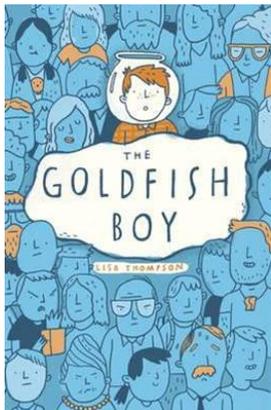




# Southmoor Academy

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## Year 7 Reading List



**The Goldfish Boy by Lisa Thompson (Interest age: 9-12 Reading age: 9+)**

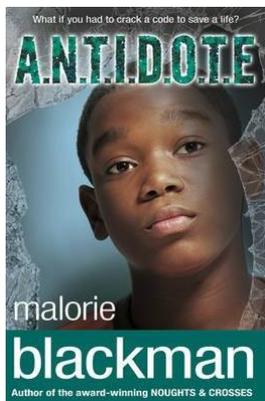
'12-year-old Matthew Corbin hasn't been to school for weeks. He passes much of his time observing the goings-on of the local neighbourhood from his bedroom window. He even makes little notes about neighbours' movements. Their everyday activity is nothing out of the ordinary - chatting, gardening, jogging, and going off to work or the shops.

Until, that is, a toddler goes missing, and Matthew realises he may be one of the few people who can help shed some light on the disappearance. However, Matthew has Obsessive Compulsive Disorder, and everyday life has become increasingly challenging. Can he possibly play a major role in an investigation into the abduction of a child, perhaps without even leaving his house?'



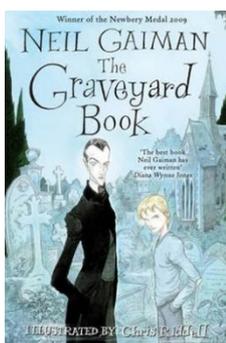
**The Dark is Rising by Susan Cooper (Interest age: 9+ Reading age: 9+)**

'It's Christmas-time in the Stanton family house: presents, carol singing, good cheer. But for eleven-year-old Will Stanton, something sinister has begun, inching round his subconscious, shouting silent warnings he can't decipher. Then on Midwinter Day, Will wakes up to a different world: silent, covered in snow and ancient forest, a world of another time. A world where evil lurks.'



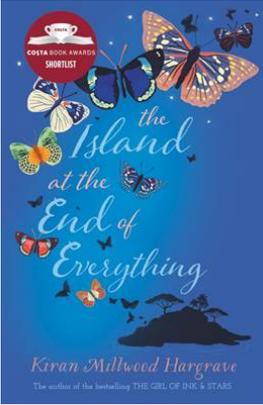
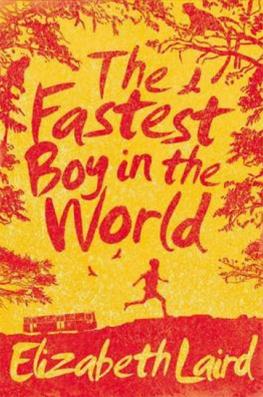
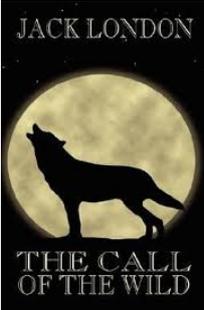
**A.N.T.I.D.O.T.E by Malorie Blackman (Interest age: 11-14 Reading age: 11)**

'Elliot wishes his Mum was more interesting: everyone else's parents do exciting things like work for the BBC, but his is only a secretary. But is she? One night she goes out late with his uncle, and the next morning her face is all over the news with CCTV footage showing her breaking into the animal testing laboratories of the multinational company Shelby Pardela. His uncle has been arrested, his Mum is on the run, and suddenly things have got much more exciting (and much more dangerous) for Elliot. Can he get to the bottom of what's happened and clear her name?'



**The Graveyard Book by Neil Gaiman (Interest age: 11+ Reading age: 11+)**

'After his family are killed, Bod is brought up in a graveyard by ghosts – an array of century-spanning characters who care for him, impart wisdom and even teach body-fading skills. But Bod sometimes goes beyond the graveyard into the world of the living – and here his life is under threat from the sinister man Jack, who has pursued him since he was a baby.'

	<p><b><u>The Island at the End of Everything</u> by Kiran Millwood Hargrave</b>_(Interest age 10+ Reading age 10+)</p> <p>‘Amihan lives on the secluded island of Culion with her sick mum, who has leprosy. But when the government decides the island must be quarantined, Ami and all the children who don’t have the disease are forced to leave – while her mum must stay behind, along with everything Ami has ever known.</p> <p>Separated from everything she loves, Ami embarks on a daring journey to find a way back home. When she discovers an abandoned boat, she sets out to fix it. But is she brave enough to take it across the fierce waves and back to Culion? Across the fierce water and through the forest, Ami faces many challenges, but the hardest one of all is waiting for her at home.’</p>
	<p><b><u>The Fastest Boy in the World</u> by Elizabeth Laird.</b> (Suitable for 9-12 Years)</p> <p>‘Eleven-year-old Solomon loves to run! The great athletes of the Ethiopian national team are his heroes and he dreams that one day he will be a gold-medal-winning athlete like them, in spite of his ragged shorts and bare feet.</p> <p>When his grandfather announces that he's going to take Solomon to Addis Ababa, Solomon cannot believe his ears. A trip to the capital? It's unfathomable. Solomon's joy is increased when he realizes that the Ethiopian running team will be doing a victory parade through the city that day. Maybe he'll get a glimpse of Haile Gebrselassie or Derartu Tulu?!</p> <p>But Solomon's grandfather has other plans. As Solomon follows him through the big, overwhelming streets, he learns something he cannot believe. The strict old man is a war hero who once risked his life to save a friend and has been in hiding ever since. When grandfather collapses, Solomon knows that getting help from his village is up to him. It's a twenty-mile run from the city to home, and grandfather's life hangs in the balance. Can the small bare-footed runner with the big heart do it?’</p>
<p><b>Children’s classic</b></p> 	<p><b><u>The Call of the Wild</u> by Jack London</b></p> <p>‘The Call of the Wild is a short adventure novel by Jack London published in 1903 and set in Yukon, Canada, during the 1890s Klondike Gold Rush, when strong sled dogs were in high demand. The central character of the novel is a dog named Buck. The story opens at a ranch in Santa Clara Valley, California, when Buck is stolen from his home and sold into service as a sled dog in Alaska. He becomes progressively feral in the harsh environment, where he is forced to fight to survive and dominate other dogs. By the end, he sheds the veneer of civilization, and relies on primordial instinct and learned experience to emerge as a leader in the wild’</p>