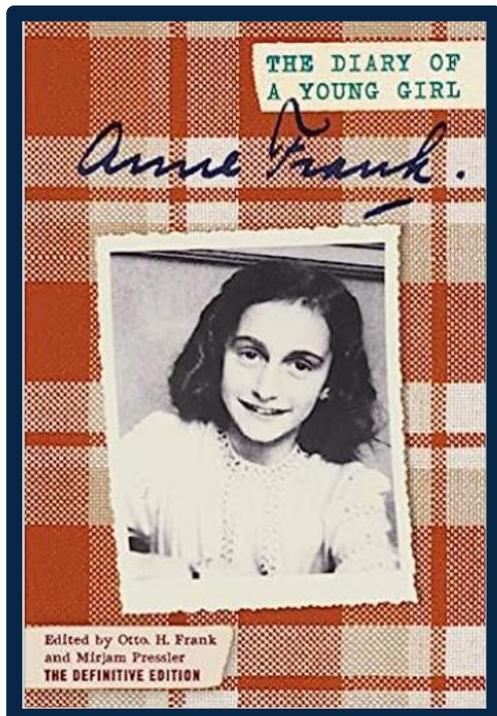


## *The Diary of Anne Frank (1947)*

A deeply moving and unforgettable portrait of an ordinary and yet an extraordinary and courageous teenage girl.

First published over sixty years ago, Anne Frank's Diary of a Young Girl has reached millions of young people throughout the world.

In July 1942, thirteen-year-old Anne Frank and her family, fleeing the occupation, went into hiding in an Amsterdam warehouse. Over the next two years Anne vividly describes in her diary the frustrations of living in such close quarters, and her thoughts, feelings and longings as she grows up. Each page shows the incredible courage that Anne demonstrated very day. Her diary ends abruptly when, in August 1944, they were all betrayed.



*Recommended by Ms Watson*

# *Daisy Jones and The Six* by T.J. Reed (2020)

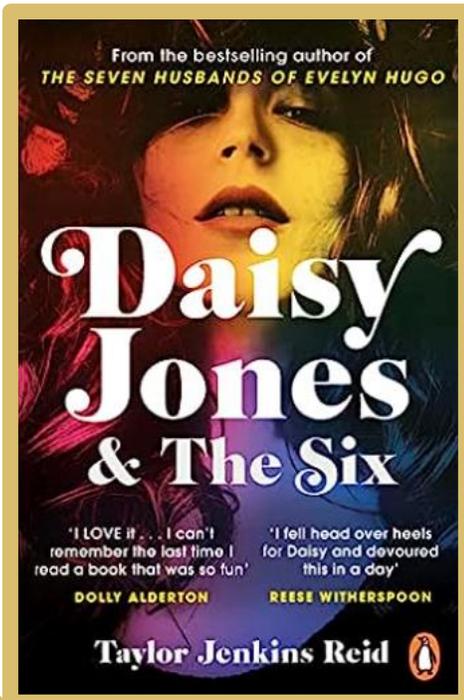
They were friends and brothers and rivals. They couldn't believe their luck, until it ran out. This is their story of the early days and the wild nights, but everyone remembers the truth differently. The only thing they all know for sure is that from the moment Daisy Jones walked barefoot onstage, their lives were irrevocably changed. Making music is never just about the music. And sometimes it can be hard to tell where the sound stops and the feelings begin.

Their sound defined an era. Their albums were on every turntable. They sold out arenas from coast to coast.

Then, on 12 July 1979, Daisy Jones walked barefoot onto the stage at Chicago Stadium. And it all came crashing down. Everyone was there. Everyone remembers it differently.

Nobody knew why they split. Until now . . .

*Recommended by Ms Watson*



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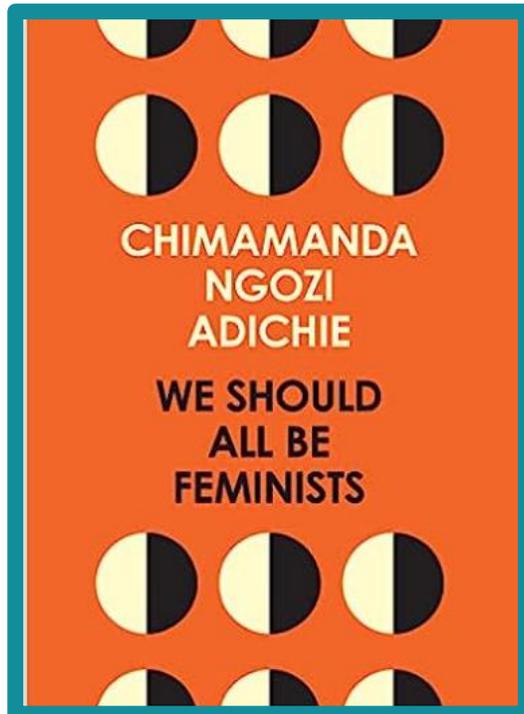


## *We Should All Be Feminists* by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie (2014)

What does “feminism” mean today? In this personal, eloquently argued essay – adapted from her much-admired Tedx talk of the same name – Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie offers readers a unique definition of feminism for the twenty-first century, one rooted in respect, inclusion and awareness. Drawing extensively on her own experiences and her deep understanding of the often masked realities of sexual politics, here is one remarkable author’s exploration of what it means to be a woman now – an of-the-moment rallying cry for why we should all be feminists.

*‘I would like to ask that we begin to dream about and plan for a different world. A fairer world. A world of happier men and happier women who are truer to themselves. And this is how to start: we must raise our daughters differently. We must also raise our sons differently...’*

*Recommended by Ms Watson*



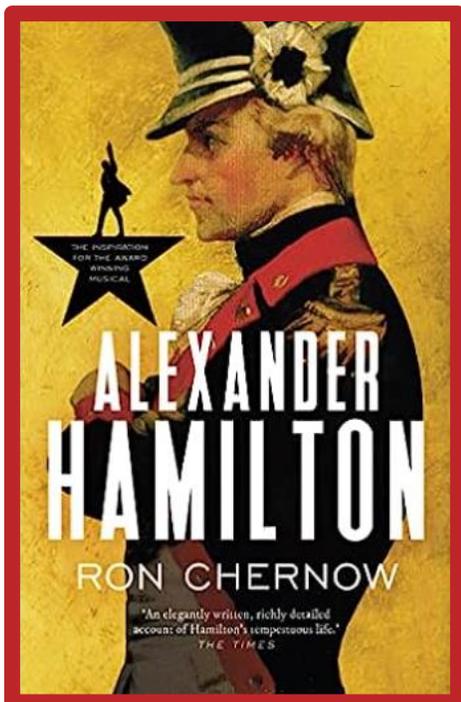
E\_xcellence



## *Alexander Hamilton* by Ron Chernov (2020)

Alexander Hamilton was an illegitimate self-taught orphan from the Caribbean who overcame all the odds to become George Washington's aide-de-camp and the first Treasury Secretary of the United States.

Few figures in American history are more controversial than Alexander Hamilton. In this masterful work, Chernow shows how the political and economic power of America today is the result of Hamilton's willingness to champion ideas that were often wildly disputed during his time. He charts his titanic feuds with Jefferson, Adams, Madison, Monroe and Burr; his highly public affair with Maria Reynolds; his loving marriage to his loyal wife Eliza; and the notorious duel with Aaron Burr that led to his death in July 1804.



*Recommended by Ms Watson*

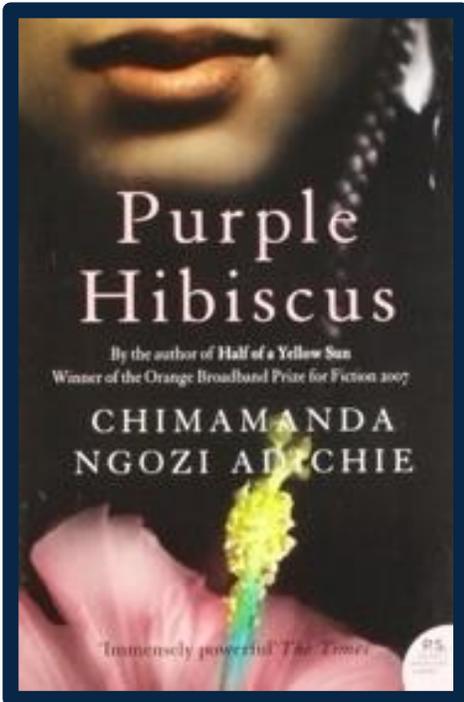
# *Purple Hibiscus* by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie (2003)

*Purple Hibiscus* is set in postcolonial Nigeria, a country beset by political instability and economic difficulties. The central character is Kambili Achike, aged fifteen for much of the period covered by the book, a member of a wealthy family in Enugu State, dominated by her devoutly Catholic father, Eugene.

This novel really opened my eyes to the dangers and discrimination faced by women in African countries. I was overwhelmed by the female characters as their personalities ranged from very meek and mild to one who was quite outspoken. It allowed me to realise how much courage women have and how lucky I am living in Great Britain. I can appreciate my rights even more now and appreciate the courage that the author has shown in being able to express her views through this amazing piece of literature.

\*Trigger warning – this story includes references to child abuse and domestic violence.

*Recommended by Mrs Downing*



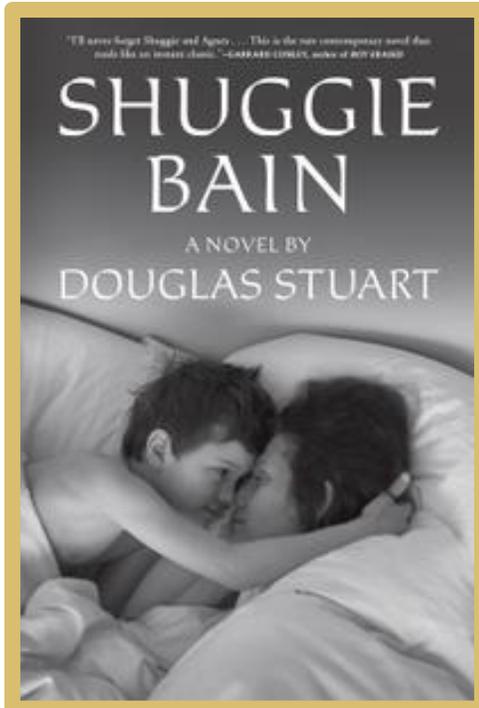
# *Shuggie Bain* by Douglas Stuart (2020)



Shuggie Bain is the unforgettable story of young Hugh “Shuggie” Bain, a sweet and lonely boy who spends his 1980s childhood in run-down public housing in Glasgow, Scotland. Thatcher's policies have put husbands and sons out of work, and the city's notorious drugs epidemic is waiting in the wings.

This book gave me the opportunity to challenge myself. I often avoid stories that challenge my moral values as I become too absorbed in them and lose myself in the pain of the characters. The young character, Shuggie, allowed me to see the strength in characters who have been let down by their parents and society. It encourages society to hold a mirror to itself and ensure that we protect our children at all costs. The novel is beautifully written and a book I will never forget.

\*Trigger warning – this story includes references to child neglect and child abuse.



*Recommended by Mrs Downing*

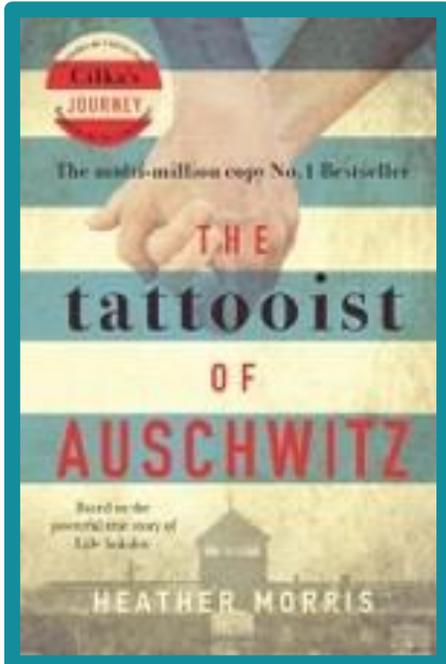
# *The Tattooist of Auschwitz* by Heather Morris (2017)

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The *Tattooist of Auschwitz* is a Holocaust novel by New Zealand novelist Heather Morris. The book tells the story of how Slovakian Jew Lale Sokolov, who was imprisoned at Auschwitz in 1942, fell in love with a girl he was tattooing at the concentration camp.

This is a heart-wrenching novel based on a true story of love, survival, and hope during the Holocaust. If you do not know much about the suffering of the Jewish people, this novel allows you to see the personal trauma and effects of the Holocaust. Heather Morris respects the people who went through this suffering in her beautifully crafted novel. She brings her characters to life with respect and dignity and ensures that she highlights everything that was wrong with a world that allowed this to happen. It is one of those novels that you can't put down. It gives you the opportunity to respect what Jewish people experienced and allows you show them respect.



*Recommended by Mrs Downing*

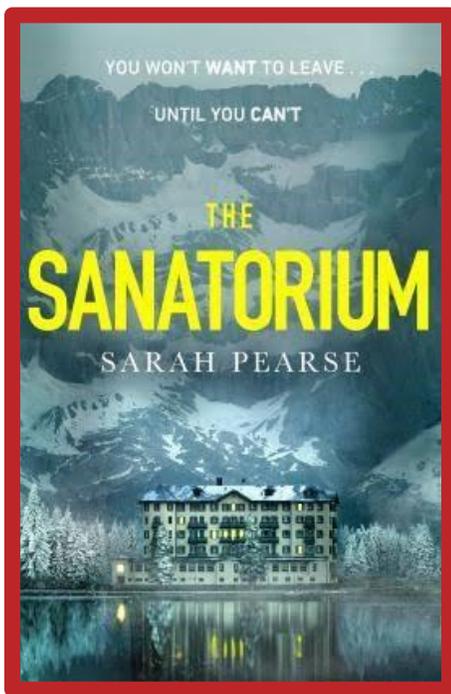
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## *The Sanatorium* by Sarah Pearse (2021)

Following a woman who has recently taken a leave of absence from her work as a detective, *The Sanatorium* pits an unwitting group of individuals against a shadowy killer who appears to be at work in a high-end, minimalist hotel nestled in the Swiss Alps.

An eerie, atmospheric novel that had me completely on the edge of my seat. This is a novel I have read very recently, and it blew my socks off. The writer allows you to experience the true anxiety and fear that her characters experience. I wanted to savour the novel as it was so exciting and had me completely engrossed in the intrigue and deception. It is not one for the faint hearted. It is an excellent read. It has reignited my love for novels that have a sinister plot. I can't wait for her next novel.



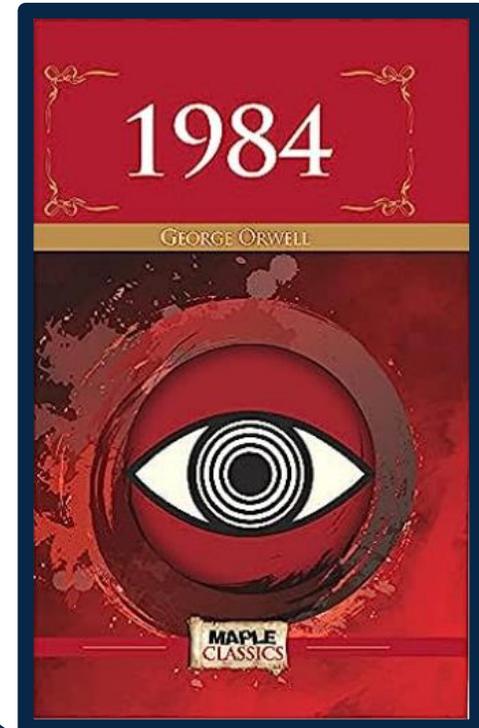
*Recommended by Mrs Downing*

# 1984 by George Orwell

This classic of modern literature is a must read for all open-minded people from all parts of the world, purely because the leadership of every country needs to be held to account for their level of control over citizens lives. Someone needs to show the courage to make them accountable.

Creating one way of thinking and one-party systems has proven to be a very dangerous combination in world history, where fighting to take over not only people, but countries, and then crushing other belief systems that don't agree with their own is repeated time and time again. George Orwell was responding to Stalin's Communist Russia when writing this book, but the same problem keeps repeating itself today and will do in the future. This book is essential reading.

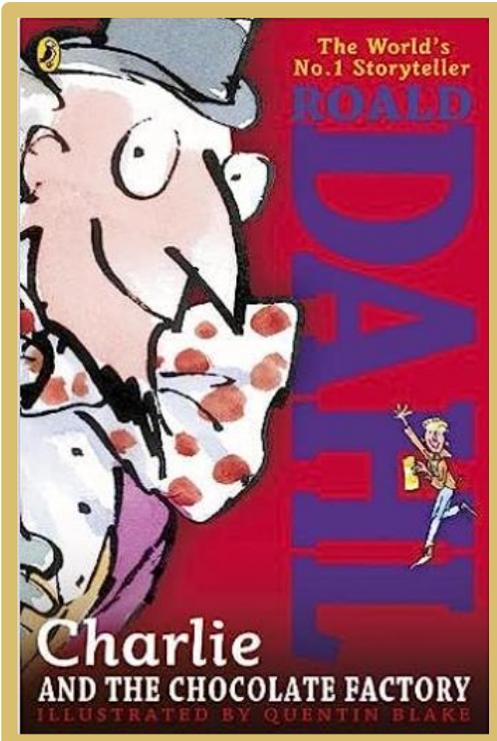
*Recommended by Mr Smith*



# *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* by Roald Dahl (1964)

Charlie Bucket lives on the outskirts of town with his poverty-stricken family: his parents and all four grandparents. Each day on his way to school, Charlie passes the best and biggest chocolate factory in the world, run by the secretive Willy Wonka. When Charlie's father loses his job, things go from bad to worse. But Charlie's life is about to change forever, thanks to one miraculous moment! Willy Wonka, chocolate maker extraordinaire, has hidden five golden tickets in five ordinary bars of chocolate, and any child who finds one will get the chance to visit his incredible factory.

*Recommended by Mr Smith*



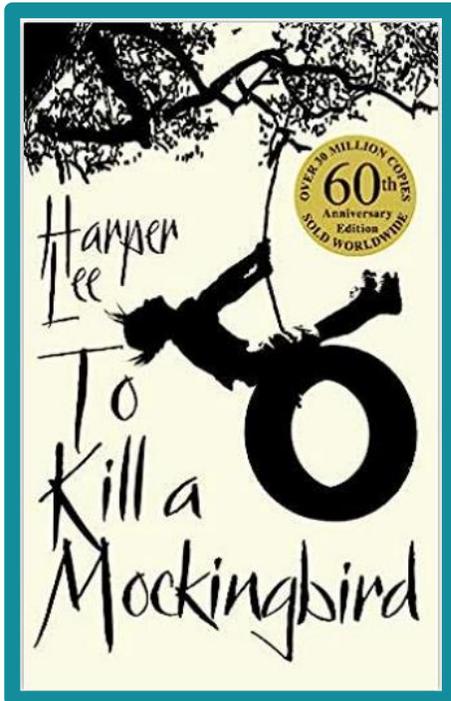
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## *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee (1960)

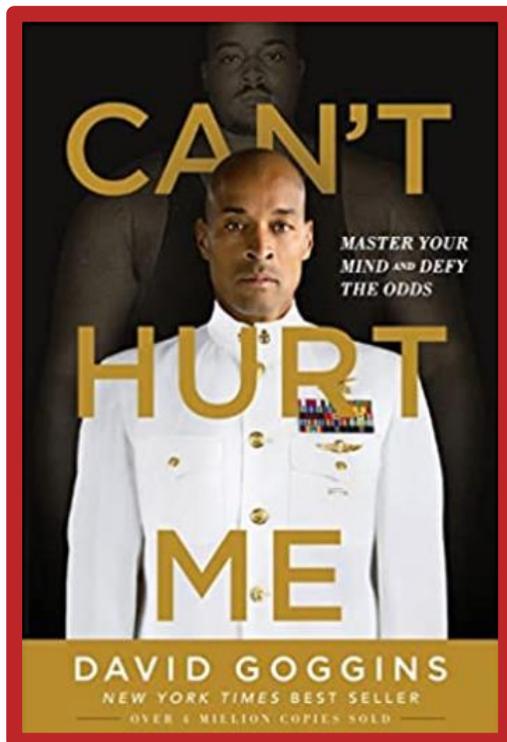
*To Kill a Mockingbird* is both a young girl's coming-of-age story and a darker drama about the roots and consequences of racism and prejudice, probing how good and evil can coexist within a single community or individual.

A lawyer's advice to his children as he defends the real mockingbird of Harper Lee's classic novel - a black man falsely charged with the rape of a white girl. Through the young eyes of Scout and Jem Finch, Harper Lee explores with exuberant humour the irrationality of adult attitudes to race and class in the Deep South of the 1930s. The conscience of a town steeped in prejudice, violence and hypocrisy is pricked by the stamina of one man's struggle for justice. But the weight of history will only tolerate so much.



*Recommended by Mr Smith*

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xcellence



## *Can't Hurt Me* by David Goggins (2018)

For **David Goggins**, childhood was a nightmare -- poverty, prejudice, and physical abuse coloured his days and haunted his nights. But through excellent self-discipline, mental toughness, and hard work, Goggins transformed himself from a depressed, overweight young man with no future into a U.S. Armed Forces icon and one of the world's top endurance athletes. The only man in history to complete elite training as a Navy SEAL, Army Ranger, and Air Force Tactical Air Controller, he went on to set records in numerous endurance events, inspiring *Outside* magazine to name him "The Fittest (Real) Man in America."

In *Can't Hurt Me*, he shares his astonishing life story and reveals that most of us tap into only 40% of our capabilities. Goggins calls this The 40% Rule, and his story illuminates a path that anyone can follow to push past pain, demolish fear, and reach their full potential.

*Recommended by Mr Smith*

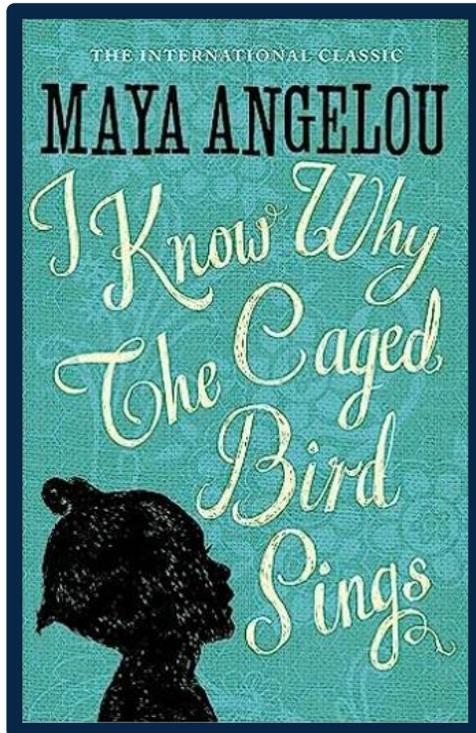
# *I Know Why The Caged Bird Sings* by Maya Angelou (1984)

'I write about being a Black American woman, however, I am always talking about what it's like to be a human being. This is how we are, what makes us laugh, and this is how we fall and how we somehow, amazingly, stand up again'  
Maya Angelou

In this first volume of her seven books of autobiography, Maya Angelou beautifully evokes her childhood with her grandmother in the American south of the 1930s. Loving the world, she also knows its cruelty. As a Black woman she has known discrimination, violence and extreme poverty, but also hope, joy, achievement and celebration.

**'I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings** liberates the reader into life simply because Maya Angelou confronts her own life with such a moving wonder, such a luminous dignity'

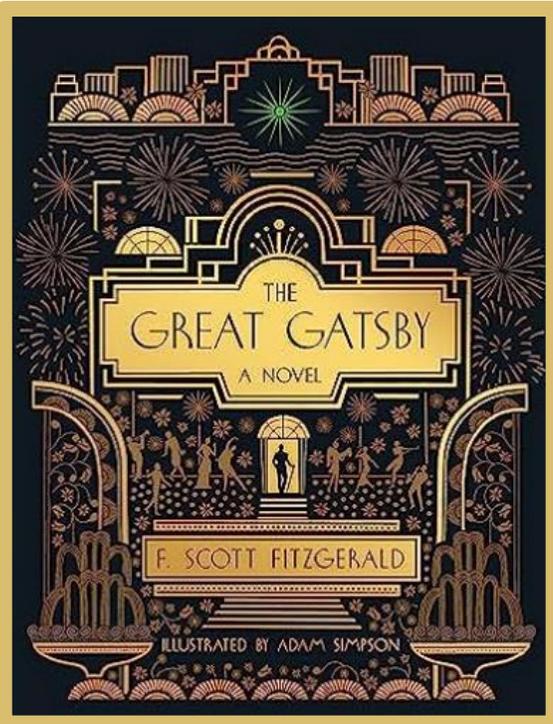
Recommended by Miss Jackson



# *The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald (1925)



Generally considered to be F. Scott Fitzgerald's finest novel, *The Great Gatsby* is a summary of the "roaring twenties", and a devastating expose of the 'Jazz Age'. Through the narration of Nick Carraway, the reader is taken into the superficially glittering world of the mansions which lined the Long Island shore in the 1920s, to encounter Nick's cousin Daisy, her brash but wealthy husband Tom Buchanan, Jay Gatsby and the mystery that surrounds him. *The Great Gatsby* is an undisputed classic of American literature from the period following the First World War and is one of the great novels of the twentieth century.



Part of the American dream in *The Great Gatsby* is opportunity. The book shows Gatsby's transformation as he rises from rags to riches through various opportunities, such as Dan Cody. This allows him to pursue his goals and aids in attaining future happiness with Daisy.

*Recommended by Miss Jackson*

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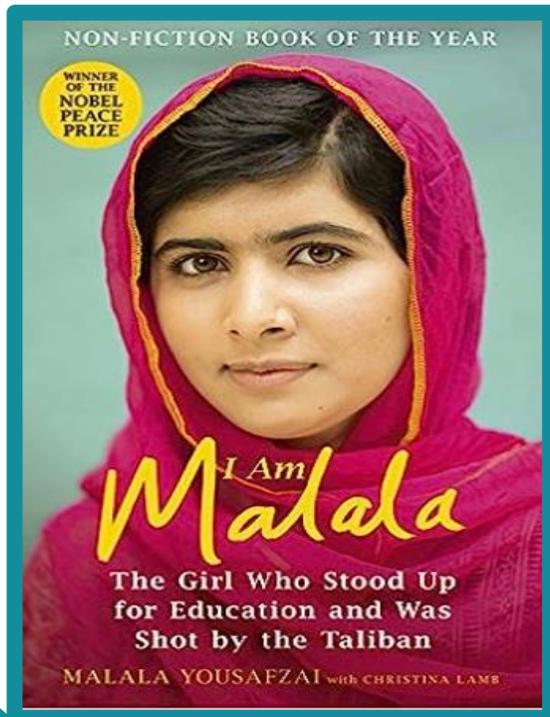
## *I Am Malala* by Malala Yousafzai (2014)

When the Taliban took control of the Swat Valley, one girl fought for her right to an education. On Tuesday, 9 October 2012, she almost paid the ultimate price when she was shot in the head at point-blank range.

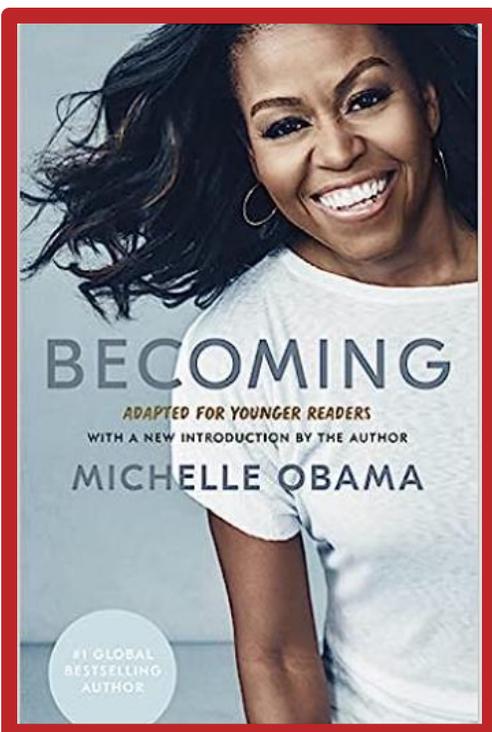
Malala Yousafzai's extraordinary journey has taken her from a remote valley in northern Pakistan to the halls of the United Nations. She has become a global symbol of peaceful protest and is the youngest ever winner of the Nobel Peace Prize.

*I Am Malala* will make you believe in the power of one person's voice to inspire change in the world.

Recommended by Miss Jackson



**E**xcellence



## *Becoming* by Michelle Obama (2021)

Michelle Robinson started life sharing a bedroom with her older brother Craig, in their family's upstairs apartment in her great-aunt's house. Her parents, Fraser and Marian, poured their love and energy into their children. She would go on to become Michelle Obama, the inspirational First Lady of the United States of America.

A tale of ups and downs, triumphs and failures, this is an incredibly honest account. It will take you from the early years - first kiss, first school, first love - to the wonders of the White House, and the moment Mrs Obama shook hands with the Queen of England.

A book to read, share, and talk about with the adults in your life, this is a call to action and compassion, and hope for change in uncertain times, and in a scary world.

You'll be inspired to help others, and understand that no one is perfect. Just like Michelle Obama, you too are finding out exactly who you want to be (and, actually, so are the adults in your life).

*Recommended by Miss Jackson*

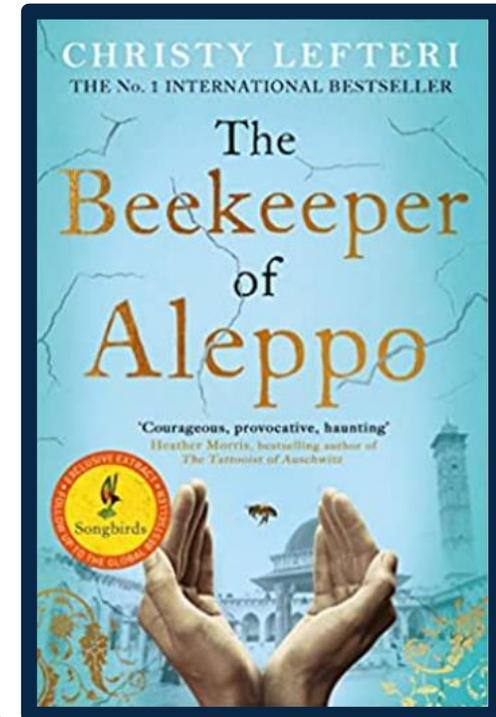
# *The Beekeeper of Aleppo* by Ch. Lefteri (2020)

A really well written book about how brave and courageous some people have to be in life. It is based on a true story and shows us that if we stick together and make connections, we can thrive under the more devastating conditions.

In the midst of war, he found love  
In the midst of darkness, he found courage  
In the midst of tragedy, he found hope.

Nuri is a beekeeper; his wife, Afra, an artist. They live a simple life, rich in family and friends, in the beautiful Syrian city of Aleppo - until the unthinkable happens. When all they care for is destroyed by war, they are forced to escape. As Nuri and Afra travel through a broken world, they must confront not only the pain of their own unspeakable loss, but dangers that would overwhelm the bravest of souls. Above all - and perhaps this is the hardest thing they face - they must journey to find each other again.

*Recommended by Mrs Spurr*

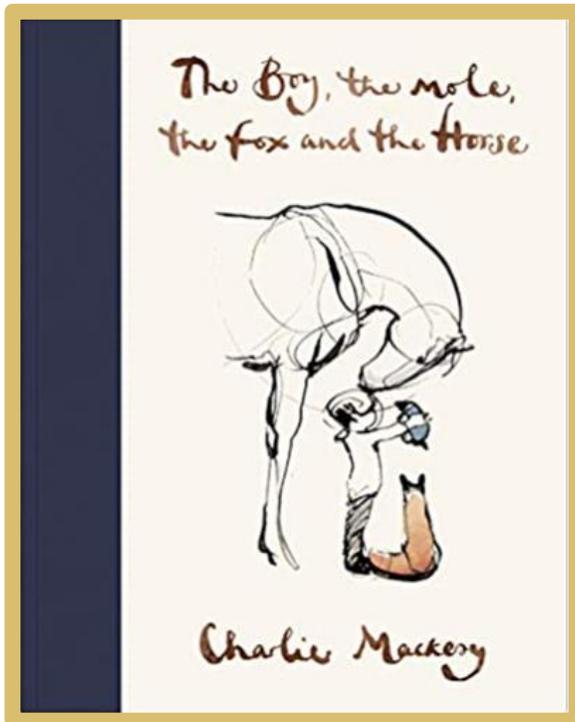




## ***The Boy, The Mole, The Fox and The Horse by Charlie Mackesy (2019)***

It is such a beautiful book full of the opportunity to reflect and be thankful for the things you have in life. I have a copy on my desk at work and there is always a page in this book that I can turn to when I feel happy, frustrated etc. and I feel more positive.

Enter the world of Charlie's four unlikely friends, discover their story and their most poignant life lessons. Charlie's first book includes his most-loved illustrations and new ones too. The conversations of the boy, the mole, the fox and the horse have been shared thousands of times online, recreated in school art classes, hung on hospital walls and turned into tattoos.



*Recommended by Mrs Spurr*

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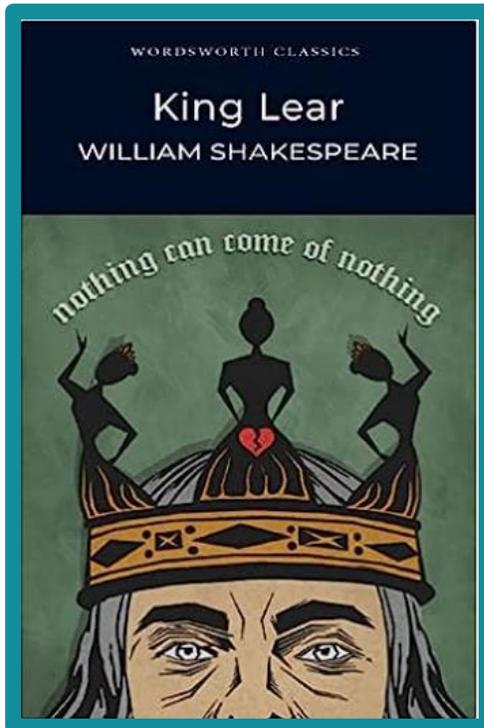


## *King Lear* by William Shakespeare (1606)

King Lear, in preparation for his old age, divides his power and land between two of his daughters. He becomes destitute and insane and a proscribed crux of political machinations.

It deals with the theme of respect for you parents and how complex that relationship can be. I love it because it has a message of love and redemption at its core, and I always like to think forgiveness and reconciliation is possible.

*Recommended by Mrs Spurr*



**E**xcellence

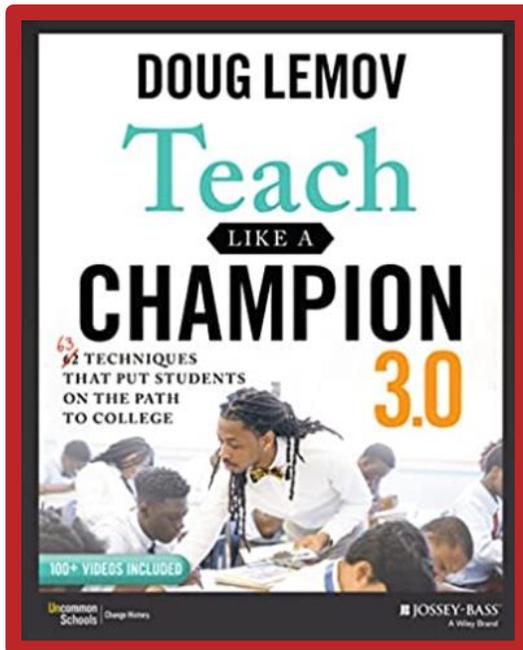


## *Teach Like a Champion* by Doug Lemov (2021)

*Teach Like a Champion 3.0* is the long-awaited update to Doug Lemov's highly regarded guide to the craft of teaching. This book teaches you how to create a positive and productive classroom that encourages student engagement, trust, respect, accountability, and excellence.

his book changed the way I looked at teaching and helped me to become a better teacher and mentor. The book is simple and instructional, but it has a tip and a method for everything you might come across in teaching. It has helped me many a time!

*Recommended by Mrs Spurr*

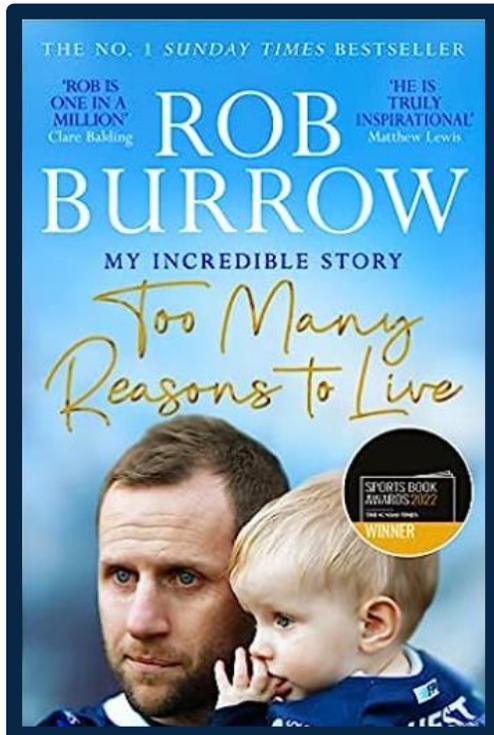




## ***Too Many Reasons to Live: My Incredible Story by Rob Burrow (2022)***

This is the story of a tiny kid who adored rugby league but never should have made it – and ended up in the Leeds hall of fame. It's the story of a man who resolved to turn a terrible predicament into something positive – when he could have thrown the towel in. It's about the power of love, between Rob and his childhood sweetheart Lindsey, and of the life-changing bond of friendship between Rob, Kevin Sinfield, and their Rhino teammates.

Rob Burrow is one of the greatest rugby league players of all time. And the most inspirational. As a boy, Rob was told he was too small to play the sport. Even when he made his debut for Leeds Rhinos, people wrote him off as a novelty. But Rob never stopped proving people wrong. During his time at Leeds, for whom he played almost 500 games, he won eight Super League Grand Finals, two Challenge Cups and three World Club Challenges. He also played for his country in two World Cups.



*Recommended by Miss Sully*

# *James and the Giant Peach* by Roald Dahl (1961)

**Aunt Sponge** is enormously fat with a face that looks boiled and **Aunt Spiker** is bony and screeching.

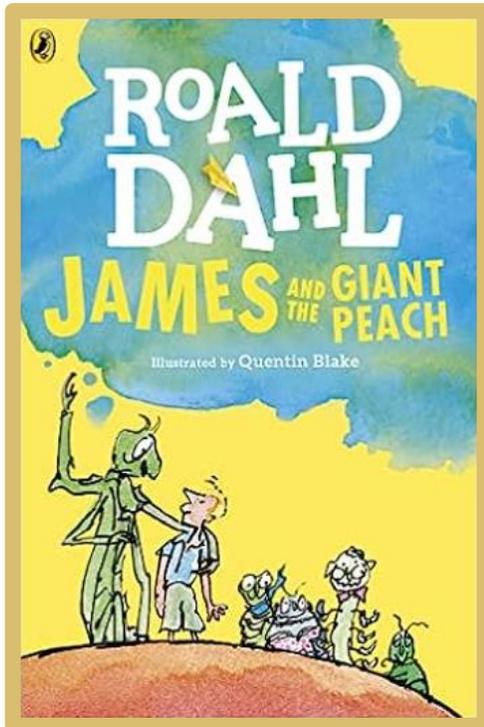
He's very lonely until one day something peculiar happens. . .

At the end of the garden a peach starts to grow and GROW AND GROW. Inside that peach are seven very unusual insects - all waiting to take James on a magical adventure.

But where will they go in their **GIANT PEACH**, and what will happen to the horrible aunts if they stand in their way?

There's only one way to find out . . .

*Recommended by Miss Sully*



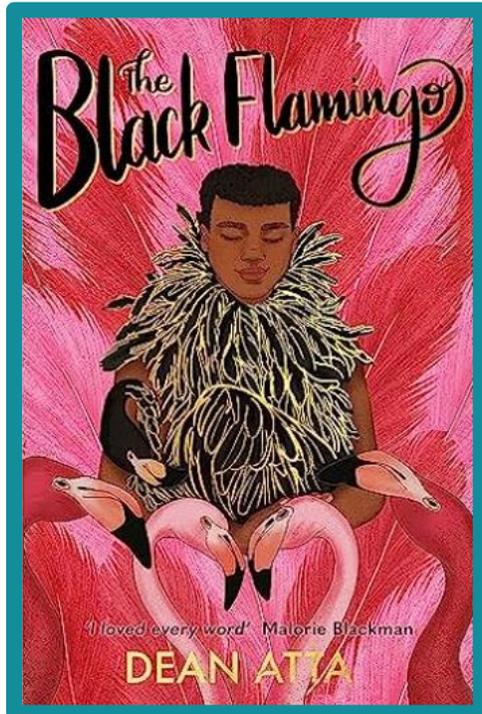
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## *The Black Flamingo* by Dean Atta (2019)

This is a coming-of-age story about the struggle to make peace with your own identity in a society so eager to pin you down with labels. We follow Michael from infancy through to his university years; a mixed-race gay adolescent born in Britain to a Greek Cypriot mother and a Jamaican father. We watch as he embraces his sexuality, reconciles his disparate heritages, and ultimately finds his own sense of community and empowerment.

I really like how contemporary the book feels, not only in its pop culture references, but in the modern attitudes and opportunities it reflects. Yes, Michael still faces racism and homophobia – both deliberately antagonistic and systematic – but he is able to come out of the closet fairly comfortably in his mid-teens and finds many people of his generation who are respectful, open-minded and relaxed about issues of gender and sexuality.



Recommended by Miss Sully

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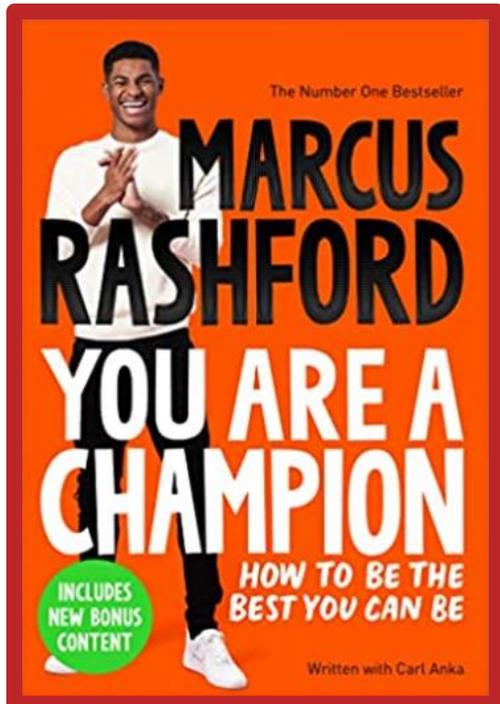


## *You Are a Champion: How to Be the Best You Can Be by Marcus Rashford (2021)*

*"I want to show you how you can be a champion in almost anything you put your mind to."*

Marcus Rashford MBE is famous worldwide for his skills both on and off the pitch – but before he was a Manchester United and England footballer, and long before he started his inspiring campaign to end child food poverty, he was just an ordinary kid from Wythenshawe, South Manchester. Now the nation's favourite footballer wants to show YOU how to achieve your dreams, in this positive and inspiring guide for life.

Written with journalist Carl Anka, *You Are a Champion* is packed full of stories from Marcus's own life, plus brilliant advice and top-tips from performance psychologist Katie Warriner. It will show you how to be the very BEST that you can be.



*Recommended by Miss Sully*